

NEW DORP MORAVIAN

MARCH

CHURCH

2025



Way to Go

Elders

Pastor Walter Bishop*
Carol Bugge
Patrick Carolan
Marla DiForte**
Toni Ann Fischetti
Maria Glorioso
Ed Ranieri, Jr.
Alexandra Romito
Lisa Takoushian
Peter Traut

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Paul Chen
Anna Gaw
Alice Giovanniello-Cohen
Stephen Greet*
Okim Hyon
Robert Iadarola
Richard Simpson
Jack Traut

Central Elders

Joyce Fernandez
Maria Glorioso

Central Trustees

Harold Gerstenlauer
Richard Simpson

Treasurer

Harold Gerstenlauer

Counters

Debbie Bishop
Carol Bugge

* Chair

** Vice-Chair

In the second chapter of Matthew, the account of the visit of the Magi (or wise men) ends with the statement that they went back to their own country by another way. They had come to see Jesus and had found him in Bethlehem. We recall that Joseph and Mary had gone to Bethlehem from Nazareth, and they would later return there, but by another way (via Egypt). Long before these times of Jesus and the Magi, a man of God came to King Jeroboam, and upon leaving the king “...was commanded by the word of the Lord: *You shall not eat food, or drink water, or return by the way that you came.*’ So he went another way, and did not return by the way that he had come to Bethel.” (1 Kings 13:9–10) In the letter of James, we are reminded of Rahab’s interaction with Israelite spies “*For example, Rahab had been a prostitute. But she pleased God when she welcomed the spies and sent them home by another way.*” (James 2:25, CEV)

The above examples of God’s activity leading people to another way are all related to geographical travel, but they have importance to the movement



of our spiritual ancestors and their faith. It is through those movements that we have come to our faith. Recall that the Apostle Paul, speaking of Christian love, told the Corinthians “... *I will show you a much better way.*” (1 Corinthians 12:31) The way of the cross was not the anticipated way by which Jesus of Nazareth would bring salvation.

There are many ways in which followers of Jesus Christ journey forward in our time. About a decade ago, The Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood (scholar, theologian, and historian) once noted that, historically, the Moravian Church in the United States has embraced a variety of methods initiated and successfully used by other denominations. He also noted that the Moravian Church seemed to always adopt those methods after they had become no longer effective. It was another way, but it was too late.

Our congregation should always be prepared to consider other ways – other ways of developing disciples, other ways of using our physical space, other ways of organizing our ministry efforts, other ways of connecting with the community in which we are located. We often resist other ways. The scriptures show us that “other ways” may be more in line with God’s way and God’s will than the way that we might choose for ourselves.

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

(Isaiah 55:8–9, NRSV)

Count Zinzendorf, an 18th century leader of the Moravian Church, “believed that each denomination had a unique perception of Christ, and a unique gift to offer the world.” I believe that this is also true of

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congregations. I believe that New Dorp Moravian has a unique gift to offer the community in which it is situated. I believe that its best way forward will also be unique. Our best way forward will almost certainly not be a straight path in line with the way(s) of our past.

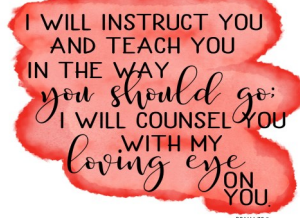
The Magi were led by their God-given dream. Joseph and Mary had their angelic visitations. King Jeroboam's man of God had the word of the Lord to command him. The Israelite spies in Jericho had the gift of the Canaanite prostitute, Rahab, who believed in and feared God, to guide them. We must find God's way forward for our congregation. God will lead us if we will pay close attention. We can learn from and be directed by the experience of others, but we should not, and cannot, duplicate their path. We may find ourselves in unfamiliar territory, but it will not be uncharted territory if we faithfully discern and follow God's leading. As the Lord spoke to Cyrus through Isaiah (Isaiah 45:2), and as Jesus spoke to his disciples (Mark 14:28), so I believe God also speaks to us: *"I will go before you."* May we be led in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

A fellow pathfinder,

Pastor Walter

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolaus_Zinzendorf

A version of this article has been previously published.





**Please help us keep our prayer list current
and notify the church office if changes occur.**

For On-going Concerns: John DiForte, Marie Moser, Dolores Cavallo, Richard Iadorola, Carmel McCarthy, Ida Perez, Barbara Carolan, Linda Griggs, Connie Vadola, Lois Zipf, Libby Neri, Estefania Griggs Luke Downs, Angela Realá.

For those under Hospice Care: Alfred Yee-Litt.

For Healing: Shyanna McKelvin (return of Long Covid), Erik Faraj (complications from serious stroke), Christinjoy Fernandez, Nadira Edwards (stage 4 cancer), Patrick Eng, Joyce Fernandez (treatments for breast cancer), Ruth Madison (undergoing chemotherapy), Phyllis Collins (undergoing cardiac rehab), Meagan Iadarola, Wayne Chase (suffered a severe fall with expected long-term recovery), Stephen Gencarello (undergoing cancer treatment), Deborah Griggs, Alison Griggs, Marla DiForte (broken ankle), Miritza (breast cancer), Ralph Favale, Charlee Cheru and family (Charlee undergoing treatment for childhood leukemia), Doreen Traut (recovering from knee surgery), Theresa & John Sahaj (hospitalized).

Other Concerns: Elijah Griggs (training for Border Patrol), those affected by recent storms and disasters, the family of John Regina, the family of William Hill.

Please remember to pray for our denominational leaders, our Pastor, Board Members, and Committee Chairs as they lead us in the work of the church, and for our church, that we may follow God's call and leading in our service and ministries.



Our Benevolence for the Month is the 2025 Unity Offering

The 2025 Unity Offering has been designated for the Moravian Church in North America to support the project "Common Moravian Theological Curriculum in Spanish."

Through this Unity Prayer Day Offering, the American Board of World Mission (ABWM) will work with the Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT) and Moravian leaders and educators worldwide to produce a common theological training curriculum that can be adapted and used throughout the Unity and starting specifically with our Spanish speaking partners. This curriculum will include training in the Bible and Biblical Languages, Theology and Church History, and Pastoral Theology. Specific courses will be identified with the support of UCOT and other partners.

Each province in the Unity will be provided these resources and translations of existing Moravian resources will also be included. The goals of this effort are to better equip our clergy, to support our Moravian educational institutions, and to promote collaboration between different areas of the Unity.



Trash to Treasure Sale

Join us every **second Saturday** of the month for our Trash to Treasure sale hosted and run by Bob Iadarola. The sale is in our church basement from **10 am until 2 pm** and benefits Outreach and Ministries of the church. If you have any items you would like to donate to Trash to Treasure feel free to call our office at 718-351-0090.



This month: March 8

***We do not accept clothing, linens, or large or heavy furniture items.**



2025 M

Saturday Night, March 8th, Spring Forward

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
2 Transfiguration Sunday 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	3	4 Moravian Day of Giving 7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting	5 
9 First Sunday in Lent 10am Worship/ Holy Communion/SS 11ish Fellowship	10 7:00 Board of Elders Meeting	11	12 10:00 am 1:00 pm
16 Second Sunday in Lent 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	17 7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting 	18	19
23 Third Sunday in Lent 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	24	25	26 10:00 a
30 Fourth Sunday in Lent/Unity Prayer Day (Observed) 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	31 7:00 pm Joint Board Meeting		

MARCH



The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come.
Song of Solomon 2:12, NRSV

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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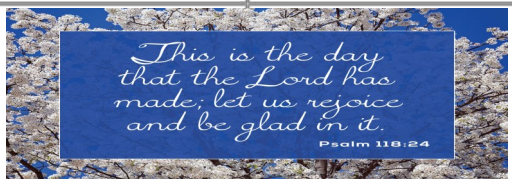
			<p>1 March 1, 1457, Beginning of the Unity of the Brethren in Bohemia (Founding of the Unity)</p>
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 <p>Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Trash to Treasure Sale 10 am—2 pm</p>
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<p>pm Sonrisers St. Cecelia Concert</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Vanderbilt Community Dinner 4 pm—6:30 pm</p>
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	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
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<p>pm Sonrisers</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
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This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

From the Elders

As is typical, our meeting began with a devotion, a review of the minutes of the previous meeting, and a distribution of any relevant documents. Newly elected members of the Elders were welcomed. A Moravian history teaching opportunity was discussed. The Elders elected to continue membership in the Staten Island Conference of Churches (SICOC). Use of social media platforms to communicate with others about the life and activities in the church was discussed. Unity Prayer Day scheduling for March 30 was noted as was the Easter Egg Hunt on April 19. Conversations continue on developing ministries for our youth and children and how we might create the best opportunities for families with young children to participate in the life of the church in ways that are meaningful for them. The meeting closed with prayer.



As you know, we can still have chilly weather here through the spring months. Because of this we will be collecting Spring Jackets/Hoodies for all ages through mid-June to be distributed at the Vanderbilt Community Dinners. Please place your donations in the box located in the hallway after entering the office wing. Thank you for continuing to share the gift of warmth with our community.



MARCH
Birthdays

2	Erin Schuler	18	Cody Fox
3	Eric Hoppe	18	Scott Fox
4	William Steiner	18	Sean Fox
5	Sean Sandhu	19	Charlotte Sanchez
6	Bridgette Marten	22	David Kelter
7	Joyce Fernandez	23	Alison Salvaggio
8	Margaret Marrone	24	Jose Amagsila
10	Robyn Busan	26	Nicholas Brown
10	Sylvia Engelbrecht	30	Jack Harkin
16	Heather James		



MARCH
Anniversaries

24 Carleen & Sal Bruzzese 1996



Community Meal

The Moravian Churches of Staten Island

invite you to come to our free community dinner.

Vanderbilt Moravian Church, 285 Vanderbilt Ave

Every 3rd Saturday of the month

from 4:00pm to 6:30pm.

The next Dinner is March 15.

The Free Community Dinner at VAMC is distributed as a takeout. For more Information, contact the Church Office by phone or email.

Sonrisers Group

The Sonrisers are a prayer and card ministry group that generally meet two Wednesdays out of the month in the Conference Center.

All are welcome to participate and/or submit prayer requests.

This month's meeting schedule is as follows:

March 12 10:00 am

March 26 10:00 am





JOIN NEW DORP MORAVIAN
CHURCH FOR AN



Easter Egg Hunt



APRIL 19, 2025

SESSION 1: 10 AM- 12 PM

SESSION 2: 1 PM- 3 PM

**FIRST CHILD IS \$10, EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD IS \$7
FOR TICKETS CALL (718) 351-0090 OR EMAIL
OFFICE@NEWDORPMORAVIAN.ORG**

MEET THE EASTER BUNNY AND ENJOY
SNACKS, REFRESHMENTS, AND PRIZES

2205 RICHMOND RD
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306



New Dorp Moravian

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2205 Richmond Road

Staten Island, New York 10306-2557

Newsletter is also available to read on our website.

The Rev. Walter Bishop, Pastor



CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE: 718-351-0090

OFFICE@NEWDORPMORAVIAN.ORG

WWW.NEWDORPMORAVIAN.ORG

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