

Great Kills Moravian Church



2023 Volume 11

From the Pastor's Desk

The Herald December 2023



A Christmas Message

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; grace, mercy and peace to you through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It has truly been an honor for me to serve you this past year and a half. I pray that God will continue to guide us as we navigate relationships.

The advent of our Emmanuel makes this season a wonderful and glorious time of year for people all over the world. However there are some who struggle with injustice, homelessness, food insufficiency, conflict and wars; and there are those who struggle not knowing where to turn and how to face the uncertain future.

In all of this, as a community of faith, we have hope and we strive to do all that we can to help alleviate the uncertainty of our times through our faith.

December 17th is the time set aside for us as a congregation to join with the entire Moravian Unity to pray for the world. All are encouraged to sign up and take with you some listed and specific areas in which to pray. Prayer works! With the entire Moravian church praying, there will be positive results.

In this season of giving and joy, let us offer some of ourselves to the world, whether we personally know our worldwide brothers and sisters or not. It is our duty to lift up God's world, God's people in prayer. Let us bring the joy of Christ's birth to all we meet wishing peace and love to all.

In this season, do not lose hope. Keep the faith that the light of the world will always shine through in any circumstance.

It is my hope that Christ will forever live within you all, and that the joy of his birth resounds within our souls for all time.

May hope, peace, joy and love fill our hearts always; and may the blessing of this season be with you all. May we continue to celebrate Emmanuel through all that we do. "Christ within us, knowing that without him in our lives; working within us; we are nothing.

To all, I wish you and your family health, happiness and peace this Christmas and the coming year. May God bless and keep you all.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Blondel



Joint Board News

- **Elders Meeting on Wednesday, December 21 at 11am.**
 - **The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th in observance of Christmas.**
 - **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 28, 2024 following worship service.
 - ***Ministry Reports are due in to the church office by Monday, January 8, 2024.***
 - **Trustee/Bookkeeper Report for October**
Total Income: \$16,655.61
(offerings, building usage, church events)
Total Expenses: \$7,745.25
Difference: \$8,910.36
- 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, please contact Pam Bailey at 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. If you wish to attend on Zoom, please contact the church office for log-in information. 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 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.

Craft Group: All are welcome to join our group and create beautiful pieces, we meet Fridays at 10am.



Unity Prayer Watch

December 17, 2023 *"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 17** as the day to be intentional prayer for the world. **Please sign-up** for one or more 15 minute time slots. **Our times are as follows:** 1:00am-1:30am, 3:30am-4:00am, 6:00am-6:30am, 8:30am-9:00am, 11:00am-11:30am, 1:30pm-2:00pm, 4:00pm-4:30pm, 6:30pm-7:00pm, 9:00pm-9:30pm, 11:30pm-12:00am. *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.*



Sanctuary Poinsettias

Order forms are available in the Church Office for poinsettias that will help decorate the Sanctuary for our Christmas Services, cost is \$20 per poinsettia. Please make check payable to Great Kills Moravian Church.

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule at GKMC

Sunday, December 24

Morning Worship: 11am via YouTube and through our website,

www.youtube.com/@gkmcmedia4622

www.greatkillsmoravian.org

Candlelight/Lovefeast Service: 4:00pm 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.

During this pandemic of COVID-19, MOD mourned the loss of three of its residents to the virus, and some other residents and even the staff have been sickened by the disease and recovered. MOD receives no government funding at all. MOD needs the financial support of Moravian congregations, especially now with the extra costs of fighting the COVID-19 virus. Please respond generously with your "No Room at the Inn" gift to support this ministry. www.moravianhouse.org

Events Happening Beyond GKMC



Vanderbilt Community Dinner

The next community dinner is **Saturday, December 16th 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

Wednesdays in Advent: Nov 29, Dec 6, Dec 13, and Dec 20, 7-8 pm ET On Zoom – Open to All

Use the link to join the series:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85945814606?pwd=RENwdDVVbJmY1dYRHo0N1BKSSSt2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 85945814606 Passcode: 832033



Fall Leaf Collection

The NYC Sanitation will collect leaves from your curb on Sunday, December 10th. Put leaves for collection out on Saturday, December 9th.



Christmas at Camp Hope: December 8-10, 2023. Stay in a cozy cabin with your family or friends. Swap cookies, participate in Hope's Moravian Christmas Lantern Tours, learn to fold a Moravian Star and more! For additional information and registration visit camphope.org

GREAT KILLS MORAVIAN CHURCH

62 Hillside Terrace
Staten Island, New York 10308

Phone: 718-317-7788

Fax: 718-356-2826

Email: pastor@greatkillsmoravian.org

Email: 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

We are also on:

Facebook

A Christian Church serving Staten Island since 1886

Prayers for: Barbara B, Desmond B, Carly B, Bilbao Family, Joseph B, George Bryant and Family, Clark Family, John C, Scott and Marsha C, Meredith C, Cascio Family, C.J, Rocky C, Pete C, Christopher, Julianna D, John Ducey, John D, Joseph D, Jessica D, Harry E, Barbara F, Jennifer F, Jonathan F, Lisa F, Anna Galicia, Matilde G, Thomas G, Janice H, Jason, Jen, Joe, Bill & Sue G, Henry, Jackie, Janice M, Jennifer R, June K, Robert K, Kathy, Kelly, Linda, Lisa F, Roseanne F and Family, Lydia, Giuliana L, Sam L, Elaine M, Juliana M, Mary M, Susan M, Robert M, Victoria M, Vincent M, Silvia N, Stephen N, Nicole, Peter, Mary P, Barbara P, Betty P, Gemma P, Powell Family, Thomas P, Tom P, John P, Mike R, Rob, Rosanna, Rhonda R, Mary R, Norma S, Muriel T, Sandy, Joy, Tommy, Ware Family, and all caretakers **(Please contact the church office to add or remove names from the prayer list)**

Prayer List

The current prayer list will be kept current through the end of the year. Beginning in January, we will start a new list. To add someone, a request must be made in writing, giving the name of the person needing prayer and the person asking to have them added to the list. Specific details are not required. There will be request forms in a basket in the Narthex. Thank you for your help with this project.

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

12/5 Lydia & Anthony Ruocco
12/13 Patricia & James Ruch



Upcoming Communion Services:

December 3

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

Watchword

2023

Great Kills Moravian Church

Whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. 1 John 2:5

Pastors scheduled for December

Dec 3 - Pastor Maggie Wellert
Holy Communion

Dec 10 - Pastor Maggie Wellert

Dec 17 - Rev. Jesus Laguerra

Dec 24 - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant
11am Service *via online only see pg 3*
4pm Candlelight/Lovefeast
In-person and via Zoom

Dec 31 - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant

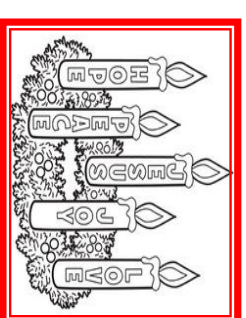
The Herald Newsletter


We welcome the creative efforts of our congregation to produce a newsletter that we all want to take the time to read. Do you love to write or do you know of a topic that would be interesting to our members? Please call the office or email with your suggestions. All news, articles, and church information for the newsletter must be in to the Church office by the 15th of the month. **If you would like The Herald emailed to you, send an email to: office@greatkillsmoravian.org**





December 2023



*Advent Series: See page 3						1	2	
3 First Sunday of Advent 9:30 Sunday School 11am Worship Service - <i>Holy Communion</i>	4	5	6 *7pm Northern Prov- ince Racial Justice Team Advent Series	7	8	9		
10 Second Sunday of Advent 9:30 Sunday School 11am Worship Service 12pm Fellowship Hour	11	12	13 *7pm Northern Prov- ince Racial Justice Team Advent Series	14	15	16 4pm Vanderbilt Com- munity Dinner		
17 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30am Sunday School 11am Worship Service 12:00pm Fellowship Hour	18	19	20 *7pm Northern Prov- ince Racial Justice Team Advent Series	21 11am Elders Meet- ing	22	23		
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent 11am Worship Service see page 3 4pm -Candlelight and Lovefeast In person and Zoom	25 Nativity of the Lord 	26	27	28	29	30		
31 New Years Eve 11am Worship Service								

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.

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

Fellowship following worship service

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

11am Worship via You Tube and through our website (see pg3)

4pm Candlelight and Lovefeast Service in Person and via Zoom

December 31 - First Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

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