



September 2021

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."
Matthew 22:37-39

Who would you say your neighbor is? Is it everyone? Is it the people who live close to you? I've struggled with this question over the years because the answer is so important. Jesus said "all the law and prophets" hang on these two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor. Therefore we need to know what this means! For me, I've come to know my neighbor as anyone that I live near, work with, or come across on a semi-regular basis. Those are my people; that's my network.

But how do I love them effectively? In an era of garage doors, Amazon orders, and privacy fences, it can be especially hard to find good ways to love my neighbor. I mean... I hardly see them most of the



time! Also, if I do, we both tend to be pretty busy with our own business it seems.

What the scriptures tell us is that loving God and loving our neighbor; those two things are connected. When we love God, God's love then flows back through us in a loving relationship. And it's so natural that, in our relationships with others, God's love will continue to flow through us, reaching our network of friends and family. It doesn't always need to be anything grand, but by abiding in God and drawing from that well regularly, even short interactions with others are blessed by the presence of God (the greatest definition of love there is). Isn't that cool! But the question remains: how do we do this well?

This fall we are going to have a bit of fun. We're bringing back Sunday School and youth programming, I will personally be hosting a Bible study (contact for details) for any who wish to attend, we're **HAVING A POTLUCK** on Rally Sunday and we're going to have conversations about what it means to invite others into our circle. To extend the range of our love through first, drawing from the love of God ourselves, but then intentionally seeking those in our lives that we do not reflect the love of God with well.

What would happen if a community of faith embraced Jesus' vision for being a neighbor? What might Jesus unleash as we invite people into our ordi-

nary lives and share our stories? Join us this fall as we journey towards radically ordinary hospitality, carried by the love of God.

Blessings,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



OFFICE HOURS

Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



Congratulations

Nash John Kurtz

Born August 6, 2021

At 1:41 pm

19.25 inches long

6 lbs 12 oz

Parents: Trent & Sydney
Kurtz

Sister: Calli



Nash Baptized August 29th



Baptism

Vee Ellen Flihs was born October 6, 2020 to Tigh and Adrienne Flihs. Joining brothers and sisters; Tigh, Rae, Bo, and Vic. Vee will be baptized on Sat, Sept 4th at the Groton UMC.

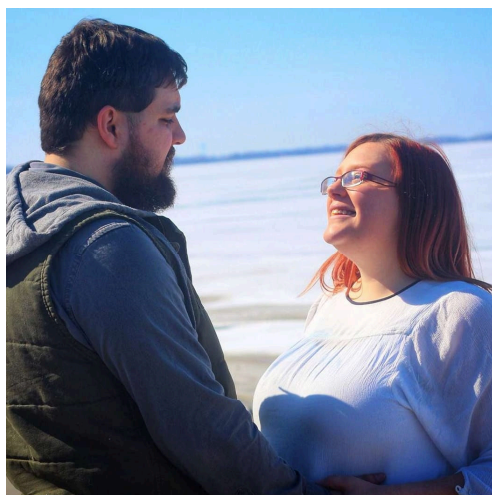


**HELP WANTED for 2022
Contact Pastor Brandon
Groton Committee
Positions Available
Volunteers Needed**

Please Act Fast!

Wedding

Caroline Graff and Matthew Richards will be united in marriage on Saturday, Sept 18th.



Church Information

Pastor Brandon Dunham
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Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

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Facebook: facebook.com/grotonsdumc/
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

Groton Rally Sunday

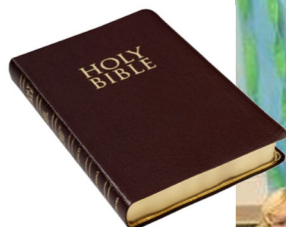


Sunday School will kick off September 12th at 10 am with a carnival of games and prizes! Following worship, there will be a dinner to celebrate Rally Sunday. Administrative Council is supplying pork loin sandwiches, hotdogs, and chips. Please bring either a salad or a dessert to share. Everyone welcome!



Groton 3rd Grade Bibles

Bibles will be presented to our 3rd graders in the Sunday School Program on Sunday, September 19th during worship. Includes Graham Rose, Grady Zeck, and Colton Morehouse.

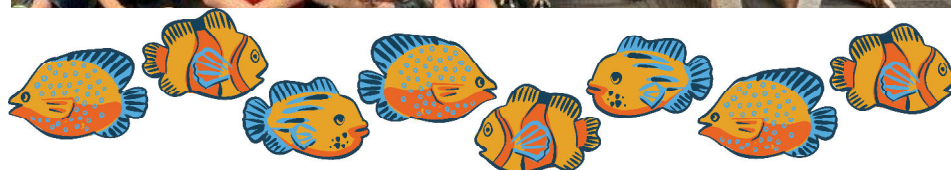


Groton VBS Thank You

A huge thank you to all who helped or donated to Vacation Bible School! The kids and adults had a great time! A special thanks to the following for helping with VBS: Pastor Brandon, Ashley Dunham, Riley Rose, Lane Tietz, Megan Erickson, Jessica Morehouse, Diann Morehouse, Kim Weber, Val Baker, Karen Rose, Melissa Gilbert, and Karla Pasteur.

All Help and donations were greatly appreciated!

Meri Erickson



Groton Committee Positions Available

The Nominating Committee for the Groton United Methodist Church is preparing for their annual meeting to fill the positions needed for the operation and activities of the church. Although the positions do not start until January 1, 2022, all nominations must be accepted at the committee level and again at the Official Annual Charge Conference and this year that date is currently set for October 27, 2021.

Our Groton congregation has had the following appointed committees in operation for the last few years: Administrative Council; Pastor/Parish Relations Committee; Nominations Committee; Finance Committee; Education Committee; Trustees Board; Memorial Committee; Missions Committee; Music & Worship Committee; Hospitality Connections Team; Audit Committee; and the Permanent Endowment Fund Board. Other committees are set up and filled for special projects.

Several of these committees meet one time per year. Others meeting quarterly, monthly, or when determined by the committee chairperson. Committees vary in number of members from 3 to 20. Although most committees are named for their main function, the following list gives a brief description of each of standing committees:

The Administrative Council oversees all committees, activities, and business of the church. They receive reports, initiate or approve planning, set goals, authorize

actions, determine policy, evaluate ministries, and review the state of the church.

The Pastor/Parish Relations Committee coordinates the churches in the parish and the pastor. Working with the conference to supply clergy for the churches, and keeping effective communications, ministries, and relationships with the memberships of the churches and pastor.

The Nominations Committee which is chaired by the pastor provides candidates for offices and committees each year.

The Finance Committee creates the annual budget of the church and works to insure sufficient income to meet the annual budget and other major projects.

The Education Committee is responsible for the church's educational activities and projects (Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, Bible Studies, and any special programs for all ages). The Committee sets policies, selects curriculum, and recruits teachers and assistants.

The Trustees Board is responsible for the needs and inventory of the property and buildings owned by the church. This includes maintenance, repairs, and insurance. The Trustees are also the custodians of all legal papers.

The Memorial Committee receives memorials, acknowledges these memorials with thank you notes, and assists in selecting appropriate needed projects and furnishings.

The Missions Committee selects activities and projects for sharing the teaching of the church locally and worldwide. The Music & Worship Committee helps the pastor with selections of style of worship, types of music, furnishings, details, and other practices of worship.

The Hospitality Connections Team recommends activities to care for members and new or inactive persons. They provide additional care and comfort to those in need; welcoming visitors and supporting new persons; and assisting with blessing showers, funerals, and ministries of caring.

The Audit Committee conducts the annual audit of the church financial records and provides the summary report. The Permanent Endowment Fund Board reviews, manages, and provides opportunities for members and friends of the church to make charitable gifts to the church for projects needed in addition to annual giving.

The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers to help fill several positions on several committees for 2022. If we want the church to be there for our needs, we must also be willing to participate in church activities. This is a great opportunity for each of us to work at the church in a field that interests each of us. Please contact Pastor Brandon Dunham as soon as possible if you are willing to serve in any of these ways.



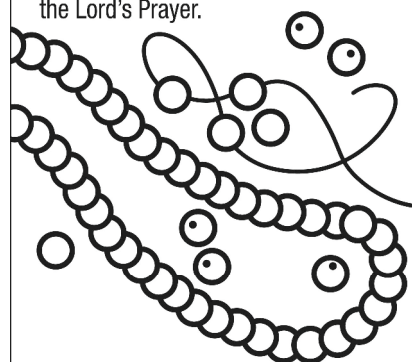


Ann Rix
passed away
August 7, 2021



Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver

Missions Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 14th
At 7 pm

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



September 8
Wednesday
7 pm



Groton October Family Committee

Ashley Dunham

AM & Laurie Mitchell

Erin & Damian Bahr, Jackson

Rodney Boehmer

Karla & Russell Davidson, Andrea

Seth & Megan Erickson

Caralee Heitmann

Charity & Scotty Hinman, Karsten

Curtis Krueger

Justin Morehouse

Justin Olson

Roger & Pam Rix

Tom Strom

Sharon & Larry Wheeting

- ◆ Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of this book
- ◆ Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- ◆ Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details
- ◆ Serve at Avantara Nursing Center - 4th Sunday
- ◆ Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- ◆ 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer

October 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
31						

October 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
- ◆ Straighten the Sanctuary Pews

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



Patriot Day

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day." It's a day to remember the more than 3,000 innocent lives lost on that September morning in 2001.

The resolution requests that each year the President issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities. Those activities include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence, and flying the American flag at half-staff.

In his 2003 proclamation President Bush said, "On that day, and in its aftermath, we saw the greatness of America in the bravery of victims; in the heroism of first responders who laid down their lives to save others; in the compassion of people who stepped forward to help those they had never met; and in the generosity of millions of Americans who enriched our country with acts of service and kindness."

Keep them all in your prayers this Patriot Day.

Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Sept 2 Kylie Hawkins
- Sept 6 Justin Olson
Perryn Dobbins
Laurie & AM Mitchell
- Sept 7 Alana White
- Sept 8 Laurel & Monte McNickle
- Sept 9 Clint & Audrey Jacobson
- Sept 10 Bryce Hanson
- Sept 11 Audrey Jacobson
- Sept 12 Cliff Pray
Ryder Daly
Alexa Nilsson
- Sept 13 Karsten Hinman
Richard Krueger (75)
- Sept 14 Rick & Sarah Hofer
- Sept 15 Karen Rose
Mason Madsen
- Sept 16 Camille Sippel
- Sept 17 Jackson Strom
Kyler Ell
- Sept 19 Diann Morehouse
Jace Hofer
- Sept 22 Madison McNickle
- Sept 23 Carolyn Snyder
- Sept 24 Jesse Overacker

Turner Webb

- Sept 25 Joey Padfield
Sabrina Padfield
- Sept 26 Alan Strom
Alejandra Heitmann

Conde

- Sept 7 Richard Worlie
- Sept 13 Shane Bruckner
- Sept 29 Bud & Julie Bruckner



**PRAISE
THE
LORD!**



September 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		



Learn from leaves

As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy,

personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!

—Janna Firestone

Groton Ad Council - August

Pastor Brandon Dunham opened the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Brandon and Chairman Lars Hanson continued the meeting agenda a few minutes later when he arrived. Those in attendance were: President Lars Hanson, Allen Walter, Meri Erickson, Marjorie Overacker, Valerie Baker, Anita Lowary, Linda Thurston, Richard Krueger, and Jeanne Wanous.

Agenda & Previous Minutes: Motion to approve by Richard Krueger, 2nd by Val Baker and approved by all.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Education: Sunday school will begin Sept 12 with Rally Sunday: Those who have volunteered to be teachers so far are Meri Erickson, Val Baker, and Megan Erickson. We are still looking for volunteers.

UMW: UMW will resume again on Thursday, September 16th at 1:30 pm.

Missions: Val Baker will be scheduling a meeting soon.

Memorial: Linda Thurston stated that she had been asked to use undesignated memorial money to purchase an anti-fatigue mat for by the kitchen sink. She shared options she had found and on a motion by Allen Walter & 2nd by Anita Lowary, the council gave Linda permission to use her judgement to select and purchase a mat of her choice with the undesignated memorial money.

Trustees: Richard Krueger had asked Anita Lowary to check on cost of paving our parking lot by the same company doing the city roads. Anita stated that their quote was too high so she declined. In the past they had given us a reduced price (same as the city pays), but not this year. Richard noted that the 5G fiber installation had begun for the church & parsonage.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer: Marge Overacker dis-

cussed the current savings & checking balances and noted that member contributions have fallen off over the summer months and may soon begin to affect our ability to meet our monthly budget needs. **Pastor Parish:** Meri Erickson stated that the Pastor Parish budget is doing well.

Bills to be Presented: none

Administration Report:

Pastor Brandon shared that he visited with our NE District Superintendent, Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, regarding a date for Groton's annual Charge Conference. The date of October 27 was suggested and agreed upon by the council. This year superintendent Mutzenberger will attend the conference in person in Groton.

Pastor Brandon had a conversation with the council on ideas to increase more interest and action by our various appointed committees & committee members going forward. The council agreed that for starters, all committee members would be added to the monthly Ad Council e-mail meeting notices and encouraged to attend those meetings.

Old Business:

Pastor's Stained Glass: Anita hasn't found anybody that does calligraphy, but a couple suggestions of local people that might agree to help were given to Anita.

Piano Teacher's Rent: Pastor Brandon has not yet contacted Cody regarding this subject.

Wireless Mic: Power Sound gave Pastor Brandon a new cord to try and that seems to have solved the problem.

New Business:

Rally Sunday Plans: There will be a carnival prior to church services. The Ad Council will host a potluck after church services with the help of the September work committee. Lars Hanson volunteered to cook pork loin & hot dogs and get the buns. All church members will be encouraged to bring a salad or dessert.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Secretary,
Jeanne Wanous

Groton Stewardship Report July 2021

Average Wkly Giving	\$1,401
Needed Wkly for Church Mission	\$2,285
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday	--
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs	\$15





Our Church Happenings...

- Sept 8 Groton UMYF 7 pm
 - Sept 12 Groton Rally Sunday 10 am with noon meal
 - Sept 14 Groton Missions Meeting 7 pm
 - Sept 15 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
 - Sept 16 Groton UMW 1:30 pm
 - Sept 19 Groton 3rd graders receive Bibles in worship
 - Sept 21 Conde Ad Council 5 pm
 - Sept 22 Groton Confirmation Parents Mtg 7 pm
 - Sept 23 Newsletter Items Due
 - Sept 29 Groton Confirmation Begins 4 pm (Snack 3:30)
- Charge Conference will be October 27th at 5:30 in Groton with a meal.

You can find More Happenings Inside...

September 2021						
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