



May 2026

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## ...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

### "Wind is Wind"

*"The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." John 3:8*

I had a real fight on my hands today. We've experienced a prolonged wind storm over the past couple of days. Today the wind has been every strong from the West. The afternoon bus route was a fight to stay on the road. But we know the wind here. Sometimes the wind is a wonderful friend. Have you ever needed a cool light wind on a very hot August day? Other times the wind is a horrible enemy. If you've driven in a South Dakota blizzard, you know the feeling. We put the wind to work. I still remember the farm windmill pumping water, and the windmills on nearby hills remind us we get some of our electricity from the power of the wind. Today I realized the strong winds are helping to dry out some fields and roads for Spring planting. It was still a tough day, though.

I've been "binge watching" the 5<sup>th</sup> season of "The Chosen." It is the series on the life of Jesus. Season 5 is on the final week in Jerusalem from Palm Sunday to the Upper Room on Thursday evening. If there is a common theme running through each



episode, it would be confusion, not by Jesus but by the apostles. Like his conversation with Nicodemus in John 3 describing being born of the Spirit, Jesus knows exactly what He's doing. His followers are clueless wondering what Jesus will say or do next which is going to get Him into more trouble. They are having a tough week.

I believe the issue is one of perspective. The disciples, like Nicodemus, were looking for easy answers they could understand. For them, the Messiah was supposed to usher in the next "Golden Age of Israel." The Messiah would throw out the Romans and have a kingdom in which the Jewish nation of Israel would be restored. Jesus, instead, was teaching and leading from a spiritual perspective (ie. "you can hear the wind

but...") which is harder ("tougher") to understand.

I like things easier, and I bet you do too. If we get a bill for the church and the treasurer tells me, "Pastor Rob, we might not be able to pay this along with the rest of our bills," the answer would be to pass the offering plate around. (This is just an example. We are able to pay bills this year. Thanks to your continued giving!) On the other hand, if a person comes to me and says, "Pastor Rob, my grandmother's cancer came back and it looks worse than ever," the 'help' the person is seeking is harder to understand. Yes, the grandmother receives treatment for her illness but what happens if and when she dies? Then the thoughts and feelings take on a real spiritual dimension, which brings us back to wind

and the Spirit.

Do you know what causes wind? I had to look it up. Wind is the movement of air from high pressure to low pressure usually caused by the uneven warming of the earth. So what does that mean? I learned that as hot air rises and cool air descends air moves to "fill in" the places of lower pressure to 'even things out.' I'm not sure I understand that yet, but I do like the comparison of the Holy Spirit to wind, especially the 'filling in of low places.' It might not be the best spiritual metaphor of how the Holy Spirit works when we are in trouble, but I do like the reminder that just like the wind in South Dakota, the Holy Spirit is always here.

See you in church.

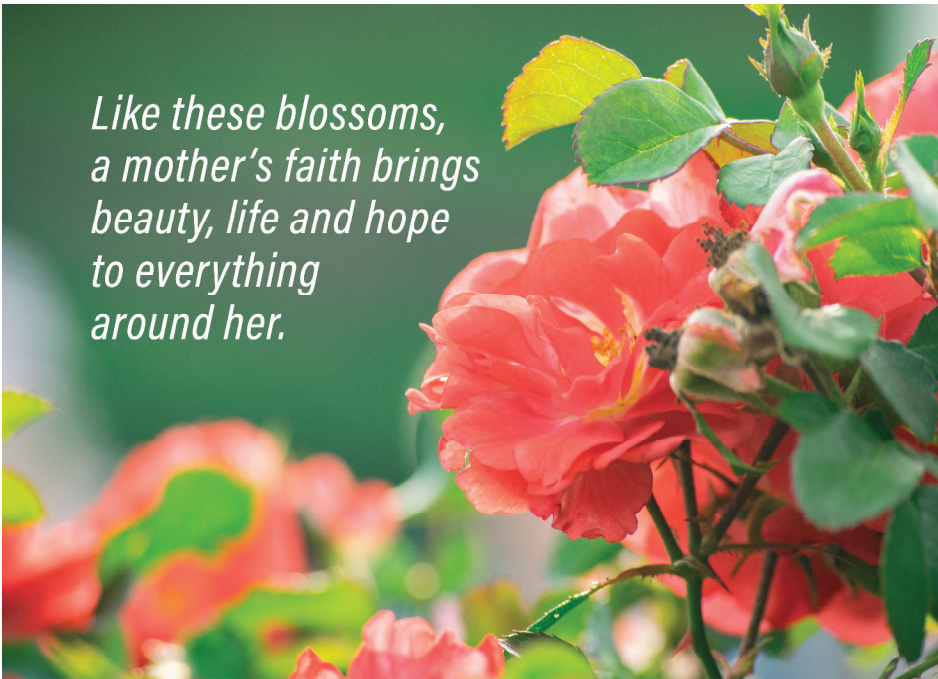
## OFFICE HOURS



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

Monday  
Day Off





*Like these blossoms,  
a mother's faith brings  
beauty, life and hope  
to everything  
around her.*

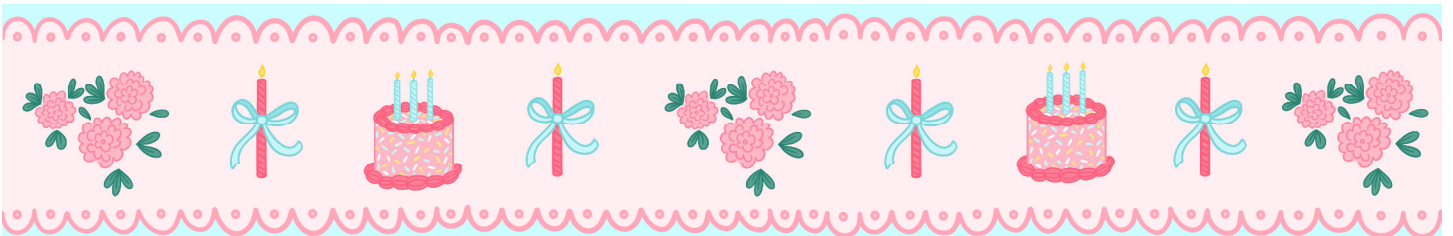
**Happy  
Mother's  
Day**



**May 6 at 10:30 am.  
Please Join Us!  
Groton UMC**

**Conde MISSION STATEMENT**

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



***Dakotas Annual Conference***



***June 5-7, 2026 ~ Bismarek, ND***

**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://facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

## Things You Won't Hear in Church

- ◆ Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front row.
- ◆ I was so enthralled; I didn't notice your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
- ◆ Personally, I find telling people about faith in Jesus more enjoyable than golf.
- ◆ I've decided to give to our church the \$500 a month I spend on all the streaming services (Netflix, Prime, ESPN+, HBO Max)
- ◆ I volunteer to be the permanent usher for church so I can be there each and every Sunday.
- ◆ I love it when we sing songs I've never heard before!
- ◆ Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
- ◆ Pastor, we'd like to send you to this bible seminar in the Bahamas.
- ◆ Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual fundraising campaign.



Gage Sippel

Ryder Johnson

London Bahr

Carly Gilbert

Emma Davies

Breslyn Jeschke



## Groton Sunday School - Palm Sunday



**Pentecost**  
*Sunday*

May 24th  
Wear Red to Church

## Groton Family Committee - June

### JUNE 2026 Chairpersons

Marva and Lon Gellhaus  
Erin and Damian Bahr

Erin and Damian Bahr  
Sam and Dion Bahr  
Steve Diegel  
Andrea and Scott Eisenbeisz  
Meri and John Erickson  
Marva and Lon Gellhaus  
Melissa and Neil Gilbert  
Myndi and Scott Kampa  
Traci and Dale Kramer  
Monica and Mike McCranie  
Morgan & Matt McCranie  
Mitchell McCranie  
Justin Olson  
Kaylyn & Casey Richmond  
Pam and Roger Rix  
Betty Strom  
Lindsey and Tom Tietz  
Jolene Townsend

### Honorary Members

Pat Dahlquist  
Darlys Kampa  
Doris Strom  
Rose Tewksbury

### June 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

June 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				



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				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
<b>YTD Totals</b>	<b>19,711</b>	<b>29,838</b>	<b>88.5</b>	<b>715</b>



May 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
31						

## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

- May 4 Evan Erickson  
Tom Strom
- May 5 Gary Thurston  
Marlee Jones  
Tony & Brenda Madsen
- May 6 Clint Jacobson
- May 7 Gabbie Kramer  
Rebecca Padfield  
Tigh Hank Irvin Fliehs
- May 8 Austin Jones  
Dale Kramer  
Rob Wanous
- May 10 Emma Davies
- May 13 Doris Strom
- May 14 Linda Johnson  
Pam Rix
- May 15 Brock Ball
- May 17 Cliff & Carna Pray  
Faith Johnson  
Matt & Casey Johnson
- May 18 Kaylee Hofer
- May 19 Casey Richmond  
John Erickson  
Nancy Hindricks  
Scott Kampa  
Taylor Diegel
- May 20 Tom & Kami Lipp
- May 21 Mitchell & Megan Madsen

- May 22 Larry Schnaidt
- May 24 Katie Anderson
- May 25 Adrienne Fliehs  
Beau Bahr  
Beau Madsen  
J.R. Johnson  
Jon Voss

- May 26 Dion & Sam Bahr
- May 27 Luverne & Carol Strom
- May 28 Cheryl Hanson
- May 30 Kami Lipp  
Karlle Olson  
Morgan McCranie  
Randy & Rebecca Padfield  
Zanel Daniels
- May 31 J.R. & Paula Johnson  
Matt Johnson

### Conde

- May 7 Jane Worlie

### Britton

- May 28 Andrew Bolzer
- May 30 Lana & Dan Schott

The office welcomes corrections and additions. Thank you.  
grotonumc@nvc.net

# GROWING IN GOD'S word

Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

**What you need:**

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker

**What you do:**

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV  
But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



## Groton Ad Council - April

Chairman, AM Mitchell, called the meeting to order. In attendance were AM Mitchell, Jeanne Wanous, Meri Erickson, Joleen Townsend, and Cliff & Carna Pray. Pastor Rob shared a prayer prior to the discussion of business.

Both the agenda and the previous minutes were approved on a motion by Jolene Townsend.

### Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: No report

Memorial—Linda Thurston: See Linda's notes below under Old Business regarding the kitchen renovation.

Missions --Val Baker/Carna Atherton-Pray:

Carna shared that we have eight flood kits done. Carna explained that Midwest Missions puts a \$75 value on each completed kit when recording our church's giving amount. Pastor Rob also mentioned that Britton UMC filled nine buckets. Carna also mentioned that Groton UMC will be doing school kits this summer, probably around the time of Vacation Bible School.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: Jolene pointed out that the graduation table is set and that gifts and cake have been ordered for our recognition day on April 26. Jolene also visited with a new couple in attendance at Groton UMC. She plans to send them a card to let them know we are happy to have them in attendance.

Pastor/Parish Relations: This group will meet in May and complete a church assessment.

Sunday School: Meri Erickson said that Sunday School children will sing in church on May 10, which will be the end Sunday school until the fall.

Trustees—Cliff Pray: No specific updates.

### Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous: Church Mutual Proxy for Annual Meeting was shared with the group. No action was taken.

Robert Wehde Trust Update: Jeanne reported that the Robert Wehde Trust funds designated for the Groton UMC were received into the church savings account on March 31.

Carna Atherton-Pray motioned to move the Robert Whede Trust money to the Building Fund so that it can be used for the kitchen upgrade project. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

PPR: Meri Erickson stated that they are in a very good financial situation.

**Administrative Report:** Pastor Rob  
Pastor Rob shared that Holy week went well except for one service at Britton having to be cancelled due to weather. Pastor Rob's scheduled Sundays away are: June 7, July 26, and Aug. 2. Our lay leader, Dale Kramer, will be conducting services on those Sundays. Pastor Rob's July time away will allow him to attend the Pastor American Methodist History Tour.

### Old Business:

Kitchen Remodel: Linda was not able to attend but sent a note sharing quotes for countertops from Grassland Granite for both laminate and granite. There were comments from those in attendance mentioning they felt both quotes were very high. Linda is also waiting for a quote from CJ Lane for demolition and reconstruction.

### New Business:

Repair of Baptismal Font  
Laurie Mitchell has asked John Stahl to look at it to see if he can fix it.



### Disposal or Selling of Old Kitchen Cupboards

After discussion, members felt that we should make a plan once they are removed to see what condition they will be in at that point. We can then decide on selling, donating or giving away. Habitat for Humanity in Aberdeen was mentioned as a possible place for donation.

Yard Cleanup: The council decided on May 6 at 10:30 am as the date for yard cleanup.

Thank You: Jeanne Wanous shared a prepared Thank You card for Evan Erickson thanking him for volunteering to take care of snow removal this past winter. A gift of cash was enclosed with the card to help cover his cost of gas.
















The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Secretary,  
Jeanne Wanous



Groton UMC

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p>  <p><b>4th Sunday of Easter (white)</b>                      8:15am Conde Worship                      9:30am Groton Sunday School                      9:30am Groton Worship                      10:30am Coffee Hour                      11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>10:00am Bible Study                      3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown                      4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>3</p>  <p><b>5th Sunday of Easter (white)</b>                      Communion in Worship (white)                      8:15am Conde Worship                      9:30am Groton Sunday School                      9:30am Groton Worship                      10:30am Coffee Hour                      11:15am Britton UMC Worship                      3:00pm Cody Swanson Piano Recital</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study                      3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown                      4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour                      10:30am Yard Cleanup</p>	<p>7</p>  <p><b>National Day of Prayer</b>                      10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>10</p>  <p><b>6th Sunday of Easter (white)</b>  <b>Mother's Day</b>                      8:15am Conde Worship                      9:30am Groton Worship                      9:30am Sunday School sings in worship                      9:40am Groton Sunday School                      10:30am Coffee Hour                      11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study                      3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown                      4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>17</p> <p><b>Ascension Sunday (white)</b>                      8:15am Conde Worship                      9:30am Groton Sunday School                      9:30am Groton Worship                      10:30am Coffee Hour                      11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study                      3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown                      4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour                      7:00pm Groton Ad Council</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Newsletter Items Due                      10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>24</p>  <p><b>Pentecost</b>                      8:15am Conde Worship                      9:30am Groton Worship                      10:30am Coffee Hour                      11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>25</p>  <p><b>Memorial Day</b>                      11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study                      3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown                      4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>
<p>31</p>  <p><b>Trinity Sunday</b>                      8:15am Conde Worship                      9:30am Groton Worship                      10:30am Coffee Hour                      11:15am Britton UMC Worship</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study                      3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown                      4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>9:30am Community Coffee Hour</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown</p>

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## *Our Church Happenings...*

- May 6 Groton Spring Yard Cleanup 9:30 am
- May 10 Happy Mother's Day  
Last Day of Groton Sunday School with singing in Worship
- May 20 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- May 21 June/July Newsletter Items Due
- May 24 Pentecost Sunday (Wear Red to Church)
- May 25 Memorial Day
- May 31 Trinity Sunday

