

# Groton Assembly of God

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

## PASTOR'S PEN

### I SEE

Last Thursday when I awoke, the weather predicted was warm and humid. My day was set: We were headed to calling hours in Rochester for an extended family member. While driving on the Thruway, one of our phones warned us of severe weather in Groton. I thought, "Where did that come from?" Then one of our phones reported a tornado watch for Groton, and then a short time later, it reported that the watch had become a warning. One of us said, "This is crazy."

Later that day, we heard that there had been quite a bit of damage in Cortland and that our home was without power. The next day, we learned that a tornado had touched down in Cortland. We talked among ourselves in disbelief: How could we have had no warning the night before of severe weather coming?

The bottom line is that despite all of our technology and science, we can't see the future. Yes, much can be predicted with fair accuracy, but such times as that Thursday remind us that only God sees all that is going to happen.

That does not mean that we are victims to circumstances beyond our control.

Years ago when I worked in the gravel pit on Salmon Creek Road, the two men I worked with and I all lived with cliff swallows flying overhead all day long. We knew they were there, and when we took breaks, we watched out for our things. Why? Well, what happens when enough birds fly overhead? We were proven right in being careful when a trucker who had come for

gravel got some coffee from our shack and stood talking with us. A swallow flew overhead and, with perfect aim, unloaded directly into the trucker's foam coffee cup.

God has given us His wisdom—through the Bible—and the ability to see what's happening around us. Jesus Himself said, *"When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and overcast.' O you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times"* (Matthew 16:2-3 MEV).

Friends, God has foretold the signs of the last days to help us discern the signs of the times: *"Men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, fierce, despisers of those who are good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying its power"* (2Timothy 3:2-4, MEV). He then instructed, *"Turn away from such people"* (2Timothy 3:4, MEV).

How many of those signs do you see occurring often today? What are we to do because of them?

Jesus said this, *"But know this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched and not have allowed his house to be broken into"* (Luke 12:39, MEV). He also said, *"Let your waist be girded and your lights be burning, and you be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door immediately for him when he comes and knocks"* (Luke 12:35-36, MEV).



Jesus tells us to be ready for His return. Further, He wants us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves in our dealings with those around us (Matthew 10:16). We are to witness to them but remember that we are not of this world, as we used to be. Now we live for Jesus, not ourselves.

Friends, let us be ready for His return, and until He returns, let us not live as those around us—for the world—but on mission for Jesus—living to honor Him so that when He returns unexpectedly, He is pleased with us.



## July Service Schedule

### **Sunday, July 5**

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups  
10 a.m. – “Living With Others”

### **Sunday, July 12**

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – Breakfast  
10 a.m. – “Leaving the Old Behind”  
11:30 a.m. – Membership Class

### **Sunday, July 19**

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Life Groups  
10 a.m. – “What the New Looks Like,” with water baptisms  
11:30 a.m. – Membership Class

### **Sunday, July 26**

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

## July Birthdays:

- 1 Linda Hull
- 4 Lucas Rivera
- 5 Corrine Jaquith
- 9 Tony Lanzilotta, Caesar Torres
- 11 Laurie Wright, Peggy Cortright
- 13 Leilani Norman
- 16 Paul Eveleigh, Solomon Lamb
- 17 Charlotte Webb
- 18 Dave Hull
- 19 Diana Buckingham
- 20 Malaki Morse, Mike Sears, Jr.
- 22 Tyler Fausel
- 23 Levi Starner, Joyce Landcastle
- 24 Joan Price
- 28 Jim Hacker
- 30 Clifford Ostrander, Emma Clark

## July Anniversaries:

- 7/1/23 Keith & Marcia Blanchard  
7/15/95 John & Tammy Conner  
7/16/22 Paul & Oksana Morse  
7/18/81 Sam & Cheryl Rose  
7/18/15 Tyler & Sarah Fausel  
7/18/98 Chuck & Penny Hendrickson

## VBS 2026 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AUGUST 9-13



## **Vacation Bible School**

***An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23.***

**Emerald Crossing** focuses on bringing hope to an anxious generation, as kids learn about the life of David while answering the question, “Is there a God who cares?”

**To Volunteer:** Contact P. Sharon to join the team at 607.5263.898

## YOU Matter Apparel

We will be placing ONE t-shirt and/or sweatshirt order this summer on July 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to place an order, check out the items in the foyer. There are three styles of sweatshirts (crew neck, hoodie, and zippered) in small, medium, large, XL, and 2X available to look at and/or try on. Please fill out a form located on the table in the foyer.

Payment will be required when you place your order. All checks should be made out to Groton Assembly of God. If paying in cash or you have questions, please see Laurie Wright or call her cell @ (607) 644-8671.

## Updated Church Directory

It's time once again to update your information for a 2026 Church Directory. Please check over the directory in the foyer and fill out a form if you need to make any changes. Please see Laurie Wright or call her cell @ (607) 644-8671.



## **Assemblies of God:** AMERICA PRAYS 250

**JULY 4, 2026**

The Assemblies of God World Prayer Center (WPC) and AG national leadership, in cooperation with district and network

leaders, are urging AG churches and adherents to participate in:

## **JOIN in PRAYER:** America Prays 250

This prayer movement mobilizes AG districts, networks, churches, and leaders from coast to coast for a **unified one hour of prayer on July 4, 2026.**

**Beginning at 9 a.m. on July 4 in each time zone** and moving across the nation, we want to seek God for revival, spiritual awakening, and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon America.

### **VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY:**

#### SHE IS EUROPE

Did you know that there are dozens of ministries and global workers here who are serving to real women and girls across Europe? These vibrant ministries will be highlighted on a special virtual missions trip.

**Register: online at website below**

**Cost: \$50.00**

**Dates: July 11<sup>th</sup> or July 28<sup>th</sup>**

You will travel through Finland, Romania, Germany, Spain, and the Netherlands from your home. It will be meaningful and impactful. Don't miss this incredible opportunity!

Check out the website for more details and to register:

**Web: [ShelsEurope.org](http://ShelsEurope.org)**

## Testimony: AG U.S. Missions Chaplain Receives Highest Honor

Brandy Reynolds isn't one to seek recognition. As a civilian chaplain with Assemblies of God U.S. Missions Chaplaincy Ministries serving the Air Force, her focus is on ministering to people, such as military members and their families, and supporting the volunteers who work beside her.



Still, for her selfless spirit and ministry accomplishments Reynolds was awarded the 2024 Spirit of the Four Chaplains Award for the United States Air Force Chaplain Corps, the top award for Air Force Chapel volunteers.

Since her youth, Reynolds' love for God has compelled her to share His hope with others. She did this by working in children's and youth ministries while attending Central Bible College. Reynolds also served as Religious Education director for the International Christian Assembly in South Korea.

In 2015, Reynolds married Jason, a career Air Force man. She gave birth to daughter Kyiah (now age 9) in North Carolina and son Jay (now 8) while they were stationed in the United Kingdom. The family moved to Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany seven years later — during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the base ministries were barely running or not running at all. Chapel attendance had dwindled as well.

Chaplain Capt. William Miller arrived at Spangdahlem in 2022 as the lead faith group chaplain for the Protestant community. He collaborated with Reynolds

often to help rebuild and expand the Protestant ministries at Spangdahlem Chapel.

Reynolds stepped up wherever needed — children's ministries, homeschooling programs, Vacation Bible School. She also reached out to women, both military spouses and those in

active service. Having attended Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) since 2016, she became its president in 2022. The organization teaches women how to study the Bible on their own and integrate God into their daily lives.

Reynolds, 43, recalls a ladies Bible study she led during her second year as president. "I sat around a table with about 10 other ladies as they were discussing how this was the first time they had ever opened a Bible for themselves and read it" she says. "It made me emotional because our faith has to have substance to grow. Our lives will not be practically impacted by our hope in Christ if we are only hungry for a surface-level understanding."

"Brandy's ministry perfectly illustrates why chaplains are essential in the military," says Manny Cordero, national director for AGUSM Chaplaincy Ministries. "Every day, we see the clear and urgent need to reach the lost for Christ in military communities."

In addition to PWOC, Reynolds became involved in Planting Roots, a ministry that guides active servicewomen and military wives into a deeper relationship with Christ. "We have spouses across the U.S. and around the world who are dealing with deployments that make them instant single

parents and heads of households for what sometimes ends up being an unknown amount of time," Reynolds explains. "We feel deeply that we can be rooted in our faith, even when life is uncertain and unpredictable."

Because of her various ministries, another base chaplain at Spangdahlem urged Reynolds to enter the civilian specialized military chaplaincy, an AG volunteer program, and obtain ministerial credentials. She pursued this path and became an official chaplain in 2024.

In January 2025, the Spangdahlem Chapel team nominated Reynolds for the Air Force Chaplain Corps' Spirit of the Four Chaplains Award. This honor recognizes non-Chaplain Corps members who embody servanthood, teamwork, and religious freedom reflected in the legacy of the Four Chaplains. *The award commemorates four World War II Army chaplains who gave up their life jackets to save others as the USAT Dorchester sank on Feb. 3, 1943.*



### **Sensitive Nation, names withheld**

Supported by Groton AG

We recently returned to the United States due to Indian government policies that required us to return to our home countries to renew our Indian visas. Please join us as we pray that all will be approved without delay so we can return to India July 6<sup>th</sup>. Prayer needs: India is rated as the 12<sup>th</sup> most dangerous country in the world for Christians. Pray for protection for our family and ministry partners from persecution. Please also pray for financial needs to be met for the construction costs of the Discipleship Center.



### **Sensitive Nation, name withheld**

Supported by Groton AG

What's new? Recently I transferred my work visa from teaching at a private training center to taking on responsibilities as director of handcrafts and online sales at a Business As Mission café. From conversations with unsaved staff and customers to weekly prayer and Bible study with the café manager, the opportunities to minister keep coming at this café.

The BAM (Business As Mission) boss had a hard decision to make recently—to close the branch café by the lake. The challenge was letting go of regular interactions with a couple she had invested so much time and effort in. The husband once walked with the Lord, but he decided to leave his relationship with Jesus because no one else around him was a Christian. There comes a point, however, when you have to "shake the dust off your feet" and move on (Mt 10:14)



### **Fishers, England**

Supported by Groton AG

After massive amounts of immigration paperwork and many prayers, we are excited to FINALLY announce that we have been granted settlement in the United Kingdom. It means we have been given permanent permission to live, work, and study in the country without any time limits or immigration restrictions. We will no longer need to apply for visa extensions. Praise God! We also attended the AG UK National Conference, and we have received over 70 new commitments from existing churches to plant new churches

across Great Britain! Thank you for your faithful support.



### Mike and Tina Hook, Scotland

Supported by Groton AG

We are working toward getting our credentials in Great Britain as well as the United States. We will have dual credentials. There have been a couple of hiccups on that so please pray for us. This year we hosted these outreaches: Highland Lights Children's Choir, Kites Fest, and Easter Egg Hunt. We are planning a Faith-Based community dinner by the end of 2026. We are looking to establish a team here in Scotland to help us. Please pray for this outreach.



## Cheesecake for a Cause

### Adult and Teen Challenge Mid-America

recently took ownership of a local cheesecake restaurant, with proceeds helping to fund its rehabilitation program for women with life-controlling addictions. James Bolin, CEO of Adult and Teen Challenge (ATC) Mid-America, an AG U.S. Missions ministry, left the restaurant and got into his car, shaking his head and laughing to himself. *The absurdity!*

For months, Bolin had been trying to find a

building to establish a fourth ATC thrift store in the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, region to help offset the cost of the new, soon-to-be-opened Deborah's House — an ATC Mid-America-acquired facility being refitted to house and help 25 to 30 women with life-controlling addictions.

But the harder he searched and the more he prayed, it seemed the harder the doors were closed.

And that's when the Holy Spirit stepped into Bolin's conversation. “*What are you doing?*” That's the question that suddenly popped into my mind,” Bolin says. “And then it was like the Holy Spirit began grilling me. He had closed all these doors to what I wanted to do — time after time, closing one door after the other for another thrift shop — and now *He* opens a new door and I do what? Close it?”

As Bolin began to consider the possibility of running a restaurant, he started to realize the opportunities the restaurant presented to the women. “With the restaurant, as we help these women deal with their addictions, we will also be able to provide them with training — giving them experiences in areas that will help them find employment once they graduate from the program.”

Bolin says that people love the idea that when they purchase a meal or indulge in a tasty treat, 100% of the proceeds go to Deborah's House to help rehabilitate young women.

“Deborah's House will open by June 1, 2026,” Bolin says. “The women won't start working at the restaurant until after they've been in the program for four months and have demonstrated good progress in their recovery. Then, we will begin to rotate in the women desiring to work there — training them in the restaurant business.”