

NEW DORP MORAVIAN

AUGUST

CHURCH

2025



Mysteries and Parades

Someone once asked me who was usually the first to arrive at church on Sunday mornings. If I remember correctly, the question was asked because something that usually happens every Sunday morning did not happen on that particular Sunday morning. I gave my very best answer to the question: I do not know who is first to arrive, because it isn't me! On that Sunday morning when that particular thing which usually happens did not, I think that the several persons who often shared those particular duties or tasks were absent on the same day. Everything worked out alright, anyway. But there was at least a small element of surprise that the thing which usually happened did not. You might even say that a mystery was uncovered. Church can be a mysterious place.

Of course, we probably expect mysteries in the church. God is present and God can (and does) do things and make things happen that are very mysterious to us. We have the testimony of the scriptures to tell us of the mysteries of God in the past, and we have one another's testimonies of how God is mysteriously working amongst us, today. But there are still other mysteries to consider in our church.



Elders

Pastor Walter Bishop*

Carol Bugge

Patrick Carolan

Maria DiForte**

Toni Ann Fischetti

Maria Glorioso

Ed Ranieri, Jr.

Alexandra Romito

Peter Traut

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Dorothy Ambrosino**

Paul Chen

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Richard Simpson

Jack Traut

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Richard Simpson

Treasurer

Harold Gerstenlauer

Counters

Carol Bugge

Anna Gaw

* Chair

** Vice-Chair

Who puts the water bottle in the water cooler? Who sharpens the pencils in the pews? Who changes the burned out light bulbs? How do supplies “magically” appear in cabinets and drawers? How and when do messages appear on our signs and bulletin boards? How do our gifts of food disappear from our facility and reappear where hungry folks know to ask for help? We could set up cameras like they do on those TV shows about “Unexplained Phenomena” to solve these mysteries. Sometimes, though, we like our mysteries. Sometimes we would rather not find out the logic and truth behind mysterious events.

If you take a few minutes to think about it, you probably really know how these “mysterious” things happen around our church. There are no “repair fairies.” There is not a “supplies wizard” that makes things appear out of nowhere with the wave of a magic wand. There are no dwarfs with quirky names making coffee (Sleepy?), making small repairs (Doc?), or helping to mend relationships (Happy?). There is, however, what might be called a “quiet parade” of persons that move through our buildings, across our landscape, and through our community. There is no fanfare for this parade, no brass band playing peppy tunes, no sequin-adorned figures brightly calling attention to themselves. This “quiet parade” marches on through every season. And while it is quiet, and sometimes (usually?) unnoticed, were that parade to suddenly come to a complete stop, we would all certainly take immediate notice.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who marches in the “quiet parade.” You know who you are. Some of you don’t want to take any credit for what you are doing, but thank you anyway. You know what your motives are. I like to think that your principal motive is serving Jesus Christ and the community that gathers in this place to worship and to live and serve as children of God. I pray that the work you do as you march in the “quiet parade” brings you joy and happiness. And I hope that you never feel unappreciated or taken for granted, though it is much too easy for us to do that.

As I mentioned before, sometimes we like our mysteries. Sometimes we would rather not find out what really is happening. Too often, we like our mysteries unsolved because then we are off the hook for showing appreciation and gratitude. When we don’t know how it happens, we don’t worry about taking some responsibility for our part in the parade.

We just let the magic happen. But remember, it isn't magic. It is God's people who love being a part of this faith community and love seeing it succeed who march in the "quiet parade." It is people who have gifts and talents, or who just have a willingness to step right up and do whatever they can that make these things happen. I want to ask each member of the congregation to take a little bit of time to look around and see the many things that happen when we are not all watching. I hope that even those of you who march in the "quiet parade" will look at your fellow marchers to be reminded that you are not alone. Marching alone is really not a parade, anyway, is it?

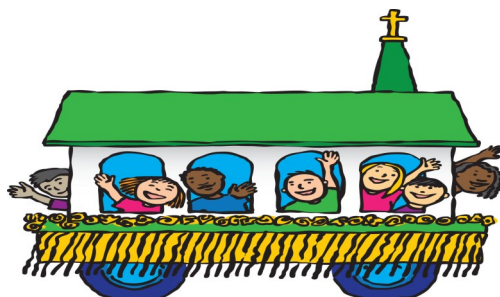
There is a lot going on here where New Dorp, Grant City, and Todt Hill all come together. This is where our unique parade route begins and ends. By the way, there is plenty of room for more people in the great parade of worship, service, and caring. Honestly, if you aren't marching in the parade (quietly or loudly) I think you are missing out on something good.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6, NRSV)

Enjoying the parade,

Pastor Walter

(A version of this article has been previously published elsewhere.)



JOIN THE Parade!

SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!

What you need:

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)



What you do:

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!

The Lord is my light
and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

— Psalm 27:1, NIV



Puzzle!

A FATHER'S INSTRUCTION

Although babies don't come with instructions, God tells parents how to raise their children.

Directions: Fill in the blanks with letters, using the number grid to find the correct coordinates. The first number goes across, the second one goes down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	a	L	d	i	j	g	r
2	m	b	o	k	h	u	s
3	e	n	c	x	t	p	f

2,2 7,1 4,1 2,3 6,1 5,3 5,2 1,3 1,2

6,2 6,3 4,1 2,3 5,3 5,2 1,3

5,3 7,1 1,1 4,1 2,3 4,1 2,3 6,1 1,1 2,3 3,1

4,1 2,3 7,2 5,3 7,1 6,2 3,3 5,3 4,1 3,2 2,3

3,2 7,3 5,3 5,2 1,3 2,1 3,2 7,1 3,1

Ephesians 6:4, NIV




Elders Report from July 2025 meeting: The Elders had a meeting scheduled for July 14. Not enough board members attended to constitute a quorum so no official votes were able to be taken. The heavy rain at the time of the meeting may have contributed to the low level of attendance. A devotion was presented to open the meeting. Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. Future events on the church calendar were reviewed and discussed. Some discussion was shared on the topic of recommending board size reduction at our next congregational council in January with a notation that since board members seem in favor of the change, it might be wise to not fill current board vacancies. Some discussion was held on the suggestion that New Dorp host fellowship time with refreshments following the UBC Annual meeting. Ideas were shared around the possibility of holding Vacation Bible School next summer. Members present folded coloring books for sharing at the National Night Out event coming up on August 5. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Joint Board Report June 2025: The Joint Board had a meeting scheduled for June 30. Too few members were present to meet quorum requirements. Joint Board meetings have been being held quarterly over the last several years. The last three quarters, the Joint board has been unable to successfully hold a meeting and is currently without a vice-chair. Conversations were held and ideas shared at the June 30 gathering. Thoughts were shared about who might make an appropriate vice-chair, about potentially reducing the size of our boards, and about the opportunity to welcome representatives from the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America (MMFA) to help us think about stewardship and financial perspectives. An invitation to be a scripture reader at the NY Moravian Churches John Hus Festival gathering was shared, with no takers.

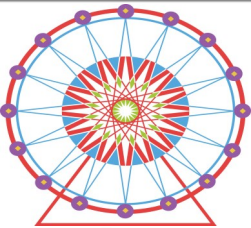
Submitted by Pastor Bishop



2025 A

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 8th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship	4	5 Outreach Committee participating in National Night Out	6 6:00 pm D Movie N
10 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/ Communion 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship	11 7:00 Board of Elders Meeting	12	13 August 1 Fest 10:00 am 6:00 pm Movie N
17 10th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship	18 7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting	19	20 6:00 pm and Mo
24 11th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship	25 	26	27 10:00 am 6:00 pm Movie N
31 12th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship			

AUGUST



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2
Dinner and Night	7	8	9 Trash to Treasure  10:00 am—2:00 pm
Thirteenth Festival	14	15	16 Vanderbilt Community Meal  4:00 pm—6:30 pm
Dinner Movie Night	21	22	23
Sonrisers Dinner and Night	28	29	30
			

Our Benevolence for the Month of August is Global Medical Relief Fund's DARE TO DREAM HOUSE

Located in Staten Island, the Global Medical Relief Fund has been around for over 26 years to assist children. Founded by Elissa Montanti, the charity has arranged over 1,500 medical visits in the US from 59 countries, including the US.

Children from these countries may be wounded from war, natural disasters, or born with disabilities that cannot be addressed in their country. Those needing artificial limbs need continuous care throughout their teens due to growth and the need for new prosthetics. GMRF is committed to each child until the age of 21.

The Dare to Dream House provides room and board to children and their families while they are in the US for treatment. Their stay there is a time of healing, both physically and emotionally.

Help support this wonderful charity with your giving this month so they may continue to serve those in desperate need of help.



Movie Nights continue this month through Wednesday, August 27, at 6:00 pm. Come, join us for dinner, and some mid-week entertainment!

(Please note that movie titles can not be advertised due to copyright restrictions.)



3	Eliana Machado	17	Domenick Ciccone
4	Ellen Hoydal	20	Christopher Sibbio, Jr.
4	Philip Raia	21	Brittany (Bugge) Lagala
5	Mary Ellen Burtner	21	Libby Neri
6	Dylan Zipf	21	Peter Traut
6	Mary Searl	22	Olivia Delmar
9	Jane McCord	22	Henry Anderson
9	John (Jack) Traut	24	Jackie Passburg
11	Christine Brown	24	Sharon Merolo
12	Marilou Amagsila	25	Dolores Cavallo
13	Ronaldrey Budhi	25	Alice Carolan
15	Donna Rettle	28	David Machado
17	Brian Bartiromo	29	Dom Ciccone
17	Karen Passburg	29	Peter Jones



5	Suzanne & Alfredo Nasti	2007
14	Sarah & David Machado	2023
19	Angie & Daniel Master	1995
21	Christine & Kevin Brown	1971
24	Jillian & Nicholas Bazzoni	2013
31	Kelly & Timothy Brown	2002



The monthly **Trash to Treasure Sale** will take place

Saturday, August 9, from 10 am—2 pm.

Please note, we will not be receiving donations during the month of August in order to allow Bob (and crew) to take some much needed time off and also get things organized for the fall.

Thanks for understanding!

Sonrisers Group

The Sonrisers are a prayer and card ministry group that generally meets 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:

August 13 10:00 am

August 27 10:00 am





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

For On-going Concerns: John DiForte, Dolores Cavallo, Richard Iadorola, Carmel McCarthy, Barbara Carolan, Linda Griggs, Connie Vadola, Lois Zipf, Libby Neri, Estefania Griggs, Charlee Cheru and family (Charlee undergoing treatment for childhood leukemia.)

For Healing: Nadira Edwards (stage 4 cancer), Joyce Fernandez (treatments for breast cancer), Megan Iadarola, Carol Bugge (cancer), Michael Cericola (undergoing chemotherapy for brain cancer), Diane Serrano (cancer), Irene Malley, Maria Metzger (still in the hospital recovering from cancer surgery), Debbie Lotito (suffering from severe, chronic pain), Megan Poljak (recent breast cancer diagnosis), Jean DelBagno (vision problems), Domenic Denaro (recovering from a fall), Dawn Mormile (recovering from surgery), Stephan Andrews, Arlene Bonamo (broken shoulder), Kevin Goodman (cancer, Carol Bugge's brother), friends of Carol Grande, family and friends of Alfred Yee-Litt.

Other Concerns: Those affected by recent storms and disasters, for leaders here and throughout the world to seek solutions for peace and justice, and an end to all war.

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.

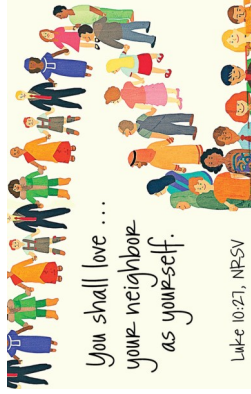
New Dorp Moravian

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The Rev. Walter Bishop, Pastor



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