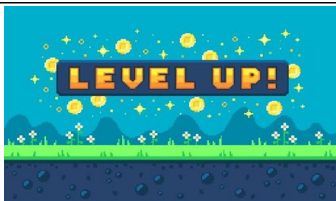


NEW DORP MORAVIAN

SEPTEMBER

CHURCH

2025



Level Up

- *To advance or improve (oneself, someone else, or something) in or as if in a game.*
- *Leveling up means to set strategic goals that allow you to enhance your life and/or others lives around you.*
- *Anyone who has grown up with video games knows that a lot of them come with a structural hierarchy of progress. You find the tomb, you defeat the monster, you collect the loot and maybe the clue to the next part of the journey, and then you move on to the next level. It's a simple, graspable way to assess where you are in contrast with where you need to be.*

Many Christians (most?) can identify events or moments in their spiritual journey in which they have increased their faith or knowledge or capacity to serve. They probably do not use the term, but they have "leveled up." Sometimes these occasions are by intent: we take a class, we read a book, →

Elders

Pastor Walter Bishop*

Carol Bugge

Patrick Carolan

Marla DiForte**

Toni Ann Fischetti

Maria Glorioso

Ed Ranieri, Jr.

Alexandra Romito

Peter Traut

Trustees

Dorothy Ambrosino**

Paul Chen

Anna Gaw

Alice Giovanniello-Cohen

Stephen Greet*

Robert Iadarola

Richard Simpson

Jack Traut

Central Elders

Joyce Fernandez

Maria Glorioso

Central Trustees

Harold Gerstenlauer

Richard Simpson

Treasurer

Harold Gerstenlauer

Counters

Steve Greet

Barbara Impallaria

* Chair

** Vice-Chair

we join a small group, etc. Other times, these occasions of leveling up seem random: an accident happens, a person serves as an inspiration in the midst of their trauma, one's path crosses that of another who contributes something that we've not known was missing. Quite a few times I've heard someone say, "It was the most difficult thing I've ever experienced, but I wouldn't change it for anything because it brought me closer to God." Yes, even our worst times can bring us to level up.

I am thankful for the ways that God has prepared me to serve in the calling that God has placed before me. I've been to seminary. I've taken Continued Education classes. I've been to counseling. I've made mistakes from which I've learned. I've sat with the sick and dying – family, friends, parishioners, and strangers. I've taught classes and learned new things in preparation to lead other learners. I've seen truly good and lovely people crash and burn, and I've learned from watching their errors unfold. I've also learned by watching some folks flourish and bring others along with them.

Here's the thing: I've still got so much to learn. There's a part of a hymn that I heard some years ago that rings true for me on every occasion of my hearing it. *"I'm not what I ought to be. I'm better than I used to be. I'm getting better all the time."* I continue to grow and learn and develop. I hope that will remain true until I leave this mortal life behind.

At church board meetings, I sometimes inquire of board members as to what they are doing to "level up" their leadership skills and abilities. I offer resources from time to time. Leveling up is not just for pastors and board members. It's for you, too! What are you doing to lift your spiritual journey to the next level? Here's an opportunity: On September 14, there will be a Inquirers/New Members/Member Refresher class beginning. It will be on Sundays after worship and a brief time of Fellowship. Location will depend on the number of participants, but join me in the outer Pastor's Office to start. Bring your refreshments with you. I'd like to know in advance how many to plan for, so please let me know if you intend to join the class. It should run about an hour each time.



If we get parents of young children involved, we will work on child care and/or nursery availability. You can begin preparing for the class by reading “The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living” It can be found online at <https://www.moravian.org/2018/06/moravian-covenant-for-christian-living/> or I can give you a paper copy.

As individuals and as a congregation, let’s LEVEL UP together!

With Hope,

Pastor Walter Bishop

¹<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/level%20up>

²Valencia Andrews, Certified Business Coach and Consultant at She Makes Moves Enterprises, LLC via <https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-meaning-of-level-up>

³<https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/level-up-video-game-usage-phrase>

⁴“I’m Getting Better All the Time” Written by Major Robinson. Performed by The Blind Boys of Alabama. Nonesuch/Warner Records.

Level Up graphic copyright AdobeStock_343626287. Used by permission.



The Staten Island Moravians’ Picnic

This fun event will be on Saturday, September 27, 12 pm—4 pm, in, and around, the Parish House. Tickets are \$10.00 with no charge for children age 11 and under. Catered meal, games, and fellowship. Bring your lawn chair!

**Get your ticket now from Maria Glorioso
so there will be an accurate count!**

See you there!

**Elders Report from July 2025 meeting:**

The Elders gathered on August 11 with seven members present. A devotion was presented to open the meeting. Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed. Future events on the church calendar were reviewed and discussed. Composition of the Nominating Committee was discussed and two Elders were joined to that group. Northern Province Synod 2026 was discussed. Ongoing discussion was held around the idea that New Dorp could host fellowship time with refreshments following the UBC Annual meeting. Ideas were shared with the hope of holding Vacation Bible School (VBS) next summer, perhaps as a joint venture with other Moravian churches on the island. A new Area Director of Faith Formation appointed by the Eastern District Executive Board for our area begins work at the end of August. He is from the Great Kills congregation and his name is Todd Hallett. We agreed to engage Todd around the idea of joint VBS. Thoughts on how we welcome folks among us at our various events and what our expectations might be for them were expressed. A gender inclusion training opportunity was shared (this will be required of all Northern Province clergy). The meeting was closed with prayer.

Prepared by Pastor Walter Bishop
New Dorp Moravian Church

Trustees Report

During the months of June and July the Trustees had overseen the new ADA bathroom installation for the Parish House, which has now been completed. Our Trash to Treasure (T-T) outreach program has realized the best performance over the past 3 months with this past month realizing approximately \$1300. We have also seen several frequent T to T visitors attending our Sunday Services. Bob Iadorola had an associated yard sale resulting in sales that he adjusted between NDMC and a donation to Tunnel to Towers on behalf of NDMC. He has also connected with the New Hope Christian Church in West Brighton

and as a result they had received baby goods and general medicine cabinet type supplies. New Dorp Moravian Church yard signs are now available and a donation for the sign would be appreciated. The last of the clothing from our past clothing drives have been delivered to Ghana for distribution. Fire extinguishers have been inspected in the church buildings and Parish House and those requiring replacement are under a contract currently in place for inspection and replacement as needed. An updated Fire Alarm Panel for the church has been approved and will be installed over the next month. The UBC will be providing the funding. Parish House rentals continue to do well and a Vendor Display Rental went very well. The organizers are looking to expand their involvement in future events. A new Boiler has been installed in the Parish House and the expense will be paid for by the UBC.

Prepared by Steve Greet
Chair, Board of Trustees





**New Dorp Moravian
Church Fair**
Saturday
Nov. 8th, 2025
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
2205 Richmond Road,
Staten Island, NY 10306

If interested in being a
vendor
Contact Edward Ranieri,
646-823-6007,
office@newdormoravian.org or
New Dorp Moravian Church,
718-351-0090



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1 	2 7:00pm Outreach Committee Mtg.	3
7 13th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/Holy Communion 11ish Coffee/Fellowship	8 7:00 Board of Elders Meeting	9	10 10:00 am
14 14th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/SS 11ish Coffee/Fellowship— Inquirers'/New Members' Class	15 7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting	16	17
21 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/SS 11ish Coffee/Fellowship— Inquirers'/New Members' Class	22 	23	24 10:00 am
28 16th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/SS 11ish Coffee/Fellowship— Inquirers'/New Members' Class	29 7:00 Joint Board Meeting	30	

SEPTEMBER 2025



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	4	5	6
Sonrisers	11 	12	13  Trash to Treasure 10am—2pm
	18	19	20 Vanderbilt Community Meal 4:00pm-6:30pm
Sonrisers	25	26	27  Staten Island Moravians' Picnic 12pm-4pm
			



BOARD OF
WORLD MISSION
of the Moravian Church • North America

Our Benevolence for the Month of September is *MORAVIAN DISASTER RESPONSE (MDR)*

The MDR program of the Board of World Mission coordinates short-term mission efforts that support our partner provinces in times of need, as well as areas within our own borders where help in projects would be beneficial. Work crews have helped with repairs to buildings, placement of solar systems, replacement of hangars, and construction of churches and parsonages.

In addition to helping with ongoing needs in our provinces, BWM provides funds and teams to assist with ongoing disaster relief, both globally and within our borders.

The Board of World Mission recognizes that we cannot adequately mount a first-response in the face of a current disaster, and we generally focus on more long-term efforts to provide help with repairs. When a disaster occurs, our MDR coordinator will post a notice to the congregations to make them aware of any relief teams that might be forming.

We encourage that donations to cover disaster relief needs be designated for our general disaster relief account and not for a specific concern so that any excess might be used for subsequent needs.



2	Charles Hulsizer	22	Isla Penfold
4	Kyla Rumney	24	Michael Kelter
5	Erica McCord	24	Alfredo Nasti
5	Lorraine Meyer	24	Christine Wilson
5	Joseph Simone	25	Nancy Tomasuolo
8	Lillian Slevin	26	Janine Pinto
12	Madeline Bazzoni	27	Harrison Gerstenlauer
13	Michael Godoy	28	Courtney Hulsizer
14	Carleen Bruzzese	28	Jeff Bollinger
14	Reese Isola	29	Joan Ciccone
14	David Burtner	29	Bob Iadarola
16	Pamela Kelter	29	Janet James
22	Alice Giovanniello- Cohen	30	Fred Connell
22	Suzanne Nasti		



5	Christine & Stephen Reich	1998
5	Kim & Jean Loize	2004
7	Charles & Courtney Hulsizer	2019
11	Lorraine & Rolf Meyer	1982
12	Melody & Manny Sandhu	1999
20	Theresa & Nassef Dewidar	1991
30	Doreen & Peter Traut	1989



The monthly **Trash to Treasure Sale** will take place
Saturday, September 13, from 10 am—2 pm.

Donations may be made at the church any time but please note we do not accept clothes, linens, or heavy/large furniture.

If you have questions you may call the church office at 718-351-0090.

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:

September 10 10:00 am

September 24 10:00 am





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

For On-going Concerns: 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, Debbie Lotito (suffering from severe, chronic pain), Jean DelBagno (vision problems), Arlene Bonamo (broken shoulder), Megan Poljak (undergoing radiation for breast cancer), Jennifer Fitzpatrick (breast cancer), Dorothy Ambrosino (recovering from surgery), Marla DiForte, Deborah Griggs, Vigdis Hill (hospitalized), Mike (recovering from surgery), Maria Metzger (undergoing chemotherapy), John DiForte (upcoming surgery), Jackie Passburg (in rehab), the family of Jesse Campbell, Lauren Mormile.

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

Everyone involved in the school system in teaching, guiding, and keeping children safe, and children returning to school.

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, and help those who come to us seeking, find whatever they need.

New Dorp Moravian

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Newsletter is also available to read on our website.

The Rev. Walter Bishop, Pastor



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