

Groton & Conde UMC

# Newsletter

March 2024

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## ...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

PRAY MORE  
worry less

Do you keep a regular "prayer time" each day? Don't worry; this is not a trick question. I recently received an email from a friend talking about the number of times he has changed his "prayer time" or his "devotional time" with God which got me thinking about this question. Unfortunately, I've fallen into the habit of tossing, "I'm praying for you," around as casually as saying "Good Morning" to someone. My friend's email has me thinking about prayer. When do I pray? How do I pray? Is there a specific way to pray?

You might be asking, "Pastor Rob, you're our pastor. Prayer should come naturally to you." My friend's email reminded me even the apostles needed the help of Jesus to learn how to pray. I'm often asked to pray before events or gatherings when I would rather stand in the back and listen to someone else. My "prayer time" has been sporadic at best. I wish I could say I'm like one of the saints of the church who rises each morning at 5:30 am and spends an hour or two in prayer, but that's not me. I wish I could point to a specific devotional book or guide which helps me follow a pattern of prayer. I haven't found a good one of those, other than the Bible itself. I wish I knew all the answers.

Instead of the answers, I've learned a new way of



thinking. I'm not sure how one of my close friends became my friend. I had just started pastoring in three small churches in North Dakota. As a new pastor in a new state, I knew it was important for me to get to know other pastors. Back in the day, the North Dakota United Methodist Churches held "Convo." It was weekend youth rally usually held in Jamestown ND. Even though I was new and had no youth I knew in any of my churches, I decided to check out this "Convo." When I arrived, other pastors knew who I was but were surprised I would show up alone. It made me feel kind of strange. One of the people who didn't make me feel strange was a pastor who seemed to be in charge. He welcomed me, told me to follow him around, introduced me to people, and just

visited with me. We haven't stopped visiting since. He's one of my closest friends. And I think I know why - he started a relationship. Yes, it started at a "special event" but it didn't require it. My friend and I rarely see each other more than once or twice a year, but we are always visiting on the phone or by email. If you ran into him in Mandan, North Dakota and discovered he knew Rob Moorlach, he could tell you how I was doing and I would do the same. It's about relationship.

Matthew 6:6 says, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Different people have dissected this verse over the centuries since Jesus said it. What did he mean by "room," what if there are oth-

er people around, do my prayers in front of others work? What I'm discovering is there are two people involved - God and me. My heavenly Father already knows my heart, He knows the joys and concerns, He knows all about me. But Jesus still says, "Go into your room and pray to your Father."

I might not have a certain time you can drive by the parsonage in the morning or late night when you can see the light on and know I'm praying but I'm learning to spend time in my relationship with God each day. I encourage you to do the same.

See you in church!

# OFFICE HOURS

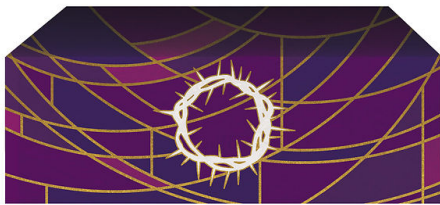
Pastor Rob  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Wednesday  
Mornings

Monday  
Day Off





Thank you for the lent altar cloth in memory of Lorraine Bartz.



Third graders will receive their bibles in church on March 3. They include Haley Erickson, Rae Fliehs, Kaleb Hoffer, and Maci Dunbar.



Confirmation Sunday will be March 10 during worship. Coffee Hour celebration will have a gift table set up. Students: Brooklyn Spanier, Asher Johnson, Rylie Rose, Easton and Chesney Weber.



JoAnn Krueger  
Died Feb 3, 2024



#### Church Information

Pastor Rob Moorlach  
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Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

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Secretary Email: [grotonumc@nvcnet](mailto:grotonumc@nvcnet)  
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Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonsdumc/](https://facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



## DWU CHORUS AND HANDBELL CHOIR TO TOUR UPPER MIDWEST

**By:** Dakota Wesleyan University press release

MITCHELL – The Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Music at Dakota Wesleyan University will sponsor a tour of upper midwest communities in early March. As part of DWU's spring break, the Highlanders vocal chorus and the Wesleyan Bells will perform in eight communities March 1-6. Stops on the tour include:

- ◆ Stillwater, Minn., First United Methodist Church, Friday, March 1, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Elk Mound, Wis., Trinity United Methodist Church, Saturday, March 2, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Fargo, N.D., Fargo First United Methodist Church, Sunday, March 3, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Bismarck, N.D., McCabe United Methodist Church, Monday, March 4, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Ipswich, S.D., Ipswich School, Tuesday, March 5, 1 p.m.
- ◆ Aberdeen, S.D., North Highland United Methodist Church, Tuesday, March 5, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Wessington Springs, S.D., Wessington Springs High School, Wednesday, March 6, 10 a.m.
- ◆ Plankinton, S.D., Plankinton High School, Wednesday, March 6, 1:15 p.m.

All performances are free and are open to the public.

The Highlanders are directed by Dr. Clinton Desmond, director of choral activities, professor of music, and chair of the Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Music at DWU. The Wesleyan Bells are directed by Erin Desmond, assistant professor of music at Dakota Wesleyan, who teaches voice and music theory, conducts the Wesleyan Bells and is the university's accompanist.

Upcoming events for the Ron and Sheilah

Gates Department of Music include:

- LyricWood on March 17, 4 p.m., at the DWU Sherman Center, also livestreamed at [www.dwu.edu/live](http://www.dwu.edu/live).
- Spring Music Concert on April 21, 4 p.m., at the DWU Sherman Center, also livestreamed at [www.dwu.edu/live](http://www.dwu.edu/live).
- Faculty Recital with DWU music conductor Jason T. Laczkoski on April 28, 4 p.m., at the DWU Sherman Center



## DWU SPRING TOUR

FEATURING:  
The Highlanders  
Wesleyan Bells

**March 3, 2024  
7 p.m.**

Fargo First United  
Methodist Church  
901 1st Ave. S.  
Fargo, N.D.

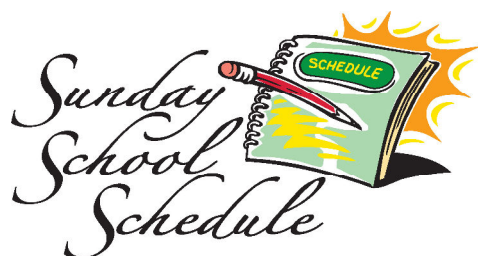


**DWU** DAKOTA WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY

RON AND SHEILAH GATES DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

1200 W. University Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301 • 605-995-2676 • Clinton.Desmond@dwu.edu • www.dwu.edu/music

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Mar. 3 – SS 10:30  
 10 – SS 10:30  
 17 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 (Spring Break)  
 24 – SS 9:30 / Sing in church  
 10:30 (Palm Sunday)  
 31 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 (Easter)  
 April 7 – SS 10:30  
 14 – SS 10:30  
 21 – SS 10:30  
 28 – SS 10:30  
 May 5 – SS 10:30  
 12 – Last Day of SS – Carnival 9:30  
 Sing in church 10:30 (Mother's  
 Day)



## Membership Update Letter

In January, 138 letters were sent to members, their families, and attending individuals requesting updates on addresses, photos, current membership updates, dates, and encouraging more in person participation at services and activities. Only 4 letters were not able to be delivered. We are still searching for address corrections for these persons. As of February 27<sup>th</sup> only about 1/3 of the responses have been received. Several changes have been recorded, including several

members who have moved and changed their membership. Please be sure to return or report any changes that should be made by March 20<sup>th</sup>. An accurate total membership is important in several conference reports as well as providing important information to all. We want to have all the updates in the directory at that time. Thank you for your time to respond.

Groton UMC Membership Committee.







**Spring Tea**

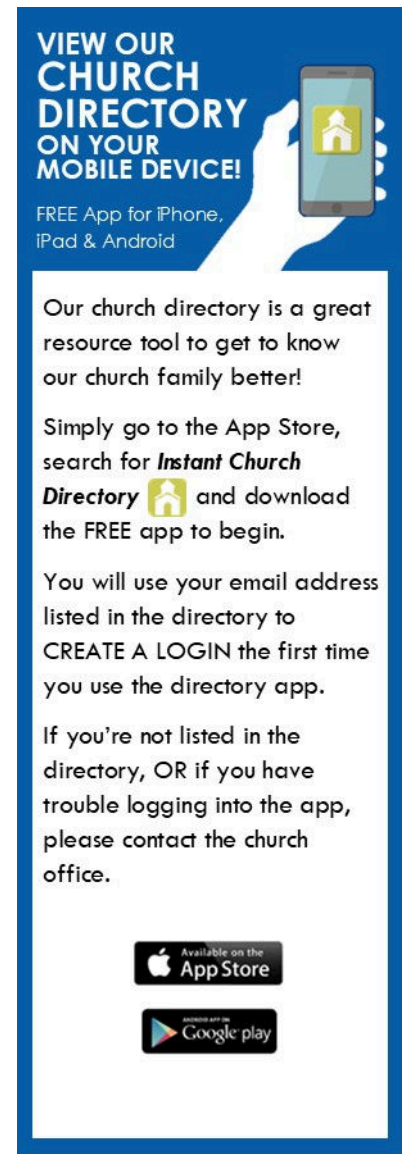
**Tuesday, March 19**  
**10:30 am - noon**

Short Spring Tea Program  
Light Spring Lunch  
With Tea and Fellowship

**Joy**  
Just Older Youth

Please register at:  
[grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net)  
or give us a call:  
(605) 397-8389

Hosted by the J.O.Y. Tuesday 10 am Bible Study Group



**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.

Available on the App Store

Get it on Google play



**SPRING**  
BIBLE  
study

Starting After Easter - Tues 10 AM  
Watch for Details to come...



FIRST DAY OF  
Spring



## Groton & Conde United Methodist Church



### Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

This marks 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 at 10:30 am.



### Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm at Groton UMC

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 too will share in communion and all are welcome to join us.



### Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

This year hosting an ecumenical

**Good Friday service at 7:00 pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

with leadership from Groton UMC and Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance. This service is open to the public as a solemn remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus.



### Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

All are invited to join as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

**Worship will be at 7:00 am in Groton and 8:30am in Conde.**

Following the service in Groton April Work Committee will be hosting coffee hour in which all may attend and will include an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

No 10:30 am Service at Groton UMC.

In Conde there will be a coffee hour following worship.





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# Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



## What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

## What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!

## Pressed

*Gethsemane*, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for “olive press.” During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

“All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances,” the authors write. “We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive.”

## Groton Family Committee - April

**Kami & Tom Lipp**

**Lindsey & Tom Tietz**

**Lane, McKenna**

Sam & Dion Bahr

Valerie Bakrt

Rodney Boehmer

Steve Diegel

Myndi & Scott Kampa

Tristan, Jaeger

Sydney & Trent Kurtz

Peggy & Harlan Place

Pam & Roger Rix

Betty Strom

Joyce & Allen Walter

### Honorary Members

Gloria Pharis

Pat Dahlquist

### 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 -2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday if held.
- ⇒ 2 Ushers 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



April 2024						
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				

### By faith

Tis by the faith of joys to come  
 We walk through deserts dark as night,  
 Till we arrive at heaven our home.  
 Faith is our guide, and faith our light..

Cheerful we tread the desert through,  
 While faith inspires a heavenly ray,  
 Though lions roar and tempests blow  
 And rocks and dangers fill the way.

So Abraham, by divine command,  
 Left his own house to walk with God;  
 His faith beheld the promised land,  
 And fired his zeal along the road.

—Early American hymn





## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

Mar 3 Tristan Kampa  
Mar 4 Kay Daly  
Kale Pharis  
Christina Zoellner  
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 13 Ron Anderson  
Mar 14 Mendy Jones  
Sydney Erickson  
Mar 15 Samantha 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 (85)  
Mar 31 Aiden Strom  
Caralee Heitmann  
Henry Townsend

### Conde

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



**Sharon Wheeting**  
**1701 3rd Ave SE Apt 202**  
**Aberdeen, SD 57401**



### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Groton Ad Council - Feb

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, AM Mitchell. Those in attendance were Linda Thurston, Carna Atherton-Pray, Anita Lowary, Tyke Nyberg, Roger Rix, Meri Erickson, and Jeanne Wanous. Pastor Rob was not able to attend. The chairman asked Carna to share a prayer.

The agenda was approved on a motion from Anita Lowary.

The previous meeting minutes were approved on a motion from Linda Thurston.

**Correspondence:** The secretary shared a thank you note from Linda (Snyder) Sparkman on behalf of the Carolyn Snyder family for the reception held at our church in memory of Carolyn.

### Committee Reports

**Membership:** Anita Lowary shared information on the results of the membership letter recently mailed out. Of the 138 letters sent out, 4 were returned for inaccurate address & 32 responses were completed & received back. Of those 20 asked to be removed as members and some added additional children, gave updated addresses, and some shared updated photos.

### Trustees:

- Tyke Nyberg shared the following: 1) Heartland heating looked at the issue found by the boiler inspector, and they explained what needed to be done to comply with the inspection fault. Tyke gave them approval to complete the work.
- The City of Groton alerted us to an abnormally high usage of water concern. Tyke pinpointed the issue and fixed it, however as a result we have a higher-than-normal water bill coming up.
- Tyke shared the snow removal bill from Weber Landscaping thus far this winter. After discussion,
- Roger Rix motioned to pay the bill in full, from our undesignated memorial funds and the regular church funds will be used to repay undesignated memorial funds as we are able. The motion passed unanimously. It was

also suggested that we add snow removal as a line item in our budget for next year. In addition, Tyke will visit with Weber Landscaping on a way to reduce the number of snow removal hours for the remaining winter months.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous: Jeanne reported that the Interfaith Bank account has been closed and the balance of \$20 has been received. Also, the annual Foundation distribution has been received. Anita reported that the money was distributed to camping and building fund.
- Financial Secretary-Allen Walter: no report

Pastor Parish-Meri Erickson: no report

### Memorial Report:

Linda Thurston reported the following memorial funds:

- Undesignated = \$ 11,215.00
- Designated = \$ 13,737.44
- Total = \$ 24,952.44

She also reported that the memorial committee met to discuss ideas for use of undesignated memorial funds. The committee suggested the following use for a portion of the undesignated funds: 1) New speakers and switches for the fellowship hall at a cost of approx. \$3000; 2) Replenish our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and baby Bible inventory at a cost of approx. \$1000; and 3) Purchase front hallway LED lights. Anita Lowary motioned to go forward with the committee's suggestions. The motion passed.

**Bills to be Presented:** The parking lot & sidewalk snow removal bill was turned over to the memorial treasurer as discussed above.

### Administrative Report:

Pastor Rob: Carna Atherton-Pray shared that Pastor Rob will be on vacation on April 7 and Carna has agreed to be his substitute. Pastor Rob will also be gone on June 9 for the Annual Conference, as well as on June 16 for vacation.

### Old Business:

- Fellowship Hall speakers: see above notes under memorial committee.

### New Business:

- Carna Atherton-Pray reported that the new AED will be installed before the end of February. She also stated that there was not enough interest to support a training program for the device or for a CPR course.
- Meri Erickson proposed a bonus payment for Yvonne Lange for her volunteer hours helping with the Sunday school music program. All members in attendance were in agreement to this proposal and authorized the treasurer to pay the agreed on bonus amount to Yvonne.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous

### Groton Stewardship Report Jan 2024

Average  
Wkly Giving  
\$1,117

Needed Wkly for  
Church Mission  
\$2,390

Average Weekly  
Attendance Sunday  
44

Total Building Fund  
Donations  
for Repairs  
\$5





March 2024						
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 3 3rd Graders Receiving Bibles
- Mar 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Mar 10 Confirmation Sunday in Groton
- Mar 19 Spring Tea hosted by J.O.Y. Bible Study at 10:30 am
- Mar 20 Groton Ad Council
- Mar 24 Palm Sunday - Groton Sunday School singing in Worship 10:30 am
- Mar 28 Maundy Thursday Service at Groton at 6:30 pm
- Mar 29 Ecumenical Good Friday Service at 7 pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- Mar 31 Groton Easter Sunday Worship at 7 am followed by Coffee Hour**  
**with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children**  
**NO 10:30 am Worship Service**
- Mar 31 Conde Easter Sunday Worship at 8:30 am**