

# Great Kills Moravian Church Herald

May 2025

Volume 5, page 1

---

**May 1, 2025**

Dear Beloved Congregation of Great Kills Moravian Church,

As I conclude my time serving as your lay pastor, my heart is filled with gratitude and love for each of you. These past three years have been a journey of faith, growth, and shared ministry, and I am deeply thankful for the ways we have walked together in Christ's love.

Your warmth, faithfulness, and commitment to the church have been a blessing, not just to me, but to all who enter our doors. Through worship, fellowship, and service, we have strengthened our bonds as a spiritual family, and I will carry these memories with me always.

Though my season of service in this role is ending, my prayers and affection for you remain steadfast. May you continue to grow in faith, hope, and love, always trusting in God's guidance. I encourage you to embrace the future with confidence, knowing that God's plan for Great Kills Moravian Church is full of promise and grace.

With heartfelt gratitude and blessings,  
**Blondel Jones Grant**; Pastor

---

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new, And God fulfills himself in many ways, Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

In his poem, *Morte de 'Arthur*, Alfred, Lord Tennyson could be describing our congregation right now as we prepare to carry on without Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant. She is a great leader. We have made progress during her three years as pastor. Sunday attendance is up. We have new members. There are more children in Sunday school.

Although we understand that Pastor Blondel will be moving on, we will miss her. She said she'll come back for special occasions if we need her. Our congregation will move forward just as it did when Pastor Tracy left and when Pastor Maggie left. Our congregation has changed since Pastor Ed Fischer left in 1964. Remember his Lenten letter that Nancy Burri dug out of her archive that we published in March? Remember, too, that since our congregation began in 1886 we have had many pastors. Change is a constant. We will change and grow and thrive.

Charlott Bramwell

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



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

Office Administrator: Michael Cipolla

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

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

We are also on Facebook

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

Elders:

Blondel Jones-Grant, Pastor/Chair

Liz Reres, Vice Chair

Karen Maskuli

Debra Jelonek

Charlott Bramwell

Todd Hallett

Muriel Timari

Trustees:

Blondel Jones-Grant, Ex-Officio

Nancy Burri, President

Mike Crea, Vice-President & Treasurer

Claudia McGloin, Financial Secretary

Janice Hermansen

Stan Timari

Jim Jimenez

## Ministries and Events:

**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, [www.greatkillsmoravian.org](http://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.

**Communion Services:** **Monthly Communion cups** can be delivered if you plan to join a communion service on Zoom.

**Sunday School:** Sunday School begins at 9:30am. Please contact Pam Bailey at [eccep3@gmail.com](mailto:eccep3@gmail.com) for registration and additional information. We are proud of our Sunday School children: Lilac and Teddy Hallett, Elise Leccese, Diana and Charles Montanti, Peter and Cayleigh Ziegeler, and Zoe McGloin who shared their faith with us on Easter Sunday. Special thanks to Sunday School teachers, Pam Bailey and Veronica Samuel along with Stan and Muriel Timari who taught and encouraged the children.

**Bible Study:** Bible Study group meets after worship about 12:15 Sunday mornings. We are studying the Gospel of Mark. All are welcome.

**The Joyful Noise Offering:** The children collect coins every second Sunday as a Joyful Noise collection that supports three missions: Camp Hope in NJ, the Essentials Cafe in Pennsylvania, and Moravian Open Door in New York City. The children enjoy the clanking noise the coins make when they land in the offering can. So bring your coins. They will also accept bills or checks.

**Greeters:** We are looking for Greeters to help with Sunday morning Service. All you have to do

is arrive at 10:30 a.m., smile, and say, "Welcome." If you are interested tell Debra Jelonek when you can help!

**Children's Chat:** Children's Chat is held the second Sunday of the month during worship.

**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 who would like a Prayer Shawl, please contact the church office.

**Celebrations:** Spring is a time for celebrations. If you know of someone who's graduating we would like to recognize the achievement. Please send information to church office prior to May 25th for an insert in our June Newsletter. If you'd like birthday or anniversary wishes, let the church office know.

### **Joint Board news:**

Elders will meet June 5th at 11:00am.

The financial secretary asks that you write your envelope number in the memo section of your check.

### **Trustee Book Keeping Report For February**

Income.	\$2,739.48	<b>*Elevator bottom</b>
Expenses.	\$6,603.15	<b>floor lock was</b>
Surplus.	-\$3,863.67	<b>repaired.</b>

### **Events Happening beyond GKMC:**

**Vanderbilt Community Dinner:** The next community dinner is **Saturday, May 17**, 4:00pm to 6:00pm. We are invited. If you would like to help in any way or need more information, contact Muriel Timari.

**Unity Prayer Offering:** The Unity Prayer offerings will be accepted through May. Use the

small brown envelopes located in the table in front of the church. If writing a check, indicate "unity offering". In the memo section. The Moravian Church in North America plans to use these funds to help create a "Common Moravian Theological Curriculum in Spanish."

**Stewardship:** Being good stewards in the church means responsibly managing the gifts, resources, and opportunities that God has entrusted to us. This stewardship extends to our time, talents, finances, and care for the church community and beyond. Here are some key ways we can be good stewards:

- 1. Faithful Financial Giving:** Supporting the church through tithes and offerings ensures that ministry, outreach, and operational needs are met. Giving generously and joyfully reflects our trust in God's provision.
- 2. Using Our Talents and Gifts:** Each person has unique abilities that can serve the church, whether through music, teaching, leadership, hospitality, or service. Offering our gifts strengthens the body of Christ.
- 3. Caring for Church Property:** Maintaining the church building and grounds ensures a welcoming space for worship and community activities. This includes responsible use of facilities, regular upkeep, and supporting necessary improvements.
- 4. Serving Others:** Stewardship involves reaching beyond the church walls to care for those in need. Volunteering in ministries, mission work, and local outreach programs is a way to serve God by serving others.
- 5. Time Management:** Prioritizing time for worship, prayer, Bible study, and service reflects our commitment to spiritual growth and community. Being present and engaged in church life fosters a stronger, more connected congregation.

6. **Environmental Stewardship:** Caring for God's creation by promoting sustainability, reducing waste, and making environmentally conscious choices aligns with biblical principles of stewardship.

7. **Encouraging & Discipling Others:** Investing in the spiritual growth of fellow believers through mentorship, small groups, and encouragement strengthens the church's mission and builds a strong faith community. Ultimately, good stewardship is about honoring God with all that we have and using it wisely for His glory and the benefit of His kingdom.

**Email Address:** If you have an email address, can the church have it? We send the monthly Church Herald & Weekly Worship aid out by email. If you can not attend Sunday worship and elect to follow the service online, you have the worship aid on hand ahead of time.

**Directory:** Do you want church friends to contact you? Give your phone number and email address to the church office for inclusion in the next edition of the church directory.

**GKMC Prayer List:** To add someone, send a request to the office. Request forms are in a basket in the Narthex. Otherwise contact Louise Brackett.

**Prayers For:** Anna Maria V, John Ducey, Bill and Carol Burt, Charlee, Samantha Catania, Patrick Calcagno, Linda Golino, Susan C, Frank and family, Nicholas Falvey and his family, Joanne K, Joyce Fernandez, Captain J. King, Mark Chin, James Peterson, Madeline M, Doug Wycoff, Sean and his mom Sue, Thora Mae and family, Amanda, Dr. Krelensteri and Florence.

### **Leaders & Co Leaders:**

**May 4** - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant  
Co-leader Muriel Timari

**May 11** - Pastor Jesus Laguerra  
Co-leader Laura Hepworth

**May 18** - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant  
Co-leader Normalee Mallawaarachchi

**May 25** – Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant  
Co-leader Todd Hallett

### **May Birthdays**

5/1 Heather Ulrich

5/3 Gary Scarpato

5/6 Jason D. Crea

5/7 Emily Koop Lily Coury

5/9 Kristin Christie

5/11 Ryan McGloin

5/12 Matthew Pezzengrilli / Jesus Laguerra

5/15 Linda Mercaldo

5/16 Aiden Moscarda

5/17 Colin Christie Vianey Hallett

5/18 Jason Crea

5/21 Michelle Russo

5/24 Jessica Hansen

5/28 Adam Maskuli

### **May Anniversaries**

5/3 Grace & Richard Scarpato

Here is a correction to last month's lead article in the Church Herald. Leopard Da Vinci painted the Last Supper. Michelangelo painted the Creation of Adam. The two artists were contemporaries. Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting of the Last Supper is a mural painted on the dining room wall of the former Dominican convent Santa Maria Delle Grazie in Milan, Italy, between 1495 and 1498. Michelangelo's, Creation of Adam, is a fresco painted between 1508 and 1512 on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City.

# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<a href="http://www.greatkillsmoravian.org">www.greatkillsmoravian.org</a> Facebook				1 Elders Meeting 11:00 am	2	3
4 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom Holy Communion 12:00 Fellowship	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom Children's Chat Joyful Noise Offering 12:15pm Bible Study	12	13	14	15	16	17 Vanderbilt Community Dinner 4:00 pm
18 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	26	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.*

**May 4 - Third Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 9:1-6,(7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19**

**May 11 - Forth Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30**

**May 18 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35**

**May 25 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22-22:5; John 14:23-29**