



Groton & Conde & Britton UMC

Newsletter

August 2026

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

"You Don't Drift into Becoming Like Jesus"

I recently read an article about a lady who was rescued after drifting alone for 23 days off the Canary Islands.

"Being out at the lake" is one of the familiar refrains I hear when I tell people I haven't seen them in church in a while. We have families who spend a large amount of Summer at the lake.

I was on a lake not long ago where the subject of "drifting" developed. While on vacation at Grand Teton National Park, I took the "scenic boat tour" of Jenny Lake, a major lake in the park. From the lake a person has amazing views of the Teton Range and surrounding country. As we headed out into the lake with our "experienced and knowledgeable guide" the weather turned sour with steady rain and steady wind. Thankfully, I looked at the weather forecast and brought a rain poncho; I also don't mind cold weather as much as others so I was "good for the trip." I did wonder how "experienced" our guide was in our weather conditions. He piloted us to a point on the lake, put the engine in neutral, gave the steering wheel a hard crank, then stood to give a lecture on the Grand Tetons.

At first I was captivated by his lecture. I love history and his talk was right up my alley. But then one of the oth-



er passengers nudged me and pointed past the front of the boat. We were heading straight toward the rocks! Actually, we had drifted from near the center of the lake toward a rocky outcropping. Thankfully, our "experienced guide" finished his talk in plenty of time to restart the engines and get us pointed toward our next destination on the lake.

I don't think our guide intended us to drift that far, but it reminds me of the point of the article I read - drift happens. I was reminded this past year of a friend I had not heard about in years. In the 1990's we were the best of pals; we saw each other on a weekly, almost daily basis. I was moved from one job to another, in another state. Not too long ago I heard he died of ALS. I had no idea he had even been diagnosed with ALS; we had drifted apart.

Nobody plans to drift

away but sometimes it happens in our lives. It's not anyone's fault or the result of a tragedy. Many times drift happens while we are going about our normal lives.

I agree with the author of the article I read. His name is Dave Ferguson and he writes, "The same is true of our spiritual lives. Nobody plans to become distant from God. Yet over time, small compromises, neglected habits and unchecked patterns slowly move us away from the life God intends for us. "Hebrews 2:1 gives the warning, "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so we do not drift away." (NIV) We all know our relationships, including our relationship with God, require intentional health and growth.

I'll use the example of my friend with ALS. When we lived near each other, we spent time together. How

much time do you spend with God? My friend and I talked about family, friends, and our work. How much time do we spend on learning about God's friends, family and what He has done? Finally, we enjoyed spending time over a meal with his family, simply enjoying the company. How much time do you spend with God? (Which you can do at the lake too!! HINT, HINT). When that ended with my friend, we drifted apart. Yes, distance played a large part and our work was not in the same area. That's no one's fault, but I also didn't make the effort, other than a Christmas card. I didn't heed the warning of Hebrews. I hope you don't either when it comes to your relationship with Jesus Christ. See you in church.



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

Monday
Day Off

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

Thank You

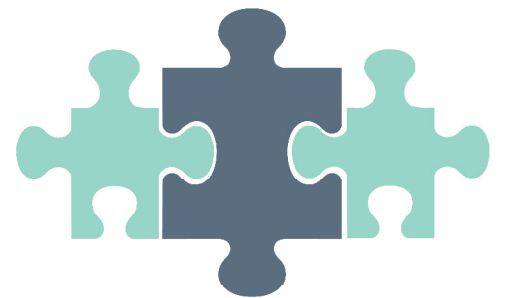
Thank you to the family of Gerald Schneider for the altar arrangement. Made by Jolene Townsend

Thank you to the family of Jim Zeck for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School supplies.



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



PRAYING
for
STUDENTS
and
TEACHERS

♥ Pat Dahlquist ♥
is the proud
★ Great Grandmother ★
of ♥
★ Charles Wesley Stover ★
♥ born ♥
July 9, 2026

🕒 7 lbs. ♥ 📏 20.75 inches long

His parents are
Macy & Kyle Stover
in Redfield

Welcomed with love,
blessed with joy! ♥

SS SCHEDULE 2026

Sept. 20 – Rally Sunday 9:30

27 – SS 9:30

Oct. 4 – SS 9:30

11 – No SS

18 – SS 9:30

25 – SS 9:30

Nov. 1 – SS 9:30

8 – SS 9:30 (Christmas parts out)

15 – No SS

22 – SS 9:30 (Christmas Practice)

29 – No SS

Dec. 6 – SS 9:30-11:30 (Christmas Practice)

13 – SS 9:30-11:30 (Christmas Practice)

20 – SS Christmas Program 9:30

*SS resumes January 10

2026 VBS THANK YOU

Our VBS students went on a Mission to God! We had 28 kids in attendance. The kids learned that *God loves us, so...love each other!* We ate supper, listened to the Bible stories, sang songs made crafts, enjoyed games – all the while learning about God's love. A special thank you to those who helped with VBS: Megan Erickson, Sydney Kurtz, Meri Erickson, Karen Rose, Riley Rose, Casey Richmond, Karlie Olson, Mendy Jones, Melissa Gilbert, Marjae Schinkel, Louise Daniels, Linda Thurston, Kelli Hanson, Dihan Daniels, and Graham Rose. You are awesome! 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 was all very appreciated.



VBS
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





VaCaTion
BIBLE SCHOOL

Chicken Pasta

9X13 pan

- 2 pounds of cooked chicken with Italian seasoning
- 32 oz jar Rao's Marinara
- 15 oz jar Rao's Alfredo sauce
- 16 oz pasta of your choice
- 2 cups of Italian cheese (cheese of choice)

Cook pasta Al dente

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Place in pan bake 350 degrees uncovered for 35 minutes or until it bubbles



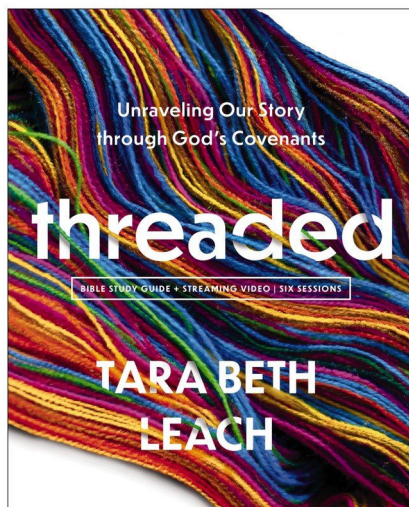
Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study

August 25 we are starting this new study and if you would like to join please let Kay know at grotonumc@nvc.net

God's story is a divine tapestry, intricately woven with intention from the beginning. Every thread connects the past, present, and future, revealing a Creator who intimately leans into your brokenness and chaos to bring redemption. From the first moments of creation, when God's Spirit hovered over the waters, a plan full of shalom—wholeness and harmony—was set into motion. Humanity once walked in communion with God, but when we deviated from His design, sin began to unravel the beauty. Yet God's love and plan never wavered.

Through the Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic Covenants, we see God's faithfulness and His desire to restore creation. These promises build toward fulfillment in Jesus Christ and invite us to weave our lives into God's larger narrative.

This six-week Bible study by author and pastor Tara Beth Leach explores these sacred threads, helping you see God's redemptive hand in your life. No matter where you are in the story, there's a place for you in His plans for restoration and renewal.



BOOK DONATION DRIVE

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Ken's Super Fair Foods
- Kessler's



Sale
Sept. 10-12

Bring your new or gently-used books to one of the drop-off locations listed.

CONTACT DEE @ 605 225-6713 FOR LARGE AMOUNTS OF BOOKS.

The Sale Takes place at the Wylie Park Pavilion and benefits women with scholarships

Groton Ad Council - July

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

Both the agenda and the previous minutes were approved by consensus.

Correspondence: Anita Lowary shared a letter she received from Vanco (as a current Vanco giving user) offering her giving options of stock & crypto currency. Anita was curious if other church members who are giving to the church via Vanco, also received the letter. Pastor Rob will refer the letter to our conference treasurer.

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: Anita asked council members to review a draft of a membership letter she will be sending out to a small list of people who haven't attended services in a very long time. Those members will have the option to respond that they wish to remain as a member, or they may request to be removed from our membership list. This is a routine yearly activity to help keep our mailing lists and planning numbers accurate.

Financial Audit Committee—Anita Lowary: no report

Memorial—Linda Thurston: Linda reported that the current memorial account balance is \$25,195.71.

Missions --Val Baker/Carna Atherton-Pray: Carna said that we are getting a good response from members for our school supply collection.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: no report

Pastor/Parish Relations: Carna said they would meet again in Sept. She also stated that the committee is planning to re-

place the parsonage furnace in September for an approximate cost of \$15,000.

Trustees—Cliff Pray: Carna Pray shared a report from Cliff stating that the church office window air conditioner has died. Cliff has purchased a new one. A replacement of the exact same size couldn't be found so Cliff will need to reframe the window for the new unit to fit. The approximate cost will be \$500. The question of who should pay for the replacement was raised, PPR or the church? After discussion, Anita Lowary motioned that the Groton UMC pay one half and the PPR pay the other half. The motion was 2nd by Linda Thurston. The motion passed unanimously. Carna also mentioned that the back door on the parsonage will be replaced this week, as it no longer fits properly and air seeps through it.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer—Jeanne Wanous: Jeanne reported that we have been notified that Plunkett's, who spray church for attic flies, etc. will be raising their price by 4%.

Jeanne also asked if we have a policy for sick leave for our organist. It is believed that we do not have a current written policy. Pastor Rob will do some follow-up to see if there is a suggested policy by our UMC conference. The council suggested that we continue with recent practice of not paying the organist if she is absent.

Financial Secretary—Allen Walter: No report

PPR—Meri Erickson: Pastor Rob reported that PPR received word from the UMC Conference that Pastor Rob's pension and health costs for the last 6 months of 2026 will be reimbursed by the conference.

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob reported that the nominations committee will meet on Aug. 19 at 6pm. The two standing members are Pastor Rob & Dale Kramer. Other committee members are chairs of each separate church committee.

Plans are to have communion on Aug. 9 & Sept. 13 because Pastor Rob will be gone on the first Sundays of those months.

Pastor Rob also reminded the council that VBS will take place on July 27 & 28 from 5:00 - 7:45 pm.

Old Business:

Kitchen Remodel: Linda Thurston: Linda shared that current estimated costs for the kitchen remodel are \$38,740. This estimate does not include electric, plumbing, sink, paint, & lumber. Casey Richmond has volunteered to do the painting. The project is expected to start in the fall.

IRS Issue: Anita Lowary: Anita has not received a response from the IRS since she sent them a letter with further details.

New Business:

Pine Tree Trimming: The council decided that the trustees should come up with a plan and a workday for volunteers to trim the lower branches of pine trees on church property.

Thank Yous:

Anita Lowary stated that a BIG THANKS goes out to Linda Thurston and, AM & Laurie Mitchell for all the yard work they completed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm as there was no further business.

Secretary,
Jeanne Wanous

Groton Family Committee - September

SEPTEMBER 2026 Chairpersons

Joey and Sabrina Padfield
Peggy and Harlan Place

Brian Bahr
Val Baker
Lousie and Bernard Daniels
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

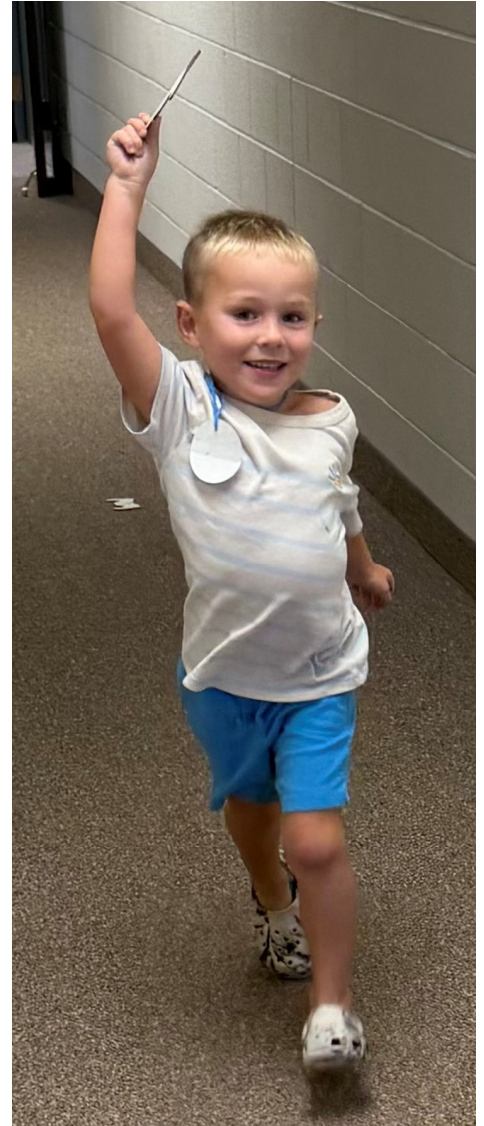
Honorary Members

Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt
Ida Hannon
Gloria Pharis
Judy Zeck

September 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)
- 1 Greeter 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 2nd Sunday (Rally Sunday) - give church secretary details for bulletin

September 2026						
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			



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

Aug 2 Max Erickson
 Aug 4 Craig & Kim Weber
 Aug 5 Tigh Flihs
 Aug 6 Damian Bahr
 Nash Kurtz
 Aug 7 Kelli Hanson
 Tyke Nyberg
 Aug 8 Matthew & Morgan
 McCranie
 Yvonne Lange
 Aug 12 Tom Lipp
 Aug 13 Sully Strom
 Aug 15 Paisley Johnson
 Aug 16 Jenna & Nick Strom
 Jim Jones
 Rose Tewksbury
 Aug 19 Jaeger Kampa
 Tyke & Chris Nyberg
 Aug 20 Marc Sippel
 Aug 23 Haley Erickson
 Aug 27 Rachel Dobbins
 Aug 28 Rob & Jeanne Wanous
 Aug 29 Chuck Padfield
 William Zoellner
 Aug 30 Nathan Atherton
 Emma Jo Schinkel



Britton

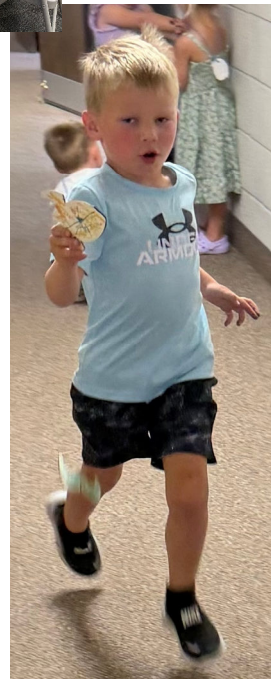
Aug 19 Norm Mack
 Aug 23 Kathy Olson
 Aug 29 Pat & Jesse Bolzer

Conde

Aug 6 Pat & Loren Siefken
 Aug 10 Cindy Smith
 Aug 20 Richard & Jane Worie



2026 Month	Offering Received	Needed for Budget	Average Attendance	Received for Building Maintenance
January	6,833	9,946	47	355
February	4,007	9,946	57	305
March	8,871	9,946	73	55
April	33,642	9,946	73	20,305
May	3,839	9,946	45	305
June	3,679	9,946	34	5
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
YTD Totals	60,871	59,676	82.25	21,330



Groton Ad Council - June

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

Both the agenda and the previous minutes were approved on a motion by Carna Pray.

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: no report

Financial Audit Committee—Anita Lowary: no report

Memorial—Linda Thurston: no report

Missions --Val Baker/Carna Atherton-Pray: This committee is working on a Groton Elementary school supplies drive taking place from June 15 to July 31. Details can be found in the weekly newsletter or in the church sanctuary where an informative sheet is available and a table is set up for collections. Please note, any monetary donations will be used to purchase gift cards for teachers so they can purchase remaining needed supplies.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: no report

Pastor/Parish Relations: This group met and completed a required clergy check list and turned in for review. The next meeting will be in September.

Trustees—Cliff Pray: The council continued discussions regarding covering the east upper sanctuary windows with tinted film. It was noted that it would involve finding a method to raise someone up to that high level somehow. The council agreed that we should table the window tinting for the time being. Cliff Pray did say that he will be ordering a new door for the parsonage garage and that. It was also mentioned that our second outside garbage can had disappeared, probably due to the wind.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous:

Jeanne stated that she had no concerns at this point in time. She shared a chart comparing 2024, 2025, & 2026 giving with the group. Giving from our congregation has continued to outpace 2024 & 2025.

Financial Secretary-Allen Walter: No report

PPR: (see Pastor Rob's comments below)

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob

Pastor Rob stated that at the recent Pastor Parish meeting, Meri Erickson, PPR treasurer, said that we are ahead of where we normally are for this time of year due to receiving funds from the conference.

Pastor Rob stated that the PPR chairs' time of service will come to an end at the end of December. Pastor Rob stated that Patti Knoll and Cindy Smith from the Conde church, have agreed to replace Carna Atherton-Pray, and will serve as co-chairs for this position.

Pastor Rob reported on the 2026 Annual Conference he recently attended in Bismark. There were no major legislation or decisions made. They did approve the 2027 budget of \$2.3 million compared to \$2.4 in 2026. They also shared that the 2027 apportionment rate will remain at 13% for 2027. The conference still hopes to get back to 10% for apportionments. The conference did provide updated parsonage standards, which Pastor Rob said that the Groton parsonage is already meeting.

Pastor Rob said that he will be gone on Sunday, July 26 & Aug. 2. Dale Kramer will be preaching on those two Sundays.

Old Business:

Kitchen Remodel: Linda Thurston submitted a written report as she was not able to attend. She shared the following:
1) The kitchen remodel will be done this

fall. The committee purchased an oven from Langs, and they are storing it until we are ready for it. Cabinets, flooring, sinks, & handles will be ordered from Builders Choice closer to the need date, so we don't have to store them. Linda will speak with the congregation in the near future to summarize the remodel plan.

IRS Issue: Anita Lowary: Anita has sent some new information to the IRS to help clear up a misunderstanding about payment from the past. We will be waiting for their response.

New Business:

West Side of Church Alley: At the May meeting, the Council members discussed doing something to clearly divide the church lot from the alley. AM Mitchell shared that he had added some rock to the alley and completed some additional work to resolve the problem with the help of others. AM also fixed the edging in front of the church. We owe him a big thanks!!

Thank Yous: The council will be sending thank you notes to Yvonne Lange for giving of her time & musical talent every Sunday, and to Dale Kramer for leading services and sharing the Word of the Lord when Pastor Rob is unable to be in attendance on certain Sundays.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.
Secretary,
Jeanne Wanous



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

August 2026						
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30	31					

Our Church Happenings...

- Aug 10-16 Brown County Fair
- Aug 19 First Day of School in Groton
- Aug 19 Groton Nominations Committee Meeting 6 pm
- Aug 19 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Aug 25 Groton Tues 10 AM Bible Study starts "Threaded"
- Aug 27 September Newsletter Items Due
- Sept 20 Groton Rally Sunday



**Do we
have
your
e-mail
address?**

If you are receiving this in the usps mail, you could be receiving this in color at your email address and save the church postage. Please let the church office know you would like this changed at grotonumc@nvc.net