

Great Kills Moravian Church



2024 Volume 5

The Herald May 2024



Mother's Day was my mother's favorite holiday. When I was young we always got new clothes for Mother's Day. All the aunts and uncles and cousins would travel to Virginia, where my mother grew up, for the weekend to celebrate Mother's Day. I asked my mother once why her family celebrated Mother's day when Easter was THE Christian holiday. My mother explained that in rural Virginia in the early part of the 20th century, the population was sparse. People couldn't easily get to together for church. So, her father, who was the local minister, served several churches spending one Sunday a month at each one. He would be at the "home church" on the second Sunday of each month. The second Sunday of May, Mother's Day, became the day for renewal and revival.

In recent years, Mother's Day sermons tend to honor mothers while acknowledging that the day is not a happy one for everyone. Some women want to be mothers but are unable to have children. Some women who have children do a bad job of mothering.

We acknowledge people who raised or nurtured children who were not their own. Grandmothers or aunts, neighbors or strangers, women and men who stepped up to mother children.

When Jesus started his ministry, his mother and brothers who were alarmed at what he was doing, went to the place where he was preaching and tried to get his attention. Mark 3:31-35 describes what happened:

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Charlott Bramwell

Did You Know?

Many people have connected the Dogwood tree to Easter celebration. "Some believe that the tree was once large, like a great Oak and that it's wood was used to construct the cross on which Jesus was crucified, God cursed the Dogwood for its role in the crucifixion, turning the strong trunk and branches skinny and fragile. But in an act of forgiveness, He blessed the tree with the gift of beautiful cross-shaped flowers."

The Dogwood tree is a reminder that God's forgiveness is endless.

The Church Mouse



Joint Board News

- The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.
- The Elders will meet on Thursday, May 30th at noon in person at the church or on Zoom.
- Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant will hold office hours on Thursday, May 30th from 11am-12pm. Call to make an appointment or walk-ins welcome.
- We are looking forward to the John Hus Festival on July 14 at John Hus Moravian Church in Brooklyn. Details to follow.



Trustee/Bookkeeper Report for March

Total Income: \$1,572.00

(offerings, building usage, church events)

Total Expenses: \$7,388.79

Difference: -\$5,816.79

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.

Questionnaire: In the near future, a questionnaire will be distributed that will help our boards determine what our congregation interests are. For example, If you are interested in a Bible study group, you will be asked the times that are convenient for you and the type of meeting you prefer (Virtual vs. In-person).

Christian Education Committee: We are also creating a new CEC committee so please start thinking about how you can contribute to this important ministry. A fellowship hour will be scheduled soon to discuss this committee in more detail.

Children's Bulletins and Children's Chat

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it."
Proverbs 22: 5

We have started something new during our worship service. The children depending on their age will be given a baggie with either crayons or pencils in it that has their age appropriate bulletin for them that goes along with The Gospel reading for that Sunday. Every second Sunday of the month there will be a Children's Chat and the children will help with the Joyful Noise collection. It will be their special day. We will try to have a children's song for them, too. We look forward in seeing the children every Sunday.

*In Christ,
Muriel*

CLASS OF **Attention Graduates!** **2024**

If you or a family member are graduating in May or June, we would like to recognize your achievement. Please send information to church office prior to May 15th for insert in our June Newsletter.

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.



The **FerryHawks** are hosting a Faith and Family Night on May 4th at 6:30pm with fireworks following the game. If you would like to attend the game, use the following link to purchase tickets. <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/GKMC24>



Church Picnic **Are You Interested?**

It has been a while since we had a picnic with our friends from the UBC Moravian churches. If we have enough interest, we would like to plan a picnic a date in September. Please contact the church office if you are interested or use the sign-up sheet outside the Cloak room.

Events Happening Beyond GKMC

Vanderbilt Moravian Church Community Dinner

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

On May 18, 2024, we have been asked to provide the desserts for these two dinners. We will be preparing to provide the desserts for eighty clients. If you would like to help bake for either one of those dates it would be appreciated. You do not have to bake for the full eighty count. We can break it half of forty items. Please let me know if you would help bake for this cause. You can send me an email

MTimari5@gmail.com or you can leave a message in the church office for me. *In Christ, Muriel*

2024 Synod Mission Project: One Tree Planted

A desire of the 2024 Synod planning team of the Moravian Church Eastern District is to make a positive impact in our community and world by planting trees. Synods use a tremendous amount of paper, and we hope to reduce our footprint through this effort. Trees are essential in creating clean air and water, a healthy climate, and providing habitats for wildlife. For every dollar donated a tree will be planted through the One Tree Planted organization. The Eastern District Synod will match up to the first 250 trees. We encourage our congregations to support this effort to plant more trees. Please join our team and create a positive impact on our environment. The goal of the Synod planning team is to donate 1,500 trees before the end of Synod on June 29, 2024. **Donations may be made through the synod web page:** <https://www.moravian.org/northern/edsynod2024/>



The Moravian Church Community Garden

Grow food for yourself and for our community! Learn to garden or share your gardening skills at Castleton Hill Moravian Church. For meeting dates and additional information email: simoraviancommunitygarden@gmail.com



Summer at Camp Hope

Kick off the start of summer with Camp Hope at their Memorial Day Family Camp.

To inquire about the Memorial Day camp and many camps being offered, please visit <https://www.camphope.org/>. Looking for a summer job? Camp Hope has many positions available, for additional information visit their website.

**GREAT KILLS
MORAVIAN CHURCH**62 Hillside Terrace
Staten Island, New York 10308

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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.orgWe are also on:**Facebook***A Christian Church serving Staten Island since 1886*

Prayers for: John Ducey, Bill and Carol Burt, Barbara F, Nicholas Falvey and his family, Joyce Fernandez, Captain J. King, Sadie Larsen, Madeline M, Doug Wycoff (**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.

May Birthdays

5/1 Heather Ulrich
5/3 Gary Scarpato
5/6 Jason Crea, Jr.
5/7 Emily Koop
Lily Coury
5/9 Kristin Christie
5/11 Ryan McGloin
5/12 Matthew Pezzengrilli
5/15 Linda Mercaldo
5/17 Colin Christie
Vianey Hallett
5/18 Jason Crea
5/21 Michelle Russo
5/22 Adam Hallett
5/24 Jessica Hansen
5/28 Adam Maskuli

**May Anniversaries**

5/3 Grace & Richard Scarpato

**Upcoming Communion Services:**

May 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

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
May**

May 5 - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant

May 12 – Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant

May 19 - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant

May 26 - Rev. Jesus Laguerra

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**





May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
www.greatkillmoravian.org Like our Facebook Page			1	2	3 10am Craft Group 3pm Moravian Ministry 25th Anniversary Reception, Bethlehem, PA	4 6:30pm FerryHawks Game, see pg 3
5 9:30am Sunday School 11am Worship In-person and via Zoom-Holy Communion	6	7	8	9 11am AARP	10 10am Craft Group	11
12 Mother's Day 9:30am Sunday School 11am Worship In-person and via Zoom-Joyful Noise Collection for Esperanza	13	14	15	16	17 10am Craft Group	18 4pm VMC Community Dinner
19 9:30am Sunday School 11am Worship In-person and via Zoom	20	21	22	23	24 10am Craft Group	25
26 9:30am Sunday School 11am Worship In-person and via Zoom	27 Memorial Day <i>Office is closed</i> 	28	29	30 11am-12pm Pastor's Office Hours, see pg 2 12pm Elders Meeting	31 10am Craft Group	

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.

May 5 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 12 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day - Joyful Noise Collection for Esperanza

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 19 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34,35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27,16:4b-15

May 26 - Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-18; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17