

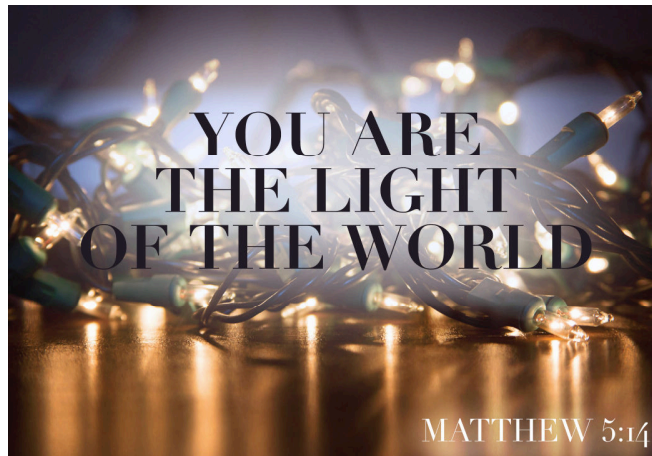


April 2025

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## Pastor Rob's Ponderings

*In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He existed in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. <sup>4</sup>The Word gave life to everything that was created,<sup>[a]</sup> and his life brought light to everyone. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.<sup>[b]</sup> John 1:1-5 (New Living Translation)*



We've been using Jesus the Stranger written by Dr. Kenneth Collins of Asbury Seminary as our guide through Lent this year. In the first chapter Collins invites us to consider the implications of some of the first verses in John's Gospel. Did you know, for example, the name "Jesus" does not even appear until the 17<sup>th</sup> verse? It's almost as if John is inviting us to stop and think about the way Jesus is described here.

I love the image of, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it." One of the "strange" things I have done to decorate my house is to put up little,

foot tall, Christmas trees, with solar powered blinking lights, in my "flower box" in the front of the house. Each night these six little trees start blinking as soon as it gets dark. I love it! It looks a little strange (It will look even stranger in August!) but those little blinking lights remind anyone who drives past, "Hey! Look at me." But then the sun rises and the lights go off to wait their turn.

Collins reminds us, as John does, the Light shines all the time regardless of conditions, or whether there's enough juice in the battery. And it can never be extinguished! Think about that for a second. Many people tried to put out the light. His family tried; His detractors tried

making up stories; even His own disciples didn't want Him to say certain things. Finally, the religious leaders thought they accomplished the deed when they nailed Him to the cross.

But then comes Easter! The greatest Light display of them all. Have you ever heard the phrase, "Everything will be brought to light?" It's usually used in the context of some wrong-doing by a politician when the reporters say, "When this goes to trial everything will be brought to light." In other words, we'll know the whole story. In the case of Jesus as the Light it's used differently when we get to Easter.

At Christmas, He comes as a baby, the Light

enters His creation. It's awesome, but it's still a baby. The Light turns water into wine and even calms a storm. Wow! That's cool but I'd like to see more for real proof. Then He dies and it seems the Light has gone out; the bad guys have won. But here's where we need to return John 1: In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He existed in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

Easter says we are talking about God Himself providing eternal light in our darkness.

Happy Easter! See you in church!



Pastor Rob  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Thursday  
Evenings  
6-8 pm

Monday  
Day Off





**Maundy Thursday Service**

at Conde UMC at 7 pm

**Good Friday Service**

at Groton UMC at 12 pm

at Britton UMC at 6 pm

**Easter Sunday Services**

will be at the normal times.

Conde 8:15 am

Groton 9:30 am followed by coffee hour

Britton 11:15 am

**Groton UMC CPR Class**

CPR class – April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm – starting with a light supper – Heartsaver AED class – CPR training by experienced trainer and review of the use of the AED (automatic external defibrillator). We have an AED at the church and we need to have persons who know how to use this device. You will receive a card via email once you have passed the class. The certification is good for 2 years. Cost for the class is \$10 which covers the cost of the card and registration with the American Heart Association.



**Church Information**

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Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonsdumc/](https://facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



Groton UMC  
 APRIL 6 – SS 9:30  
 APRIL 13 – 9:30 (Sing in church-Palm Sunday)  
 APRIL 20 – NO SS (Easter)  
 APRIL 27 – SS 9:30  
 MAY 4 – SS 9:30  
 MAY 11 – 9:30 (Sing in church-Mother’s Day)



## Groton UMYF



Thank you to Glenna Bingham, Carolyn Snyder and Doug Krueger for their Memorial Gift of 2 new high chairs and 2 new booster seats to welcome our littlest church family members.

# In CHRISTIAN Sympathy

Jerry Bonn

Groton UMC Funeral

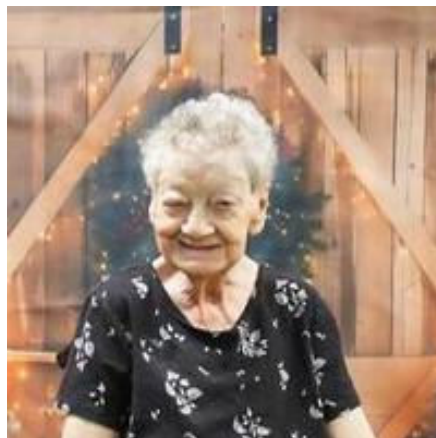
February 26, 2025



Joyce Stieha

Britton UMC

February 28, 2025



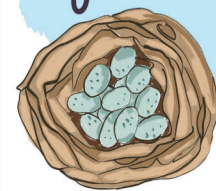
Judy Andrews

Britton UMC

March 2



## Springing to LIFE



New life defines the season of spring. Make this Easter craft that symbolizes rebirth.

### What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans



### What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



## Groton Caring Team



The Caring Team is collecting monetary donations for Max Olson, 2 years old with leukemia. Marked envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary to be placed in the offering plate or you may donate to a Caring Team member or can be mailed to the church. This collections will end Palm Sunday. Thank you.



The Caring Teams Secret Sisters Program is under way with 8 participants. Everyone should be praying for each other and sending cards of encouragement. Thank you to those participating.

## Conde UMC Happenings

The Conde Church continues to do well. Attendance remains quite stable, and monetary support is adequate to meet our budget. Donations from members who no longer live in Conde is greatly appreciated.

The Bible Study group led by Pastor Rob tries to meet every week, but we adjust that according to everyone's schedule. We have been doing a short study of the book of Revelation. This is rather a troubling and hard to understand book of the Bible, and the contents has brought about some interesting discussion from the group. We have one more session, and then we will begin a study on the book of Ephesians. Some of us already have the study book, but this would be a good time for more people to join the group.

March 30<sup>th</sup> is UMCOR Sunday which is an important day as there will be a special offering which funds the administrative costs of UMCOR. So, when a church donates to a disaster relief, all of the money goes to help those people in a disaster area.

We want to thank Pastor Rob, for his dedication of having services at three churches on Sunday morning. 8:15 is a little early for Conde, but this is a minor thing. It will become easier as summer approaches.



If you take the Sermon on the Mount and overlay it with the book of James, you'll find oodles of connection. Penned by the beloved half-brother of Jesus, James sounds more like Jesus than any other New Testament writer. The short letter is packed with doable and down-to-earth teaching, golden treasures of wisdom, and a timely call for believers everywhere to grow into maturity.

Join us at 10 am on Tuesday morning with Margaret Feinberg in a rich, fresh study of James that will uncover the genuine markers of real faith, equip you to break free from old patterns by developing new practices, and discover how the Father of heavenly lights treasures you. Five week Streaming Video study begins April 22. at Groton UMC



Easter Blessings



# Groton Family Committee - May

## May 2025 Chairpersons

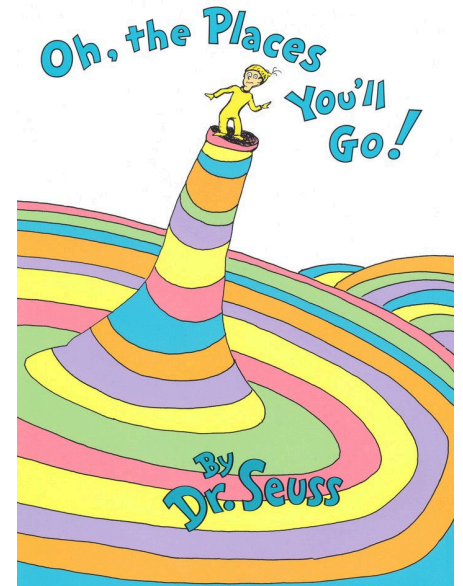
- Karen and Ian Rose
- Rebecca and Randy Padfield
  
- Merrie and Josh Atherton
- Amber and Adrian Daly
- Kay and Doug Daly
- Lucy Daly
- Megan and Seth Erickson
- Kelli and Lars Hanson
- Paula and JR Johnson
- Mendy and Jim Jones
- Sydney and Trent Kurtz
- Laurel and Monte McNickle
- Justin Olson
- Rebecca and Randy Padfield
- Karen and Ian Rose
- Marc Sippel
- Tom Strom
- Linda and Gary Thurston
- Joyce and Allen Walter
- Kim and Craig Weber
- William Zoellner

## Honorary Members

- Caralee Heitmann
- Richard Krueger
- Ruby Luce
- Jean Walter

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of this book.
- ◆ Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- ◆ Potluck 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin
- ◆ **Order and Pickup Graduation Cake for coffee hour. Honor the Graduates on Sunday, May ?, 2023**
- ◆ Gifts are organized by Caring Team
- ◆ Caring Team sets up gift table
- ◆ Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons

May 2025						
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



## You're going places!

Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns. Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on," writes Dr. Seuss.

In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NRSV): "Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Dakotas Annual Conference

June 6-8  
Mitchell,  
South Dakota

Created for

Love



## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

- Apr 3 Maliyah McCranie  
Marc Johnson  
Nolan Rose  
Myndi & Scott Kampa
- Apr 4 Mitchell Madsen  
Sue Stanley
- Apr 5 Wyatt Kurtz
- Apr 7 Reilly Ell  
Shelly Lerew  
Jackson & Lindsey Strom
- Apr 8 Lon Gellhaus  
Willa Olson
- Apr 12 Erin Bahr
- Apr 14 Toby Dobbins
- Apr 15 Brady Graf  
Nolan Bahr
- Apr 16 Tom Tietz  
Dale & Traci Kramer
- Apr 18 Jenna Strom  
Merrie Atherton
- Apr 21 Valerie Baker
- Apr 22 Ali Pasteur
- Apr 24 Rae Flihs
- Apr 30 Breslyn Jeschke  
Michael McCranie

### Conde

Apr 18 Loren Siefken

### Britton

- Apr Kendra Kadoun
- Apr 2 Braun Kadoun
- Apr 24 Diana MacKenzie

Need dates and updates so our church family can help everyone celebrate.



*Kindly join us for a*  
**Bridal Shower**  
*in honor of*  
**Kari Hanson**

Saturday, April 19th,  
 10am - 12noon  
 United Methodist Church  
 906 N. 1st St,  
 Groton, SD

*\* Come and go*  
*\* The couple is registered on Amazon*

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

## Groton Ad Council - March

Chairman AM Mitchell called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were AM Mitchell, Pastor Rob Moorchach, Jeanne Wanous, Allen Walter, Lon Gellhaus, Linda Thurston, Cliff & Carna Pray, Anita Lowary, and Meri Erickson. Pastor Rob shared a prayer prior to conducting business.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Lon Gellhaus & the previous minutes were approved on a motion by Anita Lowary.

**Committee Reports**

Membership—Anita Lowary: no report

Memorial—Linda Thurston: no report

Missions - Val Baker: no report

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: no report

Pastor/Parish Relations: Carna Atherton-Pray

Groton/Conde/Britton Organization: This group had a recent meeting, and another meeting is scheduled for Mar. 26, which will be the third of 8 scheduled meetings for the year. Everything is going very well. There will be a parsonage walk thru by the trustees of each church in May.

Trustees—Cliff Pray:

Cliff reported that the free water leak/heating & cooling/fire alert system provided to us by our insurance company has been installed and is working properly. If the system detects an issue, an alarm goes off at the church and on the phone app on Cliff's phone. There are also two other people set up to receive the alarm as backup. Cliff also reported that he was notified that our church cameras keep going on and off. Cliff will be working with the city of Groton to help resolve the problem.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous: see monthly report

Financial Secretary-Allen Walter: no report

Pastor Parish-Meri Erickson:

Bills to be Presented: Meri Erickson presented Linda Thurston, our Memorial committee chair, with the bills for the approved purchase of children's highchairs for our fellowship hall.

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob

Pastor Rob shared that all is going well with Britton, in addition, he reported that Conde is doing a Bible study. Pastor Rob shared the upcoming Easter season services which include: Palm Sunday, Apr. 13 for all 3 churches with Groton's Sunday school singing for Groton's service; Maundy Thursday service, April 7 in Conde at 7pm; Good Friday service, April 18 in Britton at 6pm; and Easter services on Apr. 20, at regular times for all three churches.

Old Business:

The BAGS Program: Anita presented the annual 2024 BAGS Audit Report. She explained what the program is and how many students are served. We are still waiting to see if the high school wants to take the program over from the Groton UMC.

CPR Class: Carna Atherton-Pray has organized a CPR Class for April 2 at 6:00 pm at the Groton UMC. The class is designed for Groton church members, but Carna will visit with our local rescue squad to see if there are any squad members that would like to update their certification. The training is free of charge for church members, however if any person needs to be certified there will be a \$10 charge. There will be a meal served after the training.

Anita IRS update: Anita reported that the IRS needs another 6 months to resolve a 2016 Employment taxes issue with the Groton UMC. The issue is that the IRS doesn't think we paid these taxes for 2016, although we have shown proof of payment.

Groton UMC outdoor sign: Our outdoor sign giving our church service information along with our pastor's name needs to be updated. Arrangements for this update have been made.

New Business:

There was no new business. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm. Secretary, Jeanne Wanous

### GROTON UMC OFFERING STATISTICS














2025 Month	Offering Received	Needed for Budget	Average Attendance	Received for Building Maintenance
January	5521	9249	44	255
February	5753	9249	42	205
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>YTD Totals</b>	<b>11274</b>	<b>18498</b>		<b>460</b>





April 2025

Groton UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p>  <p>4th Sunday in Lent (purple) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour 6:00pm CPR Class</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>6</p>  <p>5th Sunday in Lent (purple) Communion in Worship (white) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>13</p>  <p>(purple or red) <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School (Sing in Church) 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study Movie on Ruth 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour 7:00pm Groton Ad Council</p>	 <p>(purple or red) <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary 7:00pm Conde UMC Maundy Service</p>	 <p>(no color) <b>Good Friday</b> 12:00pm Groton UMC Good Friday Service 6:00pm Britton UMC Good Friday Service</p>	 <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 10:00am Open House Bridal Shower - Kari Hanson</p>
<p>20</p>  <p>(white or gold) <b>Easter Sunday</b> Newsletter Items Due 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am NO Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	 <p><b>Earth Day</b> 10:00am Bible Study New Study Begins - James 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>27</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Easter (White or Gold) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>Early Bird Camp Registration Ends 9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>1</p> <p><b>National Day of Prayer</b> 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>



## Our Church Happenings...

- Apr 2 Groton CPR Class
- Apr 13 Palm Sunday - Groton SS singing during worship
- Apr 15 Groton Tuesday 10 am Bible Study watching Ruth, the Movie
- Apr 17 Conde UMC Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
- Apr 18 Groton UMC Good Friday Service is at noon
- Apr 18 Britton UMC Good Friday Service is at 6 pm
- Apr 20 Easter Sunday - Worship at regular times
  - Conde UMC 8:15
  - Groton UMC 9:30
  - Britton UMC 11:15
- Apr 20 Newsletter Items Due
- Apr 22 Groton UMC Tues 10 am Bible Study starting a new study

### April 2025

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			