



Groton & Conde  
United Methodist Church

# Newsletter

May 2021

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## ...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

In keeping with our current Sermon series, I was wondering if I could point us towards another parable, and something that has struck my heart over the last month.

In the book of John, we see in just it's second chapter the first miracle Jesus ever performed. It's at the wedding in Cana where Jesus turns the water into wine. Because maybe it has been a while since we've read this story ourselves, let me give a quick synopsis...

There is a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee to which Jesus and his mother Mary are both in attendance. But then the worst thing imaginable takes place... They. Ran. Out. Of. Wine! Mary looks to her son Jesus and says, "They have no more wine." "That's not our problem", replies Jesus. (Yes. He said THAT to his mother.) Looking to nearby servants Mary tells them, "do whatever he tells you."

I'm not sure if I've ever realized before that the servants were the ones who were in on the miracle. Jesus asks them to fill pots with water and then to draw from those pots and



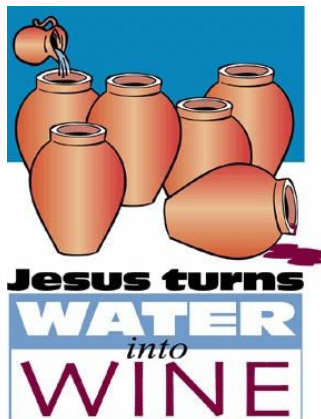
serve the party's host. We don't know when exactly the water changed into wine, but somewhere between filling and tasting, it did, and the servants were a part of every step. These people were literally the hands and feet that delivered the miracle.

Jesus is clearly passionate about allowing servant-hearted people the opportunity to experience and even deliver the wonders of God, which is why I've found recent church activity so exciting. We've been moving in the last few months. Dreaming, meeting, and serving this community just like the servants of Jesus in the story. And though we are few in number, know that if you're a willing participant, because I know that

God is barely scratching the surface with his church, God will invite you into something special too.

Stay with us. Keep praying. And remember that we are blessed so we can bless.

In faith,  
Pastor Brandon Dunham



## OFFICE HOURS

Pastor  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Thursday  
Mornings

Friday  
Day Off

## Thank You

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love, and support each one of you have extended to our family during this time of loss. We are so blessed to be a part of this congregation. May God continue to bless you and your family.

From the families of

Alan Townsend and Marjory Townsend



**Mother's Day  
celebration  
on May 9<sup>th</sup> with  
special music by our  
Sunday School in  
Groton.**

***Important  
PPR Meeting  
on May 20<sup>th</sup> at  
7pm in Groton.***

**Conde MISSION  
STATEMENT**  
"The Conde  
United Methodist  
Church is  
seeking to satisfy  
the spiritual and  
physical needs  
of all."

## Groton's May Mission

Our committee leaders are getting quite good at this as our May mission has already been completed! Sunday school and Sunday morning coffee fellowship made these beautiful May Day baskets to be delivered to our friends at Avantara and Rosewood on the morning of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Be on the lookout for our next opportunity in June, and if you have ideas of ways that we can serve our community well, please let either Val Baker or Pastor Brandon Dunham know!



### Church Information

Pastor Brandon Dunham  
Office Phone 605-397-8270  
Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

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Secretary Email: [grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net)  
Website: [grotonumc.org](http://grotonumc.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonsdumc/](https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



## Groton 2021 Graduates

### *Sage Mortenson*

205 East 9th Ave  
Groton, SD 57445



### *Tanae Lipp*

505 East 14th Ave  
Groton, SD 57445



### *Chloe Daly*

40096 120th St  
Columbia, SD 57433



### *Brooklyn Gilbert*

402 N Main St  
Groton, SD 57445



Graduation Sunday on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with a celebration during coffee hour in Groton for those who wish to share cards and congratulations.

### *Kale Pharis*

504 East 14th Ave  
Groton, SD 57445



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR  
GRADUATES!



## Groton UMW - April

UMW Meeting, April 15, 2021

There were seven members in attendance for our April meeting.

The meeting was opened with members repeating the UMW Purpose followed by a devotional reading given by Pat Dalquist and ending with a prayer.

President, Jolene Townsend reminded members to continue with the reading program which ends August 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition Jolene reminded us that it is time to send in our UMW annual unit pledge for 2021 which our treasurer will do. Jolene also distributed the remaining secret angel stickers and information.

Marjorie Overacker motioned to send \$250 to the City of Groton specifically for youth pool passes and/or lesson for those who cannot afford them. The motion was approved.

Jolene Townsend motioned to send \$150 to the Groton High School GHS Booster PAC for this year's Post Prom Party. The motion was approved.

The group discussed other ways our monetary donations could help our area women, children, & youth in our area. In addition Jolene shared a Birthday Bag idea for kids we might want to consider as a future project. One final discussion was if we were ready to resume our Wednesday Community Coffee

fellowship. The group consensus was that we should wait a while longer and then discuss it again.

Several members volunteered to investigate additional giving opportunities and needs for women, children and youth in and around our community.

Following the meeting Linda Thurston served the group coffee and light treats while everyone enjoyed re-connecting after many months without meetings.

Jeanne Wanous  
Secretary Pro Tem

## Memorial Day

Is it enough to think today  
Of all our brave, then put away  
The thought until a year has sped?  
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song  
And deck a grave; and all year long  
Forget the brave who died that we  
Might keep our great land proud  
and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,  
That we who live give heart and soul  
To keep the land they died to save,  
And be ourselves, in turn, the



### To Our Groton United Methodist Women



**For your generous financial gifts recently given to our local  
UMW Unit in response to our recent request.**

**Your gifts will help us to continue  
to support our mission of helping women, children &  
youth here in Groton and around the community.**

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to support our mission of helping women, children &  
youth here in Groton and around the community.



## Upcoming Sermon Series beginning May 23<sup>rd</sup>

It's from the top of mountain you really gain a perspective of the world around you isn't it? It's probably no surprise then that Jesus' most important teaching was given from such a place.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus joins countless others across history and answers life's ultimate question, "how does a person live the good life?"

Well, Jesus' answer to that question is so compelling that people have been writing, discussing, and wrestling over his words for over 2,000 years. And so, this summer we are going to take the time to join in that same conversation! We will walk together through these weighty words recorded by Jesus' friend in Matthew 5-7 trying to understand Jesus' teaching for living the blessed life, discovering what the art of human flourishing looks like, and, we are going to ask how we as a community can live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus today.



## Groton's April Mission Recap

What an amazing response to our Spring Meal! Each time we host one of these drive-through dinners we see new faces and learn new lessons, but what a special Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> was. We served around 100 meals that morning and again had the perfect amount of leftovers to sponsor the Wednesday Table Talk Ministry's meal that following week.

In all about 160 were fed by the efforts of those who brought water and bars and helped serve and deliver meals and over \$1000 was earned to support further missions.

Thank you.



**Groton  
Stewardship  
Report Jan 2021**

Average  
Wkly Giving  
\$1,365

Needed Wkly for  
Church Mission  
\$2,113

Average Weekly  
Attendance Sunday  
--

Total Building Fund  
Donations  
for Repairs  
\$15

**Groton  
Stewardship  
Report Feb 2021**

Average  
Wkly Giving  
\$1,399

Needed Wkly for  
Church Mission  
\$2,113

Average Weekly  
Attendance Sunday  
--

Total Building Fund  
Donations  
for Repairs  
\$15

**Groton  
Stewardship  
Report Mar 2021**

Average  
Wkly Giving  
\$2,959

Needed Wkly for  
Church Mission  
\$2,113

Average Weekly  
Attendance Sunday  
--

Total Building Fund  
Donations  
for Repairs  
\$10



## Groton 10 AM Bible Study

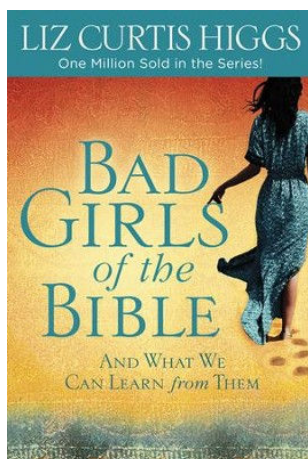
May 4th we begin a new study by Liz Curtis Higgs, "Bad Girls of the Bible." Please join us as we discuss and laugh.

Women everywhere marvel at those "good girls" in Scripture—Sarah, Mary, Esther—but on most days, that's not who they see when they look in the mirror. Most women (if they're honest) see the selfishness of Sapphira or the deception of Delilah. They catch a glimpse of Jezebel's take-charge pride or Eve's disastrous disobedience. Like Bathsheba, Herodias, and the rest, today's modern woman is surrounded by temptations, exhausted by the demands of daily living, and burdened by her own desires.

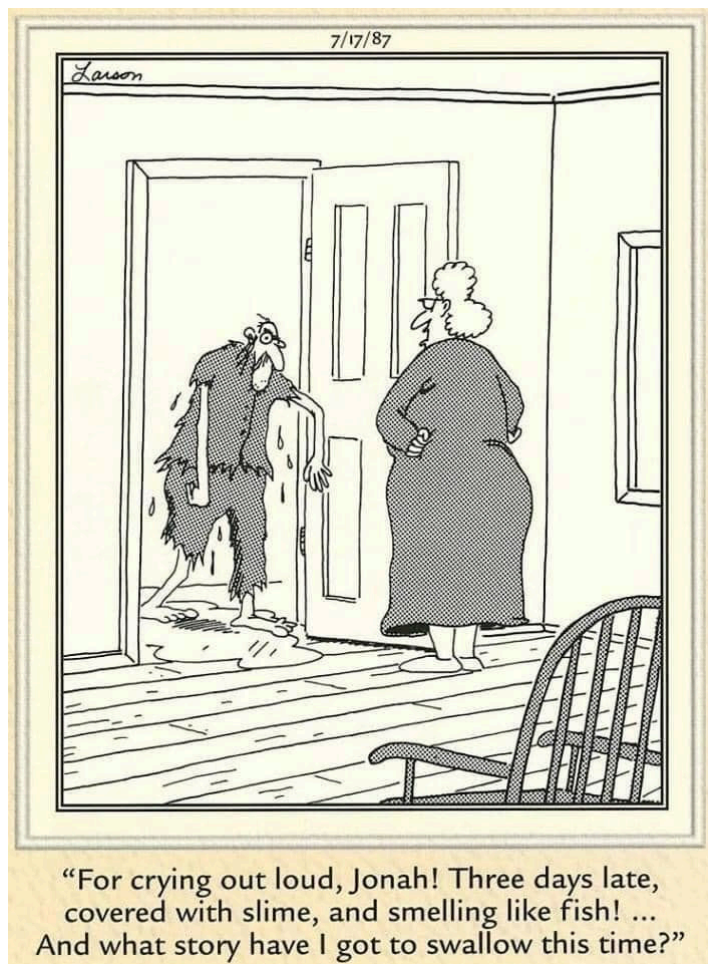
So what's a good girl to do? Learn from their lives, says beloved Bible study teacher and speaker Liz Curtis Higgs, and choose a better path. Whether they were "Bad to the Bone," "Bad for a Season, but Not Forever" or only "Bad for a Moment," these infamous sisters show women how *not* to handle the challenges of life.

With her trademark humor and encouragement, Higgs combines a contemporary retelling of the stories of these "other women" in Scripture with a solid, verse-by-verse study to teach us how to avoid their tragic mistakes and joyfully embrace grace.

Let these Bad Girls show you why studying the Bible has never been more fun!



Couldn't resist a joke about Jonah after Pastor Brandon's Sermon Series!





PEACE WITH JUSTICE  
SUNDAY

DEMAND  
JUSTICE  
+  
CHANGE

# TOGETHER

## OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

**YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME**

**GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:**  
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at [ResourceUMC.org/SSGive](https://ResourceUMC.org/SSGive)



TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church™

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY May 30th

TOGETHER  
OUR REACH  
IS BEYOND  
MEASURE

DEMAND  
JUSTICE

### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPECIAL SUNDAYS?

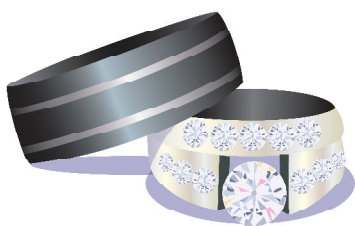
United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stories on how you make a difference visit [UMC.org/yourimpact](https://UMC.org/yourimpact)

### HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT PEACE WITH JUSTICE EFFORTS?

Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them. Each Annual Conference has a Peace with Justice Coordinator developing local social justice ministries. Fifty percent of the offering remains in your annual conference to support this ministry.

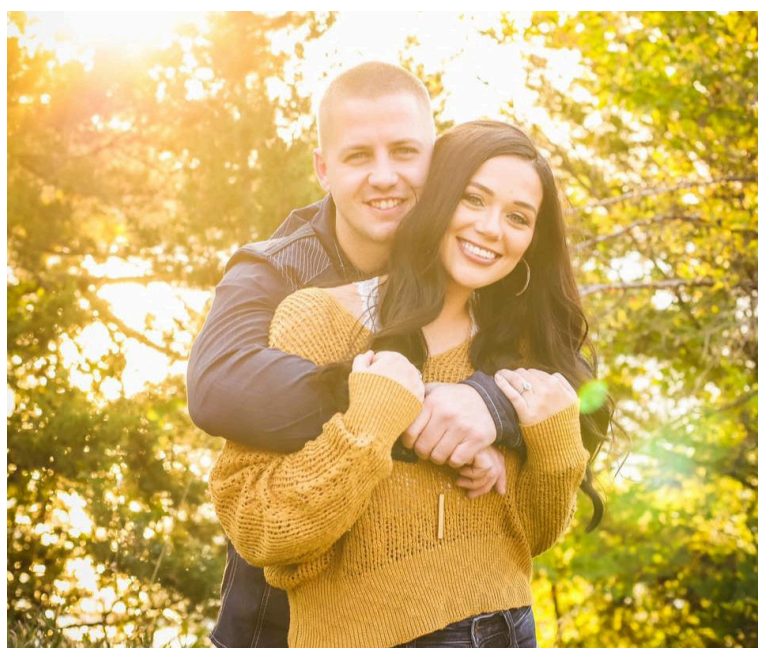


Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church™



## *United in Marriage*

**Wedding of Tyler Wadman  
and Skyler Bonn is June 19<sup>th</sup>**



## Groton June Family Committee

**Jesse & Jaymie Overacker,  
KayLynn**

**Jolene Townsend**

Amber & Adrian Daly, Tyson

Kay & Doug Daly

Angela & Perryn Dobbins

Andrea & Scott Eisenbeisz

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Mendy & James Jones, Marlee

Brent & Jessica Morehouse

Mike & JoAnn Nehls

Robin O'Neill

Marjorie & Roger Overacker

Alan Strom & Shelly Lerew

Harlan & Peggy Place

Carol & Luverne Strom

Jim & Judy Zeck

**Honorary Members**

- Ann Rix
- Doris Strom
- Ruby Luce

### June Responsibilities

- Check Kitchen Supplies for the month
- Check & Clean Oven and Fridge as necessary
- Coffee Hour workers (make coffee, provide cookies, launder towels, and remove trash)
- 2 Ushers for each Sunday
- 1 Greeter for each Sunday
- Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of this book.
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- Serve at Avantara nursing Center - 4th Sunday
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons

REMEMBERING  
THOSE WHO'VE  
SACRIFICED



MEMORIAL DAY

### June 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

I will give thanks  
to the Lord  
with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your  
wonderful deeds.

Psalm 9:1



### Bible Quiz



Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4.)



## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

May 2 Evan Jacobson  
 May 3 Kim Weber  
 May 4 Desiree Foltz  
     Evan Erickson  
     Tom Strom  
 May 5 Gary Thurston  
     Marlee Jones  
     Tony & Brenda Madsen  
 May 6 Clint Jacobson  
 May 7 Gabbie Kramer  
     Rebecca Padfield  
     Tigh Hank Irvin Fliehs  
 May 8 Austin Jones  
     Dale Kramer  
     John Lowary  
     Rob Wanous  
 May 10 Emma Davies  
     John & Anita Lowary  
 May 11 Ashley & Brandon Dunham  
 May 12 Jack & Maggie Oliver  
 May 13 Chase Neiber  
     Doris Strom  
     Leroy Severson  
 May 14 Henry Pharis  
     Linda Johnson

### Pam Rix

May 15 Mary Nelson  
 May 17 Cliff & Carna Pray  
 May 18 Jean Walter  
     Kaylee Hofer  
 May 19 John Erickson  
     Scott Kampa  
     Taylor Diegel  
 May 20 Tom & Kami Lipp  
 May 21 Cody Hanson  
 May 25 Adrienne Fliehs  
     Beau Bahr  
     J.R. Johnson  
     Jon Voss  
 May 26 Dion & Sam Bahr  
 May 27 Emmett Morehouse  
     Luverne & Carol Strom  
 May 28 Cheryl Hanson  
     Jesse & Julie Morehouse  
 May 29 Gary & Anita Voss  
 May 30 Kami Lipp  
     Macy Knecht  
     Randy & Rebecca Padfield  
 May 31 J.R. & Paula Johnson

### Conde

May 3 Janette Imsland  
 May 7 Jane Worlie  
 May 10 Marion Jensen  
 May 11 Ashley & Brandon Dunham  
 May 16 Dwight Lyren  
 May 25 Greg Bonn  
     Floyd & Carol Smith  
 May 28 Grant & Janice Hanson  
 May 30 Curtis & Cindy Haskell



## Worth Celebrating

While going through the so-called “daily grind,” it’s fun to anticipate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holiday meals — especially when other people cook and clean up! Although *every* day is full of countless reasons to rejoice, we may not always feel like celebrating. Life’s concerns pile high, distracting us

from gratitude, joy and intentional acknowledgment of our blessings.

When you need a reason to smile and celebrate, head to [www.NationalDayCalendar.com](http://www.NationalDayCalendar.com). Almost every food item and hobby now has its own day, and you’ll even find gems such as National Be Late for Something Day (September 5, if you want to plan

ahead!).

These fun “occasions” can help you embrace small joys and may even inspire you to celebrate them with family or friends. As you do, consider what it is about today and each gift from God that makes this day special.

## Groton Ad Council - March

Pastor Brandon Dunham shared a prayer prior to the discussion of business. Chairman Lars Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Those in attendance were: Pastor Brandon Dunham, Jolene Townsend, Richard Krueger, Marjorie Overacker, Jeanne Wanous, Anita Lowary, Allen Walter, Valerie Baker and Meri Erickson.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved with one addition, a P.E.O. request to hold meetings at our church.

**Minutes:** The previous minutes were approved as written.

**Correspondence:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** Marjorie Overacker stated that we ended Feb. with a negative balance but noted that the ending balance doesn't include Dacotah Bank deposits made in Feb.

**Finance Chairman Report:** Allen Walter shared that the PPP loan he applied for came through for \$15,600. Next we will need to complete paperwork that shows we need it.

Allen also shared a spreadsheet of who has control over specific church related bank accounts and who has authorization for specific actions related to those different church bank accounts that have now been transferred from Wells Fargo Bank to Dacotah Bank. It was also noted that the MYF bank account has been closed and the money in that account was transferred to a specific line item under Sunday school in our general fund.

**\*Resolution:** Meri Erickson moved to approve the Groton UMC bank account authorizations at Dacotah Bank as presented by Finance Chairman Allen Walter in his spreadsheet and to also approve moving the Boy Scout funds to the Sunday school line item general account fund. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Morehouse.

All members present voted their approval. *Administrative Council: See attached Dacotah Bank account authorization spreadsheet.*

**Pastor Parish:** Meri Erickson stated that this account is doing well and that there were no concerns. She also confirmed that this account was closed & moved to Dacotah Bank on March 15.

**Bills to be Presented:** On a motion by Linda Thurston and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anita Lowary, the council approved a budgeted item bill from the Conference in the amount of \$119.60 as well as a bill for piano tuning.

### Administrative Report:

Pastor Brandon stated that there were no plans for a Good Friday service. He is currently sharing daily devotions on Facebook through Holy Week. Also, we are happy to be seeing a good number of new people attending church. There will be an upcoming spring dinner similar to the Fall Dinner. Coffee hour & Sunday school are going again. We have had technology struggles in last month which Kay is trouble shooting. We are still in need of a church camera instead of Pastor's Brandon's phone. The purchase of this was approved by the council in July 2020. And finally Pastor Brandon reminded everyone of the March 21 Sunday evening worship night which is being planned along with Groton's Christian & Missionary Alliance Church.

**Committee Reports:** None

**Education Committee:** Between 19-21 children have been attending Sunday school. The last day for Sunday School will be May 2.

**Memorial:** Linda Thurston provided the current balance of the Memorial Fund which is \$11,526.54.

**Trustees:** Richard Krueger is work-

ing with Locke Electric to repair 2 hallway lights. Quotes for resurfacing our parking lot won't be accepted until April 6. Once a quote is received the council can then decide if we want to move forward.

### Old Business:

#### Status of Changing to Dacotah Bank:

All accounts have been transferred.

**PPP Loan:** The PPP loan came through for \$15,600. Next we will need to complete paperwork that shows we need it.

### New Business:

**Trunk or Treat Date:** On a motion by Valerie Baker & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marjorie Overacker, the council voted to move our date from Oct. 31 to Oct. 29 to coincide with the Groton Chamber of Commerce downtown date.

**Bank Account Authorizations:** see above resolution.

**Add Fiber Optic Internet:** On a motion by Anita Lowary and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Morehouse, the council approved adding an upgrade to the office internet with a Fiber Optic line. It should be noted that the payment of this will come from the PPR fund so they must also approve this.

**P.E.O. Request:** The P.E.O. group is asking for permission to resume meeting at our church. The council approved the request on a motion by Meri Erickson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jolene Townsend.

#### Coffee Hour with Homemade Food:

After some discussion, Richard Krueger motioned & Brent Morehouse 2<sup>nd</sup> approval to begin offering homemade food at our Sunday pre-worship coffee hour beginning April 11, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.  
Secretary, Jeanne Wanous



May 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



## Our Church Happenings...

May 2 Groton Graduation Sunday during coffee hour and worship

May 4 Groton Tuesday 10 am Bible Study begins new study

May 9 Mother's Day

May 18 Conde Ad Council 5 pm

May 18 No Tuesday 10 am Bible Study

May 19 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

May 20 Groton UMW 1:30 pm

May 20 Important PPR Meeting in Groton

May 23 Pentecost Sunday (wear red!)

May 30 Peace with Justice Sunday

May 31 Memorial Day



Join us online for worship at <https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc/> as we continue to improve our streaming. We now have the screen for you to view while watching the service and are working on improving that as well. On Monday, we link the service into our website for those who do not have a Facebook account and it may be watched at [www.grotonumc.org](http://www.grotonumc.org)