



Groton & Conde UMC

# Newsletter

March 2023

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## ...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

There is a unique wisdom that's available to us through the reflections of those who are at the end of their life. Bronnie Ware discovered that as she worked with many people who were in hospice care. For her, working with people at the end of their lives, transformed her own. And through conversations she had, she compiled a list of the most common regrets expressed to her by the people who she cared for. Using that list she wrote an article entitled "The Top Five Regrets of the Dying." This article gained so much momentum that more than 3 million people around the globe read it in the first year and it actually became a book soon after.

Here were "The Top Five Regrets of the Dying" recorded by Bronnie Ware:

1. **I wish I had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.**
2. **I wish I hadn't worked so hard.**
3. **I wish I had the courage to express my feelings.**
4. **I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.**
5. **I wish I had let myself be happier.**

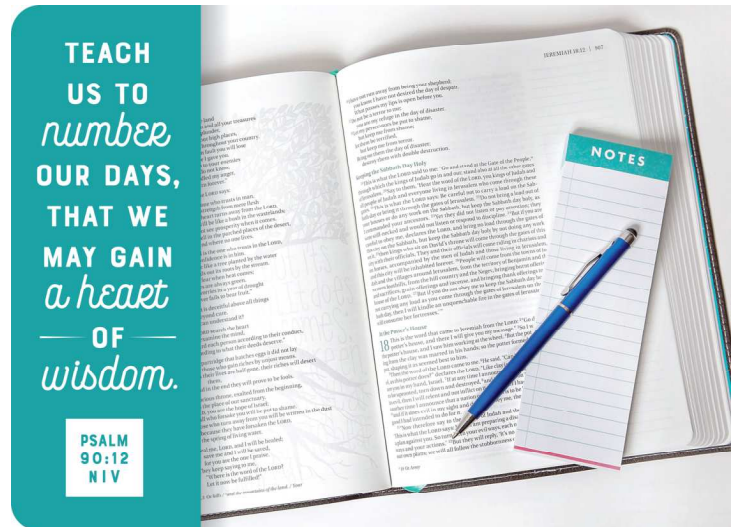
These are all powerful words of regrets and wisdom. And in Psalm 90, we come across a similar kind of "death

wisdom", but this time from Moses. As Moses is at the end of his own life, his 120th year, he writes a prayer. And through this prayer, Moses petitions on all our behalf to God, *Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

And the simple truth that Moses is getting at is God's eternal. And we are not, at least not in the sense of existing in this kind of capacity. Moses reminds us of our limits. And while we tend to try and ignore this reality as much as we can, Moses is not intimidated by it, but recognizes life happens and goes by very quickly. And recognizing there is an end creates gratitude for the now that many of us tend to lose sight of. It orientates our lives off of the things that we're told are important by the world and back to the things we **know** to be important in our souls.

Numbering our days produces wisdom. And there are really two things that I want to mention that this wisdom produces.

1. It leads us to **embrace weakness**. Which can we be honest, is not something usually deemed to be wise by the world. But Lent reminds us that it's in embracing our weakness, admitting from time to time that I need help or support, that we realize our need of a Savior.



2. And secondly, it leads us to **confront death in hope**. Moses knows that things won't always stay the same; that things in life end. Jobs come to an end. Relationships come to an end. Children move out of the house. Our health fails. People we love pass. And in these moments, we can be filled with great despair. But here's the miracle of it all. In lent, God takes all of our deaths... our little deaths, our big deaths... and he promises to bring new life out of it.

Moses is saying, if we're able to count our days, recognize our weakness, confront death in hope, we will begin to have a perspective in our life that is filled with wisdom.

As the people of God, we have great hope. Because Ash Wednesday is just the start of something much bigger... Resurrection. And so whatever small or big deaths we are holding, we confront them in

hope, knowing that the end of the story is not death, but life. The Lenten season is a time to deepen our life in God.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brandon Dunham



Pastor  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Thursday  
Mornings

Friday  
Day Off

## Welcome

### Daniel Lee Townsend

was born January 31. 9# 12 oz. to Zach & Stephanie Townsend. He joins brother Henry; soon to be 3 years old

Grandma Jolene Townsend



Confirmation Sunday will be held on March 12 during worship. There are 3 confirmands this year: Emerlee Jones, McKenna Tietz, and Aiden Strom. Cake will be served during coffee hour.

### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Church Information

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

Pastor Email: [pastorbrandon@nvc.net](mailto:pastorbrandon@nvc.net)  
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Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonsdumc/](https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



*Spring Forward* **March 12th**








### Why work at camp?

- Share God's love
- Make lifelong friendships
- Live, play, and work in the great outdoors
- Become a child's hero
- Gain the leadership skills employers look for
- Earn industry competitive wages
- Dakota Wesleyan University internship credit possible—contact us for more information

### Positions

- Camp Counselors (18+)
- Program Staff
- Maintenance
- Kitchen Staff
- Lifeguards
- Volunteer Opportunities

Positions open to all faith backgrounds



**Apply today at [dakcamps.org/jobs](http://dakcamps.org/jobs)**  
[www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org) | [info@dakcamps.org](mailto:info@dakcamps.org) | 855-622-1973









## Dakotas UM Camps are hiring summer staff for the 2023 camping season!

Are you or someone you know looking for an amazing summer job that provides plenty of time outdoors, great fun with people of all ages, and an opportunity to positively impact the lives of children and youth? All our camp locations, [Wesley Acres Camp](#), [Lake Poinsett Camp](#), and [Storm Mountain Center](#), are now hiring cabin leaders, program leaders, support staff, and health care staff. All positions include:

- competitive wages
- lodging
- meals
- opportunities for certifications and additional training
- possibility of Dakota Wesleyan University internship credits
- gaining leadership skills that employers are looking for
- unforgettable, life-changing experience

Visit [www.dakcamps.org/jobs](http://www.dakcamps.org/jobs) or call **855.622.1973** to apply today! All applicants must be 18 or older.





\*When Sunday school is scheduled for 10:30, the kids will go to church and be dismissed for Sunday school after the children's sermon.

- March 5 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- March 12 – Sunday school – 9:30-10:30 (Sing in Church at 10:30)
- March 19 – No Sunday school (Spring Break)
- March 26 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- April 2 – Sunday school – 9:30-10:30 (Palm Sunday – Sing in church 10:30)
- April 9 – No Sunday school (Easter Sunday)
- April 16 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- April 23 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- April 30 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- May 7 – Sunday school – 10:30-11:30
- May 14 – Last day of Sunday school- 9:30-10:30 (Sing in church 10:30 -Mother's Day)



### **Palm Sunday, April 2nd**

Marking the beginning of Holy Week we will be remembering the joyful and triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Sunday School will be singing during worship in Groton.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 6:30pm in Groton**

This year we will together for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. On this night we focus on the events that took place in the upper

room, where Jesus gathers his disciples and they share the Passover meal. We to will share in a dinner and all are welcome to join us.

### **Good Friday, April 7th**

This year, Groton UMC will be hosting an ecumenical Good Friday service at 7:00pm with leadership from Groton Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance. This service is open to the public as a solemn remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus.

### **Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

All are invited to join as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! Worship will be at 7:00am in Groton and 8:30am in Conde.

Following service in Groton our Youth Group and April Work Committee will be hosting a breakfast in which all may attend. Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

In Conde there will be a coffee hour following worship.





**Silent  
Dessert Auction**

Pies  
Cakes  
Cookies  
and Other Desserts

**March 5 during coffee hour**

**at the Groton UMC**

Missions Committee is raising funds for  
**Easter Baskets For our Kids**

Please donate and have items at the church by 10 am

Please bid during Coffee Hour and then pay and pick up the items you won after Church!



## Ecumenical Choir Starts

From Amy's Facebook

"We will be having an Ecumenical Choir for the Good Friday service being hosted at the United Methodist Church in Groton. If you are interested in joining the choir, please attend our first practice on Monday, March 6th at 6:00 PM at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. I can't wait to see you!!  
-Amy Warrington"



## Groton Family Committee - April

### Erin & Damian Bahr

**Jackson & London**

### Sabrina & Joey Padfield

Brian Bahr

Ashley Dunham

Andrea & Scott Eisenbiesz

Megan & Seth Erickson

Cheryl Hanson

Mendy & Jim Jones, Marlee

Curtis Krueger

JoAnn & Richard Krueger

Laurie & AM Mitchell

Diann & Brad Morehouse

Joann & Mike Nehls

Chuck Padfield

Pam & Roger Rix

### Honorary Members

- ♦ Doris Strom
- ♦ Ruby Luce
- ♦ Jim & Judy Zeck

### April 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)
- ♦ Help with Easter Breakfast 2nd Sunday if held
- ♦ 2 Ushers for each Sunday
- ♦ Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- ♦ Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of committee book
- ♦ Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- ♦ 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

### VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for **Instant Church Directory** and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



April 2023						
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						



## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

Mar 3 Tristan Kampa  
 Mar 4 Kay Daly  
 Christine Zoellner  
 Kale Pharis  
 Mar 5 Chance Strom  
 Bentley Johnson  
 Mar 7 Brian Bahr  
 Dale Strom  
 Richard & JoAnn Krueger  
 Mar 8 Lindsey & Tom Tietz  
 Vic Fliehs  
 Mar 9 Betty Strom  
 Everett Foltz  
 Mar 10 Lindsey Strom  
 Mar 14 Mendy Jones  
 Sydney Erickson  
 Mar 15 Sam Weber  
 Mar 16 Lane Tietz  
 Mar 17 Asher Johnson  
 Mar 21 Harlan Place  
 Kaelee Morehouse  
 Mar 24 Emerlee Jones  
 Mar 25 Laurel McNickle  
 Murdock McNickle

Mar 26 Chloe Daly  
 Claire Davidson  
 Clayton Kurtz  
 Justin Morehouse  
 Mark Thompson  
 Mar 27 Dwight Strom  
 Michelle Walter  
 Mar 29 Sharon Wheeting  
 Mar 31 Aiden Strom  
 Caralee Heitmann

### Conde

Mar 6 Stacey Bonn  
 Mar 17 Myron Fahrenwald  
 Mar 23 Greg Peterson  
 Mar 27 Cindy Haskell  
 Mar 31 Renee Hanlon



after Sunrise Service

In Groton on Easter Sunday

## Limiting Distractions

Getting a cell phone is a major milestone for kids — and a huge decision for parents. Despite our boys' complaints, we made them wait longer than most of their peers. We emphasized accountability, monitoring and time limits. Out of curiosity, I checked my own phone usage. It was more than double the limit we set for our kids! I came up with reasons (excuses, really) why I needed more time.

But God stopped me in my tracks and prompted me to use a "time's up" notification. It helps me be intentional about removing distractions. What diverts you from God's best? Are you listening to him and then redirecting your attention? God, speak clearly — and prompt us to listen!

—Janna Firestone





# Church

## Groton - Feb

### COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Chairman AM Mitchell. Those in attendance were Pastor Brandon Dunham, Carna Pray, Val Baker, Anita Lowary, Meri Erickson, Tyke Nyberg, Lon Gellhaus, Jane Johnson, and AM Mitchell. Pastor Brandon opened with a prayer.

**New Business:** MacKenzie Heilman and Emma Kroll gave a presentation on operating a Pre-School and Pre-K business in the Methodist Church. Their presentation was well prepared. The board discussed some issues that need to be addressed: insurance coverage, wear and tear on the church, possible expenses with the extra activity in the church for 10 hours a day. Discussed the pros and the fact this could be an opportunity for the church. Pastor Brandon volunteered to talk to the Lutheran Church on how they run their day care.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved on a motion by Anita Lowary and 2nd by Val Baker.

**Minutes:** The previous minutes were approved on a motion by Anita Lowary and 2nd by Tyke Nyberg.

**Correspondence:** None

#### Committee Reports:

**Pastor/Parish:** Carna Pray reported they will be meeting quarterly. Next meeting is May 3rd, there will be clergy and church assessments at that time. Committee

looked at doing a few more traditional things in the services.

**Missions:** Val Baker reported there will be a Silent Auction, bake sale, March 5th. Proceeds will go towards Easter baskets for the kids.

**Trustees:** Tyke Nyberg reported we are down to one boiler. Heartland Heating will be servicing the furnace. There are leaks in the copper tubing which will need to be looked at when weather warms up. There needs to be a walk-through of the Parsonage, possibly in May. Meri Erickson and Jane Johnson from the Pastor Parish Committee will attend.

**Treasurer:** None

**Financial Secretary:** None

**Bills:** Tyke Nyberg reported for Marjorie Overacker that she had paid heartland Heating.

**Old Business:** Carna Pray gave an update on medical supplies and what may be needed. She is working with Patti Woods on an AED. Patti would like the AED to be consistent with other ones being used in the community. There may be grant money for this. Average cost is approximately \$2000 and possibly \$800 in grant money. Meri Erickson mentioned there is a Dakota Medical Foundation that may have funds available. Carna is going to visit with Linda Genergke regarding that. Pastor Brandon mentioned the Conference also has funds available. Meri Erickson made a motion Carna Pray start a First Aid Kit for the

church and 2nd by Val Baker.

**Audit Report:** Anita Lowary reported there was no money missing. She was disappointed as she hadn't received any financial reports from the Conference. She requested them twice. Audit report approved on a motion by Val Baker and 2nd by Carna pray. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 on a motion by Carna Pray and 2nd by Anita Lowary.

**Secretary Pro Tem**

Jane Johnson

#### Groton Stewardship Report Jan 2023

Average Wkly Giving \$1,283

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 37

Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5





March 2023						
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	

## Our Church Happenings...

Mar 5 Groton Silent Auction (Donate a baked item and/or buy for Missions!)

Mar 6 Ecumenical Choir Practice at ELCA 6 pm for Good Friday. All Welcome.

Mar 8 Groton UMYF at Rosewood for games and Devotions at 6:30 pm

Mar 12 Groton Confirmation Sunday beginning with coffee hour at 9:30

Mar 12 Daylight-Saving Time Begins

Mar 15 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Mar 21 Conde Ad Council

Mar 22 Groton UMYF 6:30 pm

**Check Inside for Holy Week Schedule!**

Pastor Brandon Lenten Study is meeting on Monday at 7 pm in Groton and Tuesday at 6 pm in Conde

J.O.Y. Bible Study meets each Tuesday at 10 am - Kay Daly

Book Study meets each Wednesday at 4 pm - Lindsey Tietz

