

NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH

June

2026



Baby Shower Plans with Hope

Elders

Pastor Walter Bishop*
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Marla DiForte**
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Richard Simpson**

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Richard Simpson

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Harold Gerstenlauer
Jose Amagsila (Asst.)

Counters

Carole Bugge
Anna Gaw

* Chair

** Vice-Chair

Have baby showers changed in your lifetime? In my six decades, it seems that it has shifted, at least a little bit, away from always being a females-only event. Other changes have likely happened, but the idea of showering expectant parents with helpful gifts has remained fairly consistent, if I understand correctly.

What are good shower gifts for new parents? Mostly, the expectation is for smaller gifts such as diapers, blankets, baby bottles, clothes, and toys. Other gifts on the occasion of a new birth might be given at a time other than a shower and might include a crib, a bassinet, room decorations, baby monitors, car seats, playpens, and on and on. And who might give these helpful gifts? Those who love the parents and baby, such as family, friends, or those who have another sort of relationship such as being a coworker.

We need to be mindful of the gifts that we give. Some items might be a choking hazard. Others might contain harmful elements such as lead, small batteries, magnets, sharp edges or points, loose plastic that can cause blocked airways. There are various online resources about protecting children including the *Consumer Product Safety Commission* (CPSC) for baby gear, toys, →

and furniture, and the *Food & Drug Administration (FDA)* for baby food, formula, and medications. <https://www.saferproducts.gov/> is another helpful resource.

In the last four years, we have had the joy of baptizing sixteen babies/ children in our worship services! Baptism, itself, is a gift – a gift from God. As siblings in Christ of every child that we baptize, we also give gifts. What would you put on that list of gifts that we give? I think of the gifts of welcome, acceptance, a sense of community,

Christian Education opportunities, prayer on their behalf, and a safe environment. I'm sure that there are many more.

Gifts given at baby showers or otherwise may seem transient, but each gift that adds to a child's life, in duration or quality, has an enduring quality of being a part of a long stream of sustaining items and actions. So it is with the gifts that we, as a congregation, give – they are part of a long stream of actions and items that are part of spiritual and relational development. If you were to do a personal review of your own spiritual development, I imagine that most of you would think of the people who gave you good gifts that represented love, nurture, and hope. I have heard some of the stories held dear by a number of you. Of course, I have my own stories of people who gave me such good gifts, too.

I want to ask you to join with me in considering how we might be better at nurturing and loving babies, young children, and families who have the awesome and challenging responsibility of bringing young life into fullness in body, mind, and spirit. Of the gifts we are already giving, can we bring a higher quality to them? Are there new and different gifts that we might share? Should we rethink the nursery? Should we have a hired nursery attendant? Should we offer our own personal time to be in ministry to these most vulnerable and most readily formed members of our blessed community? Can we differently adapt our worship space to help young family members be in worship? If you have any additional gifts to share toward the vital work of supporting, loving, and spiritually developing the youngest among us and those charged with their care, please let me know. I would love for us to move forward in new and powerful ways for this aspect of our community and the community which surrounds us.



Every time a person is baptized in our faith community, we make a covenant to love and nurture them. Let's make sure that we are fulfilling our covenant to the best of our ability. There are long term positive impacts based on how well we do that. Let's make sure that we are giving good gifts that bring forth good fruit.

With faith, hope, and love,

Pastor Walter Bishop



Both the Southern and Northern Provinces will be gathering for synods this month. Please be in prayer for the delegates' safe travel as well as for the work of the synods in making decisions that affect the provinces and guide the church in the coming years to further our mission to love and serve the Lord. (Synod dates listed on calendar.)



Elders Report from May 2026 meeting: The Board of Elders gathered on May 11 with five members present. A devotion was presented by Pastor Walter to open the meeting. Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and approved. A date of May 31 was approved for the rescheduled second Estate Planning Event led by Toni-Ann Slevin. Responses to member inquiry letters to-date were reviewed and discussed with an emphasis on caring for those who indicated poor health. The status of the musician position was discussed. Various projects in-progress were discussed, especially around youth and children's ministries. The church calendar was reviewed and amended. The meeting was closed with prayer. Submitted by Pastor Walter.



REMEMBERING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Father's Day is a time to thank our father and father-figures who work hard to keep our families safe and loved. Let us also remember God, our heavenly Father, who gives life to us all.

Use the grid to fill out the blanks below. To find the letter for each number, look down the column to the dot, and then go to the left to the letter. Write the letter on the appropriate blank.

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1 John 3:1, NIV

Answer: What great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!



Our Benevolence of the Month is the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 421, named for a local hero, Lance Corporal Thomas J. Tori, who perished in the war in October 1967.

The chapter actively supports veterans in a variety of ways, advocates for veterans' rights, hosts memorial events, and maintains the local Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park.

To learn more about their important work please visit their website at vva421.org.

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:

June 10 10:00 am

June 24 10:00 am





2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1	2 7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting	3 Southern Synod
7 Second Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/ Holy Communion/SS 11ish Fellowship	8 7:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	9	10 10:00 am
14 Third Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship FLAG DAY	15 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	16	17
21 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Juneteenth Observed 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	22	23	24 10:00 am
28 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	29 7:00 pm Joint Board Meeting	30	

JUNE



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Southern Province	4 Southern Province Synod	5 Southern Province Synod	6 Southern Province Synod
Sonrisers	11	12	13  10 am—2 pm
	18	19 	20 
Northern Sonrisers	25 Northern Province Synod	26 Northern Province Synod	27



SUMMER CAMP

Camp Hope is the Eastern District Camp of the Moravian Church Northern Province located in Blairstown, NJ. A camp and retreat facility, Camp Hope offers year round retreats, camps, and rentals.

One highlight of the camp is the offering of summer camps through the season for grades 1-12. Run by camp staff, ministers, and volunteers these camps offer children the opportunity to experience nature in a new setting, spiritual growth, fellowship, and fun.

The camp schedule for 2026 is as follows:

Pre-Primary—Grades 1 & 2—August 2-5

Primary—Grades 3 & 4 - July 5-11

Middler—Grades 5 & 6—July 12-18

Junior High—Grades 7 & 8—July 19-25

Senior High—Grades 9-12—July 26-August 1

Junior Park Ranger—Grades 3-6—August 2-8

Musical Theater—Grades 5-9—June 27-July 4

To learn more about the camps please visit the Camp Hope website at www.camphope.org/camp, or email them at hopecenter@camphope.org.

If you are interested in having your child/teen experience these wonderful offerings please speak with Pastor Walter regarding scholarships and register your child soon!



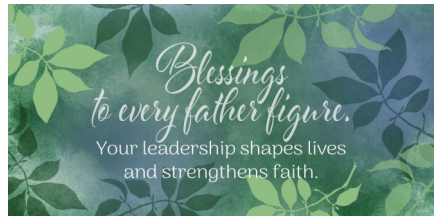
For those unfamiliar with Juneteenth, it is a celebration of freedom from the bonds of slavery. Although the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, it was not until two and one half years later that word reached Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, informing the last enslaved people of the news.

Juneteenth is recognized as the longest celebrated African American holiday, but it was not made a federal holiday until June 17, 2021. Modern celebrations often include music, worship, and food. It is also a time of teaching and celebrating both history and accomplishments of black Americans.

Father's Day

Father's Day in the United States is celebrated the third Sunday in June, to honor fathers and father figures in our lives. While there is some debate as to its origins it is generally accepted that the idea was proposed by Sonora Smart Dodd. Mrs. Dodd, after hearing a sermon celebrating motherhood felt that men deserved equal recognition particularly since she and her five siblings were raised by single father, William Jackson Smart following the passing of her mother during childbirth.

The idea was proposed in 1909 and the first celebration was officially held in June 1910 in Spokane, WA. Though it was recognized and encouraged by several administrations it was not officially a holiday until 1972.





3	Alex Cohen	27	Vivian Moser
7	Marla DiForte	27	Amelia Anderson
9	Matthew Ciccone	29	Patrick Carolan
15	June Nuzzo	29	Edward W. Ranieri, Jr.
23	Kathy Barrier	30	Irene Malley
23	Kevin Brown		



15	Thomas & Heidi Nolan	1985
28	John & Marla DiForte	1975



Please help us keep our prayer list current and notify the church office if changes occur. Names may be periodically removed but will be added back if you notify the church office.

For On-going Concerns: Dolores Cavallo, Richard Iadorola, Barbara Carolan, Linda Griggs, Libby Neri, Estefania Griggs, John DiForte, Jean DelBagno, Jackie Passburg, Debbie Lotito, Carmel McCarthy, Peter Jones, Lois Zipf, Doris Burtner, David Burtner.

Healing, Praise, and other concerns: Joyce Fernandez, Carol Bugge, Marla DiForte, Van Takoushian (heart issues), Megan Poljak (treatment for breast cancer), Shirley Parson, Sue Yee, Faye and Patrick Eng, Donna (recovering from hand surgery), Deborah Griggs, Carol Diamond (Walter's sister, kidney disease), Connie (Bob Iadorola's neighbor now under hospice care), Maria Metzger (cancer recurrence), Maria Critelli (cancer on the heart), Vickie Hill (health problems), Phyllis Collins (health issues), Lauren Mormile (prayers for good doctor's report), Rosemarie Beyer (radiation for colon cancer, friend of Irene Malley), Jennifer Burtner (recovering from cardiac ablation May 7th), Vivian Moser (mobility issues), Liz (treatment for liver cancer), Charles DeRosa (brain cancer), Paul Chen (recovering from a heart attack), Jessica Lee Cho (dealing with shingles, niece of Irene Malley), those involved in care-giving of family members, for our church, and churches worldwide, and for peace in the world.



New Dorp Moravian

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Newsletter is also available to read on our website.

The Rev. Walter Bishop, Pastor



Caring for Families

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