

NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH

April

2026



April

Such Characters

As we continue in the season of Lent and then move through Holy Week and Easter, our scripture readings give us a view of a variety of characters in the story of Jesus' earthly ministry. The different Gospel writers develop their characters uniquely. Though the Gospels, together, give us a more complete narrative than only a single one would, each one includes and develops the characters according to their own particular view and desired message.

In our readings on Sunday mornings in Lent we hear about a Samaritan woman, and the residents of her town. We hear about a man born blind, about his parents, and a question about their sin. We hear about Lazarus dying and how that affected his sisters. We also hear about Lazarus being resurrected, and the effects this event had in the various levels of their community. On Palm Sunday, we hear about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the response of the common folk, the Jewish leaders, and the Roman establishment. Then, the Holy Week Readings give us a week-long view into the persons and personalities of the Passion Narrative.

Elders

Pastor Walter Bishop*

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Patrick Carolan

Marla DiForte**

Toni Ann Slevin

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Richard Simpson

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Harold Gerstenlauer

Counters

Jose Amagsila

Isabel Ranieri

* Chair

** Vice-Chair



The Gospel writers each have their own slant and approach in telling this great story. Each of them tells it in a way that draws us in, as a good storyteller should. We find that we can relate to many of the characters in one way or another, or that we come to dislike certain characters and/or certain deeds. We find in these characters some commonalities with ourselves. Some can relate to the Samaritan woman as a person not warmly regarded within a community which was, itself, not well regarded by neighboring communities. Some of us who are differently abled can relate to the man born blind and the effect that being of differing ability can have in our interactions with people and the culture in which we live. Most of us can relate to the sisters of Lazarus, who have lost a dearly beloved family member. In their case, their beloved also served as their financial and legal intermediary, magnifying their sense of loss. We have all likely, knowingly or unknowingly, participated in crowd behavior similar to those folks who shouted “Hosanna!” and those who called out “Crucify him!”

We relate to the sorrows and joys that we find recounted in the Gospels and in the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. We are also provided many examples of lives that become forward-looking and forward-moving as a result of the teachings and actions of Jesus. The characteristics of Jesus’ early disciples are ones that we might easily share – both the good ones, and the bad ones. We may deny Jesus like Peter did, but we may also receive the forgiveness and blessing of the Lord, and then move forward as a powerful advocate and ambassador for Christ. Yes, it is Jesus Christ, who knew no sin and who is to be our foremost example. But we can also learn from the examples in the Gospels about how sinful persons, with less than ideal characteristics, can still become fully formed and effective disciples of Christ, on a mission of faith.

We have the opportunity to receive the testimonies found in the Gospels and other scriptures because someone was observing and paying enough attention to capture these events and share them as inspiration for others. As followers of Christ, we need to remember that we, too, are being observed. People are paying attention. What is the example that we give for others? We need to be mindful of that.



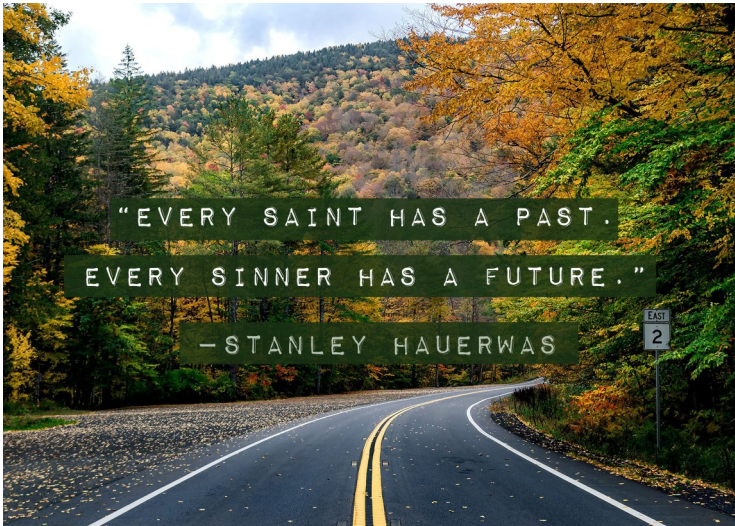
We need to be mindful, in part so that we become more fully developed Christians, but also so that others may see that God loves, redeems, and uses imperfect people in amazing ways. It can happen to us. It can happen to them.

*But God proves his love for us
in that while we still were sinners
Christ died for us.
(Romans 5:8, NRSV)*

Imperfectly serving,

Pastor Walter

(This article has been previously published elsewhere)



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
AND THE MOST EGGS COLLECTED IN EACH SESSION

**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

SPRING FLING

10 AM TO 4 PM

**SATURDAY APRIL 11,
2026**

2205 Richmond Road,
Staten Island, NY 10306 in the
Conference Center

If interested in being a vendor

Contact Edward Ranieri-

646-823- 6007,

office@newdorpmoravianchurch.org

or New Dorp Moravian- 718-351-0090






April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 7:00 pm H R
5 EASTER <i>Sunday 6:00</i> 6:30 am Sunrise Service/Breakfast 10:00 am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	6	7 7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting	8 10:00 am 1:00 pm Concert
12 Second Sunday of Easter 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	13 7:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	14	15
19 Third Sunday of Easter 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship After Fellowship- Light Lunch/Estate Planning Workshop	20 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	21	22 10:00 am
26 Fourth Sunday of Easter 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	27	28	29

2026



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Week Readings	2 7:00 pm Holy Week Readings with Holy Communion	3 7:00 pm Holy Week Readings	4  Easter Egg Hunts 10 am & 1 pm
Sonrisers St. Cecelia	9	10	11  Trash to Treasure and Spring Fling 10 am - 4 pm
	16	17	18 10 am—noon Spring Refresh Clothing Swap ~~~~~ 4 pm—6:30 pm Vanderbilt Community Meal
Sonrisers	23	24	25  Women's Eastern Regional Moravian Spring Rally 10 am - 3pm (Breakfast at 9am)
	30		

Our Benevolence of the Month is the

Eden II School for Autistic Individuals of S.I.

According to available data from 2022, 1 in 31 children in the US are on the autism spectrum. This is up from 1 in 150 from 2000. Based on the 2022 population of Staten Island this means more than 13,000 people living on Staten Island have some form of autism.

The mission of the Eden II School is to provide people with autism specialized community- based programs and other opportunities to enable them to achieve the highest possible quality of living. The school is for those age 5 to 21.

The Eden II School opened on Staten Island in 1976 with 6 students, one special education teacher and a director. There are currently 130 families participating in the various programs. The instructional program is modeled after the program of the Eden Institute in Princeton. However, there are no legal or financial ties between the two agencies. Each has a separate Board and operates as a separate corporate entity. Eden II also has programs for younger children as well as adults.

While the program does receive some grant money and support much of their funding comes from individuals and groups in the community.



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:



April 8 10:00 am

April 22 10:00 am



Elders Report from March 2026 meeting: The Board of Elders gathered on March 9 with seven members present. A devotion was presented by Toni-Ann Slevin to open the meeting. Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved. Responses to member inquiry letters to-date were reviewed and discussed. Various projects in-progress were discussed, especially around youth and children’s ministries. An informational video on the impact of age group distributions within congregations was viewed and discussed with an eye to youth outreach. The meeting was closed with prayer. Prepared by Pastor Walter Bishop



5	Charlotte Carolan	24	Isabella DeLorenzo
6	Isabella Rose Ruiz	24	Mercer Given
6	Barbara Mireider	24	Riverlynn Cericola
10	Lisa Takoushian	25	Diane Kurtzman
12	Theresa Dewidar	27	Caitlin Cericola
13	Sarah Machado	28	Teresa DiForte
21	Robert Worth	30	Thomas Nolan, Jr.



9	Walter and Debbie Bishop	1988
18	Brittany and Salvatore Lagala	2025
25	Pat & Laura Moschella	1992
26	Michelle & Stuart Schneiweis	1998
29	Harold & Stephanie Gerstenlauer	1995

Church
FAMILY
— PRAYER LIST —

**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, 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, Donna (recovering from hand surgery), Deborah Griggs, Charles Sheahan (recovering from surgery), Richard Kroeker, Lois Zipf (in Eger Nursing Home), Carol Diamond (Walter's sister, kidney disease), Okim Hyon, Dorothy Ambrosino (recovering from procedure on knee), Alison Griggs, Nurse Alice's daughter (friend of Deborah Griggs), and those involved in care-giving of family members.

Other Concerns: For leaders here and throughout the world to seek solutions for peace and justice, and an end to all strife and war, particularly at this time in the Middle East.

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

Published Monthly by
New Dorp Moravian Church
2205 Richmond Road

Staten Island, New York 10306-2557

Newsletter is also available to read on our website.

The Rev. Walter Bishop, Pastor



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