

# Great Kills Moravian Church Herald

February 2026

Volume 2, Page 1

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Three weeks ago, our sanctuary was decorated for Christmas with crèche, lighted Christmas trees, and an Advent Wreath. Later this month we'll observe Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the six-week season that leads to Easter. In one calendar year, we try to remember and honor the three-year ministry of Jesus. We started the liturgical year in November with Advent leading up to Christmas. Then Epiphany followed on January 6. Next came the baptism of the Lord on January 11. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, leading six weeks later, to the crucifixion on Good Friday, and the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Historically, Lent has been a season of penitence and reflection in preparation for Easter. The 40 days of Lent represent the 40 days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after his baptism.

Yes, Moravians acknowledge Ash Wednesday. Yes, Moravians can receive ashes. Traditionally, the ashes used to make the sign of the cross on foreheads, come from the ashes of palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday service. Different Christian denominations have additional customs. Some encourage fasting on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent. Some encourage members to "give up something for Lent." Interestingly, if you give up something for Lent, you give it up Monday through Saturday for six weeks. On Sunday, you can eat the chocolate, play the video game, or do whatever it is you gave up for Lent because Sunday is a little Easter. Traditionally in Roman Catholic areas, the day before Ash Wednesday is called Fat Tuesday or *Mardi Gras* in French. Some people eat pancakes on Fat Tuesday to use up all the butter in the house, because starting on Ash Wednesday, their households will fast from butter.

While some Protestants object to Ash Wednesday considering it a Roman Catholic ritual, others find that rituals lead to spiritual growth. On that note, we are invited to share Ash Wednesday services with New Dorp Moravian Church on February 18 at 7:00pm.

Charlott Bramwell

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



Great Kills Moravian Church

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\*office hours subject to change

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We are also on Facebook

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### **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:** Children's Chat, now named 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** Three children are scheduled to be confirmed in May at Pentecost. A new class will begin in the fall.

**Bible Study:** Every Sunday a faithful group meets for Bible Study after church. They are studying the book of Genesis. All are welcome. You can find them downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

**Joint Board news:**

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

**February Birthdays**

2/2 Mathilde Gutierrez

Jenna Jersek

2/5 Emma Price

2/6 Assibi Ali

2/9 Sophia Pisano

2/15 Brittany D'Avino

2/16 Louise Brackett

2/17 Stephanie Smith

Jamie Jersek

2/18 Louis Pezzengrilli, Jr

**February Anniversaries**

2/20 Ethel and Bill Ducey

**The Elders' Corner**

On Thursday, January 22, 2026, the Elders held their monthly meeting. Charlott led us in a devotion and closed with a poem named "I Go to Sing" by Lindy Thompson at the end of the meeting. We had discussions about the Newsletter, Pulpit Coverage, Worship, Bible Study, Christian Education, Media, and Ushers. For Pulpit Coverage we discussed that on Sunday, February 1st, Bishop Chris Giesler will be here serving out Lord's Supper with us. Sunday, February 8th, Pastor Jesus Laguerra will be with us. Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> Sister Susan Attzs-Mendoza, and Sunday, February 22nd, Pastor Jesus Laguerra will be with us. We now have a Pall to be used to cover the casket if the family would like to use it. We will be putting out copies of the 2024 phone directory for all of you to go through and update your information in it. The goal is to have it ready by March sometime for distribution.

Respectfully submitted, Vice Chair -Muriel

**Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church**

The Bible Study group has been meeting faithfully every Sunday. They are studying the book of Genesis. All are welcome.

On Tuesday, January 15, 2026, a small group of us met and took down the Christmas decorations. Thank you to all who were there. Many hands made the work go quickly.

## Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church *continued from page 2*

This past Sunday, January 25, 2026, due to the winter storm we held our church service on zoom. It was very good to see and hear some of you that were on zoom. Altogether, we had twenty-one in attendance. We had members and friends from the congregation gather to hear the service from Puerto Rico, Florida and Staten Island. Through Zoom we can reach and stay in touch with each other. Thank you to all who tuned in to be fed the Word of God.

Respectfully submitted, Muriel Vice - Chair

## **Pysanky Egg Workshops will be starting soon. Call the church office to register. Each class will be \$25.**

Fri, Feb 20th, 6:30pm-9:30pm, Beginner

Fri, Mar 6th, 6:30pm-9:30pm, Beginner

Sat, Mar 14th, 9:30am-2pm, Advanced\*

Sat, Mar 21st, 9:30am-2pm, Advanced\*

Mon, Apr 6th, 9:30am-2pm, Advanced\*

**\*Advanced sessions are for those who have experience creating Pysanky eggs and do not require additional instruction.**

Please contact Nancy (917)282-7551 or Janice (718)984-6444 to reserve your seat.

**Are you interested in a meditative and calming practice?** The Reverend Earl Goulbourne from Union Moravian Church in Manhattan plans to initiate "Companions Along the Way," a monthly gathering of restoration and spiritual care that will include body prayer, centering prayer, and sacred dialog. If you're interested, contact the Reverend Goulbourne via email at [goulbourne@moravian.edu](mailto:goulbourne@moravian.edu) to register.





**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.

**Prayers For:** *The family of Dennis Brackett, Elizabeth Peterson-Reres Family, Ethel and Bill Ducey, Donna and Charlie Montanti, Anna Maria V, John Ducey, Bill and Carol Burt, Charlee, Samantha Catania, 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.*

### **Pastors and co-leaders for February**

**February 1-** Bishop Chris Giesler/  
Sister Muriel Timari

**February 8 -** Pastor Jesus Laguerra/  
Sister Normalee Mallawaarachchi

**February 15-** Sister Susan Attzs-Mendoza/  
Sister Charlott Bramwell

**February 22-** Pastor Jesus Laguerra/Sister  
Laura Hepworth

### **Annual Church Council Meeting**

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**, following worship service, 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.

**Moravian Day of Giving is March 4.** The Sunday before that, March 1, we will collect a special Unity Prayer Offering intended for, the Moravian Unity Heritage Foundation (MUCHF). The purpose of MUCHF is supporting preservation projects of historical buildings and other structures considered cultural heritage, belonging to the Moravian Church around the Unity. This offering is in addition to, not instead of, your weekly offering to Great Kills Moravian Church. Because we depend on your weekly offering to run our church, please continue to give what you have pledged in your heart to give. At the same time, please consider what you can contribute, in addition, to the special Unity Prayer Offering next month.

### **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

# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom-Holy Communion 12:00pm GKMC Church Council Meeting	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom-Youth Disciple Time, Joyful Noise Collection 12:15pm Bible Study	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentines Day
15 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Fellowship Hour 12:30pm Bible Study	16 <b>Presidents Day</b>	17	18 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7pm Service at NDMC	19 <b>11am Elders' Meeting</b>	20 <b>6:30pm Pysanky Egg</b>	21 Vanderbilt Community Dinner 4pm-6pm
22 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	23	24	25	26	27	28

Great Kills Moravian Church  
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## ***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.***

### ***February 1 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany***

***Holy Communion, Church Council Meeting***

***Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12***

### ***February 8– Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany***

***Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20***

### ***February 15 - Last Sunday after the Epiphany***

***Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9***

### ***February 18– Ash Wednesday***

***Joel 2:1-2,12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21***

### ***February 22 - First Sunday in Lent***

***Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11***