

NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the New Dorp Moravian Church is:
To **Grow** in Christ, to **Know** His love, to **Follow** His Footsteps.

CONGREGATION WATCHWORD for 2021

“You are the salt of the earth.” *Matthew 5:13*

The Moravian Church is a Protestant church. Moravians are Trinitarian (God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit), are Christ-centered (affirming the Lordship of Jesus Christ by His life, death and resurrection) and affirm the Old and New Testaments as sacred scripture. Moravians affirm and value the ancient Creeds (e.g. The Apostle’s Creed) but believe that equally important is how we live in relationship with God and others. Moravians have emphasized the sacredness of living our faith rather than just reciting it or preaching it.

If you would like to know more about what a “Moravian” is, are looking for a new church home, or just want to talk with someone about a concern or your faith, Pastor Duane would be glad to speak with you. He can be reached by phone or email to arrange a time.

To contact Pastor Duane, you may call or email him at:

Office Phone: (718) 351-0090. Email: PastorDuane@verizon.net.

For Pastoral emergencies after office hours: (718) 351-4047.

If you have an idea, a suggestion, a concern, or are interest in serving on a committee, please speak with our Pastor or one of the Board members.

Board of Elders:

Stephen Greet (Vice-Chair)
Anna Gaw (Nominating)
Alice Giovanniello-Cohen
Jeremi Amagsila (Worship)
Cara Kay

Kim Loize (Christian Ed.)
Libby Neri
Ellie Wan
Bob Iadarola (Outreach)

Board of Trustees:

Andrew Kay (Chair) (Concerts)
John Gaw (Vice-Chair)
Ruth Carter (Admin)
Debbie Taverna (Finance)
John (Jack) Traut

Dorothy Ambrosino
Joe Rudy (Building & Maint.)
Claire Drinnan (Memorials)
Toni-Ann Fischetti

(Committee Chair)

NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH
2205 RICHMOND ROAD, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306-2557
(718) 351-0090 eMail - Office@NewDorpMoravian.org
Web - www.NewDorpMoravian.org

The Week of February 14-21

GREETINGS! Thank you checking in today to see what is going on (or not going on) here at New Dorp Moravian Church. The reality for all of us is that because of Covid-19 (aka the Corona virus) and the renewed limitations, closings and restrictions, the way we have “always done things”, will be different. There are again some things that we cannot do, and also things that we should not do, to keep ourselves and others safe.

Yet, as we anxiously await the time when we can again hold in-person services and do things we took for granted, we remember that we are the “salt of the earth”, we are the Body of Christ – called to feed, comfort, and encourage – to minister to one another by sharing His Good News.

Help us to BE the Church we have been called to be. Let us know if you, or someone you know has a need – whether that need is physical, financial, emotional or spiritual – and let us learn together how we can minister to address that need. So, if you know of a need, say something:

Call the Church Office and leave a message

for the Office or Pastor Duane (718-351-0090)

or Send us an email: Office@NewDorpMoravian.org

Seeds for Thought.

Today is Transfiguration Sunday. It is traditionally observed on the last Sunday before Lent. During Epiphany, we have been on a journey with Jesus that revealed God’s presence through extraordinary teaching and healing. Today we hear God’s voice, calling us into an even more profound revelation of God’s love. We see hints of the mystery yet to be revealed, and a glimpse of Jesus in all of His splendor. While we are the mountain with Jesus, we can also be filled with the wonder, glory and mystery of God’s presence. Let us consider, too, how this experience will prepare us to travel down the mountain into the coming days of Lent.

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions all of our “face-to-face” worship services, meetings, and events are temporarily suspended.

We look forward to seeing you, worshipping with you and serving Christ with you as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

Our Thanks to this week’s Online Worship Leaders:

- Worship Leader: **Pastor Duane Ullrich**
- Music Director: **Dylan Sauerwald**
- Special Music: **Andrew Kay**
- Video Editor & Tech Advisor: **Andrew Kay**

Church Council 2021

Hopefully by now, all of the members who are on our mailing list has received a copy of the 2020 Financial Reports from Debbie Taverna, our Treasurer. Once again we thank Debbie for her time and talents as our treasurer, especially during this unique time. As indicated in the packet, everyone has about 2 weeks to review the materials and to forward a reason(s) why the Budget that was unanimously recommended by our Joint Board, should not be approved. Due to the snow and storm, the mailing did not take place on time, so, the time for making comments will be extended. If there are no issues raised, the Trustees will formally consider the Budget approved as presented at a future meeting.

Our thanks again to the officers who are continuing to serve under appointment until we can hold an election. After reviewing the eligibility of officers for re-election, we now realize that one Elder and one Trustee have completed their 2nd term in office. Therefore, Andrew Kay (trustee) and Cara Kay (elder) will not be eligible for re-election. We are therefore, in need of at least one new Elder and one new Trustee. If you have a willingness to serve on either of these Boards, please contact the Church Office. Each of these is a 3 year term of office on the Board.

The good news is that the positivity rates on Staten Island are still coming down. The Joint Board will be watching these closely in order to determine when we can resume our in-person services.

2021 Offering Envelopes

The Offering Envelopes for 2021. You may pick them up at the Church Office on Mondays and Thursdays, or by appointment. Until you receive your new envelopes you can continue to mail in your contribution, use your checking account's bill-pay feature, or use the Vanco portal on our website to make an automatic gift to the church. We thank you for your continuing support.

Pastoral Announcement

In the packet with the Treasurer's Report, Pastor Duane included a personal letter regarding the announcement that he has applied for retirement to the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC).

The primary reason for beginning the process at this time is to give the Boards and the congregation more time for the Call process before his requested retirement date of September 30, 2021 with the hope of minimizing the vacancy time between pastors.

The Call Process guidelines state that the process cannot begin in earnest until the PEC approves the request for retirement. This is expected to happen at the February Meeting of the PEC.

Pastor Duane's 65th birthday occurs in December, but to avoid having his retirement coincide with the Christmas holidays, a retirement date at the end of September was requested.

He also believes that while part of our mutual journey in faith and mission will be coming to a close, there is still work for us to do together until it does.

Receiving Communion



If you would like to receive Holy Communion, we can arrange for you to receive a sealed, individual set of the Sacraments. Please leave a message for Pastor Duane on the Church Message system to make arrangements with him.

Office Hours

Until the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted the Church Office will be closed. Please call 718-351-0090 and leave a message if you have a prayer concern, have a question or need assistance.

Office Email: office@newdorp moravian.org

Pastor Duane: pastorduane@verizon.net

Ash Wednesday & Lent

This coming Wednesday, **February 17 is Ash Wednesday**, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Like our Sunday Services, the Ash Wednesday Service will be Live-Stream Only. It will be **Live Streamed at 10 AM**, with taped replay available shortly after the conclusion of the service.

Ash Wednesday usually includes the celebration of **Holy Communion** and the **imposition of ashes**. While these will not be available during the Live-Stream Service, they will be available at the Church.

This will be a drive-thru experience at the front door of the church. Pastor Duane will be placing ashes and giving out individual sets of the communion elements, with approved safety precautions.

They will be distributed from 11am-2pm and again from 5pm to 7pm.

Stewardship

As individuals, one of the things we need to do occasionally is to look ahead and make a plan for our future. This plan will include financial planning – figuring out how much we will earn or receive, and then deciding what you will spend, what you will save, and perhaps, what you will give.

We are grateful to all who have been regular with their giving. Some of you have been mailing in your donations. Others have been using the Giving Portal that can be accessed on our website.

You should have received more information about using the Giving Portal. We believe that on-line giving (e-giving, automatic giving, or any number of terms for this kind of giving) can be a helpful tool for you to use – its easy, safe, its regular, and you don't have to use envelopes and stamps. It also means your donation arrives and is recorded almost immediately. It also helps the church with a more predictable income. And it helps our Counters and Financial Secretary, because it accurately records your donation, and makes their task easier.

Moravian Open Door (MOD)

Thank you for your support of the Moravian Open Door Challenge. Official totals are coming in. Donations to **M.O.D. from NDMC were \$700. Donations from GKMC were \$1,100. These will** be matched by the UBC Central Elders. Thank You for your continuing to support M.O.D., both now and throughout the year.

Grants and Assistance

While there is reason to be hopeful as the Covid-19 vaccine is now available, it doesn't change the reality is that this is still a stressful time for many. Stressful physically, emotionally and financially. We want you to know we are here to help. We may not be able to address every need, but we do have some resources available to assist you.

If you or someone you know needs help with **issues of food, utilities, rent, fuel or other bills**, contact Pastor Duane. He will assist you **confidentially**.

Teacher and Education Grants

The UBC Central Elders have also established a grant program for **any teacher who is a member of an SI Moravian congregation** can apply for a \$100 grant as a recognition that our teachers often make purchases for classroom supplies out of their own pockets. Contact Pastor Duane for more information.

The UBC Central Elders have also established a fund to assist **SI Moravian NYC students with their on-line educational needs**. If a student needs something to help get them on-line, from computers, monitors, keyboards, etc. to software upgrades or internet access, funds are available to help. To find out more about this fund, contact Pastor Duane.

Worship Leaders Wanted/Needed

Since March of last year, our services have been online. We began by remotely recording our services and posted them online. Then we were able to hold in-person services again and started to live-stream the services. And now we are live-stream only. We have learned a lot in the past 9 months. We have added new equipment and technology. And, we have had time practice and experiment. We did what we could, but now we want to “take it up a notch.” We want to add more variety and more participants to our services and our worship team. We would like:

More readers and lectors – We invite you to **read the liturgies and responsive** readings. Or – we invite you to **read the week’s lessons**. For the lessons you don’t have to be here – live. You could have someone record you at your home, or come during the week and be recorded at the church.

More music – We invite you to assist with the music elements of the service. For example, you could:

- **Sing a solo**, (or a duet, trio or quartet)
- **Play an instrumental piece** as a prelude, postlude, or special music.
- **Be part of a small “choir”** that helps lead the singing of the hymns and responses.
- **Suggest a music video to share**- there are a lot videos out there of great inspirational music. We like to add them in once in a while. Just remember, just because we can download it, doesn’t mean that it is free for us to use, as copyrights and permissions may be required.

Office Hours

Until the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted the Church Office will be closed. Please call 718-351-0090 and leave a message if you have a prayer concern, have a question or need assistance.

Office Email: office@newdorpMoravian.org

- Pastor Duane: pastorduane@verizon.net

Prayers:

We pray for all who are dealing with Covid-19. We pray for those who are sick with the virus. We mourn for those who have died, or are dying. We give thanks for the medical community for their dedication to their calling and care for us when risk is high. We give thanks for those who are now administering the approved vaccines. And we give thanks for the “essential services” including the police, fire, sanitation, food providers of all types, gas stations, the producers of medical supplies, and more.

- Prayers for Eugene Isola who recently had surgery for lung cancer.
- Prayers for

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Classes have resumed. We are meeting on Wednesdays at 7:30pm for youth in 7th & 8th grades. This will be an “in-person” class. Masks and Distancing will be observed. A Zoom option can be available.

For more information, contact Pastor Duane.

Online Worship

Our services continue to be online. They are being streamed live, and then “recorded” for you, or others to view at a later time. You can access them by, going to our webpage (www.newdorpMoravian.org) and clicking on the blue button that is the link to our latest service. A link to the latest Bulletin (Order of Service) and Weekly Announcements will also be posted in that same location.