

# NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH

March

2026



# March

## Elders

Pastor Walter Bishop\*

Carol Bugge

Patrick Carolan

Marla DiForte\*\*

Toni Ann Slevin

Maria Glorioso

Ed Ranieri, Jr.

Alexandra Romito

Peter Traut

## Trustees

Jose Amagsila

Dorothy Ambrosino\*\*

Anna Gaw

Alice Giovanniello-Cohen

Stephen Greet\*

Robert Iadarola

Richard Simpson

## Central Elders

Joyce Fernandez

Maria Glorioso

## Central Trustees

Harold Gerstenlauer

Richard Simpson

## Treasurer

Harold Gerstenlauer

## Counters

Dorothy Ambrosino

Debbie Bishop

Harry Gerstenlauer

\* Chair

\*\* Vice-Chair

## Who Brought an Umbrella?

As I write this article, the temperature outside is in the mid-forties (Fahrenheit). It was below freezing last night, though. There is plenty of snow left on the ground, and in the street curbs, and the parking lots, and the... well, you get the idea. The snow has been with us for a long time but is beginning to melt. Many are tired of it and wish it would just go away. The weather can be so frustrating. Small doses are easier to take. Longer periods can become tiring. Have you prayed for the snow to go away and maybe for springtime to arrive?

Some time back, the area around a major U.S. city had been experiencing a long drought. It was a topic on the news every day. Agricultural and economic harm was being experienced. Someone organized a prayer gathering. It was held at one of the sports arenas that was home to the local pro team. It was an interfaith service and many attended. A variety of political figures, faith leaders, and professional prayer people had their turns at the podium and shared excellent thoughts. An observant individual noted that they only saw one person with an umbrella that day. ONE PERSON. What kind of faith did people have in the power of their prayers or the one to whom they prayed to have not thought to bring an umbrella? →

In a period of drought, the soil can become hard and resist absorbing rainwater. The ideal first rains after a drought are light and steady.

Hard rain too soon can cause flooding and add to the damage and misery from the drought. Hard rain will benefit the land, but it's better to have that after the soil had moistened a bit and become more able to accept and hold the rainwater.

Maybe bringing an umbrella to a prayer service that asks for an end to drought is an act of faith. Maybe accepting that God knows best how and when to deliver the relief we so badly want and need is also an act of faith. Maybe trusting that God answers prayer according to God's time is an act of confidence.

Have you been praying, lately? I hope so. For what have you been praying? Are you praying with the hope and confidence of the person who brings an umbrella to a prayer service asking for rain? I hope so. Are you able to acknowledge that the lack of an instant response to your prayers does not mean that God isn't listening? I hope so. Can you continue to pray in the face of disappointment? I hope so. If you cannot answer affirmatively to the questions above, know that I pray that we all are moving in that direction. Do not become hard and resistant like dry soil. Your prayers are needed and valuable. Keep your figurative umbrella handy. God is listening and is at work in the world. Keep praying.

With hope and prayer,

Pastor Walter Bishop

**GOD  
HEARS  
YOUR  
PRAYERS**



JOIN NEW DORP MORAVIAN  
CHURCH FOR AN

# EASTER EGG HUNT



**APRIL 4TH**

**SESSION 1: 10 AM**

**SESSION 2: 1 PM**

**\$7 PER CHILD . RAIN OR SHINE . IN PARISH HOUSE IF IT RAINS**

PRIZES FOR THE CHILDREN WHO WIN THE GOLDEN TICKETS  
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## **Our Benevolence for the Month is the 2026 Unity Offering**

The Unity Prayer Day Offering 2026 will benefit the Moravian Unity Heritage Foundation (MUCHF). The purpose of MUCHF is supporting preservation projects of historical buildings and other structures considered cultural heritage, belonging to the Moravian Church around the Unity.

The Unity Synod 2016 passed a resolution, directing a Moravian Unity Cultural Heritage Foundation (MUCHF) to be established. The Moravian Church is a living and vibrant part of the body of Christ. We are a Church Communion with 300 years of history. From the beginning, our Moravian forefathers erected buildings for worship and settlements and mission stations, in which Moravians dwelled and developed the Moravian way of life, liturgy. The structures were tangible signs of the Moravian Church witness to the world.

Many Moravian provinces today have properties including settlements, mission stations, church buildings etc. dating back to the 18th Century and later, which are considered cultural heritage of historical and sociological importance. As a sign of the significance of Moravian Church Cultural Heritage, the settlements of Bethlehem (Pennsylvania), Christiansfeld (Denmark), Gracehill (Northern Ireland), and Herrnhut (Germany) have been named UNESCO World Heritage. Several other settlements, mission stations and church buildings are considered Cultural Heritage.

The Moravian building culture and Moravian architecture are part of the heritage of our faith; and have been proven to be extraordinarily important to maintain, and valuable for society far beyond the limits of the Moravian constituency. The provinces and congregations face challenges in restoring, maintaining, and revitalizing some of the structures due to financial constraints, due to lack of architectural staff, lack of sufficient knowhow concerning historic craftsmanship, conservation principles, national conservation legislation, possible avenues of funding, and knowledge of experience from other provinces concerning restoration issues of Moravian buildings.

The Moravian Cultural Heritage Foundation has now been established as a Unity Undertaking, and is governed by a Board, consisting of Moravian sisters and brothers from various parts of the Unity, appointed by Unity Synod 2023.

To fulfill its purpose, MUCHF needs to do as follows:

Hire an administrator, who on behalf of the MUCHF Board will work on:

- Identifying internal Moravian and external national and international funding sources and making efforts to establish working capital.
- Identifying and assembling a group of international experts in Moravian Architecture, Church History, restoration, historic craftsmanship, cultural heritage management and other relevant subjects to offer guidance and advice to the provinces.
- Establishing a central register of structures to be considered as cultural heritage within the Unity.

The Unity Prayer Day Offering 2026 will enable MUCHF hire an administrator, who will start working for the benefit of the Moravian Church Cultural Heritage around the world.

Rev. Dr. Jørgen Bøytler

Unity Board Administrator





Sunday,  
March 8

# 2026 M

Don't forget to change your clocks!

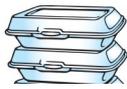
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>1 Second Sunday in Lent</b> 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship After Fellowship: Lunch and Movie	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting	<b>4</b>
<b>8 Third Sunday in Lent</b> 10am Worship/Holy Communion/SS 11ish Fellowship After Fellowship: Lunch and Movie	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 am 1:00 pm Concert
<b>15 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship After Fellowship: Lunch and Estate Planning Workshop	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Board Trustees Meeting	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>
<b>22 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship After Fellowship: Lunch and Movie	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00 am
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship 	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm Holy Week Readings	<b>31</b> 7:00 pm Holy Week Readings	

# MARCH



*The LORD is  
righteous in all his  
ways and faithful  
in all he does.*

PSALM 145:17, NIV

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	5	6	7
Sonrisers St. Cecelia	12	13	<b>14</b> Trash to Treasure Sale: 10:00am - 2:00 pm 
	19	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> Vanderbilt Community Meal  4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
n Sonrisers	26	27	28
			

The logo for 'Keeping Current' features the words 'Keeping' and 'Current' stacked vertically in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The text is set against a dark purple, rectangular background with a rough, torn-paper edge effect.

**Elders Report from February 2026 meeting:** The Board of Elders gathered on February 9 with six members present. A devotion was presented by Toni-Ann Slevin to open the meeting. Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved. Marla DiForte was elected Vice-Chair of the Elders and Maria Glorioso was elected secretary. Vacation dates for the Pastor and the Church Secretary were noted. Early responses to member inquiry letters were discussed as were the type of responses (if any) we should offer. Membership renewal to the Staten Island Council of Churches was discussed and approved at the \$250 level. Discontinuing use of the projection screen in worship during Lent was discussed and approved. This will not affect those joining worship online or as a recording. The annual Day of Giving for the Moravian Church in North America (February 17) was reviewed and the decision was made to recommend the same fund as recipient of our special giving on that date (Housing and Shelter Fund). Ministry to Youth and Children was reviewed. Notes were made to the Church Calendar for upcoming events. Ed Ranieri volunteered to represent the Elders on the Nominating Committee for the coming year. Another Elder is needed for that committee. The meeting was closed with prayer.  
Prepared by Pastor Walter Bishop

**The Board of Trustees** meeting was to be held on Monday, February 23, therefore a report was not available at the time of printing. Trustees news will be included in the April issue.



### **St. Cecelia Concert**

The St. Cecelia Choir will have their next concert on Wednesday, March 11, at 1:00 pm in the New Dorp MC sanctuary.

A reception will follow the concert.

Come join them!

### ***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:



**March 11    10:00 am**

**March 25    10:00 am**



<b>2</b>	Erin Schuler	<b>18</b>	Cody Fox
<b>3</b>	Eric Hoppe	<b>18</b>	Scott Fox
<b>4</b>	William Steiner	<b>18</b>	Sean Fox
<b>5</b>	Sean Sandhu	<b>22</b>	David Kelter
<b>7</b>	Joyce Fernandez	<b>23</b>	Alison Salvaggio
<b>8</b>	Margaret Marrone	<b>24</b>	Jose Amagsila
<b>10</b>	Robyn Busan	<b>26</b>	Nicholas Brown
<b>10</b>	Sylvia Engelbrecht	<b>30</b>	Jack Harkin



**24** Carleen & Sal Bruzzese 1996



# THE POWER OF PRAYER

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

**For On-going Concerns:** Dolores Cavallo, Richard Iadorola, 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, Carmel McCarthy.

**For Healing:** Joyce Fernandez (treatment for breast cancer), Carol Bugge, Marla DiForte, Van Takoushian (diagnosed with partial heart failure), Megan Poljak (treatment for breast cancer), Shirley Parson, Peter Jones, Michele Ward, Sue Yee, Faye and Patrick Eng, Rosie Fabritorre, Dorothy Ambrosino (recovering from knee surgery), Jean Regna (daughter of Jean DelBagno, recovering from surgery), Kim Juhng (late stage lung cancer), Donna (recovering from hand surgery), Deborah Griggs (home from rehab), Allegra (Maria's cat), the family of Nancy Starr (she passed away recently), Richard Kroeker, those involved in care-giving of family members, and praise that Maria Metzger has entered remission.

**Other Concerns:** For leaders here and throughout the world to seek solutions for peace and justice, and an end to all strife and war.

Please remember to pray for our denominational leaders, our Pastor, Board Members, and Committee Chairs, 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.



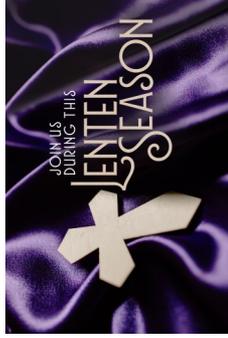
# New Dorp Moravian

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Newsletter is also available to read on our website.

**The Rev. Walter Bishop, Pastor**



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