



Great Kills Moravian Church

# The Herald December 2024



2024 Volume 11

On December first there will be some new things in the sanctuary. The pulpit cloths, called paraments, that were green just last week will be purple through Advent, the four weeks before Christmas. White ones will replace them from Christmas through Epiphany on January 6. The Advent Wreath will be placed beside the pulpit with five candles—three purple, one pink, and one white. Each Sunday in Advent a new candle will be lit. First, purple for hope; second, purple for peace; third pink for joy; fourth purple for love. The white Christ candle in the center will be lit on Christmas Eve.

Familiar things will be in front of the church too. Figures representing Mary and Joseph, and the friendly beasts will wait beside an empty manger for the new baby to arrive. Overhead, the Moravian Star leads the way.

A new church year begins each Advent. The Revised Common Lectionary that the Moravian Church and other Christian churches and denominations follow is divided into three years: A, B, and C. Each year emphasizes readings from a different synoptic gospel: year A is Matthew, year B Mark, and Year C Luke. Gospel readings from now through next Advent will come mostly from Luke. Readings from John don't get their own year in the cycle but are included in all three years at appropriate times.

Advent is a season of anticipation. Christmas is coming. Christ, the Light of the World, is coming. Christ will come again. We live in perilous times. Many of us are apprehensive about changes in our government, about wars and rumors of wars. Mankind has always lived this way. Still we remember what the angels said to the shepherds when they announced the birth of Jesus, "Do not be afraid." Remember, the Moravian emblem declares, "Our Lamb has conquered, let us follow him."

*Charlott Bramwell*

## Joint Board News

- **The church office will be closed on Christmas Day.**
- **Elders will meet on Thursday, December 19th at 11am in person and via Zoom.**
- Our church secretary, Elizabeth Loveridge, will be leaving her position in the next few weeks. We thank her for her excellent service here and wish her well in her new endeavors.
- A Moravian Star looks beautiful in your home during this season. The star makes a wonderful gift. Pastor Blondel has a contact at John Hus church in Brooklyn who sells them. Contact the pastor for information.

### Trustee/Bookkeeper Report for October

Total Income: \$6,949.00

(offerings, building usage, church events)

Total Expenses: \$3,977.53

Difference: \$2,971.47

**From the Financial Secretary**, please include your latest offering envelope or envelope number in memo of check when making a donation to the church. For questions about envelope number or online giving please contact our Financial Secretary, Claudia McGloin.

## Ministries and Events

**Sunday School:** Sunday school meets Sunday at 9:30am for children ages four to twelve. Please contact Pam Bailey at [eccep3@gmail.com](mailto:eccep3@gmail.com) for registration and additional information.

**Sunday Worship Services:** We continue to hold in-person worship services on Sunday at 11am and via Zoom, Worship aids and worship services are available on our website, <https://www.greatkillsmoravian.org>. If you missed a service click on the Watch Now button under Previous Services and then click on the service you would like to view.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Prayer shawls are knitted or crocheted for those who are in need of comfort or those who are celebrating something. If you are interested in volunteering to help make shawls or if you know someone who would like a Prayer Shawl, please contact the church office.

**Prayer Chain:** If you have someone to add to the Prayer Chain, please contact the Louise Brackett or the church office.

**Bible Study:** Bible study group finished the Psalms. The group will resume in the new year to study the gospel of Mark, generally considered the first recorded gospel. The group meets downstairs after worship. Speak with Todd Hallett if you want more information.



### Sanctuary Poinsettias

Order forms are available in the Church Office for poinsettias that will help decorate the Sanctuary for our Christmas Services, cost is \$12 per 6 inch poinsettia. Please make check payable to Great Kills Moravian Church. Orders are due to the church office by Wed, December 18th.

**Unity Prayer Watch: December 18, 2024** *“Moravians have been praying around the clock for a long, long, time!” (Elizabeth D. Miller, Provincial Elders’ Conference)* This year, the Staten Island Moravian Churches have been given **December 18** as the day to be intentional prayer for the world. **Please sign-up** for one or more 15 minute time slots. **Our times are 9am-1pm.** Please contact the church office if you would like to participate or use the sign-up sheet located on the Sign-Up Board outside the Cloak Room.



## Christmas Eve Worship Schedule at GKMC

Tuesday, December 24

Candlelight Service: 5:00pm In person and via Zoom



**An Advent Season Gift for Moravian Open Door** Each Advent season we are reminded of the family long ago who were homeless, had no room at the inn, and not even a crib for their expected infant. Yet they were provided for. Moravian Open Door (MOD) is a Moravian ministry in New York City that provides a safe, clean, temporary home for homeless men and women. Currently we have 34 residents whose ages range from 53 to 91 years. While the facility (called Moravian House) provides accommodation in single and double rooms, the staff provides supportive services to rebuild lives and help residents move to affordable permanent housing.

MOD receives no government funding at all. Donations from individuals, congregations, and other private sources must cover the rest of operating expenses. Your gift this Advent season can help the vital ministry of MOD, the only transitional housing ministry of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church. Please respond generously with your "No Room at the Inn" gift to support this ministry. [www.moravianhouse.org](http://www.moravianhouse.org)

### Events Happening Beyond GKMC Vanderbilt Community Dinner

The next community dinner is **Saturday, December 21st 4:00pm-6:30pm**. You are invited to Vanderbilt's monthly community dinner. If you would like to help in any way or need more information, please contact Muriel Timari.

### Northern Province Racial Justice Team Advent Series

The Moravian Church Northern Province Racial Justice Team is pleased to present its New Way of Being Advent Series for 2024. This year's theme is, "The Doctrine of Discovery: What It Is and Why It Matters." There will be three one-hour sessions on December 4, 11, and 18 at 7:30pm to 8:30pm ET. All sessions will be on Zoom. The Zoom access for all three sessions is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83789192982?pwd=Jw3uYBKL8lot4QUK6XVZlqdB4IpsMO.1> Meeting ID 837 8919 2982, Passcode 718545

**As we look at our brothers and sisters in other countries.** We acknowledge the need of Bishop John E. Knight Nursing Home, a Moravian facility in Antigua seeking adult diapers, wipes, incontinence pads and similar items. Bring them to the church (financial donations are also welcome.) United Moravian Church is preparing a shipment for Antigua.

**The Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church Northern Province** recently endorsed Christians Against Christian Nationalism. The Moravian Church Northern Province (MCNP) rejects Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus Christ; as supporting the sins and systems of racism and white supremacy; and as a threat to democracy.

The Provincial Elders' Conference Northern Province has endorsed the National Council of Churches plea to help fight to protect the vital work of non-profit organizations. While the title of the 'Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act' (HR 9495) may seem harmless, the bill includes provisions that could jeopardize the tax-exempt status of many secular and faith-based non-profit organizations that provide essential services such as humanitarian aid, education, healthcare, and advocacy for marginalized communities. These provisions introduce sweeping measures that target groups based on vague or overly broad criteria. Contact your Congressional representative to express your view. The church office has more information.

**New York State has a home energy assistance** program to help people who desperately need help paying for heating fuel, repairing a boiler, or buying a boiler. If you think you qualify for assistance or know someone who does, the church office can direct you to information.

**The Moravian Women's Conference in the Caribbean** is seven months away. You can follow the news on Facebook. Do you want to attend? Contact the church office.

## GREAT KILLS MORAVIAN CHURCH

62 Hillside Terrace  
Staten Island, New York 10308

Phone: 718-317-7788

Fax: 718-356-2826

Email: [pastor@greatkillsmoravian.org](mailto:pastor@greatkillsmoravian.org)

Email: [office@greatkillsmoravian.org](mailto:office@greatkillsmoravian.org)

\*Office: Mon- Thurs 9am - 1pm

(\*office hours subject to change)



*"In essentials, unity;  
in non-essentials, liberty;  
in all things, love."*

Website: [www.greatkillsmoravian.org](http://www.greatkillsmoravian.org)

We are also on:

**Facebook**

*A Christian Church serving Staten Island since 1886*

**Prayers for:** AnnaMaria V, John Ducey, Bill and Carol Burt, Susan C, Frank and family, Nicholas Falvey and his family, Joanne K, Joyce Fernandez, Captain J. King, Madeline M, Doug Wycoff, Sean and family, Thora Mae and family, Hurricane Helene and Milton victims. **(Please contact the church office to add or remove names from the prayer list)**

### GKMC Prayer List

To add someone, a written request must be made, giving the name of the person needing prayer and the person asking to have them added to the list. Specific details are not required. Request forms are in a basket in the Narthex.

### December Birthdays

12/2 Murial Timari  
Lauren Mamolite  
12/7 Erica Buell  
12/9 Dennis Brackett  
12/10 Louis Pezzengrilli  
12/16 Erin Gibbons  
12/17 Margaret Van Nostrand  
12/18 Robert Mamolite  
12/20 John Regis  
12/23 Joseph Pezzengrilli  
12/25 JESUS  
Enduela Korbeci  
12/27 John Hertman  
Jim Jimenez



### December Anniversaries

12/1 Deborah and Fredrick Koop  
12/5 Lydia & Anthony Ruocco  
12/13 Patricia & James Ruch



### Upcoming Communion Services:

#### December 1

**Communion cups** can be delivered if you plan to join a communion service on Zoom. Please contact the church office if you would like to have one delivered to you. Office phone 718-317-7788, e-mail [office@greatkillsmoravian.org](mailto:office@greatkillsmoravian.org)

## Watchword

2024

**Great Kills Moravian Church**

**Here is the Lamb of God who  
takes away the sin of the world!**

**John 1:29**

### Pastors scheduled for December

**Dec 1 - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant  
co-leader Charlott Bramwell**

**Dec 8 - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant  
co-leader Liz Reres**

**Dec 15 - Pastor Jesus Laguerra  
co-leader Margaret Grace**

**Dec 22 - Pastor Jesus Laguerra  
co-leader Todd Hallett**

**Dec 24 - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant  
co-leader Liz Reres**

**Dec 29 - Pastor Jesus Laguerra  
co-leader Jim Jimenez**

### Elders

Blondel Jones-Grant, chair  
Liz Reres, vice chair  
Margaret Grace, secretary  
Charlott Bramwell  
Todd Hallett  
Jim Jimenez  
Muriel Timari

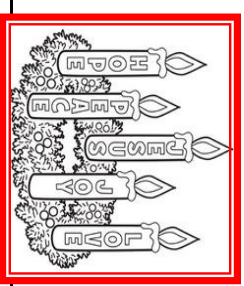
### GKMC Board Members

### Trustees

Blondel Jones-Grant ex-officio  
Nancy Burri, president  
Mike Crea, vice-president and treasurer  
Claudia McGloin, financial secretary  
Janice Hermansen  
Stan Timari  
Nancy Walker



# December 2024



| Sun   | Mon | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri | Sat                                    |
|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|--|
| <b>1 First Sunday of Advent</b><br>9:30am Sunday School<br>11am In-person Worship<br>Service-Holy Communion                             | 2   | 3   | 4<br>7:30pm on Zoom<br>MCNP Advent<br>Series  | 5   | 6   | 7                                      |
| <b>8 Second Sunday of Advent</b><br>9:30am Sunday School<br>11am In-person Worship<br>Service-Children's Program<br>and Fellowship Hour | 9   | 10  | 11<br>7:30pm on Zoom<br>MCNP Advent<br>Series   | 12  | 13  | 14                                     |
| <b>15 Third Sunday of Advent</b><br>9:30am Sunday School<br>11am In-person Worship<br>Service   | 16  | 17  | 18<br>Unity Prayer Watch<br>7:30pm on Zoom<br>MCNP Advent<br>Series   | 19<br>11am Elders Meeting in<br>person and via Zoom | 20  | 21<br>4:00pm VMC Com-<br>munity Dinner |
| <b>22 Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>9:30 am Sunday School<br>11am In-person Worship<br>Service-Lovefeast                               | 23  | 24<br><b>5pm Christmas Eve<br/>           Candlelight Service</b> | 25<br><b>Christmas Day</b><br> | 26  | 27  | 28                                     |
| <b>29 First Sunday after Christ-<br/>           mas</b><br>11am In-person Worship<br>Service  | 30  | 31  |   |   |     |  |

Great Kills Moravian Church  
62 Hillside Terrace  
Staten Island, N Y 10308

## ***Great Kills Moravian Church Weekly Scriptures***

***If you miss our In-Person worship service you may join in the recorded services available on our church website 24/7.***

***December 1 – First Sunday of Advent***

***Holy Communion***

***Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36***

***December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent***

***Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6***

***December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent***

***Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18***

***December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent***

***Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45***

***December 25 - Nativity of the Lord***

***Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14***

***December 29 - First Sunday after Christmas***

***1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52***

***Merry Christmas!***

