

Welcome
Autumn



Groton & Conde & Britton UMC

Newsletter

September 2025

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

School has started for the 2025-2026 year. My high school class held its 40th year reunion a couple of years ago so I must confess I've forgotten the feeling of having to go back to school after Summer break. On the other hand, our local school, like many small-town school districts, is the center of activity for our community. We look forward to Friday night football games. Homecoming is scheduled for sometime this Fall when even elementary school students get excited about the annual parade down Main Street. Before we know it, the music departments will start rehearsing for Christmas concerts. The first snow will happen, and everyone, especially teachers, will start counting the days until Christmas vacation.

Allen Jackson, a minister in Tennessee who has a show on TBN, wrote a great prayer for the start of the new school year. It is: *Heavenly Father*, Thank You for the children and for the honor we have of praying for them as they begin a new school year. **We ask You to go ahead of them, protect them, and prepare their hearts and minds for all that's ahead.** Lord, we invite You back into their schools—from the daycares all the way up through the college campuses. Thank You that You will give us administrators who fear your name, and who will



stand for righteousness, godliness, and holiness. Thank You for the school boards across our nation—that they'll once again be filled with people who have faith in a living God. **Lord, forgive us for our distraction and our unwillingness to address the evil being unleashed on the children.** We repent, and we thank You for the awakening You've begun. We pray our schools will once again become safe places for the children—places where You and our heritage of faith are honored, protected, and revered. Show us how we can come alongside You as You move. We praise You, and we will celebrate the victories You bring. *In Jesus' name, amen.*

The bold printed lines are direct from Pastor Jackson's prayer and I think they are important. The first is self-explanatory. We should al-

ways ask the Holy Spirit to prepare our students, teachers, and administrators for the days ahead.

*The second, **bolded** is just as important. Evil lurks everywhere our children go. Perhaps it's the fight parents had on the morning of school which distracts children the rest of the day. It might be the cruel word or action from fellow students. It might be the disruptive behavior in class which disrupts our children from learning. And it might just be something taught with which we disagree (Not all of us have same opinions on all subjects taught in school.) I think that is why I like Pastor Jackson's word, "Forgive us for our distraction..." It begs the question: How involved are we in knowing what our children are learning and experiencing day by day.*

I might not remember what the first day of school felt like but I do remember my mother always asking about my school day and what I was learning. Even though she was a working mother, she also went to every parent-teacher conference and was involved in school.

Finally, I like the words of the prayer, "Show us how we can come alongside you as you move." That's something each one of us can do whether we have children in school or not.

Have a great school year! See you in church!

OFFICE
HOURS

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

Monday
Day Off

2025 Confirmation Schedule

Groton UMC

Class will be at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall at Groton UMC

September 3 – Class One

September 10 – Class Two

September 24 – Class Three

October 1 – Class Four

October 8 – Class Five

October 15 – Class Six

October 29 – Class Seven

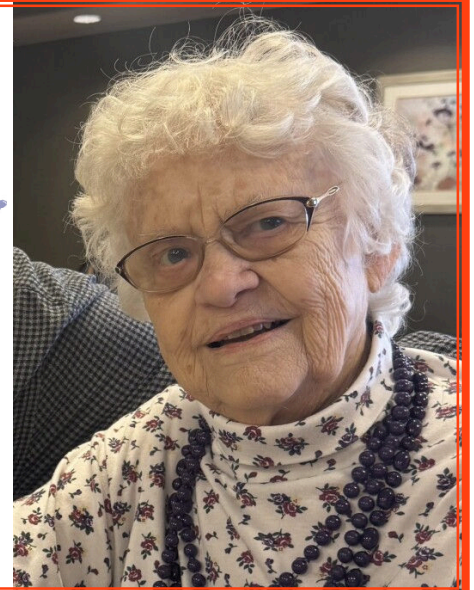
November 5 – Class Eight

November 12 – Prep for Confirmation Sunday

November 16 – Confirmation Sunday



Joan Fahrenwald
From Conde died
August 21, 2025



Open House Baby Shower

Baby Shower (come and go) for baby girl Daly Sunday September 14th from 1-3 pm at the community center in Groton, SD. Parents are Tyson Daly and KayLynn Overacker.



Book Sale at Wylie Park Pavilion

from 9 am - 7 pm Thursday, Sept 4 and Friday Sept 5. Hours on Saturday, Sept 6 are 8 am to noon. Money from book sale supports NSU scholarships and grants for local teachers.



Church Information

Pastor Rob Moorlach

Office Phone 605-397-8270

Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

Pastor Email: pastorrob@nvc.net

Secretary Email: grotonumc@nvc.net

Website: www.grotonumc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/grotonsdumc/

906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



6th
SEPTEMBER

WOMEN'S *Brunch*

A SPECIAL EVENT
FOR WOMEN

Guest Presenter
SHARON PIATT

Saturday, September 6, 2025
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Rose Hill Church
12099 Rose Hill Road
Langford SD 57454



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

Lord, in my work – whether at a job, at home or in a service—

help me
to do it with
purpose and
peace.

Keep me from being
overwhelmed, and remind me
that my worth is not in what I
produce, but in

who I am in You.
Amen.



Homecoming "Jungle Days" Lunch & Bazaar

Friday, September 5th
11am - 2pm

First Presbyterian Church - Groton

*Serving Chicken Salad Sandwiches,
BBQs, Pasta Salad & Homemade Pie*

Bake Sale - Craft Sale

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	5,528	9,249	37	280
August			37	
September				
October				
November				
December				
YTD Totals	57,569	64,743		2210



Create adorable sheep using graham crackers, marshmallows, and a little imagination!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Mini marshmallows
- Large marshmallows
- Candy eyes or mini chocolate chips
- Black gel icing or mini Oreo cookie

What you do:

1. Spread white frosting or marshmallow fluff on each graham cracker square.
2. Stick mini marshmallows all over to make the sheep's wool.
3. Cut a large marshmallow in half and stick it near the top for the head.
4. Add candy eyes and a dot of black gel for the nose. Or use a mini Oreo cookie half for a more defined face.
5. Let kids decorate their sheep however they'd like!



Lesson tie-in

Use this treat to remind kids that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

John 10:11, KJV



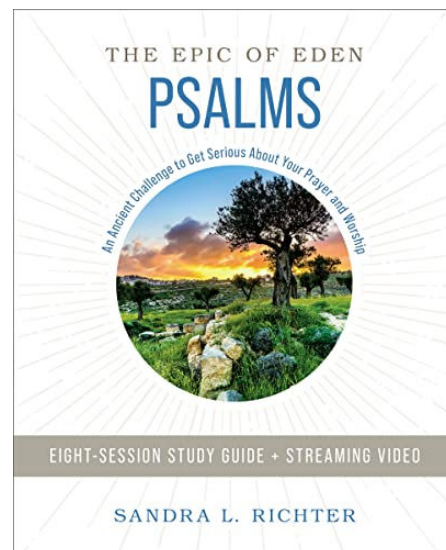


September 14 @ 9:30 am

**what's
coming up**

Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study

will start a new study on September 16th. Psalms: An Ancient Challenge to Get Serious About your prayer and Worship with Sandra L Richter DVD Videos. 8 Weeks include lessons 1) The Hymnbook of Ancient Israel 2) Who Wrote the Psalms & Why? 3) Interpreting the Psalms: Sacred Space 4) Interpreting the Psalms: Theocracy 5) The Power of Poetry 6) "Lord, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" 7) The Anatomy of a Lament 8) Jesus & the Psalms



God's Left Hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."



Groton Family Committee - October

October 2025 Chairpersons

Sue and Randy Stanley
Sara and Rick Hofer

Brian Bahr
Val Baker
Angela and Perryn Dobbins
Kristin Dolan
Adrienne and Tigh Fliehs
Cheryl Hanson
Sarah and Rick Hofer
Linda and Jay Johnson
Yvonne Lange
Shelly Lerew
Kami and Tom Lipp
Laurie and AM Mitchell
Chuck Padfield
Joey and Sabrina Padfield
Karla Pasteur
Peggy and Harlan Place
Sue and Randy Stanley
Crystal Strom
Todd Thurston

Honorary Members

Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt
Ida Hannon
Gloria Pharis
Judy Zeck

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
- * 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 for bulletin
- * Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- * **Check and make sure the Christmas Eve candles are okay for the service early in the month in case we have to order new ones.**
- * **Check and make sure the Advent Wreath Candles are okay in case they need to be ordered as well.**



October 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	



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

Sept 6 Justin Olson
Perryn Dobbns
Laurie & AM Mitchell
Sept 8 Laurel & Monte McNickle
Sept 9 Clint & Audrey Jacobson
Sept 10 Bryce Hanson
Sept 11 Audrey Jacobson
Sept 12 Cliff Pray
Ryder Daly
Sept 13 Richard Krueger
Karsten Hinman
Sept 14 Rick & Sarah Hofer
Sept 15 Karen Rose
Mason Madsen
Sept 17 Jackson Strom
Kyler Ell
Sept 19 Jace Hofer
Sept 20 Michael & Monica McCranie
Sept 22 Madison McNickle
Sept 24 Jesse Overacker
Sept 25 Joey Padfield
Sabrina Padfield
Sept 26 Alejandra Heitmann

Conde

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

Britton

Sept 19 Gerald Schneider
Sept 26 David Kleinberg MD



When God's the baker, every bite is a blessing!

Birthday Cake Kits - Groton Mission Committee Project

Birthday Cake Kits

For Safe Harbor and Groton Food
Pantry

Let's help children celebrate!

**Bring the prepared kit on or before
September 14th – Rally Sunday.**

Delivery will be the following week.

Here are the contents for each kit:

- * Boxed Cake Mix
- * Can of light soda (Sprite) for a substi-

tute for the eggs and oil (some available on the table)

- * Frosting
- * Sprinkles or toppings
- * Candles
- * Disposable cake pan with a lid to bake cake in
- * Napkins and plate
- * Blank Birthday Card
- * Any other decorations you would like to add like balloons or noise makers or birthday banner

Package the contents in the pan (disposable is the easiest) and cover with the lid. Tie it up in a bow and leave the completed kits on the table at the back of the church.

If you would like to donate money instead for a kit, place your donation in an envelope provided at the back table and place it in the offering plate.



Groton Ad Council - August

Chairman, AM Mitchell, called the meeting to order. In attendance were AM Mitchell, Pastor Rob Moorlach, Jeanne Wanous, Carna Atherton-Pray, Anita Lowary, Jolene Townsend, and Linda Thurston. Pastor Rob shared a prayer prior to conducting business.

Both the agenda and the previous minutes were approved on a motion by Linda Thurston.

Charge Conf. Oct. 11

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: no new updates

Memorial—Linda Thurston:

Linda has ordered new Bibles for those who get baptized and our annual 3rd graders Bible presentation. Memorial Funds are:

Designated: \$17,758.78
Undesignated: \$ 7,532.24
Total: \$25,291.02

Missions - Val Baker/Carna Atherton-Pray:

Carna reported there is some confusion regarding mission kits and if that project is still supported. Our mission's committee is considering doing local projects in addition to something to support Safe Harbor in Aberdeen as well as something specific for the Christmas season.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: Jolene stated that the committee will be discussing several suggestions at an up-coming meeting.

Pastor/Parish Relations: Carna noted that this group met recently to discuss budgets for 2026 for the parish in preparation for the upcoming October 11 Charge Conference meeting.

Carna also noted that Christmas service plans for all three churches need to be determined.

Trustees—Cliff Pray: Carna Pray shared Cliff's report items:

Light bulbs were replaced in the sanctuary and the sanctuary projector light and filter were updated.

An air conditioner water leak was discovered that our water leak detection system did not alert us to. Clean-up was necessary and the water release line probably needs to be re-routed.

The mower was fixed.

The parsonage sump pump hose was found to be faulty and was fixed; there are plans to reroute the dryer vent and clean it; the back door of the garage needs replacing; the soffit and fascia also need to be fixed or replaced; and the parsonage kitchen will need an update in the future.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous:

Financial Secretary-Allen Walter:

Pastor Parish-Meri Erickson: no report

Bills to be Presented: A bill from Heartland Heating & Cooling was presented and approved for payment.

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob Confirmation classes will begin in August with a parents meeting on Aug. 27. Classes will be held on Wednesdays for 7th & 8th grade students for about 8 – 9 weeks through September & October. The actual confirmation is planned for Nov. 16.

Pastor Rob will be gone for the New Room Conference from Sept. 15-

21. He will also be on vacation on Nov. 23.

Old Business:

Fellowship Hall Chair Cleaning: still needs to be done.

Fellowship Hall Carpet Cleaning: is not yet scheduled.

Bags Program Transfer to School: This program still has not transferred to the school as planned. Just waiting for the school to complete their activities to make the transfer complete.

New Business:

Highlighting & thanking those who keep our church going: Jeanne Wanous suggested that we be intentional about thanking and highlighting all the people who help to keep our church vital and running smoothly.

Fall Supper: Carna will visit with Lars Hanson regarding the Fall Supper meal. There was also discussion around planning something different for a Fall fundraiser.

Trunk or Treat: We plan to have this annual event on Friday, Oct. 31 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.














The meeting was adjourned at 7: 45 pm.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous



Groton UMC

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 12th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	1  Labor Day	2 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	3  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 5:30pm Confirmation	4 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	5  Knecht Wedding	6  Knecht Wedding 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
7  13th Sunday after Pentecost (green) Communion in Worship (white) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	8 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	9 10:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Caring Team Meeting 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	10  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 5:30pm Confirmation	11  Patriot Day 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	12	13 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
14  14th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Sunday School 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	15 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	16 10:00am Bible Study - New Study Psalms 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	17  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Groton Ad Council	18 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	19	20 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
21 15th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Sunday School 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	22  First Day of Autumn 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	23 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	24  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 5:30pm Confirmation	25  Newsletter Items Due 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	26	27 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
28 16th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Sunday School 9:30am Groton Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	29 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	30 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	1  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 5:30pm Confirmation	2 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	3	4 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown

September 2025

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	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				



Our Church Happenings...

- Sept 3 Groton Confirmation Begins 5:30 pm each week
- Sept 9 Groton Caring Team Meeting 1 pm
- Sept 14 Groton Fall Kick-Off with Sunday School 9:30 am
- Sept 16 Groton Tues 10 AM Bible Study starts new study Psalms
- Sept 17 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Oct 11 Charge Conference