

— MONTHLY — Church NEWSLETTER Groton & Britton & Conde UMC

October 2026

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...Pastor Rob's Ponderings

The Psalms: "It's Funny How Things Work"

We recently finished a series in Sunday Worship on the Psalms. (If you missed it, you can go to our YouTube page and watch the series.

Simply go to www.grotonumc.org; click on the "worship" tab at the top of the page and then click on the "YouTube" logo)

It was a fun series to do in late Summer months. The Psalms are scriptures Jesus grew up with as a Jewish boy. He would sing the songs and memorized the verses. In fact, the Psalms are the most quoted part of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Jesus quoted from them more than any other part of scripture. As I asked in our last Sunday, "I wonder if Jesus 'hummed' the tunes of the Psalms as often as we hum songs driving our cars?"

One reason I enjoy the Psalms is they are honest with Psalmists leaving nothing on the table. The psalmists invite us to bring all our thoughts, feelings, actions (good and bad), doubts, complaints, joys, and questions to God. In our series we covered various types of Psalms. There are obviously psalms of joy, thanksgiving and praise, giving thanks to God for His many blessings. We covered psalms of lament where the psalmist cries out to God wondering if God is listening or even present. We talked



about wisdom psalms which give instruction on living as God's children. Did you know the Hebrew nation used the Psalms for instruction on their history and the character of God? Another type of psalms, the Imprecatory Psalms, were interesting to talk about, but we also questioned their usefulness in our world today. Imprecatory Psalms are psalms in which the author asks God to "curse or punish" someone for a wrong-doing. When Jesus tells us to love one another and turn the other cheek, these psalms seem out of place. Yet, they help us learn our Heavenly Father wants to know what's on our heart, even if it is "a bit of revenge." We finished the series with Psalm 23, a 'trust and confidence' psalm, in which our relationship with the Good Shepherd is the focus.

As a benediction to the series, I told the story of my Sunday School teacher often encouraging us to read the

Psalms. She would ask, "Do your prayers always sound the same? Read the Psalms," or "You don't know where to start reading in the Bible? Read the Psalms," or "You don't know where to start in reading the Psalms? Start with Psalm 1 and keep going or Read something you know like Psalm 23 and then read Psalm 22 or 24."

Her words came back to me this week because of the "Verse of the Day" I receive each morning by email. (I receive a "Verse of the Day" each morning in my email from www.biblegateway.com You can receive them too by going to their website. When you go to the website, you'll see the verse of the day and underneath it is a box for you to type in your email.)

The reason her words came back to me is the verse of the day on successive days, as soon as I ended the Psalm Series, have been from the Psalms. The first one was Psalm 94:18-19: I cried out,

"I am slipping!" but your unfailing love, O Lord, supported me. When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.

My first thought on reading this one was, "Wow! I know exactly how the psalmist feels; there have certainly been days when I feel I'm slipping or falling." But I also know God's unfailing love is always with me. Have you ever felt that way?

The second one was Psalm 116:1-2: I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy. Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath! If this isn't a confidence booster for any day we face, I don't know what is!

I love the fact we just finished with a series on the Psalms yet God reminds us there is so much more here to appreciate and learn. Isn't God funny in how He works sometimes?

See you in church!

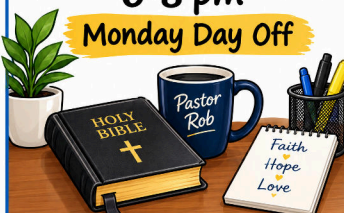


Office Hours

Pastor Rob

In Office Tuesday & Thursday Evenings 6-8 pm

Monday Day Off





Trunk or Treat: Sharing Joy With Our Community

Trunk or Treat offers a safe and joyful way to connect with children and families in our community. As we decorate, serve and welcome our neighbors, may every smile, conversation and piece of candy communicate kindness, generosity and the love of Christ.



You'rx nxxdxd!

Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll— xxxcpt for onx kxy. I havx many timxs wishxd it workxd pxxfxtly. It's trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not work- ing makxs a hugx diffxxncx.

Somxtimxs our church sxxms likx my typxwritxr — not all thx kxy pxoplx work. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I'm just onx pxx- son. I don't makx or brxak thx church." But it doxs makx a big diffxxncx bxxcaxs a church, to bx xffxtivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxy pxxson.

So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxxssary, rxmxxbxx my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I'm a kxy pxxson in thx congrxgation, and I'm nxxdxd vxxy much."

Church Information

Pastor Rob Moorlach
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Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

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



PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



Make Your Blessings Count

Years ago, a newspaper shared the story of Mr. and Mrs. Davis Illingworth, an elderly Christian couple known for quiet, faithful service. Early in their marriage, they decided to use the gifts God had given them to bless others.

Through the years, they served through their church and in life-care retirement homes, offering time, kind-

ness and generosity wherever they were needed. When a foundation later honored them for their caring philanthropy, they shared the motto that had guided their lives: "Count your blessings, and make your blessings count."

What a wonderful reminder that God's gifts are meant to be shared for his glory.





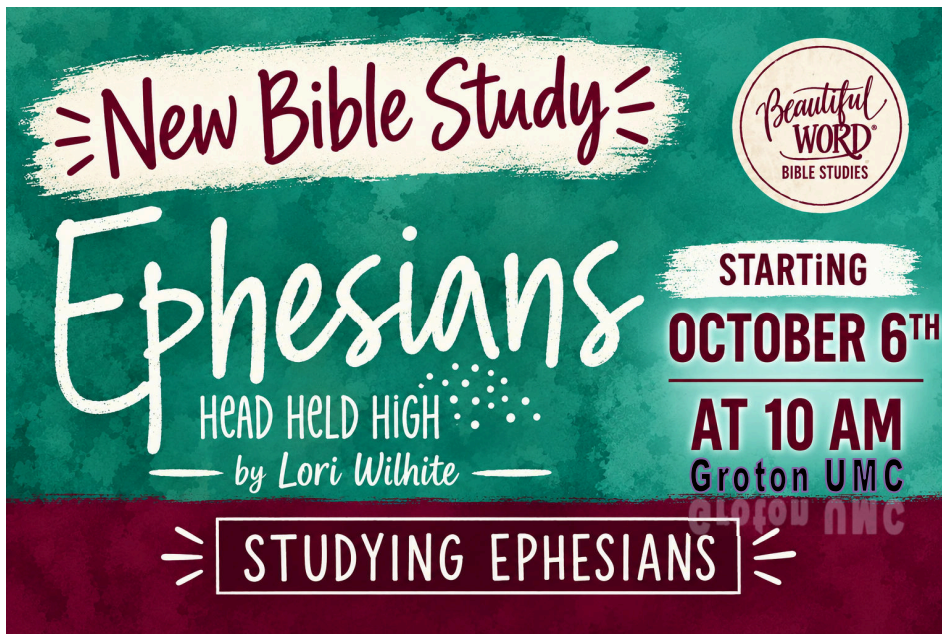
Every Wednesday Morning

Community Coffee Hour

at the Groton United Methodist Church

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Free Coffee and something sweet provided



New Bible Study

Ephesians

HEAD HELD HIGH
by Lori Wilhite

STARTING
OCTOBER 6TH
AT 10 AM
Groton UMC

STUDYING EPHESIANS

THE GRASS WITHERS
AND THE FLOWERS FALL,
BUT THE WORD OF OUR
GOD ENDURES
forever.
ISAIAH 40:8, NIV



Give Thanks with Music

Music is one way to give thanks to God. Make these simple instruments to accompany your singing!

What you need:

- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating

What you do:

1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 30
at the
Groton UMC
Parking Lot

SAFE & CHILD FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

5PM - 6:30PM
(Move Inside if inclement weather)

Individuals or groups or businesses can decorate a car trunk and provide candy to children.
Please Register for a space with Pastor.
Vehicles setup by 5 pm please.

Questions Please Contact:
Pastor Rob at 605-397-8270

Groton Family Committee - November

NOVEMBER 2026 Chairpersons

Marjae and Dan Schinkel
Jenna and Nick Strom

Doris and Ron Anderson
Katie Anderson
Rosalie and Brock Ball
Charity and Scott Hinman
Nancy Hinrichs
Yvonne Lorenz
Anita Lowary
Brenda and Tony Madsen
Chris and Tyke Nyberg
Karli and Brad Olson
Kaylyn Overacker and
Tyson Daly
Jesse Overacker
Roger Overacker
John Padfield
Carna and Cliff Pray
Marjae and Dan Schinkel
Jenna and Nick Strom
Carol Strom
Eugenia and Dwight Strom
Jeanne Wannous

Honorary Members

Sharon Wheeting
Louise Thoreson
Betty Strom
Curtis Krueger

November 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
- Bring Christmas decorations in from the shed and fluff them so they are ready to put up. Check the lights on them as well.
- Put up church indoor and outdoor decorations with December committee and all church members (check date with Pastor)
- No Potluck if there is a Fall dinner
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer

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					

1986 UMC Choir

Back Row: Brad Ruden, Mick Sippel, Roger Rix

Middle Row: Jean Lowary, Earl Ruden, Audrey Thurston, Joyce Sundling, Myrtle Blader, Margaret Blader

Front Row: Marlyce Cassels, Marvel Johnson, Donna Townsend, Kathy Sippel Erickson, Doris Strom, Joyce Erickson Darling



Our Church Celebrations...



Groton

Oct 1 Turner Thompson
 Oct 2 Louise Daniels
 Oct 3 Janet Graf
 Oct 4 Josh Atherton
 Rick Hofer
 Fred Wolken
 Oct 5 Jeanne Wanous
 Matthew McCranie
 Oct 6 Paula Johnson
 Vee Fliehs
 Oct 7 Allen Walter
 Oct 8 Gloria Pharis
 Lars & Kelli Hanson
 Oct 9 London Bahr
 Oct 10 Dan & Marjae Schinkel
 Megan Erickson
 Kaleb Hofer
 Charity & Scott Hinman

Oct 12 Charles & Sabrina Padfield
 Oct 13 Carna Atherton-Pray
 Oct 14 Rosalie Ball
 Oct 16 Brian & Elizabeth Bahr
 Oct 17 Jackson Bahr
 Kristen Dolan
 Oct 18 Max Olson
 Oct 23 Randy Stanley
 Oct 25 Lars Hanson
 Oct 30 Holden Sippel
 Sarah Hofer

Britton

Oct 7 Jim Bush
 Oct 20 Clark & Pam Moeckly

Conde

Oct 29 Marcene Bruckner
 Oct 31 Andee Geist



Groton Sunday School

Schedule

Fall 2026

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

Electronic Giving
 is available for your weekly offering.
 or give online now with the QR Code!
 Sign-Up Today!
 See Al Walter

Groton UMC

Groton UMC 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	5,802	9,946	34	2,005
September				
October				
November				
December				
YTD Totals	74,029	79,568	49	23,440

Groton Ad Council - Sept

President AM Mitchell called the meeting to order. In attendance were Pastor Rob, AM Mitchell, Jeanne Wanous, Lon Gellhaus, Carna & Cliff Pray, Linda Thurston, and Anita Lowary. Pastor Rob shared a prayer prior to the start of business.

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

Committee Reports

Membership—Anita Lowary: Anita shared an updated list of Groton UMC members who have asked to be removed from our membership list and also a list of members who have not responded to two separate letters regarding their desire to remain on our membership list. After some discussion, some revisions were made to Anita's list. Anita then motioned to approve the revised "subject to removal" list. The motion was 2nd and unanimously approved.

Financial Audit Committee—Anita Lowary: no report

Memorial—Linda Thurston: no report

Missions --Val Baker/Carna Atherton-Pray: Carna stated that they plan to focus on the elderly population this year during the Christmas season. Anita & Carna plan to work on specifics for this.

Caring Team—Jolene Townsend: no report

Pastor/Parish Relations:

This group met, as required, to discuss the 2027 budget. Their proposal must go to the finance committee in all 3 churches next for revision or approval. And, finally, it must

be presented at the annual charge conference on October 10, for approval.

Trustees—Cliff Pray:

Cliff has contacted Jeremy Weber to ask him for his opinion on the proper method to trim the many pine trees on our church property. Cliff also shared that a drainage issue in the church has been discovered with damage due to a break in the hallway. He expects that it will have to be replaced and it will be very expensive. The light in the church hallway was fixed.

Regarding replacement of the furnace in the parsonage—it was determined that we need to know if we are getting a gas backup system installed. It was also determined that we need to get a city permit prior to the furnace installation. Anita volunteered to take care of that.

Treasurer's Report:

Church Treasurer—Jeanne Wanous:

No concerns

Financial Secretary—Allen Walter: No report

PPR—Meri Erickson: No report

Administrative Report:

Pastor Rob stated that Groton UMC would once again hold our annual Trunk or Treat event. In addition, Pastor Rob reminded the council that Rally Sunday is on September 20.

Old Business:

Kitchen Remodel: Linda Thurston: Linda reported that the cabinets and laminate are due to arrive Oct. 5 and



that the flooring has already arrived. She also shared that results from her letter to church members regarding the church kitchen remodel have been well received. Linda plans to speak with the congregation about the project on Rally Sunday.

IRS Issue: Anita Lowary: Our attorney, Lon Gellhaus said that written and sent a letter to the IRS regarding a long-standing dispute with our church regarding payment of employee quarterly taxes.

Organist Position Policy: Carna Atherton-Pray will follow up on this.

New Business: We were reminded that our annual Charge Conference will be held at the Groton UMC Oct. 10 at 12:00 pm with lunch served. We will be joined by our new Southeast District Superintendent, Reverend Brandon Vetter.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 18th Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	28 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	29 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	30  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 6:00pm UMYF	1 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	2	3 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
4 19th Sunday after Pentecost (green) Communion in Worship (white)  World Communion Sunday 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	5 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	6  Ephesians 6:10-11 10:00am Bible Study - Ephesians 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	7  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	8 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	9	10  10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 12:00pm Charge Conference
11 20th Sunday after Pentecost (green) Pastor Appreciation Sunday 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am NO Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	12 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day  11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	13 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	14  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	15 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	16	17 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
18 21st Sunday after Pentecost (green) 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	19 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	20 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	21  9:30am Community Coffee Hour 7:00pm Groton Ad Council	22 Newsletter Items Due  10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	23	24 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown
25  Reformation Sunday 8:15am Conde Worship 9:30am Groton Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Britton UMC Worship	26 11:00am The Pantry at Groton Community Center	27 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown 4:00pm The Pantry at Groton Community Center	28  9:30am Community Coffee Hour	29 10:00am Sunday Items Due for Secretary	30  5:00pm Trunk or Treat	31 Reformation Day 10:00am Common Cents Community Thrift Store Downtown

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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 Happenings...

- October 4 World Communion Sunday
- October 6 Groton Tues 10 AM Bible Study starts Ephesians (pg. 4)
- October 10 Charge Conference at noon (pg. 2)
- October 11 Pastor Appreciation Sunday (pg. 3)
Have you been following the Pastor's Favorites inside?
- October 30 Groton Trunk or Treat 5-6:30 pm (pg. 5)
See Pastor Rob about participating or candy donations.