

# NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH

May

2026



## Elders

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

## Trustees

Jose Amagsila  
Dorothy Ambrosino\*\*  
Anna Gaw  
Alice Gioanniello-Cohen  
Stephen Greet\*  
Robert Iadarola  
Richard Simpson

## Central Elders

Joyce Fernandez  
Maria Glorioso

## Central Trustees

Harold Gerstenlauer  
Richard Simpson

## Treasurer

Harold Gerstenlauer

## Counters

Jeff Bollinger  
Paul Chen  
Marla DiForte

\* Chair  
\*\* Vice-Chair



## PLAYER ROSTER

*“Active player rosters vary by sport and team, detailing players' names, numbers, positions, and physical data.”*

This above sentence is a result of a Google search on the term “Player Roster.” Note that the roster definition includes the positions of the players. It is important for team members to know their positions, and it is helpful to observers to understand which team members have the various positions and responsibilities essential to effective teamwork. Many rostered players work under contract agreements.

Many churches also have rosters (often called “Member Directories”). As persons enter into the membership of the congregation (join the team), a mutual covenant is made:

To the persons joining the congregation: *Do you in this faith turn away from sin, evil, and selfishness in your thoughts, words, and actions; and do you intend to **participate actively** in Christ's church, **serving** God all the days of your life?*



The minister addresses the congregation: *Do you affirm these children of God as members of this congregation, and **accept your obligation** to love and nurture them in Christ?* (emphases mine)

As we add our name to the “Roster,” we indicate that we are joining the team and we acknowledge that each team member has a role to play. The first role that each of us has as a team member is to be present to and present with the rest of the team. A group of persons who do not function with cooperation and in collaboration ceases to be a team.

Not every team member needs to be a “star” player. As with other teams, there may be a first string and a second string. There may be a defensive/protective line and a forward-moving/growth line. Various special teams may also have narrowly specialized functions and individuals may have their own unique function. I was surprised to learn that the NFL players scoring the most points are the kickers. That is a very specialized position but one that also depends on the rest of the team.

The Board of Elders has been working for some time now on bringing our membership records (our roster) up-to-date. We are finding that we’ve not understood well just who is fully on the team with us. We will be removing quite a few names from our roster/membership rolls. Some have already joined another team. Some have moved to another area. Some recognize that they are not currently in a position to contribute meaningfully to the teamwork to which our congregation is called. Some are physically unable (we should celebrate them and retire their jerseys, maybe). We’ve even discovered that some have joined the Church Triumphant (are deceased) and we had not recorded that transition.

Now that we have a better understanding of who is on our active roster, we must look at our various positions and try to fill them with the most appropriate team members. We do have some active specialty teams. We also have some dormant positions. And we have team members who’ve not been properly assigned. I hope that we can help every member find the place and role that best fits their God-given gifts and their developed talents.

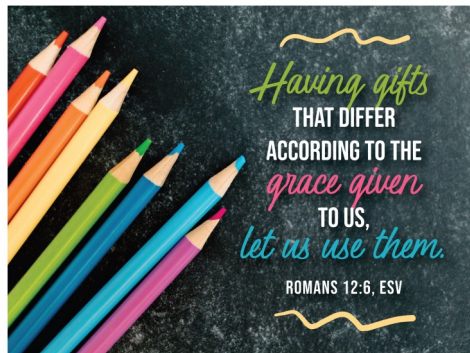


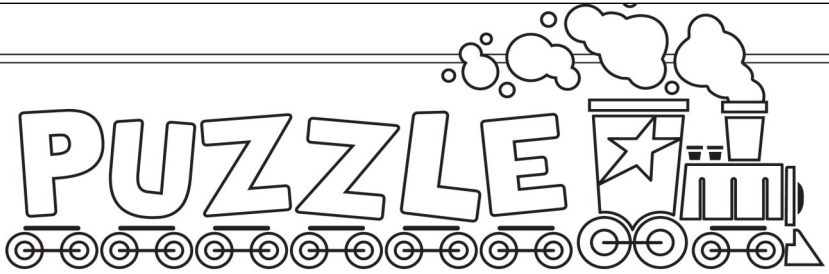
We are not looking to score goals or points, but we are called to join together in concerted effort for The Way of The Christ and the Children of God. Perhaps recruiting is one of the chief goals of our work so that others can know the Truth that we know in our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Where and how are you called to contribute to the work and service of the congregation? Are you a leadership type? Are you a worker-bee type? Are you good with numbers or good with hammers and wrenches? Are you outgoing and gregarious? Are you quiet and reflective? Regardless of how you might best be identified or characterized, you should have an opportunity to live out God's intent for your life. I pray that we can all help each other to function as a healthy team doing the work to which God calls us. I pray that each one of us might take some time in self-examination, reflection, and discernment, then seek to locate ourselves appropriately on the team. Along the way, we may find that we need to rethink our team structure based on the gifts present and the community needs found. The Joint Board will be thinking about that in the coming months.

I'm glad to be your teammate,

Pastor Walter Bishop





## A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

**VOWELS: 1 = a    2 = e    3 = i    4 = o    5 = u**

" 3    1 m    r 2 m 3 nd 2 d    4 f

y 4 5 r    s 3 nc 2 r 2    f 1 3 th, wh 3 ch

f 3 rst    l 3 v 2 d    3 n    y 4 5 r    gr 1 ndm 4 th 2 r

L 4 3 s    1 nd    3 n    y 4 5 r    m 4 th 2 r

2 5 n 3 c 2    1 nd,    3    1 m    p 2 rs 5 1 d 2 d,

n 4 w    l 3 v 2 s    3 n    y 4 5    1 ls 4 ."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

## Our Benevolence of the Month



**MORAVIAN**  
**OPEN DOOR**

347 East 18th Street  
New York, NY 10003

Established in 1987 by the Eastern District of the Moravian Church in North America, Moravian Open Door is a not-for-profit (501c-3) organization committed to providing transitional housing and supportive services to the homeless, distressed, and underserved population of New York City. Their ministry serves those individuals who are fifty and older with the goal of helping them regain their independence and security, and assisting them in moving to appropriate, permanent facilities. Moravian Open Door is not a drop-in shelter or a nursing facility, but is a safe, clean, drug and alcohol-free transitional home (called Moravian House) that provides private and semi-private rooms for up to 41 homeless adults who are just 'one step away' from independence.

Individuals who come to Moravian Open Door have been recommended by a shelter or agency in New York. Upon admission, each new resident receives a personal service plan to address the causes of homelessness and to build greater self-reliance through such means as counseling, computer training, job seeking assistance, and financial literacy skills, among other things.

In addition to giving through the monthly benevolence and our May Joyful Noise collection please visit their website at [www.MoravianHouse.org](http://www.MoravianHouse.org) to learn more about this ministry and other ways you may be of service.



# 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>3</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting	<b>6</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am 1:00 pm Concert
<b>17</b> <b>Ascension Sunday</b> <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Day of Pentecost</b> 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship	<b>25</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 am
<b>31</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b> 10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship			



# MAY



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2
7	8	9	 <p>10 am—2 pm</p>
Sonrisers St. Cecelia	14	15	16  <p>Vanderbilt Community Meal 4 pm - 6:30 pm</p>
21	22	23	
m Sonrisers	28	29	30
			



**Elders Report from April 2026 meeting:** The Board of Elders gathered on April 13 with six members present. A devotion was presented by Peter Traut to open the meeting. Minutes from the March meeting were reviewed and approved. Meeting guest Todd Hallett (Area Director of Faith Formation) spoke about opportunities for Vacation Bible School in cooperation with one or more other nearby Moravian congregations. Responses to member inquiry letters to-date were reviewed and discussed. Responses to not using the video screen in worship were considered. Various projects in-progress were discussed, especially around youth and children's ministries. The meeting was closed with prayer. Submitted by Pastor Walter Bishop.

**Trustee Report from March 2026 and April 2026 meetings:** Trustee meetings were held March 26th and April 20th. We did not have a quorum in March. The church sign has been completed and installed. The sign of the Lamb enhances the outside appearance at the front of our church. Several sensors within the ductwork of our church require replacing and the cemetery has generously approved the funding of these units. A proposal for the Audio/Visual upgrades in the Sanctuary has been received and is currently being evaluated by both the Trustees and the Elders. Trash to Treasure continues to do well with April's revenue totaling \$1243. Various updated options for cleaning of the Parish House and church are being evaluated. Security upgrades to our church (Eg: cameras, sensors) and emergency evacuation procedures are under discussion. The parsonage windows have been replaced and painting completed. The mold issue is being addressed. There is no active mold and some additional work on the chimney is required to prevent water infiltration which may have contributed to the issue. Donations for lawn signs "I Love My Church" continue to be available. Submitted by Steve Greet, Chair

## 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:



**May 13      10:00 am**

**May 27      10:00 am**



*Monday  
May 26th*

Take time to remember why you have a day off.



<b>3</b>	Ray Heins, Jr.	<b>20</b>	Debbie Bishop
<b>3</b>	Fallon Hulsizer	<b>21</b>	Provi Garcia
<b>5</b>	Timothy Brown	<b>21</b>	Heidi Nolan
<b>10</b>	Lyla Marie Campagna	<b>22</b>	Doreen Traut
<b>16</b>	Kim Loize	<b>29</b>	Jillian Bazzoni
<b>16</b>	Ed Ranieri, Sr.		



<b>18</b>	Dom & Joan Ciccone	1991
<b>22</b>	Duane & Susan Ullrich	1982



**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, Charlee Cheru and family (Charlee undergoing treatment for childhood leukemia), John DiForte, Jean DelBagno, Jackie Passburg, Debbie Lotito, Carmel McCarthy, 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, Peter Jones, Sue Yee, Faye and Patrick Eng, Donna (recovering from hand surgery), Deborah Griggs, Lois Zipf, Carol Diamond (Walter's sister, kidney disease), Okim Hyon, Dorothy Ambrosino, Michael Cericola (under hospice care), Connie (Bob Iadorola's neighbor now under hospice care), Maria Metzger (cancer recurrence), Peggy Swinton (Carole Heins' sister-in-law, amputation of leg), Maria Critelli (cancer on the heart), Liz (hoping for good results on upcoming tests), Vickie Hill (health problems), Wayne Osterfelt (knee replacement), Rob Renaud (knee replacement), Giuliana Stasinski (child with Rett Syndrome; serious infection and has been in hospital over 30 days), Phyllis Collins (health issues), Lauren Mormile (prayers for good doctor's report), Theresa and John Sahaj (both are in rehab), Jennifer Burtner (undergoing cardiac ablation May 7), the family of Connie Vadola (she passed away April 17), the family of Benny Leongson (Marilou Amagsila's brother who passed away April 17), 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**



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## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**PHONE: 718-351-0090**

**OFFICE@NEWDORPMORAVIAN.ORG**

**WWW.NEWDORPMORAVIAN.ORG**