



Groton & Conde & Britton UMC

# Newsletter

August 2025

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## ...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

### Wonderfully Made

*Psalm 139:14: I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

As I travel from church to church I listen to books to keep up with my "reading." I'm finishing a book entitled, "Face in the Mirror." It is the story of the first face transplant ever performed at the Mayo Clinic. I had never heard of this kind of transplant before and it sounded like a fascinating story of a man who had tried to commit suicide receiving the face of man (formerly of Fulda, SD) committed suicide. The book tells the story not only of the young man but the lead surgeon and his extensive surgical team performing a surgery which lasted over 50 hours. The story goes in to detail on all the considerations and practice needed to replace bones, nerves, veins, arteries, even tear ducts, and making sure the brain receives the signals from nerve endings to smile or blink.

I was reminded of my good friend, Dr. Dan Hayward. Dan and I went to college together. I visited him when he was at the University of Oklahoma Medical School. As we talked about his classes, Dan said being in medical school reaffirmed and strengthened his faith in Jesus. He said, "My professors all believe in evolution but when you work on a cadaver



in anatomy class, you realize only a divine Creator could make all the nerve endings, veins, and muscles work in the exact way they need to function."

I was reminded of that yesterday (I'm writing this on June 24, 2025) when I was in surgery at St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen to receive a skin graft over the open wound I had on my left foot. The open wound was actually created by the same surgeon doing the skin graft. On Easter Monday, I was diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis, a type of flesh-eating bacteria (No, we don't know where I acquired it.). The surgeon said we needed to clean out all the bacteria and make sure it never returns. I was in the hospital for two weeks undergoing surgeries every couple of days to clean out my left foot and

lower leg. Even after returning home, I was required to return to the St. Luke's Wound Care Clinic for repeated cleaning of the wound and re-bandaging. Finally, after many weeks, the surgeon pronounced the large hole he opened to "clean me out" could be closed with a skin graft.

Do you know how a skin graft works? A surgeon takes a piece of your own skin, usually from the thigh or buttocks, and sews it to another part of your body that needs covering. The place the skin was taken from feels like you might have skidded over asphalt for about a week, and there is no pain where the surgeon sewed on the skin. My question: How did they learn to do all this?!!!

Dr. Steve Seamands, a professor at Asbury Theologi-

cal Seminary and one of my professors, wrote a book, "Follow the Healer," in which he discusses the biblical concept of healing. In one of the chapters he outlines the various ways God heals, one of which is by medical knowledge. In other words, God has given my friend, Dr. Hayward, and my surgeon, Dr. Wobst, the ability to learn and "figure things out." It's amazing!

And that's why I'm saying: I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. See you in church!

# OFFICE HOURS



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

Monday  
Day Off

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National Purple Heart Day is observed annually on August 7th to honor U.S. service members who have been wounded or killed in action. It's a day to remember and reflect on the sacrifices made by these brave men and women. The day also recognizes the oldest military award, the Purple Heart medal, which was first established by George Washington in 1782.

Here's a bit more detail:

#### **The Purple Heart:**

The Purple Heart is awarded to service members who are wounded or killed by enemy action while serving in the U.S. military.

#### **Origins:**

It was originally called the "Badge of Military Merit" and was awarded for acts of bravery. It was later revived as the Purple Heart on the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth.

#### **How it's observed:**

Many Major League Baseball teams recognize Purple Heart recipients during games on August 7th. Government offices and veteran organizations also hold remembrance events.

#### **Purpose:**

National Purple Heart Day is a time to express gratitude to those who have served and sacrificed for their country.



## **Max Update**

Sunday, July 27, 2025

Max has completed the Delayed Intensification round of his chemo treatment and moved into a new round of treatment, called IM2! This one takes us until about mid-September. He has chemo in Sioux Falls every ten days this round, so a little less driving! His counts were great this week and we're hoping they stay higher this round, so we can be out and about a little more and get a few summer activities in! ♥

We did sneak up to the lake for a few boat and golf cart rides! 😊 we continue to just follow Max's lead and rest when he needs to and enjoy playing when he's up to it! ♥ He has some challenging side effects at times, leg pain and nausea most days, but he stays so amazingly upbeat! He's such an inspiration to us all! ♥ Willa continues to be so patient with all of the changes! We continue to be so thankful for all of the prayers for our family as we



Thank you is extended for the memorial moneys from the families of Doug Kruger, Jean Walter, Jerry Bonn, and Al Stro for the stainless steel trash can added to our fellowship hall.



### **Conde MISSION STATEMENT**

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

### **Church Information**

Pastor Rob Moorlach  
Office Phone 605-397-8270  
Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

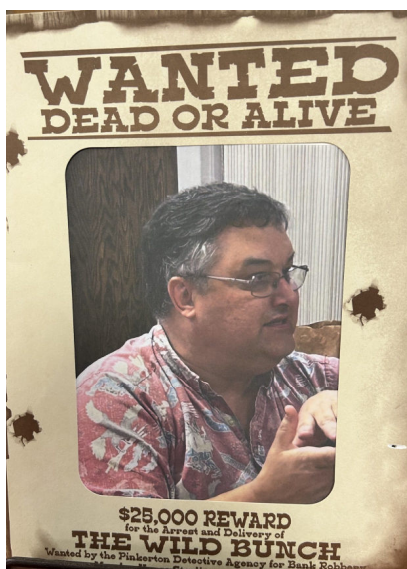
Pastor Email: [pastorrob@nvc.net](mailto:pastorrob@nvc.net)  
Secretary Email: [grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net)  
Website: [www.grotonumc.org](http://www.grotonumc.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonsdumc/](https://www.facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



## Groton VBS Thank You



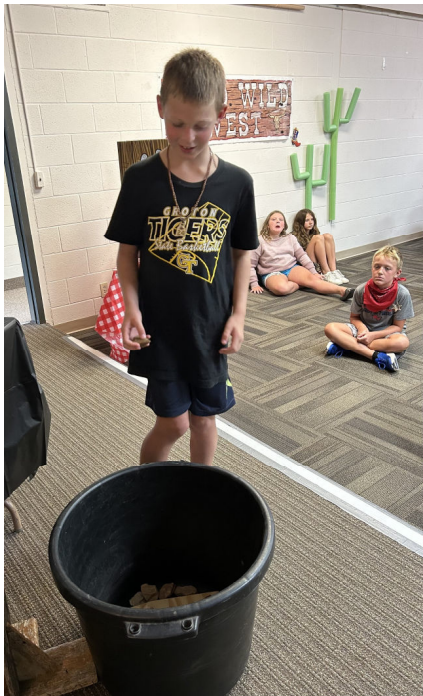
Our VBS was a great success with a fun western theme and 30 kids in attendance, ages 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade. The kids learned that *God Gives Great Gifts: Yee-Haw!* A special thank you to those who helped with VBS: Meri Erickson, Megan Erickson, Sydney Kurtz, Hannah Williams, Karen Rose, Graham Rose, Riley Rose, Mendy Jones, Melissa Gilbert, Deb Brandlee, Carly Gilbert, Emerlee Jones, Chesney Weber, Brooklyn Spanier, Jaedyn Penning, Jolene Townsend, and Brooklyn Gilbert. We would also like to thank all of you who donated to VBS to make it a success! The kids had a great time and it is all very appreciated.











# FALL KICKOFF SUNDAY

September 14 at 9:30 am





# Groton Family Committee - September

## September 2025 Chairpersons

Kelli and Lars Hanson  
 Paula and JR Johnson  
  
 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  
 Craig Weber  
 William Zoellner

## Honorary Members

Caralee Heitmann  
 Richard Krueger  
 Ruby Luce

- 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
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Potluck 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (Rally Sunday) - give church secretary details for bulletin

## GROTON UMC OFFERING STATISTICS

| 2025 Month        | Offering Received | Needed for Budget | Average Attendance | Received for Building Maintenance |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| January           | 5,521             | 9,249             | 44                 | 255                               |
| February          | 5,753             | 9,249             | 42                 | 205                               |
| March             | 8,209             | 9,249             | 55                 | 405                               |
| April             | 20,718            | 9,249             | 61                 | 505                               |
| May               | 5,964             | 9,249             | 65                 | 280                               |
| June              | 5,876             | 9,249             | 29                 | 280                               |
| July              |                   |                   |                    |                                   |
| August            |                   |                   |                    |                                   |
| September         |                   |                   |                    |                                   |
| October           |                   |                   |                    |                                   |
| November          |                   |                   |                    |                                   |
| December          |                   |                   |                    |                                   |
| <b>YTD Totals</b> | <b>52,041</b>     | <b>55,494</b>     |                    | <b>1930</b>                       |

# SHINE FOR Jesus

This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!

**What you need:**

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)

**What you do:**

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?  
 — Psalm 27:1, NIV

## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

Aug 2 Max Erickson  
David Strom  
Dylan Graf

Aug 4 Craig & Kim Weber

Aug 5 Tigh Fliehs

Aug 6 Nash Kurtz  
Damian Bahr

Aug 7 Kelli Hanson  
Tyke Nyberg

Aug 8 Yvonne Lange  
Matthew & Morgan McCranie

Aug 9 Loel Schott

Aug 12 Tom Lipp

Aug 13 Sully Strom

Aug 15 Paisley Johnson

Aug 16 Rose Tewksbury - 90th  
Jim Jones  
Jenna & Nick Strom

Aug 19 Jaeger Kampa  
Tyke & Christine Nyberg  
Tia Johnson

Aug 20 Marc Sippel

### Tyson Parrow

Aug 23 Haley Erickson

Aug 27 Rachel Dobbins

Aug 28 Rob & Jeanne Wanous

Aug 29 Chuck Padfield

William Zoellner

Aug 30 Nathan Atherton

Jase Bahr

Emma Jo Schinkel

### Conde

Aug 6 Loren & Pat Siefken - 60th

Aug 10 Cindy Smith

Aug 20 Richard & Jane Worlie

### Britton

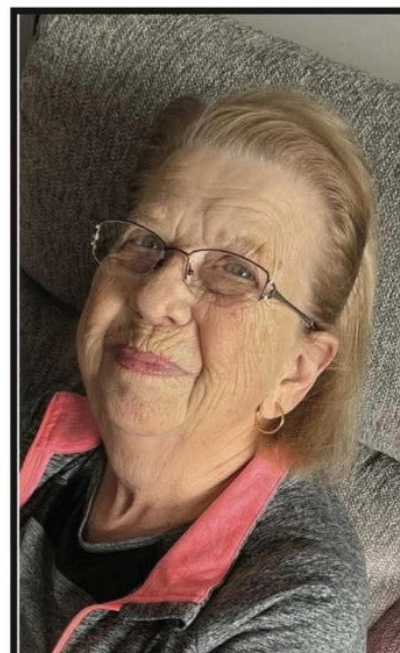
Aug 29 Norm Mack

Aug 23 Kathy Steiner

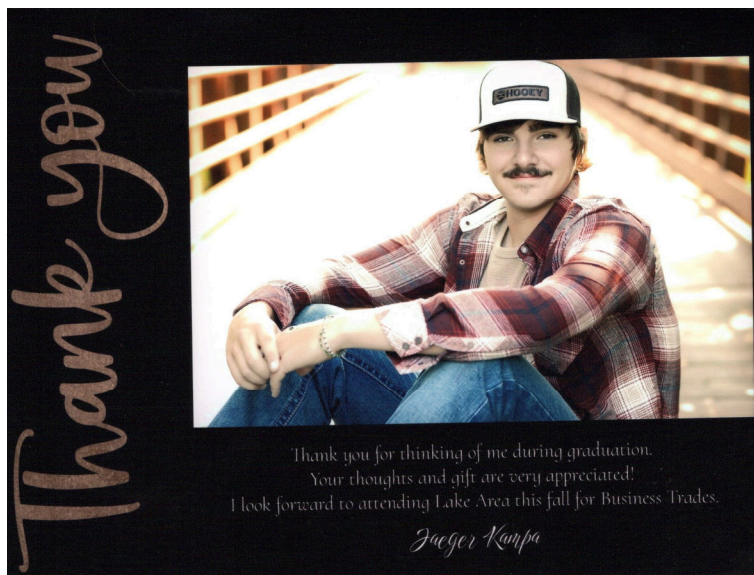
Aug 28 Norm & Deb Mack

Aug 29 Pat & Jesse Bolzer

*Please Notify the office of any missing  
birthday's or anniversaries. Thank You.*



**Card Shower  
for Rose  
Tewksbury.  
She will be  
turning 90 on  
August 16, 2025  
1901 S Merton St,  
Apt #32  
Aberdeen SD  
57401.**



## Livestream Available

This is available with the Groton Worship Service as long as we have a volunteer each Sunday. We need more volunteers! We try to stream to Facebook and YouTube both so if one is not working, please try the other. If you enjoy this service, please consider volunteering a few weeks to help us out.

## Groton Ad Council - July

Chairman, AM Mitchell, called the meeting to order. In attendance were AM Mitchell, Pastor Rob Moorlach, Jeanne Wanous, Cliff & Carna Pray, Anita Lowary, and Allen Walter. Pastor Rob shared a prayer prior to conducting business.

Both the agenda and the previous minutes were approved on a motion by Anita Lowary.

**Correspondence:** Jeanne Wanous shared a notice from Plunkett's Pest Control regarding a 4% price increase for their pest control service at our church for the upcoming fall season. Ad Council members agreed that we would continue using Plunkett's even with the slight price increase.

### Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: no new updates

Memorial—no report

Missions - Val Baker: Carna Atherton-Pray shared what was discussed and planned at the recent Missions meeting. The group plans to do school bag collections in the fall in conjunction with Rally Day. The items collected will be sent to the UMCOR missions. Additional plans include building children's beds with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization in Aberdeen. At Christmas time, the Missions committee plans to conduct a Spirit Lake Christmas hygiene kit collection.

Caring Team: no report

Pastor/Parish Relations: Carna noted that the PPR committee will meet on Wednesday, July 23 in the evening. They will be discussing the 2026 budget to include the pastor's salary and all other budget items.

**Trustees—Cliff Pray:** Cliff reported on the following items:

Front door: The church front door has been updated to allow for emergency opening from the inside of the building

even though it is locked to keep outside intruders from entering. Those who serve Sunday morning coffee should be trained in how to use the new door features so that the door can be routinely unlocked for Sunday morning services and then locked again after attendees have left the building.

Air Conditioner Maintenance: Derwin Kampa completed maintenance on the church air conditioner. Cliff also asked him to look at the parsonage furnace. The result is that the parsonage furnace is outdated and if it fails, we would not be able to get parts for it. Also, if the furnace would have to be replaced, the air conditioner would also need to be replaced. Derwin provided an estimate of \$12,000 for a new furnace and AC at current prices. To be clear, there is no need for replacement of either unit at this point in time.

Parish Updates: Updates at the parish are complete and the bill has been paid.

### Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer—Jeanne Wanous:

Annual Weed Spraying—Jeanne reminded the council that we will have a bill in the fall for annual weed spraying by Neil Abeln which was \$130 last fall. There were no objections to continuing this weed prevention service.

Monthly Dakotas Conference Apportionments:

Jeanne reminded the council that when we set the 2025 budget for the Dakotas Conference monthly apportionments at 25% of the normal suggested amount by the conference, that we agreed to relook at our circumstances at midyear. After some discussion, Carna Atherton-Pray motioned to increase our monthly apportionments from 25% to 50% of the suggested amount. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor of the mo-

tion. All members agreed that we will revisit this when planning our 2026 budget.

2026 Utilities: Members discussed that our monthly utilities bills will probably go up by 10 – 12% next year.

Financial Secretary—Allen Walter: Allen asked that Carna contact a Vanco representative to come to visit with us about other methods for members of the congregation to give to the church.

Pastor Parish—Meri Erickson: no report

### Bills to be Presented:

The House of Glass bill for the new front door locking system was \$618 and has been paid.

**Administrative Report:** Pastor Rob stated that he feels the Groton/Conde/Britton services are going well. He said that Britton's weekly attendance has increased. Pastor Rob has realized that he does have enough time after the Groton service to stay a while and greet attendees as they leave, which everyone agreed is very important to our members. He also shared an update on his health and feels he is nearing the end of his routine treatments. He reminded everyone that Groton's VBS will be July 28 & 29 and that he will be on vacation on Aug. 10.

### Old Business:

Fellowship Hall Chair Cleaning: Meri Erickson volunteered to do the chair cleaning. She also feels that the fellowship hall carpeting is in need of cleaning soon. There is no plan for cleaning the sanctuary pew pads yet.

### New Business: none














The meeting was adjourned at 7: 45 pm.  
Secretary, Jeanne Wanous





Groton UMC

August 2025

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                                     | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 27<br>7th Sunday after Pentecost (green)<br>8:15am Conde Worship<br>9:30am Groton Worship<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>11:15am Britton UMC Worship   | 28<br><br>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center<br>3:00pm VBS w/supper | 29<br><br>10:00am Bible Study<br>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown<br>3:00pm VBS w/supper<br>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center  | 30<br><br>9:30am Community Coffee Hour                             | 31<br>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary | 1   | 2<br>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown  |
| 3<br><br>8th Sunday after Pentecost (green)<br>Communion in Worship (white)<br>8:15am Conde Worship<br>9:30am Groton Worship<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>11:15am Britton UMC Worship | 4<br>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center  | 5<br>10:00am Bible Study<br>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown<br>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center   | 6<br><br>9:30am Community Coffee Hour                              | 7<br>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary  | 8   | 9<br>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown  |
| 10<br>9th Sunday after Pentecost (green)<br>8:15am Conde Worship<br>9:30am Groton Worship<br>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>11:15am Britton UMC Worship   | 11<br><br>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center                        | 12<br>10:00am NO Bible Study<br>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown<br>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center   | 13<br><br>9:30am Community Coffee Hour                             | 14   | 15  | 16<br>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown   |
| 17<br>10th Sunday after Pentecost (green)<br>8:15am Conde Worship<br>9:30am Groton Worship<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>11:15am Britton UMC Worship  | 18<br>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center   | 19<br><br>Groton School Starts<br>10:00am Bible Study<br>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown<br>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center | 20<br><br>9:30am Community Coffee Hour<br>7:00pm Groton Ad Council | 21<br>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary | 22<br><br>Newsletter Items Due | 23<br>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown   |
| 24<br>11th Sunday after Pentecost (green)<br>8:15am Conde Worship<br>9:30am Groton Worship<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>11:15am Britton UMC Worship  | 25<br>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center   | 26<br>10:00am Bible Study<br>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown<br>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center  | 27<br><br>9:30am Community Coffee Hour                           | 28<br>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary | 29  | 30<br>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown   |
| 31<br>12th Sunday after Pentecost (green)<br>8:15am Conde Worship<br>9:30am Groton Worship<br>10:30am Coffee Hour<br>11:15am Britton UMC Worship  | 1<br><br><b>Labor Day</b><br>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center   | 2<br>10:00am Bible Study<br>3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown<br>4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center   | 3<br><br>9:30am Community Coffee Hour                            | 4<br>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary  | 5<br><br>Knecht Wedding      | 6<br><br>Knecht Wedding<br>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown |





## Our Church Happenings...

- Aug 20 Groton Ad Council 7 pm  
Aug 22 September Newsletter Items Due  
Sept 1 Labor Day  
Sept 14 Groton Sunday School Kick-Off at 9:30 am

### August 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 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

