

Great Kills Moravian Church



The Herald January 2025



New Year, A New Beginning

Dear Church Family,

As we step into a new year, we are reminded of the promises of God, and fresh opportunities He provides to renew our faith, grow in love, and serve others. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 2nd Corinthians chapter 5 verse 17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

This New Year, let us:

- Reflect on the blessings and lessons of the past year;
- Renew our commitment to walking closely with Christ;
- Resolve to live out our faith by sharing His love with others.

As a community, you are encouraged to join us in prayer for guidance, strength, and joy in the coming year. Together, we will embrace 2025 with hope, faith, and a steadfast trust in the Lord.

We are excited about the plans God has for our church this year and invite you to be part of the journey. Whether it is through worship, service projects, Bible study, or fellowship, there are countless ways to grow and connect.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts and homes this year; and may God bless and keep you.

Let us walk boldly into 2025, knowing that God’s light will guide our steps.

In His love and Service,

Pastor Blondel and Leaders

Joint Board News

End of Year Reports

Please start gathering the information you will need to prepare your end of year report for our Annual Church Council meeting which will be held on **January 26, 2025** following worship service.

- **Ministry Reports are due in to the church office by Monday, January 6, 2025.**
- **Joint Board will meet on Sunday, January 12th following worship service.**
- **Elders Meeting, Thursday, January 16th at 11am via In Person & Zoom.**
- **The church office will be closed on January 1st for New Years & January 20th for Martin Luther King, Jr.**
- **Annual Church Council Meeting January 26th following worship service.**

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

Ministries and Events

Sunday School: Sunday School begins at 9:30am. Contact Pam Bailey at eccep3@gmail.com for registration and additional information.

Bible Study: Keep your ears open. Bible Study will resume soon.

Camp Hope: Moravian Camp Hope has hired a new property manger. Well water has been treated and is safe for all actives. We look forward to camping this summer!

Sunday Worship Services: We continue to hold worship services on Sunday at 11am **in person and via Zoom**. Worship aids and worship services are available for Zoom 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 knit 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 that would like a Prayer Shawl, please contact the church office.

Watchwords

Please join us for worship on **Sunday, January 7**. We will celebrate with Holy Communion and draw the 2025 watchwords. We annually draw watchwords, from the previous year's Daily Text, on the first Sunday of the New Year. The first text drawn during worship is on behalf of the congregation. A watchword, in the Moravian Church, is a scripture verse that is selected and shared for the purpose of offering a blessing, encouragement, or challenge. We believe the selection of these texts is guided by the Holy Spirit and we often find inspiration as we refer to the selected text throughout the coming year.

Annual Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2025, following worship service. All **members** of the Great Kills Moravian Church are encouraged to attend to review 2024, to elect Congregational leaders and pass a budget for the coming year. *A quorum is required for voting, please make every effort to attend this important meeting. *Ministry Leaders* Please submit your Annual Reports. Reports are due to the Church office by Monday, January 6th.*

Events Happening Beyond GKMC

Vanderbilt Community Dinner

The next community dinner is **Saturday, January 18th 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.

GKMC Craft Fair

Sincere Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Great Kills Moravian Church Fair over the last 29 years. Whether you collected money, worked in the bakery, crafted, worked in kitchen, waited tables, helped at setup, or the other tasks that made our fair successful, you are appreciated. Most of all thank you to the elves, the crafters who met twice a week for most of the 29 years, your dedication and artistic abilities were a Godsend!

Sincerely,
Nancy and Janice

GKMC Christmas Fair

This fair was very special for my family since it was dedicated to my mom, Christine Peterson. She loved the annual fair, and she recognized that it takes many people to make an event like this successful. She always made sure she thanked everyone so I hope I don't miss anyone.

Nancy W., Janice and our elves (aka crafters) worked hard all year creating beautiful items for the fair, and they also had boutiques and Pysanky Egg classes. Mackenzie, Dalton and Margaret ran the kitchen and provided delicious lunches for all. The café was run by Pam who coordinated the servers and also most of the decoration of the downstairs hall. Louise, Veronica and their helpers sold baked goods and also helped to draw the raffle numbers. Jim, Muriel, Norma, Mackenzie, Veronica, Janice, Nancy W. and I donated baskets for the raffles and others donated items that helped us create a record number of 51 baskets. Jim and Mike G. did a great job selling raffle tickets and were very helpful to anyone who had questions about the baskets or the process. Special thanks to all who helped set up the tables, chairs, trees, etc. and to Muriel and Barbara P. who helped me push to get those last baskets completed in time.

The comments I received that day from visitors were extremely positive and many were sad that it would be our last fair. For those who participated in any way, your hard work was greatly appreciated and I thank you!!! To borrow how my mom ended her last report, well done, good and faithful servant!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Reres

A Moravian Christmas 1997

A special thanks to all the “Putz” construction people, Mike Grace, Kermit Peterson, Janice Hermansen, Jonathan Acheson, Deborah Nasta and Kevin Collins. What a wonderful job they have done. The script and music put together by Margaret Grace tells the whole story of Jesus’ birth. Linda and David Mercaldo are putting this tape presentation together and we certainly appreciate their professional talents.

Nancy Walker as our Crafts coordinator along with Janice Hermansen and their group of busily working Elves are turning out exquisite items for our Christmas Boutique.

Lydia Langell and Marty Brennan have been sewing those Moravian Costumes and I hear they are quite complicated.

Fran Wells will be in charge of our Cake Table, and Mildred Saderholm will be in charge of the Christmas Café. Bonnie Crea will coordinate the “Café” tables and waiters/waitress.

Jim Henry will lend his talents by presenting a brief history of the Moravian Church for all who wish to know who the Moravians are.

Special trees will be displayed in fellowship hall. The Sunday Bible Club will have a mitten tree (mittens to go to Project Hospitality). A Christmas tree decorated by Jonathan Acheson and a Pyramid Tree constructed and decorated by the Ultimate Youth Group.

If you want to help in any of these areas please speak directly to that person or see me. You will be getting a call to make something for the Bake table.

Sooo... put on your best Moravian manners and come out December 6, 10:00am-6:00pm and make a good impression on our community; in others words come and be yourself.

To all of you working so hard before this big day and to all of you working on that day and the clean up crew after its over. I Thank each and everyone of you for a job “well done my good and faithful servant”.

May what we do on December 6th be favorable in God’s eyes.

Chris Peterson December 1997

GKMC Sanctuary

On behalf of the Joint Board, we wish to thank those who helped decorate and prepare our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season.

GKMC Fellowship Hour

We all love to snack on cakes and cookies and visit with friends after the service so please sign up to coordinate a fellowship hour. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Prayers for: Sabrina, John Ducey, Bill and Carol Burt, Susan C, Frank and family, Nicholas Falvey and his family, Linda Golino, 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.

Welcome New Staff

We would like to welcome our new Office Administrator Michael Cipolla.

Elders:

Blondel Jones-Grant, Pastor/Chair
Liz Reres, Vice Chair
Margaret Grace, Secretary
Charlott Bramwell
Todd Hallett
Jim Jimenez
Muriel Timari

Trustees:

Blondel Jones-Grant, Ex-Officio
Nancy Burri, President
Mike Crea, Vice-President &
Treasurer
Claudia McGloin, Financial
Secretary
Janice Hermansen
Stan Timari
Nancy Walker

GREAT KILLS MORAVIAN CHURCH

Pastor: Blondel Jones-Grant

Phone: 718-317-7788

Fax: 718-356-2826

*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

We are also on:

Facebook

A Christian Church serving Staten Island since 1886

Email: pastor@greatkillsmoravian.org



January Birthdays

- 1/3 Karen Maskuli
- 1/7 Christopher Bilbao
- 1/9 Gary Feltus
- 1/15 Janet Buell
- 1/16 Donna-Lee Ziegeler
- 1/17 Zachary Ali
- 1/19 Michael Pezzengrilli
- 1/23 Jessica DelGiudice
Patricia Ruch
- 1/29 Lydia Langell
- 1/30 Claudia McGloin
Erica Kovacs
- 1/31 Madeline Muller

Pysanky Schedule:

- Sat. February 22nd @ 9:00 am (advanced*)
- Sat. March 1st @ 9:00 am (advanced*)
- Sat. March 8th @ 9:00 am
- Fri. March 14th @ 5:30 pm
- Sat. March 22nd @ 9:00 am (advanced*)
- Fri. April 4th @ 5:30 pm
- Sat. April 12th @ 9:00 am
- Mon. April 21st @ 9:00 am
- Sat. April 26th @ 9:00 am (advanced*)

***Advanced sessions are for those who have experience**

Watchword

2025

Great Kills Moravian Church

2025 congregational watchword will be picked on January 5th and will be posted in the February Herald.

Pastors scheduled for January

Jan 5
*Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant
co-leader Muriel Timari*

Jan 12
*Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant
co-leader Donna Ziegeler*

Jan 19
*Rev. Jesus Laguerra
co-leader Charlott Bramwell*

Jan 26
*Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant
co-leader
Normalee Mallawaaracheci*



January Anniversaries

- 1/8 Donna and Charles Montanti



Upcoming Communion Services:

January 5

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



January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
www.greatkillsmoravian.org Facebook			1 Church Office is Closed	2	3	4
5 Second Sunday After Christmas 9:30am Sunday School 11am Worship In-person and via Zoom Holy Communion	6 Progress Reports by Ministry Leaders are due to Church Office	7	8	9 11am A.A.R.P Meeting	10	11
12 First Sunday After The Epiphany 9:30am Sunday School 11am Worship In-person and via Zoom --Joyful Noise Offering 12pm Joint Board Meeting	13	14	15	16 11am Elders Meeting	17	18 4:00pm Vanderbilt Community Fellow- ship Dinner
19 Second Sunday After The Epiphany 9:30am Sunday School 11am Worship In-person and via Zoom	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church Of- fice is Closed.	21	22	23	24	25
26 Third Sunday After The Epiphany 9:30am Sunday School 11am Worship In-person and via Zoom 12pm Annual Church Council Meeting	27	28	29	30	31	

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

Great Kills Moravian Church Worship Weekly Scriptures

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

January 5 — Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9)10-18

January 12 — First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17,21-22

January 19 — Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 26 — Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21