

# Great Kills Moravian Church Herald

January 2026

Volume 1, Page 1

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Merry Christmas.

We are in Christmas season, twelve days—December 25 through January 6—Christmas through Epiphany. One story says that the Magi set out on December 25 following the star and arrived in Bethlehem a year and 12 days later. The Bible doesn't say that though.

The gospel according to Matthew describes how Wise Men from the East followed a star to Bethlehem stopping first in the capital city, Jerusalem, to see the child born King of the Jews. When King Herod found out, he directed the wise men to find the child and then return to tell him where the child was so he could go and worship also. When the wise men didn't return, King Herod killed every baby boy in Bethlehem under the age of two thereby killing the upstart "king." Traditional Roman Catholic Churches remember the martyrdom of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

Moravians in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania have a longstanding tradition of building a putz, or display of the Christmas story using small figures. The Christmas Fair that we used to hold at Great Kills Moravian began as a putz.

After 40 days, Mary and Joseph took their son to the Temple for Mary's ritual purification after childbirth and to present their firstborn son to the Lord. There they encountered two old people, Simeon and Anna. Luke 2 records the beautiful prayer, the song of Simeon: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

Merry Christmas.

Charlott Bramwell

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



Great Kills Moravian Church

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

We are also on Facebook

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

#### **Elders:**

Muriel Timari, Vice Chair

Liz Reres

Karen Maskuli

Debra Jelonek

Charlott Bramwell, Secretary

Todd Hallett

#### **Trustees:**

Nancy Burri, President

Mike Crea, Vice-President & Treasurer

Claudia McGloin, Financial Secretary

Janice Hermansen

Stan Timari

Jim Jimenez

#### **Central Board of Elders**

Liz Reres

Muriel Timari

#### **Central Board of Trustees**

Nancy Burri

Michael Crea

## **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. Contact the church office.

**The Joyful Noise Offering:** Children collect a joyful noise offering every second Sunday. This quarter, those coins will support The Essential Cafe in Bethlehem, Pa. The children enjoy the sounds of coins clinking, so bring in your coins. They will accept cash and checks also.

**Greeters:** We are looking for Greeters to help with Sunday morning Service. All you have to do is arrive at 10:30am, smile, and say, "Welcome." If you are interested tell Debra Jelonek when you can help!

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Prayer shawls are knit or crocheted for those who 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:** If you'd like birthday or anniversary wishes, let the church office know and they will be added to the monthly newsletter.

## Christian Education:

**Youth Disciple Time:** Youth Disciple Time is held the second Sunday of the month during worship.

**Sunday School:** Sunday school has started. Please contact Pam to register.

**Confirmation Class** The new confirmation class has started. Contact the church office if you and your child are interested in the confirmation class.

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

## Joint Board news:

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

## Trustee Bookkeeping Report for November

Income. \$4,485.76

Expenses. \$3,253.14

Surplus. \$1,232.62

## January Birthdays

1/3 Karen Maskuli

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

1/30 Claudia McGloin

Erica Kovacs

## January Anniversaries

1/8 Donna and Charles Montanti

## The Elders' Corner

The Elders didn't meet in the month of December. The Elders were very busy with praying for our members and friends that have been hospitalized, in rehab or recuperating at home. We have been working on all the daily spiritual needs of the church. Thank you to all who have decorated our sanctuary, lit the beautiful Advent Wreath and were involved in the Christmas Eve service. There are little mice around that get a lot accomplished around the church. Our next Meeting will be on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 11 am.

Respectfully submitted, Muriel

## Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church From the Elders

On Sunday, December 7, 2025, the Prayer Shawls were Blessed by Pastor Blondel Jones- Grant that Sister Debra Jelonek and Sister Donna Montanti had made. It was moving that we all had our hands raised up blessing them. The creativity of the blankets was on display for all to see. Also, Veronica and Steve, who were married at the end of November, were given a prayer shawl for two. It was wrapped around them, and Sister Donna read a beautiful prayer blessing written solely for them.

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, the newly named "Youth Disciple's Time" met during the service. It was great to see and hear the youth participating within that time.

Throughout every Sunday of Advent, the Advent Wreath was lit by members of the church. We appreciate and are very thankful to everyone who had participated in lighting the wreath.

## Continued from Page 3

On Sunday, December 21, 2025, our Sunday School students brought the message to us. The Sunday School singers were excellent. The congregation also participated by singing some of the hymns with them. They were involved in reading the liturgy, scriptures, participating in handing out the Lovefeast.



An extra special treat was had when Elise Leccese played and sang "Silent Night" to us as the special music during our time of enjoying eating the goodies that were handed out for the Lovefeast. It was beautiful to listen to Elise play and sing. Even the adults were involved. A lot of smiles and fellowship was had during the service.



On Wednesday, December 24, 2025, Christmas Eve service was beautiful. We enjoyed our candle light service. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated. Pastor Jesus Laguerra gave the message named "What Sign Are You Looking For?" It was what sign you are looking for or what sign is God sending you. The Sunday School Singers sang "Be A Light" and "Morning Star." Then the sanctuary was filled with the light of Christ in singing "Silent Night." Awesome!! The candles were raised and everyone was singing. It was a beautiful sight to see from the front of the sanctuary. I always get teary eye and chills when I witness it.



Thank you again to everyone who had participated in some way to make this Advent Season truly meaningful and beautiful!!

Respectfully submitted, Muriel Vice - Chair





## Companions Along the Way

### A Group Spiritual Direction Ministry

Grace Moravian Church  
178-38 137th Avenue, Jamaica, Queens, NY  
11434

A new monthly **Group Spiritual Direction Ministry** is forming at Grace Moravian Church. This group is for those who desire to become more aware of God's presence in their daily lives and who are willing to listen prayerfully with others. **Participants may join either in person or via Zoom.**

As Alice Fryling writes in *Seeking God Together*:

"The purpose of group spiritual direction is to provide a place where individuals can experience what it means to be listened to and loved by others, so that they can learn to listen more attentively to God in their daily lives and to be used by God to spread God's grace and love throughout the world."

Participants are invited to reflect on the movement of the Spirit in their lives, to be present with one another, and to pray for each other. The group will meet **once a month for two hours**.

If you feel a desire for God and are open to listening for God together in community, this group welcomes you.

For more information or to register, please contact:

**Rev. Earl S. Goulbourne**

Phone: 347-935-2685

Email: [goulbournee@moravian.edu](mailto:goulbournee@moravian.edu)

**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 cannot attend Sunday worship and elect to follow the service online, you will 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:** : *Elizabeth Peterson-Reres Family, Ethel and Bill Ducey, Donna and Charlie Montanti, Dennis and Louise Brackett, Anna Maria V, John Ducey, Bill and Carol Burt, Charlee, Samantha Cata-nia, Patrick Calcagno, Linda Golino, Susan C, Frank and family, Jim Jimenez, Joanne K, Joyce Fernandez, Captain J. King, Maggie, Mark Chin, James Peterson, Doug Wycoff, Sean and his mom Sue and stepdad Bill, Amanda, Dr. Krelensteri and Florence, Ryan, Susan, the victims of Hurricane Helene and Milton, The victims of the storms across Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama and North Carolina. The victims of the school shooting in Minnesota. The victims of Hurricane Melissa especially: Jamaica, Cuba, Bermuda, and the islands in the Caribbean. .*

**Pastors and co-leaders for January**  
**January 4, 2026 - Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant/Liz Reres**  
**January 11, 2026 - Pastor Jesus Laguerra Todd Hallett**  
**January 18, 2026 - Pastor Robert Rodriguez/ Jim Jimenez**  
**January 25, 2026 - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/Donna Ziegeler**

## Annual Church Council Meeting

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**, following worship service. All members of the Great Kills Moravian Church are encouraged to attend to review 2025, 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 5th.

## Events Happening beyond GKMC:

### Vanderbilt Community Dinner:

The dinners are always held on the third Saturday of every month. If you would like to participate at Vanderbilt Moravian Church by putting food into bags to be handed out to the clients, you can show up at 3:30 pm to assist with that. Gwen would love to have the help.

If you would like to help with baking or supplying the candy for the dinners, please let Muriel Timari know. We will be providing the desserts for the rest of the year. Thank you very much. Blessings, Muriel

### **Prayer and lay Leadership**

A three part online educational webinar that the Eastern District will be offering in January, February, and March. Designed to strengthen and support lay leadership, this series is part of the new EQUIP initiative. More information will be in the church bulletin, next month's church newsletter, and on the website:

<http://www.moravian.org/equip>. It should be especially interesting and useful for board members, ministry leaders and anyone interested in deepening his or her experience of prayer.

# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom Holy Communion 12:15pm Bible Study	5 Church Council Reports Due	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom Joyful Noise Offering 12:15pm Fellowship Hour 12:30pm Bible Study	12	13	14	15	16	17 Vanderbilt Community Dinner 4pm-6pm
18 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	19 Martin Luther King Jr Day	20	21	22 11am Elders Meeting	23	24
25 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Church Council Meeting	26	27	28	29	30	31

Great Kills Moravian Church  
62 Hillside Terrace  
Staten Island, NY 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 4 - Second Sunday after Christmas Day**

**Holy Communion**

**Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18**

### **January 11- First Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Joyful Noise Collection**

**Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17**

### **January 18 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42**

### **January 25- Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Church Council Meeting**

**Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1,4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23**