

Groton Assembly of God

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S PEN

Waiting

Our garden seems to be crying out to me as I gaze out our dining room window. The big, beautiful squash plants are now partially hidden by weeds. This past week I dutifully waded into the sea of green to pull weeds, but found the weeds so interwoven with the squash runners and leaves that as I pulled weeds, I ripped out some squash tentacles. I decided to leave the weeds so that our squash can keep growing and producing.

Admittedly, seeing the weeds aggravates me, but I know from experience that our squash will grow, and that this fall I'll search out the buttercup, acorn, and butternut, and bring them all to the house in armfuls. Then I'll use the tractor and its back blade to tear up the weeds. Both bringing in the squash and finally ridding our garden of the weeds will be satisfying.

This all reminds me of Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God in Matthew 13:24-30:

24 Jesus then told them this story: The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a farmer scattered good seed in a field. **25** But while everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and scattered weed seeds in the field and then left. **26** When the plants came up and began to ripen, the farmer's servants could see the weeds. **27** The servants came and asked, "Sir, didn't you scatter good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?" **28** "An enemy did this," he replied. His

servants then asked, "Do you want us to go out and pull up the weeds?" **29** "No!" he answered. "You might also pull up the wheat. **30** Leave the weeds alone until harvest time. Then I'll tell my workers to gather the weeds and tie them up and burn them. But I'll have them store the wheat in my barn" (CEV).

Because my desire to save our squash is greater than my desire to rid the garden of weeds, I'm willing to be longsuffering and wait till I can do both.

Thankfully, our Lord so very much wants as many to be saved as possible that He is willing to be longsuffering—putting up with evil people around us who will never surrender to Him to give time for those who will come to Him to do so. Praise the Lord!

His patience—another word for longsuffering—is a good example to us who await His return. We complain about the evil around us and about the people who cause us such grief. We wonder why God doesn't deal with them because we're sure they are beyond redemption.

Imagine if He had come back before we had received Christ, if He had given us what we deserve before we surrendered to Him. I'm so very thankful that God is longsuffering, for His being so has resulted in my salvation. Can we join Him in also being longsuffering?



9/28/25

September Service Schedule

Sunday, September 7

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – “Old Dents”

Sunday, September 14

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – Guest Speaker: Tim Anderson

Sunday, September 21

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – Guest Speaker: Hope Twitchell

Sunday, September 28

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – “Pure & Jealous,”

11:45 a.m. – Life Groups picnic & talent show



Saturday, September 13



Contact: penny.neno@yahoo.com



Birthdays:

- 1 James Burns Jr
- 5 Rick Cortright
- 8 Caleigh Garrow
Michael Morse
- 9 Corbin Jaquith
- 11 Linda Peck
Victor Pomianowitz
- 13 Scott Craig
- 15 Justin Besler
Siera Haley Harriger
- 16 Karen Scott
Anastasia "Any" Neno
- 17 Scott Brown
- 18 Samuel Rose
Cadence Wade
- 19 Wanda B White
- 20 Jon Marks
- 21 Clark Jaquith
- 22 Steve Chandler
Jedediah "Jed" Neno
- 23 Sara Ostrander
William Foster
Robert LeFever
- 25 Pastor Sam Neno
- 26 Rose Thresher
- 28 Mike Sears, Sr.

Anniversaries:

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 9/2/01 | Jeffrey & Robin Cargian |
| 9/9/2023 | Zachary & Abigail Lattin |
| 9/10/2021 | Robert & Dawn LeFever |
| 9/12/1992 | Jeff & Yvonne (Vonnie) Ellis |
| 9/23/2018 | Alan & Gabriella Kress |
| 9/27/2019 | Matt & Elly Starnier |
| 9/7/2024 | David & Brianna Morse |



Beginning September 7

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Children's LG

Babies & Toddlers, room 113
with Penny Hendrickson

Children grades K-4, room 101-102
with Chuck Hendrickson

Youth, grades 5-8, room 103
with Caesar and Zuleika Torres

Youth (9-12) & Adults

Men We Need, Benevolence Bldg.
Men's LG with P. Cliff

Love, Sex, & Lasting Relationships,
room 105
Women's LG with Annette Twitchell

How to Live Through a Bad Day,
Youth hall, room 112 with P. Sam

Secret Things of God,
room 104 with Penny Neno

Tuesday evenings 6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Fellowship

A Life Well-Lived, Ecclesiastes
Youth hall, room 112 with Steve Chandler



TEAMKID Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Contact: P. Sharon for more details.



Thrive is discipleship. It is one-on-one Biblical mentoring using a handbook. The mentors are called faith coaches.
Contact: Penny Neno for more information.



Sunday, September 28
Life Groups Picnic & Talent Show

Picnic at 11:45 a.m. We will provide the hotdogs. You provide the side dishes.

Talent Show 12:45 p.m. Join us and enjoy the God-given talents and abilities.

Testimonies

NEW Life Group Leaders, grades 5-8

Caesar Torres

As a young child growing up in the inner city of Rochester, NY, I remember one Sunday morning my father was drinking a beer on the porch with me & my brother sitting alongside. That's when Mr. Ortiz and Hiram from Calvary Baptize Church stopped their School bus, and they asked my father if it was ok to take us to church every week. They would pick us up and bring us home. My father's answer was yes. Before you know it, the whole neighborhood—well over 12 children—were coming alongside of us. It was the first time we were introduced to Jesus, through songs and Scripture. As a teenager, I departed from the Lord, and I lived a fast life of alcohol and marijuana consumption daily into my early 20's.

After my parents divorced, my father changed his life around, and he started going to church. Every Saturday at Men's prayer, he would put prayer petitions for me and my brother to get out of the streets and come to the Lord. My brother was facing up to 20 years in prison when he asked the Lord, if the Lord would get him out of prison, he would serve the Lord the rest of his life. The Lord miraculously answered his prayer, and he was set free of prison, and he soon became a youth Pastor.

My brother then invited me to his church, where I reconciled myself with the Lord. On that very day of salvation, I felt a burning sensation in my chest, and all the burdens I carried were lifted off my chest. I was baptized with the Holy Spirit, and the evidence of speaking in tongues. Instantly, I



was delivered from the consumption of alcohol and marijuana. The greatest gift I have ever received was PAID IN FULL on the Cross of Calvary from my Lord & Savior JESUS CHRIST.

I'm a firm believer of Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Parents, never give up hope on your children, even when the circumstances seem impossible, for with GOD nothing is impossible. My wife and I are honored to walk alongside Jesus and help teach the youth. We want to help the youth build a

foundation of faith. We want to help with their spiritual development. We want to prepare the youth to be leaders in their school, in their community, and, most importantly, we want them to have a relationship with JESUS!

Zuleika Torres

When I was a child, I grew up in a broken home, not knowing Jesus and dealing with generational patterns. It wasn't until I was 23 that I realized there must be something better for me. That's when I accepted Jesus Christ into my life as my Lord and Savior.

As a mom of four daughters, I know it's important that when they are young, we plant the seed of the Word of God in our children's lives in such a way that when they grow old, they will not depart from the Lord. That is why I feel drawn to teach young children. I want every child to have a relationship with the Lord that I wish I was able to have as a child.



A Warm Welcome Home to India

Names withheld Supported by Groton AG

July 23, 2025

A Warm Welcome Home. We have reached our beloved India safely, and made it to our new city in the north. Thank you to all who have been praying. The day we arrived some of "our boys," our previous discipleship graduates, surprised us with a visit to our Airbnb and a Welcome Home cake. Hadessah ran to greet them with wide open arms and big hugs. It was a delight to see them again and hear how well they are doing. They are truly like family to us and this country truly feels like home—even when we hate it.

We have hit the ground running looking for housing and buying a used car. It's been a hard search for sure, and we are still working on it. We are hopeful that today things will be agreed upon and finalized for a rental agreement. It is amazing how quickly we forgot the long process that everything takes and the corruption of people to make a buck, especially on a foreigner. People here call it "white tax." We pay more as Americans because they expect us to be wealthy and justify the corruption of raising rates, lying, and taking an extravagant cut as the middle man.

More than the corruption and the time things take, we forgot just how real the spiritual warfare is in this country. You can feel it. It's like the sweat that drips down our body in this 100-degree heat that you just can't seem to avoid. It's in your face.

We had an 8-hour taxi ride from the capital to our new city, in which we watched

thousands of people on their pilgrimage, Kanwar Yatra, to bring "holy water" from the Ganges River to their home for the year. The government closes the main highway on one side, so the people can safely walk. The opposite side of the highway is divided in two for the traffic. Most pilgrims walk by foot (even barefoot) for days, even weeks to bring this water back to their home. Many of them are covered in bloodied bandages from falling or they have bandages to support their muscles from the weight of the water and the long distance they must carry it. Some take turns with a family member switching the heavy load of water back and forth. Some carry the water alone, bent beneath its weight and look as though they will fall to the ground any second.

It is a sight that is both disturbing and so disheartening that it can cause you to hold your breath. The desperation of these people for the blessing of their god is heartbreaking, and the reality that their god has no eyes or ears and can do nothing for them is sickening. The kids asked questions for days to come about what they saw. Watching this pilgrimage for 8 hours was a dive back into the culture as well as a heart-felt reminder of why we are here.

If the people knew of a God that loved them, just as they are, and gave HIS life for them, they wouldn't need to do this pilgrimage. If they knew the name of Jesus, and the truth of the Gospel, their desperate state would be transformed. The problem is they don't know! And so, with quickened spirits to see Jesus made known throughout this country, we crush the flesh, swallow our pride, pay the "white tax," and hit the streets running!

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support. Please pray for: housing, health, as our bodies adjust to different foods, water, temperatures, etc.; May we make quick connections with those the Lord wants us to make part of the family;

endurance and grace as we face the hurdles in our way and press on for the prize.



Jonh's Testimony

**Submitted by Rev. Bob and Lynne Rose,
Europe Directors for Global University
Supported by Groton AG**

Recently, Bob was in Italy to teach to pastors and leaders, and as well as preach at the anniversary service at the International Church of Rome, the church we planted 15 years ago. Returning to preach was a great honor. When Bob walked in the door, he heard musicians and singers rehearsing. He greeted Pastor Benoit, a young man we mentored and who is currently their pastor. As Bob sat down for the service to begin, he noticed the pianist looked familiar. When the pianist stopped playing, he got up and greeted Bob with these words, "Pastor, I got saved and filled with the Holy Spirit." Suddenly, Bob realized who this young man was.

Jonh was just a boy when we pastored the church in Rome. His parents came, but Jonh resented coming to church. Although he was fluent in three languages, Italian, English, and Tagalog (also known as Filipino, it is the major language spoken in the Philippines), Jonh was not accepted at the public school and even bullied. He felt life was unfair, and he blamed God. He frequently complained to his parents about attending church or being involved. When he came, he would sit through the entire service with his arms folded and scowl. Through the years, his attitude became progressively worse. When the new pastor was installed, Jonh kept up his attitude of rebellion. Though we consistently prayed for him, we saw no change.

In Jonh's senior year of high school, Jonh's parents insisted he go to the church retreat for youth. Reluctantly he went. Jonh was not only saved but baptized in the Holy Spirit! Literally, Jonh began to soar like an eagle! He joined a Bible study group and grew strong in the Lord. As his faith increased, he felt the Lord call him into ministry, and he started taking intense guitar and piano lessons. Within a year, he joined the worship team. Even now, he volunteers to help in any way he can, and is a wonderful asset in ministry at the church.

We must not grow weary or faint when we don't see results, for "at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." We are thankful for you, your prayers, and your support as we share in Europe's harvest together.



**Joe and Mary Benecasa, AGWM Italy
Supported by Groton AG**

On May 25th, Lighthouse Fellowship celebrated its first anniversary! So much has happened in this first year. We hosted two women's conferences, organized a Vacation Bible School, held English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, started a mid-week Bible study, conducted many church fellowships, hosted seven work teams, organized evangelistic outreaches, and nearly completed an amazing construction project. Construction is almost finished. God has been good to us!

Unfortunately, we could not host a VBS at our church this year because we could not get a team from the States to come help us. However, we were blessed to be invited to the U.S. Navy Base to help with their VBS. We were given the privilege of teaching the Bible class during their "mini-VBS" held in

June. There were about 80 children involved, all Americans from the base. The new Assemblies of God-appointed Chaplain, Rev. Matthew Riley, and his wife April, were wonderful hosts and did a great job organizing the event.

In June, we hosted our second Women's Conference at the church. Twenty-nine women from all different backgrounds attended the three-day event.

Please pray for us to have divine appointments in our day-to-day activities as well as continued strength, good health, and anointing to continue with the ministry. Thank you for your prayers and support.



ASIA PACIFIC MEDIA MINISTRY training AG media missionaries to resource the digital J in Asia Pacific: Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mongolia, etc. apmedia.org

When Faith Enters the Feed:

REEL FAITH

Reel Faith proves that entering existing conversations can be more powerful than starting new ones. By bringing timeless truth into contemporary spaces, the series didn't just share information—it created transformation. Doubt became dialogue. Questions became quests. Fifteen-second videos sparked eternal conversations.

Over Holy Week, AP Media released twelve short videos addressing questions that have challenged seekers for generations. These weren't traditional sermons but fifteen-second answers designed for the scroll generation, tackling "Did Jesus really die?" and "Where did the Lord come from" in vertical format, perfect for social media.

Meeting young people in their digital habitat, rather than expecting them to find church, represented a fundamental shift in evangelistic approach.

The response was remarkable: Over 400,000 views and 27,000 interactions. But the real transformation happened in the comments. Skeptics lingered to debate. Doubters engaged. Critics challenged resurrection claims, creating the spiritual dialogue that traditional outreach struggles to generate. Each skeptical comment became a doorway for deeper discussion, with APMedia staff turning digital discussion into discipleship moments.

Mongolia: A Strategic Invitation

We received a direct invitation from the General Superintendent of Mongolia to return this August and help build their media ministry capacity through in-person training. In this heavily Buddhist nation where fewer than 1% of the population is Christian, this represents a rare and strategic opportunity that we cannot overlook.

Philippines: Media Pioneers

Pastor Darrien Baez, Crossroads AG in Mansilingan, Philippines, didn't consider himself tech-savvy. When AP Media held a training two years ago, Pastor Darrien brought curious, untrained young people. What they received wasn't just skills—it was calling. "When we got back to church, I was shocked. The announcements were different. There were graphics. There were videos. Suddenly, our young people were doing things in a professional way." Their church media presence exploded. They launched Facebook livestreams, created evangelism videos, and began using APMedia discipleship tools in classrooms and cell groups.

The digital mission field is vast and waiting. Sometimes all it takes to change everything is showing up where the conversation has already started.

Pray as School Begins

Across our nation, education for multiplied millions of students has already begun for the 2025-2026 school year, and for others, it will begin soon. Let's pray for the children, youth, and the adults in college.



1 Pray that they would always know how very much they are loved. Pray that God would make them aware that He is loving and kind, that He would fill them with faith to believe His words are true. John 15:13; 1 John 3:1; Jer 31:3

2 Pray that they would come to know Christ as Savior and Lord. Pray that from an early age their hearts would be drawn to Him, and that they would have a desire to walk closely with God. Rom 10:9-10; John 3:16; John 8:32

3 Pray that they would have a love and desire for God's Word. That they would have an unquenchable thirst for Truth, and that their hearts would be tender towards Him. Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; Psa 19:7-10

4 Pray that God's blessings and favor would surround their lives. Pray that God's face would shine on them, be gracious to them, and give them great peace. Num 6:24-26; Zep 3:17; Psa 90:17

5 Pray that they would grow in the fruit of the Spirit... and that godly character qualities would be evident in their lives. Pray for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Gal 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 6:11-12; 2 Timothy 2:22

6 Pray for God's protection over them. Pray that God would guard their way, keep their steps secure, cover them from behind, and protect them from evil. Pray that no

weapon formed against them will prosper. Pray that God would be their constant Shield and Defender, that He would hide them in His powerful presence. Psa 91:1-4; Psa 91:11; Psa 121:3-8; Isa 54:17

7 Pray that they would be strong and courageous... believing that God is always with them. Pray that they would be bold to stand for what is right, even if it means standing alone. Ask God to equip them as mighty warriors for his purposes. Jos 1:9; Deu 31:6; Eph 6:10-18

8 Pray that they would find their confidence, self-esteem, and security in Christ, knowing who they are in Him. In a world that places great value on outward appearances ask God to give them wisdom to know the deeper value of what is on the inside. Pray that they would see as God sees, that they would be drawn to focus on the heart, on internal beauty and strengths. 1 Samuel 16:7; 1 Peter 3:3-4; Psa 139:13-14

9 Pray that they would seek to be God pleasers and not people pleasers. Ask God to guard them from the influences of this world that would tell them to "fit in." Prov 29:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; 1 John 2:15-17

10 Pray that they would be covered in God's peace and security. Pray that their thoughts would not be drawn to worry and fear, but instead be filled with the strength and confidence of the Lord through every day. Isa 41:10; Php 4:6-7; Isa 54:13

PRAY4ME

OUR STUDENTS/OUR PRAYERS

Join the prayer movement.

To join, send an email to:

penny.neno@yahoo.com