NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH 2026

January



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

Trustees
Dorothy Ambrosino**
Paul Chen
Anna Gaw
Alice Giovanniello-Cohen
Stephen Greet*
Robert ladarola
Richard Simpson
Jack Traut

Central Elders
Joyce Fernandez
Maria Glorioso

Central Trustees
Harold Gerstenlauer
Richard Simpson

<u>Treasurer</u> Harold Gerstenlauer

Counters
Carol Bugge
Anna Gaw

* Chair ** Vice-Chair





American Express ads told us, in the late 80s and early 90s, that "membership has its privileges." They were, of course, talking about the advantages of being a "cardmember." The terms "cardholder" or "account holder" were apparently insufficient for the message that they were intending. I gather that they were intending for folks to understand that being a cardmember put one in a higher or more elite class of people. There are other organizations with exclusive or limited membership whose memberships are coveted by some for the status and/or privilege that is conferred or indicated. Some organizations have very low requirements for membership. Often the sole requirement is the paying of the membership fees or dues.

Church organizations and congregations have membership requirements that vary widely. Some are very strict, while others are very loose. A former coworker told me that the church he attended required tithing ten percent of income, which was substantiated by each member being required to provide a copy of their Federal Tax Return each year. Wow! How many of us would care for that? A study some years back showed that churches with the highest requirements (financial or otherwise)

for achieving and maintaining membership in the church were the fastergrowing churches. Some churches rarely remove members from their rolls, unless they pass away. Others keep a pretty close eye on some very specific requirements and regularly remove members who do not continue to meet those requirements.

Does church membership have its privileges? There are some privileges attached to membership at New Dorp Moravian. An adult, communicant member may vote at Church Council, serve on the Board of Elders or Board of Trustees, serve on a United Brethren's Church on Staten Island Board, participate in District and Provincial Synods when elected, and may have burial privileges in our graveyard. I also like to think that there are other advantages, too. While we try to always welcome anyone into this community of faith, I think those who choose membership are making a commitment to the life and work of the congregation and have a deeper sense of connectedness and commitment. The congregation also benefits when it knows who is committed to the community and who is prepared to invest time and energy into the efforts of the faith community. Membership has its privileges, but it also has its obligations. The Christian faith is not meant to be lived in isolation, but in community. Church membership is not the only way to be in Christian community, but it is an important way of being in community and of joining together the various gifts that God gives to individuals for more effective discipleship, ministry, and witness. In building strong disciples, effecting meaningful ministry, and displaying strong witness, both the congregation of which one is a part, and the individual who is an active member benefit. The rewards of actively participating in a Christ-centered and service-oriented congregation are too numerous to list here. But they are real, and they are valuable.

I want to be sure to add here that church membership is not a requirement for salvation. Check out the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, verse 16 (which is only one of many such verses). For many of us who believe in and follow Jesus Christ, church attendance, participation, and membership are natural ways of living into our faith and further developing ourselves spiritually. It is true that most of us are sometimes more committed and sometimes less. We are sometimes full of energy, and sometimes not. Our faith is strong on some days, and not so strong on others. Sometimes we get our feelings hurt. Sometimes we just get lazy. In the midst of all of that, I think we all benefit from and long for a sense of being part of a committed, loving community living in the light of an awesome God.

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I encourage you to take some time to prayerfully consider your church membership. If you haven't joined already, is it time? If you are a long-time member, are you participating in a way that builds you up and builds up the community? Do you feel disconnected and want to be reconnected? (We can try to help you with that, if that is the case!) My hope for each person that reads this is for their spiritual health and well-being. I believe that we do that first by tending to our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. I also hope that each one will have a sense of place in a Christian community in which everyone understands that they are both recipient of and conduit for God's great gifts.

I also want to ask you to be in prayer for the elected leadership of our Congregation. Along with their other responsibilities, they are charged with reviewing and updating the membership rolls of the church. They must consider that healthy congregations have voting members who are actively involved in the life and work of the congregation. They have tough decisions to make as they strive to faithfully fulfill their obligations and work to keep the New Dorp Moravian Congregation actively serving its purpose – to be a part of the Body of Christ on Earth.

Serving beside you,

Pastor Walter

(This article has been previously published.)

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.

The schedule for this month:

January 14 10:00 am January 28 10:00 am

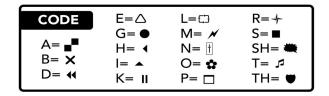


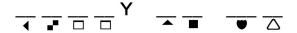


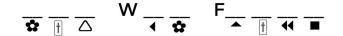
TRANSLATE GOD'S WORD

The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.

"Translate" the verse below using the code.







Proverbs 3:13



Elders Report from December 2025 meeting

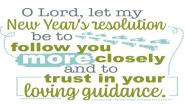
The Elders gathered on November 10 with five members present. A devotion was presented by Pastor Walter to open the meeting. Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. A staff/employee vacancy was addressed. Progress was noted on a variety of ongoing ministry concerns (Youth, Children, etc.). Upcoming seasonal worship special features were reviewed. Events in the past month were reviewed with appreciation and hope for future such events (Christmas Fair, Meal for Collegiate Council, etc.). A time of study and self-reflection around personal/individual giftedness and service was held. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Prepared by Pastor Walter Bishop

Board of Trustees Report from December 2025 meeting:

During the month of November into December the Parsonage underwent an entire window replacement, 42 in all. There is additional work needed to replace water damage to the framing and some mold removal. Trash and Treasure has significantly increased in the number of visitors and in the amount of money collected. This appears to be a new constant for the upcoming year. On January 17th there will be a clothing swap sponsored by TT and organized by Bob. Our insurance company has inspected our Sanctuary, conference center and office space and found all to be in compliance. Several Parish House lights were replaced in the Main Hall. Our Fire alarm panel installation continues to require additional programming which should be completed within the next week. Thanks to Bob we have the small tree at the front of the church decorated for Christmas along with a newly installed angel and manger scene. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our church community.

Prepared by Steve Greet, Chair Board of Trustees



2026 JA

	SUNDAY		MONDAY	TUESDAY	V	WEDN
4	Second Sunday after Christmas 10am Worship/SS/ Holy Communion 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship	5		7:00pm Outreach Committee Mtg.	7	
11	First Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship/SS 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship	12	7:00 Board of Elders Meeting	13	14	0:00 am \$
18	Second Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship/SS 11ish Coffee/ Fellowship	19	7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting	20	21	Newsl Dead 9:0
25	Third Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship/SS 11ish Church Council/Coffee/ Fellowship	26		27	28 1	0:00 am !

NUARY



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ESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Happy New Mear!	2	3
	8	9	Trash to Treasure 10 am - 2 pm
Sonrisers	15	16	Vanderbilt Community Meal 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
etter line 0am	22	23	24
Sonrisers	29	30	31 ******



Our Benevolence for the Month is Wings of Mercy

Wings of Mercy is an aviation ministry of the Moravian Church in Honduras that serves the Miskito people living in the coastal lowlands of Eastern Honduras.

Due to the lack of accessible roadways in that region, Wings of Mercy transports people by air in need of emergency medical care to the Ahuas medical clinic. They also transport pastors, missionaries, church workers, and others who travel to these remote villages.

Formerly recognized as the Missionary Aviation Fellowship, it was founded in 1945 to provide access for mission to otherwise inaccessible areas. Altogether, they operate a fleet of 46 light aircraft from 17 bases across eight countries in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, and Latin America. Pilots save valuable travel time and cover seemingly impossible distances in minutes or hours compared to days by foot, road, or river. Each year, they fly over two million nautical miles to speed the work of some 600 Christian and humanitarian organizations. Flights support indigenous churches, create access to medical care, provide disaster relief, and make community development projects possible, in some of the most remote places on earth.





3	Carter Sibbio	15	Maria Glorioso
5	Dominick Tomasuolo	18	Heather Gaw
7	Annika Harkin	21	Ermel Abdul-Halim
12	Evangeline Carolan	21	Charles Schneiweis
12	Cristine Zipf	23	Bobby Meachem
14	Jason Hoppe	28	Moriah Ruiz
14	Michelle Rumney	29	Ruth Carter



4 Frank & Debbie Taverna 1969

14 Nick & Rosie Anderson 2018



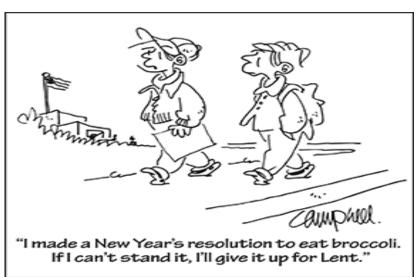
Our annual Church Council will be held Sunday, January 25, following worship.



Please have year end reports in the office by Monday, January 12th.

This will allow time to prepare the report packet for distribution on Sunday, January 18th following worship. If you need a copy of last year's report, please let the office know. Reports not received by Monday, January 12th, may not be included in the distribution. In addition to receiving reports and approving budgets; there will be elections of members to serve on both the New Dorp Moravian Church and Central Boards of Trustees and Elders, in addition to other positions. If you have interest in serving please let the nominating committee know (Alice Chin, Deborah Griggs, Anna Gaw, Ed Ranieri, Jr. and Peter Traut.)

Many thanks to those who are completing their terms.





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), John DiForte, Jean DelBagno, Michael Cericola, Jackie Passburg, Debbie Lotito.

For Healing: Joyce Fernandez (treatment for breast cancer), Carol Bugge, Marla DiForte, Maria Metzger (undergoing chemotherapy), Robin Lawson (surgery/treatment of throat), Alana Guarino, Van Takoushian (diagnosed with partial heart failure), Patrick Eng, Megan Poljak (treatment for breast cancer), Karen Ortado (uterine cancer), Deborah Griggs (in rehab), Dawn Mormile, Shirley Parson, Peter Jones, Theresa & John Sahaj, John Jacoby (recovering from surgery), Charlotte Goldgrabe (recovering from hospital stay), Lauren Mormile (comfort during the holidays), Michele Ward, the family of Larry Schwabacher (Donald Schwabacher's brother who recently passed away), the family of Mary Rumney (who recently passed away), and victims of the recent violent tragedies that have occurred here and abroad.

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.

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

Published Monthly by New Dorp Moravian Church 2205 Richmond Road Staten Island, New York 10306-2557 The Rev. Walter Bishop, Pastor

Newsletter is also available to read on our website.



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