

NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH

August

2026



August

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 Giovannello-Cohen

Stephen Greet*

Robert Iadarola

Richard Simpson**

Central Elders

Joyce Fernandez

Maria Glorioso

Central Trustees

Harold Gerstenlauer

Richard Simpson

Treasurer

Harold Gerstenlauer

Jose Amagsila (Asst.)

Counters

Dorothy Ambrosino

Debbie Bishop

Harry Gerstenlauer

* Chair

** Vice-Chair

Before and After

Most of us, if not all of us, have moments or events in our lives that serve as a marker of a significant shift of some sort. The defining moment or event can be positive, or negative, or neutral. What follows the moment may also be positive or negative. Often it is a matter of perspective.

I have shared with some in the congregation my experience of a parishioner in a previous place of service. "Milton" had been very active in the congregation and generous in many ways but was in advanced years and was slowing down. Milton had a reputation in the congregation of being difficult to get along with, but only if you challenged him. If you did things his way, you would get along just fine. The pastor that served the congregation before I did had shared some of his difficult interactions with Milton, so I was not surprised when I also had such experiences. I had a conversation with an older member of his family in which the family member acknowledged the challenging nature of Milton, but then added "You should have seen him BEFORE he came to Jesus!" Wow! Just Wow! This revelation about Milton's turning point in life became a sort of turning point for me. As a pastor, I learned to not only consider the current nature of a person,



but also how far they may have already come on their journey.

If I were to ask you to identify a turning point or event in your life, I imagine that several might come to mind, though one may stand out above the others. It might be a birth or a death; a win or a loss; the beginning of a new relationship or the end of one; an illness or a healing. Sometimes we can create these events for ourselves or for someone else. Other times they are, or seem to be, out of our control. Is there a specific turning point event that you would choose for yourself if you were empowered to create one?

A review of the history of the Moravian Church in general and the New Dorp congregation specifically will reveal a variety of turning points. On August 13 we celebrate the spiritual renewal of the Unitas Fratrum (a.k.a. The Moravian Church) in Herrnhut Germany. Though it is regarded as a moving of the Holy Spirit, it can also be observed that a variety of events, both positive and negative, laid the groundwork for this spiritual high point. A new direction of spiritual development, ministry, and mission followed the pivotal event.

In my first period of time with the New Dorp Moravian congregation, I heard many times of the events surrounding Hurricane Sandy – both the devastation and the response of the congregation to the needs of the larger community. There were earlier events in the life of the congregation that were foundational for the response, and a changed sense of self within the congregation following the recovery work.

Do you wonder what we are doing today that might prove foundational for some future pivot point? Do you wonder what we aren't doing but possibly should be doing to prepare for the next opportunity to pivot in Jesus' holy name? For the residents of Herrnhut Germany in the early 18th Century, spiritual work with children, the sharing of Daily Text verses, the joining together of interest groups ("choirs"), and the celebrating of Holy Communion were all part of the preparation. For hurricane relief work, the previous building of the Parish Hall structure, the collection of financial resources, the gathering of people with various skills, the sharing of transportation resources, and more contributed to the opportunity to make an important pivot.



I hope that you will hold this curiosity alongside me: “What should we be doing to prepare to engage in God’s further work in our community?” My first response is to be reminded of the text of Matthew 22:37-39

“He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (NRSV)

That is a wonderful and broad start! Let’s ponder on finer details.

With hope,

Pastor Walter Bishop



2027 Moravian Daily Texts Order Form
Orders Due in Church Office by August 9, 2026.
(Please see note at bottom of page.)

Directories are no longer in the back of the Daily Texts. They must be purchased separately or as a collection with a Daily Texts. Buying a collection saves you money. Please indicate the quantity wanted of each item below.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>
____ Journal Edition	18.00
____ Hardcover Edition	16.00
____ Large Print Edition	16.00
____ Paperback Edition	14.00
____ Directory & Statistics (purchased alone)	11.00
____ Directory & Statistics (special price if purchased with any Daily Texts edition)	10.00
____ Moravian Desk Calendar & Plan Book	12.00
Total amount for this order:	_____

Name of person ordering: _____

Phone #: _____

**All Orders should be turned in to the church office only,
along with exact payment, by August 9, 2026. Please place orders in
Secretary's mailbox, not on the desk. Or mail to:**

**New Dorp Moravian Church
 2205 Richmond Rd.
 Staten Island, NY 10306**

**The above pricing reflects a discount we receive by ordering early with
shipping charges built in.**



Elders Report from July 2026 meeting: The Board of Elders gathered on July 13 with six members present. A devotion was presented by Maria Glorioso to open the meeting. Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed and approved. The pastor's scheduled absences were one again noted (vacation, Continuing Education) The Sunday morning Nursery was discussed and a paid attendant Job Description was reviewed. Suggested edits from the Eastern District Executive Board to our Congregational Rules and Regulations were reviewed and discussed. Upcoming outreach events were noted and remarked upon. The value of attendance of Elders to meetings of the Board of Elders was discussed. The meeting was closed with prayer. Submitted by Pastor Walter Bishop.

Trustees Report from May/June 2026 meetings: During the months of May, June and beginning of July, the Trustees voted on the positions of Chair (Stephen Greet), Vice Chair (Richard Simpson) and Secretary (Alice Giovanniello-Cohen). They were involved with the additional installation of sensors required by Fire Code on ductwork on the new AC system and funded by the Cemetery. This work is scheduled to be completed this month. Seven security cameras have been installed at all entrances to the church and Parish House. We no longer utilize the services of a handyman and will re-evaluate the need for such a position and new solicitations will follow if necessary. The digital road sign has been repaired so that sign changes can be easily changed within the church office (it had been inoperable for a time). An additional Audio/Visual quotation has been solicited and is awaiting a proposal. The tree at the right front of the church will be removed and plantings will be installed. Custodial services have been replaced and a new cleaning company has been hired. A new organist has been hired after a well received audition/interview. Outreach-Eastern Region Women's breakfast was a success. They were very pleased and hope to come back and do it again next year. The Parsonage Chimney and Mold issue has been resolved and interior painting is/will be completed. Trash to Treasure had some very good months with a \$1357 profit in May. Seems there are new people bringing in different desires and many different things are selling. Also, signs and Facebook posts are helping. Submitted by Steve Greet, Chair Board of Trustees.

Our Benevolence for the Month of August is
Global Medical Relief Fund's
DARE TO DREAM HOUSE

Located in Staten Island, the Global Medical Relief Fund has been around for over 26 years to assist children. Founded by Elissa Montanti, the charity has arranged over 1,500 medical visits in the US from 59 countries, including the US.

Children from these countries may be wounded from war, natural disasters, or born with disabilities that cannot be addressed in their country. Those needing artificial limbs need continuous care throughout their teens due to growth and the need for new prosthetics. GMRF is committed to each child until the age of 21.

The Dare to Dream House provides room and board to children and their families while they are in the US for treatment. Their stay there is a time of healing, both physically and emotionally.

Help support this wonderful charity with your giving this month so they may continue to serve those in desperate need of help.



Trash to Treasure is now being held from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. Doors will not open until 9:30am! Also, while there will be a sale in August (8th) we will not be accepting donations this month. With the enormous amount of donations that we receive this allows us time to catch up with sorting and organizing the basement. The Outreach Committee appreciates all of the donations received and the many shoppers that come through. We appreciate all of you. See you August 8th!



We are pleased to welcome Miho Sasaki as our new Music Director who began with us on July 19th.

Miho graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Studies from SUNY Purchase College in 2019 and is trained in Organ/Piano performance, Hymn Leadership, Liturgical Planning, and Choral Collaboration.

She has participated in St. Paul's Chapel Choir (Trinity Church Wall Street) since 2025 and has been with the Richmond Choral Society since 2024. She has also studied conducting with Dr. Marina Alexander with the College of Staten Island.

Miho has most recently served St. Alban's Episcopal Church as organist/pianist, as well as the pianist of Temple Israel of New Rochelle.

In addition to her work in religious organizations Miho has offered Piano instruction, vocal coaching, and worked freelance in accompaniment and performance.

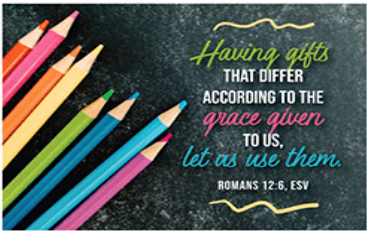
Please take some time to welcome Miho in the coming weeks. We look forward to her being a part of New Dorp Moravian Church.



AUGUS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDN
2 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Fellowship	3	4 Outreach Committee participating in National Night Out	5 6:30 pm and Mov
9 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/ Lovefeast 11ish Fellowship	10 7:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	11	12 10:00 a Sonrise 6:30 pm and Mo
16 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship/ Holy Communion 11ish Fellowship	17 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	18	19 9:00 am Newslett Due 6:30 pm and Mov
23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Fellowship	24	25	26 10:00 a Sonrise 6:30 pm and Mo
30 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11ish Fellowship	31 7:00 pm Joint Board Meeting		

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ESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1
Dinner ie	6	7	8  Trash to Treasure Sale 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
m ers n Dinner ovie	13 August Thirteenth Festival	14	15 4:-00 pm—6:00pm  Vanderbilt Community Meal
ter Items Dinner vie	20	21 Moravian Mission Founded, 1732	22
m ers n Dinner ovie	27	28	29





The 2026 Northern Province Synod was held June 24-26 in Minneapolis, Minn. The three districts represented were the Eastern, Western, and Canadian with delegates and pastors from each church and ministry as well as provincial board members, bishops, and other guests.

During this time the delegates elected new members to the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC), the governing board of our province, to serve for the next two years. The PEC is comprised of four lay members, plus the presidents of each of the province's three districts (Eastern, Western and Canadian) and the president of the PEC.

The Rev. David Bennett was re-elected as president of the Provincial Elders' Conference. The four lay members elected include Blondel Jones-Grant of United Moravian Church in New York City; Ralph Wanamaker, Jr. of Westside Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pa.; Keith Gohdes of Canaan Moravian Church in Davenport, N.D.; and Tammy Lavoy of Newfoundland Moravian Church in Newfoundland, Pa. Both Keith and Ralph were re-elected, having been elected to the PEC at the 2023 Synod.

The electees will join The Rev. Dr. Melissa Johnson, Eastern District president; The Rev. Jason Andersen, Western District president; and David Jones, president of the Board of Elders of the Canadian District.

Due to the Northern Province's plan to hold a special joint district and

provincial synod in 2028, the term for this PEC will be for two years. Following the 2028 Synod, PEC terms will return to four-year terms.

During synod there was also the election of two new bishops, The Rev. Brian Dixon and The Rev. Nasel Ephraim.

Moravian bishops serve as “pastors to pastors” (and their families), prayer intercessors and spiritual guides to the denomination and may also officiate at ordinations and consecrations. Moravian bishops hold no administrative role (unlike bishops of many other denominations) but it is not unusual for the Provincial Elders’ Conference to consult with bishops on matters of doctrine, faith and church order. While Moravian bishops are elected at provincial synods, they serve the worldwide Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum).

Brian and Nasel join the Rt. Revs. Chris Giesler, Blair Couch, Paul Graf, Doug Kleintop, and the Rt. Rev. Drs. Kay Ward, Amy Gohdes-Luhman and Michael Johnson as bishops in the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province.

Their consecration services will be announced at a later date.

We appreciate all who served at the synod as well as these mentioned who continue to serve in their newly elected positions. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue the work of the church.





The Staten Island Moravian churches will have a joint picnic on Saturday, September 12th, from 12 pm—4 pm, in, and around, the Parish House at New Dorp Moravian Church. Tickets will go on sale soon and the cost is \$10.00 with no charge for children age 11 and under. Please purchase your ticket early so we may have an accurate count for our food order. If you are unable to afford a ticket please speak with the your pastor.

The food will be catered by the same company that brought last years' delicious meal. We will also have games and fellowship. Please remember to bring your lawn chair. We look forward to seeing you then.

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:

August 12 10:00 am

August 26 10:00 am



Puzzle!



NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A ____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)



3	Eliana Machado	22	Henry Anderson
4	Ellen Hoydal	24	Jackie Passburg
5	Mary Ellen Burtner	24	Sharon Merolo
6	Mary Searl	17	Domenick Ciccone
9	Jane McCord	20	Christopher Sibbio, Jr.
9	John Traut	21	Brittany Lagala
11	Christine Brown	21	Libby Neri
12	Marilou Amagsila	25	Dolores Cavallo
15	Donna Rettle	25	Alice Chin
17	Brian Bartiromo	28	David Machado
21	Peter Traut	29	Dom Ciccone
		29	Peter Jones



14	Sarah & David Machado	2023
21	Christine & Kevin Brown	1971
24	Jillian & Nicholas Bazzoni	2013
31	Kelly & Timothy Brown	2002



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, Jennifer Burtner, Joyce Fernandez, Carol Bugge.

Healing, Praise, and other concerns:, Marla DiForte, Van Takoushian (heart issues), Megan Poljak (treatment for breast cancer), Donna (recovering from hand surgery), Carol Diamond (Walter's sister, kidney disease), Connie (Bob Iadarola's neighbor now under hospice care), Maria Critelli (cancer on the heart), Vickie Hill (health problems), Phyllis Collins (health issues), Rosemarie Beyer (radiation for colon cancer, friend of Irene Malley), Vivian Moser (mobility issues), Liz (treatment for liver cancer), Charles DeRosa (brain cancer), Deborah Griggs (recovering from surgery), Dawn Mormile (continuing recovery from back surgery), Jeremi Amagsila (career guidance), Lauren Mormile, Maria Metzger (cancer recurrence), **Stephanie Gerstenlauer (recovering from surgery for broken hip, metastatic lung cancer)**, those suffering the effects of the recently devastating tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and earthquakes, 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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