

GROTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

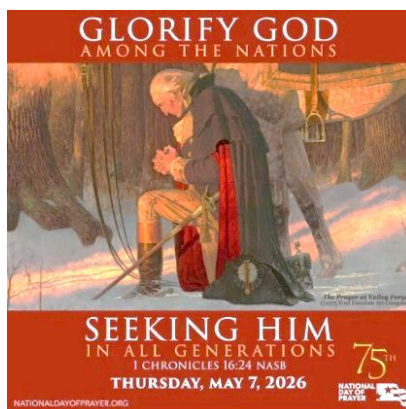
MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S PEN

Whose Opinion Matters?

Now how should I walk? I remember thinking that when I first went into high school. I'd moved up from eighth grade to ninth, and I'd moved from the middle school building to the high school building. The high school had long, long hallways with glass windows separating them, so you could see everyone for a long way. I remember being concerned with my walk, of all things. That didn't last long, fortunately, but it reminds me of youth, when we're figuring out who we are and when we are quite concerned with what other people think.

Honestly, I don't believe we ever really stop caring what other people think. Even as adults we often make decisions based on what we believe our peers, coworkers, family, or neighbors will think. I know I hear a lot of people say, "I don't care what anyone thinks," but I don't believe most really feel that way inside. We tell ourselves that, but if we were really honest, I believe most of us would need to admit that others' opinions of us play in the backs of our minds more frequently than we want to admit even to ourselves. There is a reason it's called "peer pressure." Peer pressure isn't always caused by other people trying to force us to think, act, or speak in certain ways. I think we feel the pressure of how we perceive others to be thinking, even when they don't express it—or quite honestly could care less about what we do, say, or think. In my experience, most people are just trying to get through life, and think about us much less than we believe.



However, I have reached this conclusion: While I really do care about what people think, I need to choose whose opinion I care about most. And I've also decided that that person has to be the Lord.

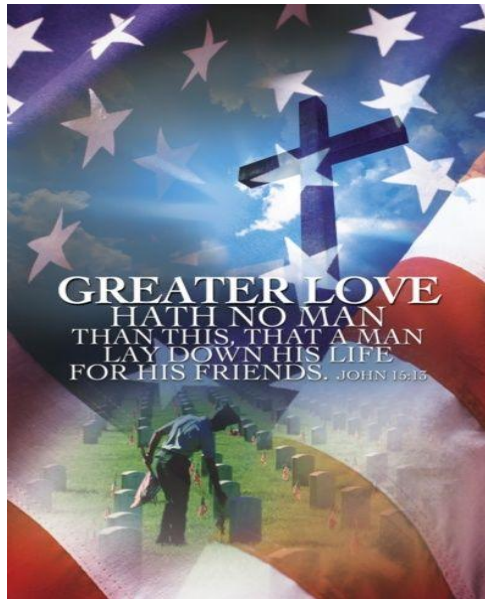
When I take my last breath, I won't really care about what my peers think. I don't believe at that point in my life that it will matter what they say about me. What will matter is what God thinks about me: Have I obeyed Him? Have I loved Him with all of my being, and loved my neighbor as myself? Have I loved His children as He has loved me?

No one will judge me for eternity but Jesus. Given this, I think I need to be much more mindful about who I am seeking to please in this life. I want continually to speak with Him, think on those things He has told me to think on—those things that are honest, just, pure, lovely, good, virtuous, worthy of praise (Philippians 4:8). I want to deal with others—even think about them—in a way that pleases Him, for He will judge even the silent thoughts of my heart.

He has said in **Jeremiah 17:10, MEV:** I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his deeds.

And He has said in **Ecclesiastes 12:14, MEV:** For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Will you join me in seeking to please God here in this life while we still have breath?



May Service Schedule

Sunday, May 3

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups
 10 a.m. – “Be Christ Among Them”
 11:30 a.m. – Membership Class

Sunday, May 10 (Mother’s Day)

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – Breakfast
 10 a.m. – “Who is My Family?”
 with water baptisms

Sunday, May 17

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups
 10 a.m. – **New Sermon Series: Identity,**
 “Chosen”
 11:30 a.m. – Membership Class

Sunday, May 24 (Memorial Day Weekend)

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups
 10 a.m. – “Special”

Sunday, May 31

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups
 10 a.m. – “Changed”

May Birthdays:

1 Hannah Wright
 7 Charlotte Huether, Paul Morse Jr.
 10 Stephanie Neno
 11 Mike Rinchack
 13 Grace Short
 23 Jim Flach
 25 Chuck Hendrickson
 27 Jeff Ellis
 28 Luke Starner
 29 Pam Bateman

May Anniversaries:

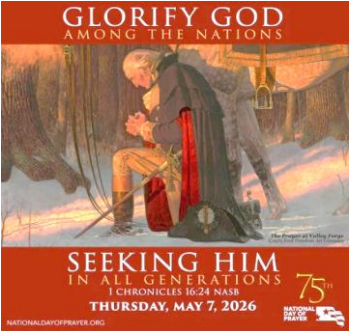
5/16/04 Cliff & Sara Ostrander
 5/17/18 Ricardo & Debrah Fernandez
 5/18/25 Jason & Emily Prince
 5/22/1965 Paul & Mary Lu Eveleigh
 5/22/1976 Charlie & Laurie Wright
 5/22/1993 Joel & Sandra Rivera

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE

Every year we pray and seek the Lord for the National Day of Prayer theme that will guide our year and unite the tens of thousands of prayer gatherings we host from coast to coast. This year on May 7, 2026, we will unite and pray as our new 2026 theme calls us to, “Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations.”

We ask that you commit to pray with us on May 7 and ask God to bless America as we seek Him in Scripture and fervent prayer.

National Day of Prayer



**Join us Thursday, May 7
Noon, Memorial on Main
Street, Groton
& 6:30 pm, Groton AG
Sanctuary**

Pray for:

- Families
- Government
- Education
- Business
- Military
- Church
- Media



Trauma Reboot

Begins Monday, May 4.
You may still register in class.

 **MISSION:
SAVE AMERICA**

Join us to **REACH** our community
for **Jesus!**

- **May 7**

National Day of Prayer, pray for
America. Contact: P. Sam

- **August 9-13**

Vacation Bible School, children's
outreach. Contact: P. Sharon

LifeGroups

Summer Life Groups

Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Beginning June 7

Children's Life Groups

- LG nursery & preschool
- LG children, K-4th grade

LG Adults & Youth (gr. 5-12)

Christians in the Workplace:

This Life Group brings together the practical
reality of life at work and the spiritual
guidance of the Bible. Some of the topics
we will be discussing include: ambition, the
bad boss, conflict at work, leading others,
giving and receiving feedback, work/life
balance and more. Bring your Bible and a
friend. All classes begin at 9:00 a.m.



MISSION: SAVE AMERICA

AMERICA IS STILL A MISSION FIELD

By Wilfredo “Choco” De Jesus, U. S.
Missions Executive Director

For generations, the Church has faithfully carried the gospel around the world—and we should. The Great Commission compels us to go to the nations, and that calling has never changed.

But somewhere along the way, we assumed something that was never promised. Some assumed the work here was finished. Many assumed America was reached. Most assumed the mission field was somewhere else.

Let me be clear: This is not a failure of the gospel. It is a reminder of our calling.

The mission field in the United States was never forgotten by God. And it was never abandoned by faithful missionaries. Across this nation, men and women have been serving in communities large and small, often without recognition, often without headlines, but never without calling.

...The mission never stopped. **But America has changed.**

Entire generations have grown up without ever hearing the gospel clearly. Communities once shaped by faith now struggle with addiction, isolation, confusion, and despair. The need is not subtle—it is urgent.

America is not a side mission. It is a mission field.

Scripture speaks directly to moments like this: “You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings” (Isaiah 58:12).

God has always been in the work of restoration—sending His people back to places that were once strong, now broken, and in need of renewal.

The United States has not been abandoned by God. But it has become the mission field we forgot.

...Together, we will continue to seek, save, send—and display the gospel—one life, one place, one zip code at a time.

U. S. Missions, Alaska
Phillip & Amy Boswell, U. S. Missionaries
supported by Groton AG

After a long and cold winter in Alaska, preparations are under way for Camp Agaiutim Nune. In the months leading up to camp, supplies are purchased, materials are gathered, and countless boxes are packed in preparation for shipment by boat to the village.

Pray that God would move powerfully in the hearts of every child and youth who attends. Ask for salvations, lives changed, hearts healed, and a deep encounter with the Holy Spirit that will impact them far beyond camp. Pray also for our family during this busy season as we stretch ourselves to serve. Ask for renewed strength, wisdom, and rest, that we would remain grounded in God, unified as a family, and able to pour out without becoming overwhelmed or exhausted.

Pray for protection over our Anchorage Native Assembly of God church [editor’s note: Rev. Phillip and Rev Amy Boswell are missionary pastors] and leadership from spiritual attacks. Ask for unity, strength, discernment, and a covering of peace, that no weapon formed against us would prosper and that God’s presence would remain strong among us.

U.S. Missions, Arizona

John & Theresa Flood, U.S. Missionaries
supported by Groton AG

John has created a pathway forward for the further development of the AG Native Schools of Ministry. However, it does not yet allow for the development of an autonomous ministry that can be fully taught, run, and owned by the Native people. In church terms, we remain a district-affiliated ministry without a path to become a General Council-affiliated ministry. There are unique needs in Native Ministry that go beyond typical ministerial training. My goal is to develop something that begins to address them. I will be starting the second group of students on the White Mountain Apache Reservation shortly after Easter 2026 (Lord willing). This time, three churches will be involved.

Please pray for the White Mountain Apache Reservation to find hope in Jesus and become a Christian Nation. Pray also for unity among the churches on the Reservation so they work together.

U.S. Missions

Kent and Judy Anderson, RC
supported by Groton AG

Rural Compassion (RC) is an AG humanitarian ministry organization purposing to bring hope to people living in rural America. Judy and I have had many opportunities to partner with rural churches over the past 20 years. Recently, we partnered with the New Life church in Greenfield, Missouri, serving their small town of 1, 214. We conducted an outreach training at New Life, and the church used the resources we provided to bless their community in the following ways. The church created "Care Kits" filled with snacks and drinks and gave them to Dade County 911 staff, county police, and sheriff's departments. They also made care

packages for the homeless population that included hand lotion, sanitizer, wipes, and soup. Gerber food pouches were distributed to moms and children attending the local Head Start program. Candy was used for Mother's Day care packages and a women's outreach event. Snacks and drinks were given out at a Kids' Sports Camp hosted by the church, which averaged 55 children. Go rural!

Leslie Latona, Colombia

AGWM, supported by Groton AG

In December, we held several children's outreach programs throughout the city. A special thank you to BGMC (Boy's & Girls Missionary Challenge) for the offering that provided the funds for these events. We are also excited to share that 800 shoeboxes from Samaritan's Purse have arrived at the Simon Bolivar church. There is a public school close to the Simon Bolivar church, and we are preparing special assemblies with students. We will also be holding programs at another school. These are amazing opportunities to share the Gospel message and pray for the children and teachers.

Dan & Dee Klepel, Thailand

AGWM, supported by Groton AG

Dan is the field coordinator for the Assemblies of God Missionaries in Thailand. Each year we have two Prayer Fellowships. These are opportunities for our missionaries throughout Thailand to gather for prayer, fellowship, and sometimes local ministry. We always look forward to these events with our co-workers. Some are planting churches, some working in Bible training, some in children's ministry, and others in compassion ministries.

Over the last few months, Dan has taught New Testament and Old Testament courses at the current Liberty Ministry Training Center

(LMTC). Deanna has also helped with some of the lessons. Next month there will be a graduation for the 50 plus students who will have completed the LMTC seven course curriculum.

Deanna continues to be involved in many areas of children's ministry—English teaching and Bible teaching for children, as well as training children's workers throughout Thailand and nearby nations.

Hope Twitchell, Thailand

AGWM, supported by Groton AG

Since December, I have visited almost every section in the state of NY [Editor's note: Groton is in the South-Central Section]. I attended the North Central Section's NYHer Spring Rally in Watertown, NY. It was a beautiful time of authentic prayer, worship, and faith! In just a few weeks, I will be making appearances at other women's events, such as Bronx/Manhattan, South Central, Brooklyn/Staten Island, and possibly Capital Section.

I have between 65%-70% of my monthly budget raised. I have more than 150% of my cash budget met. I also have an apartment in Thailand. One of my teammates, who arrived in Thailand in January/February, offered for me to share an apartment with her. She has already moved into the apartment and is in the process of furnishing it. Praising God for His provision!

Please pray with me for more divine opportunities to reach Buddhists and Muslims. Pray for healing for the South of Thailand (the land, the economy, the people). Pray for a great outpouring of God's Spirit amongst the Never Reached. God is on the move. Let's continue to increase our prayerful expectations of what

God might do through His church in the Buddhist world.

Joe & Mary Benecasa, Italy

AGWM, supported by Groton AG

Currently, Lighthouse Fellowship conducts services in English on Sunday mornings. We also have a midweek Bible study on Wednesday nights. Mary teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) weekly for some Italians in our area. We are also involved with Bible studies, devotions, and prayer at two of the U. S. Military bases in Napoli. We are in discussions with Military Ministries about being a contact church for them in the hopes that our brave soldiers, sailors, and airmen will be aware of our church and participate in our ministries. We have also been meeting with Students for Christ, an AG ministry that mirrors Chi Alpha in Europe. Our hope is that the Lord would put it on someone's heart to join us in Napoli to lead this ministry.

Some of you may recall that last August we returned to the States for a short time. Joe had been having pain in his right hip (it was so bad that he could barely lift his leg), as well as some other issues with his digestive tract. He was diagnosed with a severely damaged liver, and we asked for prayer. The doctors said that there was nothing that could be done except pain medication, which he refused to take. The Lord responded. Today, he has very little pain in his hip and can lift his leg without pain! Please continue to pray for his total healing, especially with his liver, so that he can continue ministry here without physical limitations.

MAY 7, COME PRAY FOR AMERICA!

Noon @ Groton Memorial, Main St.

6:30 p.m. @Groton AG Sanctuary