

GROTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S PEN

Show Me

The weather has broken a little, with temperatures rising recently, for which everyone I've spoken to gives thanks. I like snow, but even I am grateful for warmer temperatures and the promise of spring. A couple of weeks ago, we saw our first small flocks of blackbirds in the fields.

Some people are looking forward to taking walks in the greener days coming, while others are excited to get into their gardens and dig. So many things—and people—seem to come alive in the spring, after what has appeared to be winter dormancy. Skunks appear, woodchucks will be coming out soon, geese fly back in great V-formations, masses of blackbirds fill woodlots.

But spring isn't here yet, is it? May I encourage you with some good news?

God has been working all winter, in ways that many of us haven't heard. Let me share these stories:

† A young person experienced healing during a service, and pain has not returned.

† God made clear to a young person that He sees him by putting the same helpful information in front of him twice in the same day, with nearly the same wording.

† A young person received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues during a service recently.

† A young person experienced a healing during prayer while watching the service online.

While we might feel as though life won't really begin for us until nice weather because we're "holding on" till we can do things we want to do, God is always working, always doing things around us—maybe even in our lives. John tells us in chapter 5 of his gospel: But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I" (vs. 17, NLT).

Yes, you and I might feel bogged down by cold weather, or even by high electric bills, but God is always working. What might He have been doing in our lives that we haven't recognized yet?

Let's try something. Please join me in asking God to do this: "O Lord, please show me what you have been doing in my life that I hadn't realized."

Cookie Crusade Outreach

See page 3 for details



March Birthdays

- 1 Alan Kress
Shannon Davis
- 3 Sandy Tanney
- 6 Robin Cargian
- 7 John Huether
- 8 Erin Neno
- 10 Donna Bernhardt
- 15 John Conner, Jr.,
Paul Morse, Sr.
- 22 MaryLu Eveleigh
- 23 Faye Hacker
- 25 Brian Scott
- 27 Debbie Todd
- 28 Bob Miller
- 31 Dakota Craig, Vivian Craig

Anniversaries

- 3/27/14 Scott & Mary Ellen Brown
- 3/14/87 Larry & Bonnie Oliver

March Service Schedule

Sunday, March 1

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – “Conversions”

Sunday, March 8

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – “Joy!”

Sunday, March 15

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – *New Sermon Series: Personal Evangelism*, “Tell Them”

Sunday, March 22

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – “Mandate”

Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday)

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups

10 a.m. – Missionary Speakers for Spring Missions Convention



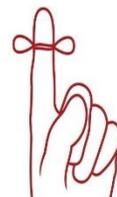
LIFEgroups
Life is BETTER Together

New Groups
Beginning March 1st
Groups for Nursery- Adult

Baby Bottle

Reminder:

If you took a baby bottle for the FLPC fundraiser, please **return it to Laurie Wright by Sun, March 29th.**





Cookie Crusade Outreach

Come help us make the cookie crusade a success again this year. We need people to sign up to bake 50 dozen homemade cookies, and hand deliver them to our community. Be a part of our local mission work to invite people to Easter Sunday service and share God's love.

1 Cookie Sign-up: Let us know cookies are coming. Sign up in the foyer. Homemade cookies only, please.

2 Cookies: Your cookies need to be at the church by the **morning of March 25th** so we can bag them up.

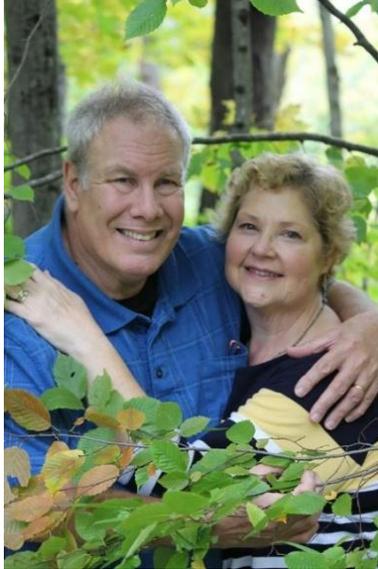
3 Hand deliver date: **Palm Sunday, March 29. Thank you in advance!**

Questions? Contact P. Cliff or Sara Ostrander

Jim Hacker

The Lord Opens Doors

I grew up on Long Island and was raised Catholic, but I was never encouraged to read the Bible other than the Catholic missalette that the church provided. After graduating from college, my dad moved me and my siblings to Moravia to raise chickens and other farm animals. I eventually found work in Ithaca at a company called Ithaco. After being laid off there, I worked at NCR where I met Faye (see her story for details!)



the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. It was a supernatural experience that made me feel like I was in the kingdom of Heaven.

Over the years, I've taught Royal Rangers (Straight Arrows) and Sunday School/Life Groups for adults, as well. I've been on the board several times too.

When that job ended, I went back to Ithaco and was invited to join a Bible study. The guys in the study were a mixture of Baptist and Assembly of God attenders. Through this study, I became hungry for God's word. We left the Catholic church and began our search for a church that believed in the Bible in its entirety.

We attended a Baptist church for a little bit less than a year, and while we were there, I gave my life to Christ. Through my Bible reading I inquired about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They said they didn't believe that was for today, and I didn't agree with that. After not having any of the Bible when I was younger, I didn't want anything less than the whole Bible. We started looking for a Pentecostal church that believed in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We attended a Bible study led by Pastor Richardson, and we decided that this would be our home church. We joined Groton Assembly of God in 1988. I began praying for the Baptism soon after. In March on a very snowy winter's night, I went to hear an evangelist and received

Through the church, I took classes that trained me how to teach classes, which allowed me to continually study God's word to be prepared as a teacher. The Lord has also opened the door to use me to witness to people in restaurants, hospitals, and stores. I pray that He continues to use me in whatever way He sees fit.

Spring Missions Convention

Join us **Sunday morning, March 29**, to meet the AG missionaries from Gdansk, Poland, **the Shorrocks**.



Missionaries Bring Hope in the East

AGWM LIVEDead Morocco

Supported by Groton AG

Ramadan Feb 17-Mar 19, 2026



LIVE | DEVD
ARAB WORLD

Ramadan is the holiest month in Islamic calendar. Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, abstaining from food and drink. As we're preparing for this upcoming season of Ramadan, today our team has committed to pray for 24 hours. Every hour will be covered by someone praying. We long for more of Jesus' presence in our lives and in the lives of those we love.

I arrived in this country in 2016. Now, January 24, 2026, is a historic day! The Old Testament in our local Arabic dialect is released electronically! This is a truly significant day as many people don't understand the current translation they have in Classical Arabic. It's as if we only had old English as our only translation. Historically, we saw big shifts in the church when the Bible was translated from Latin to the common language of the people. We're looking forward to see what God will do next in our country! Isaiah 55:10-11

We have been weekly hosting a Bible Study with new believers across this area. Every meeting must include some tea and snacks. Please pray for us as we meet. We long for the Spirit to bless our time with His Presence. We long for the Good News to continue to grow in this wonderful place. In the southern part of the country where we are living, for six years there has been an extensive drought. This winter has been a bit different. We now see grass in places where we are not used to seeing grass and greenery. I sense in my heart and spirit that it is a significant alignment of things. The rains are coming. The Word of God has been finally translated fully within the local dialect. We

are so thankful and so looking forward to what God is going to accomplish as His Word goes out. We pray for salvations, revival, and that people's souls would be nourished by the Word of God. May Jesus receive the glory.

AGWM LIVEDead Lebanon

Supported by Groton AG

We are excited to have two new team members. Our team is shifting our focus from Syrian refugees to the city of Tripoli, Lebanon, in general. With many refugees returning to Syria, we've sensed from the Lord that our team will continue in Tripoli, but with a broader focus in the season to come. In this, we will continue to pursue making disciples and planting churches.

We've continued to disciple a Syrian woman and her children. We are sharing with many from her family and community as well. Please pray for her faith to be unwavering, and for her to know Jesus deeply and to share Him boldly! Pray for us to have wisdom as we walk with her.

We launched a media outreach through a Live Dead team based outside of Lebanon. Their team runs social media ads for us in our city about Jesus and the Bible. So far, we have been able to start studying the Bible with one young man who is hungry to read the Bible, but he very afraid of how his family may react. Please pray for our meetings together, and for this young man to grow in his understanding of the Word.

Renovations for the community center are finished! Located in the heart of the downtown, the renovated space has a reception, kitchen, coffee shop, a multi-purpose space, office, and three classrooms. We hope to help the community

through educational support, women's empowerment, public health, and youth programming. We also completed our first program at the center—a month long club for kids! We offered support in the areas of Arabic, English, and Math. Afterwards we were able to visit the families and give them some basic medicines. We were even able to share the full Gospel message with one mother who is interested to hear more!



Shelley Carl,
Missionary to Japan

Shelley Carl, AGWM Japan
Supported by Groton AG

2025 was a unique year as it marked my 40th anniversary as an AG World Missionary. Before becoming a career missionary, I served as the children's pastor at both Yokota Church in Tokyo, Japan, and Bethel Christian Fellowship in Rochester, N.Y. Rejoice with me for 40 years as a career missionary, totaling 45 years in full-time ministry. Thank you for making all of this possible.



AGWM LiveDead China
Supported by Groton AG

Greetings Groton AG! I signed up to take a leather carving class. One classmate is a Tibetan guy named Lalong. He participated in Tibetan art depicting the Buddhist worldview of Samsara (the never-ending wheel of life, demons, sin, etc.), but he has since stopped engaging in that art and is having lots of Christians speaking into his life. Another classmate is a field worker who runs an Art Café and teaches art, music, and dance. Maybe you're wondering why I'm learning this skill? Well, when our Father allows me to open Business as Ministry (BAM), one of the departments is life-skills training, including handcrafts. I would like to be able to offer a variety of artisan training skills to meet different needs/interests. Many Tibetans do not have the opportunity to go to school and find themselves either unable to get jobs to support their families, or they find jobs in less than safe environments. Pray for me as I go forward with the gospel.



2026 has also been a landmark year as God completely shifted both my living and ministry situations. He brought me an hour and half north of Tokyo to the city of Tsukuba, known as the nation's science city. I serve as a staff pastor at Tsukuba International Christian Assembly (TICA) and live less than 15 minutes from the church. Every moment serving here alongside a dynamic, creative team of missionaries is delightful. TICA celebrated 28 years of ministry. The vision of TICA is to purchase more land and build a new sanctuary. They also want to plant 20 new churches along the Tsukuba Express train line that runs between Tokyo and Tsukuba. The best part of the year has been sharing Jesus with the owner of a beauty salon and his wife. I could not hold back the tears when they walked into the church with their two babies for the first time to celebrate Thanksgiving and eat turkey with the church family.

On January 24, Japan gifted the U.S. 250 cherry blossom trees to celebrate America's 250 birthday and as gesture of long-standing Japan-U.S. friendship. This new gift builds on Japan's original 1912 donation of cherry trees during the Taft administration. The Annual Cherry Blossom Festival now draws millions of visitors each spring.