MONTHLY Church NEWSLETTER

Groton & Britton & Conde UMC

November 2026

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

Can You Smell That?

Driving a school bus elevates a person's sense of smell. I notice many smells on the bus. Did you know "crisp air" has a distinctive smell? I can't really describe it, but I know it's Fall when it happens. For those of us who grew up around farms, smelling approaching rain, fields being harvested, and cattle feedlots are all familiar.

And then there are the smells "on the bus." There are the girls who have not learned about the proper amount of perfume, and the boys who would rather douse themselves with body spray than take shower. These are the kids who send me into sneezing fits. There are also those kids, who I pray for constantly, who are living in less than favorable conditions. A person can tell a lot by their sense of smell.

Thanksgiving heightens our sense of smell. I still remember the very early Thanksgiving mornings being awakened by the smells coming from our kitchen. Mom would start working on the giant turkey at two or three in the morning. (My dad still insisted eating at 'lunchtime' on Thanksgiving so Mom had to start early.) She would make coffee followed by working all the spices and other fragrant ingredients for the stuffing. By that time I was up watching her and getting in the way as she put together ingredients for fresh baked dinner and cinnamon rolls. Any time I encounter these smells, my mind flashes back to that house in Valley Springs at three in the morning.



This quick memory recall made me curious so I did some research. According to Harvard Medical School, "the brains olfactory system routes scent signals directly to its emotional and memory centers." It's why, when I smell stuffing on Thanksgiving (my favorite holiday food), my mind goes back to my mother's kitchen. It's why, whenever I smell pipe tobacco, my mind goes back to my grandfather's recliner. It is even why, whenever I smell burning rubber, my mind brings me back to the time I got run over while riding my bicycle. Of course, our sense of smell can bring back sad memories as well. It is hard to not think about my maternal grandmother every time I walk into a nursing home with its distinctive smells. It is even harder to think about my paternal grandmother, who I met but never really knew other than by stories told about her, whenever I smell that certain 'old person smell,' which is hard to describe.

Genesis 1:27 tells us we are made in God's image, and we are told throughout the creation narrative that everything God made was "good." This must mean God created the ability to smell and then made things fragrant so we could smell them. I wonder, "Does God smell things?" Certainly Jesus smelled things when He came (Mt 26:6-13). This Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for the sense of smell. How about you?

See you in church.

Gratitude

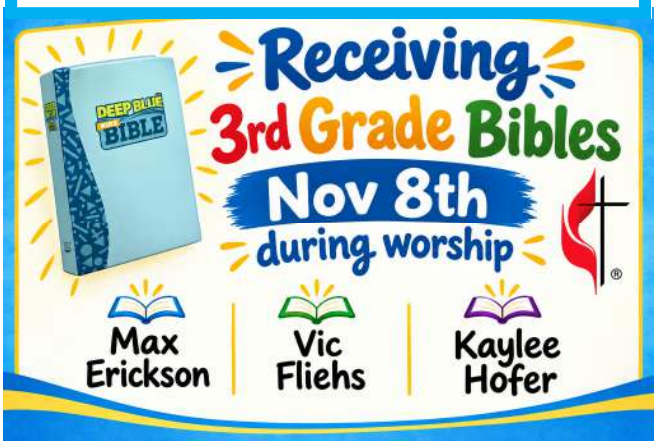
* More aware of what you have than what you don't.
* Recognizing the treasure in the simple..
* A child's hug, fertile soil, a golden sunset.
* Relishing in the comfort of the common...
* A warm bed, a hot meal, a clean shirt.

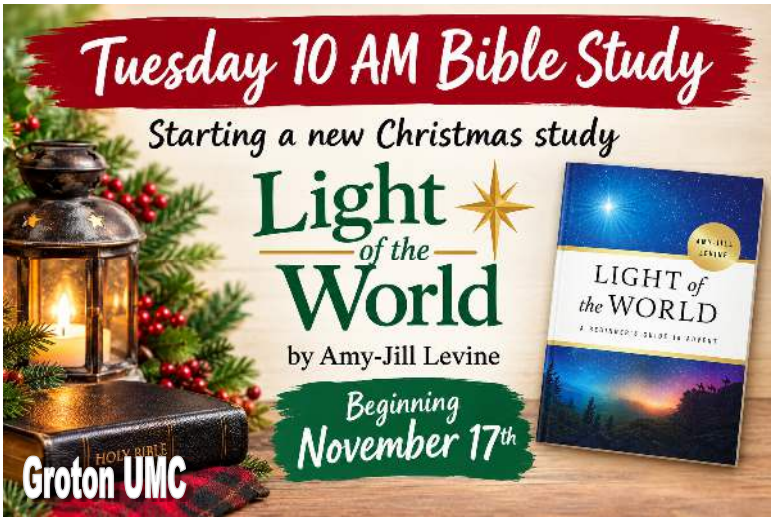
------Max Lucado



Groton Sunday School Schedule Fall 2026

Nov. 1 – SS 9:30
8 – SS 9:30 (Christmas parts out)
Sunday School Singing in Worship
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











Conde MISSION STATEMENT

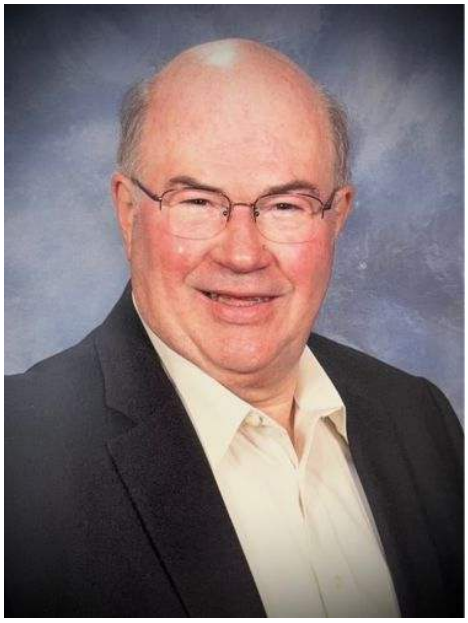
"The Conde United Methodist Church is seeking to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of all."

Church Information

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

Pastor Email: pastorrob@nvc.net
Secretary Email: grotonumc@nvc.net
Website: www.grotonumc.org
Facebook: facbook.com/grotonsdumc/
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

Rev. Emil Eberhart



Rev. Emil Eberhart, 83, passed away on October 22, 2026. Emil was a retired elder in the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is married to Dakotas retired elder Rev. Penelope "Penny" Eberhart.

Emil served in various forms of pastoral ministry in the Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist Churches in South Dakota, Illinois, and Minnesota. Appointments in the Dakotas Conference included Bismarck First (student intern), Tripp County, Arlington-Lake Preston, Sioux Falls Minister at Large - Asbury & Sunnycrest-Ellis, Dell Rapids-Garretson, SD State Penitentary Chaplain, Aberdeen Faith, Brookings, Groton-Conde-Andover, Sioux Falls First, McCook Lake, and Sioux Falls Hilltop. In retirement, he served Dakotas Conference churches at Canistota United, Aberdeen North Highland, and Flandreau-Egan.

Visitation will take place at Lien-Straub-Carlsen Chapel in Eureka, South Dakota, on Sunday, October 25 from 5-6:30 pm, with a Memorial Service being held on Monday, October 26, beginning at 1 pm at Saving Grace Community Church in Eureka, South Dakota (the former Eureka United Methodist Church). There will be a time for visitation an hour prior to the service and a graveside service and light lunch following. Rev. Jenny Hallenbeck Orr will officiate. The family has requested a clergy choir. Clergy are invited to gather for rehearsal at noon on Monday at the church in Eureka. Rev. Steve Ziebarth will be directing.

A second visitation will take place on Sunday afternoon, November 1, at The Gables Care Center at Boutwells Landing at 13575 58th St N, Oak Park Heights, MN 55082.



All Saint's Day Prayer

Leader: We remember, O God…
People: The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time,
Leader: We remember, O God…
People: The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.
Leader: We remember, O God…
People: The gentle strength of grandmothers, the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.
Leader: We remember, O God…
People: The supreme love of Jesus, the blessing of his Spirit, the reminder of his words, the sharing of his suffering, the glory of his resurrection: shown forth in the lives of his disciples, young and old, dead and living, articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.
Leader: We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us the Lord.
ALL: SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES... LET US WORSHIP GOD WITH JOY!

Another Column by Pastor Rob...

Keep on Trucking

We used to sing a song in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School based on the parable of the ten women having enough oil in their lamps as they waited for the bridegroom. One of the verses went: **Give me gas for my Ford, keep me trucking for the Lord, Give me gas for my Ford, I pray. Give me gas for my Ford, keep me trucking for the Lord, Keep me trucking 'til the break of day!** That was a fun song!

We are in the midst of harvest season in this part of the country with many Fords, Chevrolets, PeterBuilts, Macks and other types of trucks out on the highways and gravel roads. Someone shared a picture of, what looked to be, 100 semi-trucks loaded with soy beans waiting to be unloaded at one of the local depots. When driving at this time of year, it's always important to be aware of trucks, and combines, which seem to be going faster or slower than you might think.

With the number of miles I drive each month, it is hard not to think of relevant "applications to life" when confronted by the "obstacles" on the road. First, there's the very idea I would label other drivers as "obstacles." On a recent Sunday I was driving between Groton and Britton when I came upon a car driver going about 40 on Highway 10 (which



has a 65 mph speed limit). We were approaching a "No Passing" zone so I was forced to slow down until I could safely pass. But I was in a hurry; I was going to be late for church; I was upset I could not go as fast as I wanted. The other driver just kept going 40. Finally I "zoomed past" and left him far behind; I was thrilled! I was also 15 minutes early to church with nothing to do until the service began. I began to realize, "What if I had slowed down? Perhaps, listened to that favorite song; watched the yearling calves frolic on a beautiful day; enjoyed a calm, leisurely pace? Don't we all need that from time to time?"

Second, don't you hate that full semi pulling out on the highway from the field right in front of you? Now you need to "slam on your breaks." You honk your horn to no avail. You just get mad! I would get mad too, until several years ago when I drove a sugar beet truck for harvest. I would pull out on the highway, inevitably, slowing vehicles behind. I felt bad until I realized I had a job to do too. It was an important job supporting the farm family I worked for and myself, so we "shared the road." It reminds me we all share the roads. Some of us are moving kind of slow; we don't pick things up as fast as others. Some are "speeding" through life with what seems to be a hundred things on our plates. Others are just trying to make it through the day carrying the loads, some light some heavy, we are given to carry.

Perhaps, this is why that children's chorus has sprung to mind: "Give me gas for my Ford, keep me trucking for the Lord." Notice who we ask for gas and who keeps us "trucking." In Matthew 6:26, Jesus says, "Look at the birds, They don't plant, harvest or store in barns, yet your Father feeds them. How much more valuable are you?" Our "gas" comes from our heavenly Father who loves us more than we can imagine, so keep on "trucking."

(By the way, I drive a Toyota made near Atlanta, Georgia. Haha)

See you in church!

Honoring Faithful Service

Each year on Veterans Day, we pause to give thanks for the men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice and devotion. Their willingness to defend freedom reminds us that service often comes with great cost.

As Christians, we are called to honor those who serve and to pray for veterans, active-duty military members and their families. We also remember that true peace comes from God, who is our refuge and strength.

May this day lead us to gratitude, prayer and renewed commitment to serve others with humility, courage and love.



UMYF Pumpkin Decorating October





















trunk or treat












GOD'S TEAM





Groton Family Committee - Dec

DECEMBER 2026 Chairpersons

Mendy and Jim Jones
Allen Walter

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

Honorary Members

Caralee Heitmann
Richard Krueger
Ruby Luce
Janet Graf

December 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
- Help decorate church with November committee
- Prepare Candle table for Christmas Eve Service
- Setup table and lay out candles for Christmas Eve and put them away after the service.
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin

December 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	28	31	31		



First Sunday of Advent

November 29th



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	32	5
July	7,356	9,946	28	105
August	5,797	9,946	34	2,005
September	3,752	9,946	57	10,805
October			58	
November				
December				
YTD Totals	77,776	89,514	50	34,245

Our Church Celebrations...



Groton

Nov 2 Andrea Eisenbeisz
Nov 3 Oaklynn Daly
Jon & Gayleen Voss
Nov 7 Marva Gellhaus
Nov 8 Kodi Hinman
Nov 13 Lindsey Tietz
Nov 14 Sydney & Trent Kurtz
Nov 15 Fred & Elaine Wolken
Nov 16 Macklin McCranie
Nov 17 Delaney Atherton
Nov 18 Luverne Strom
Roman Bahr
Nov 19 Crystal Strom
Garrett Heitmann
Nov 21 Pastor Rob Moorlach
Ava Strom
Trey Tietz
Nov 22 Calli Wilkinson
Nov 23 Dwight & Eugenia Strom
Francine Sippel
Nov 24 Ian & Karen Rose
Ian Rose
Nov 25 Raven Bahr

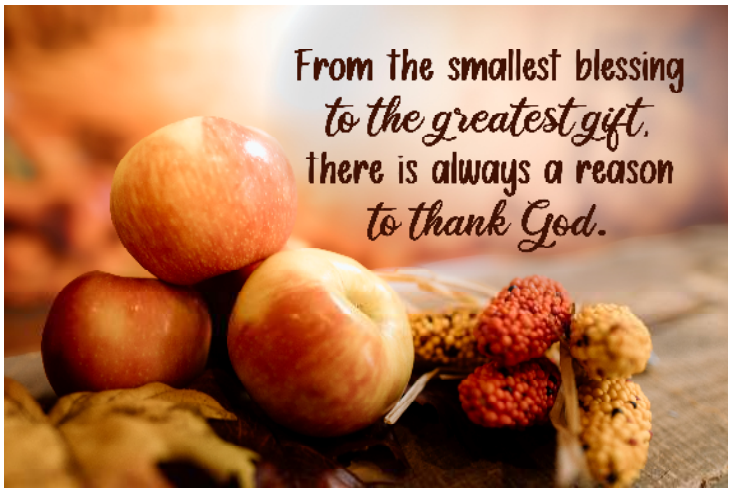
Conde

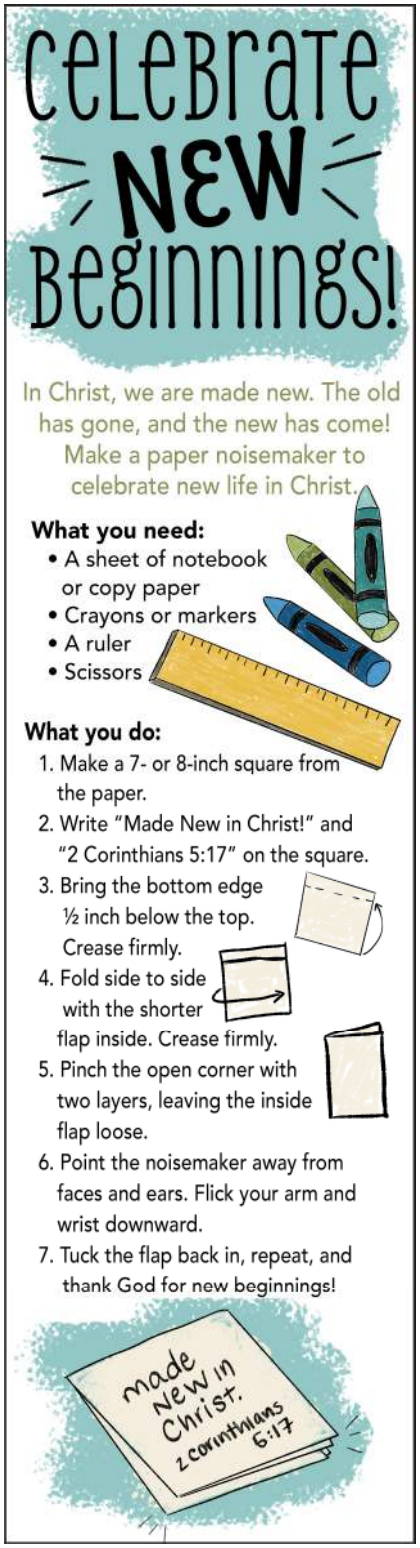
Nov 8 Dorothy Sanderson
Nov 21 Pastor Rob Moorlach
Nov 25 Bud Bruckner
Nov 25 Betty Geist

Britton

Nov 7 Logan Smith
Nov 17 Jay Kadoun







Groton Ad Council - Oct

Pastor Rob Moorlach called the meeting to order, in the absence of both the President & Vice-President . In attendance were Pastor Rob, Jeanne Wanous, Carna & Cliff Pray, Meri Erickson, & Val Baker. Pastor Rob shared a prayer prior to the start of business.

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

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: no report

Financial Audit Committee—Anita Lowary: no report

Memorial—Linda Thurston:
There was no formal report, however, it was mentioned by Pastor Rob, that Nov. 1 is All Saints Sunday.
In addition, it was mentioned, that 3rd grade Bibles should be presented in November. A date needs to be set.

Missions --Val Baker/Carna Atherton-Pray:
This group is in the planning stages for their Christmas project.
Additionally, there is a Thanksgiving offering for Spirit Lake that we could participate in if we want.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: no report.

Pastor/Parish Relations:
Replacement of the parsonage furnace has started. It was discovered that the air conditioner will also need replacing.

Trustees—Cliff Pray:
Cliff reported that the furnace at the church has been repaired. This project involved the boiler, some motors, and fittings. All fittings were updated and during the process it was discovered that there were more leaks than we were not aware of.

Treasurer's Report:
Church Treasurer-Jeanne Wanous:
Long-standing IRS Claim: Our attorney Lon Gellhaus has communicated with the IRS regarding a past due IRS claim, plus interest, that Anita Lowary has spent a lot of time trying to resolve. After looking into the matter, Lon has suggested that we make the IRS claim payment which is currently $1,091.36 so that we can be done with this long-standing issue and not incur additional interest charges.
Meri Erickson motioned to make the IRS payment of $1,091.36 and the motion was 2nd by Cliff Pray. The motion was unanimously approved.
Treasurer, Jeanne Wanous, will make payment to the IRS on October 22, 2026.

Review of Kitchen Remodel Giving:
Jeanne stated that as of Oct. 21, the Groton UMC Kitchen Remodel project had received a total of $37,300 specifically for the kitchen remodel project.

Review Sept. Treas. Report:
Jeanne gave a summary of current amounts in the Groton UMC savings and checking accounts.
Cliff Pray presented the Heartland Heating & Cooling bill for repair of the boiler in the church which totaled $19,959.30. Meri Erickson motioned approval to move $19,959.30 from savings to checking for payment of the bill. The motion was 2nd by Val Baker and passed unanimously.

Financial Secretary-Allen Walter:

PPR-Meri Erickson: Meri Erickson stated that there was enough money in the PPR account to pay for the new heating and cooling system in the parsonage.

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

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob Pastor Rob shared that we will be giving the 3rd grade Bibles and recognizing All Saints Day in November. He also stated that Carna Atherton-Pray will be preaching on Nov. 15 and Dale Kramer will be preaching on Nov. 22, as Pastor Rob will be gone.

Old Business:

Kitchen Remodel--Linda Thurston:
Although Linda was not in attendance. Council members mentioned that painting is currently taking place and an expected completion date is Nov. 1. It was also noted that a dedication will take place sometime in Nov. or Dec.

IRS Issue: See Treas Report above.

Organist Position Policy: Carna Atherton-Pray motioned that our organist should be paid every Sunday. Val Baker 2nd the motion and the motion was approved.

New Business:
Snow Removal for this Winter: Meri Erickson stated that Evan Erickson is willing to do our snow removal again this coming winter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm as there was no further business.
Secretary, Jeanne Wanous

Groton UMC Mission
enriching spiritual Lives through Christ

Groton UMC

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **All Saints Day** Communion in Worship (white) **Daylight-Saving Time Ends**  8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	2 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	3 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	4  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	5 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	6	7 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
8 24th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 3rd graders receive Bibles  sunday school sing during worship 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School (Christmas parts out) 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	9 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	10 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	11  **Veterans Day** 9:30am Community Coffee Hour	12 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	13 Erickson Wedding Rehearsal	14 Evan Erickson & Hanna Williams Wedding 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
15 25th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am NO Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	16 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	17  10:00am Bible Study - Light of the World 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	18  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 7:00pm Groton Ad Council	19 Newsletter Items Due 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	20	21 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
22 Christ the King  8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School (Christmas Practice) 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	23 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	24 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	25  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	26  **Thanksgiving Day** 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	27	28 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
29 **First Sunday of Advent**  8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am NO Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	30 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	5 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown

November 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 Happenings...

Nov 1 All Saints Sunday/Daylight Saving Time Ends

Nov 8 Groton 3rd Graders Receiving Bibles

Sunday School singing during worship

Nov 11 Veterans Day

Nov 17 Groton 10 AM Bible Study starts Christmas Study

Nov 22 Christ the King Sunday

Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day

Nov 29 First Sunday of Advent



