

# Great Kills Moravian Church Herald

March 2026

Volume 3, Page 1

## Into the Wild: Finding God in the Quiet

The biblical wilderness is rarely a place people choose to go. It is vast, unpredictable, and often intimidating. Yet, throughout Scripture, the desert is exactly where God does His most transformative work. From Moses at the burning bush to Elijah's "still, small voice," and finally to Jesus' forty days of fasting, the wilderness is the designated space where the noise of the world fades so the voice of the Creator can become clear.

As we begin the season of Lent, we are all invited to step into our own version of the wilderness.

For some of us, this may feel like a literal stripping away—fasting from habits, digital distractions, or comforts that have begun to define us more than our faith does. For others, it is a mental shift—a commitment to wander away from the frantic pace of "doing" to find a few moments of holy "being."

It is important to remember that when Jesus was led into the desert, He did not go alone; He was led by the Spirit. As we mark our foreheads with ashes and begin this forty-day trek, we do so with that same assurance. We are not wandering aimlessly. We are traveling a well-worn path that leads directly to the empty tomb.

This Lent, do not fear the quiet. Do not be afraid of what you might discover about yourself in the stillness. Instead, embrace the wilderness as a place of preparation. Whether you are giving something up or taking something new on, do it with the singular goal of hearing God more clearly.

The journey may be long, and the terrain may be dusty, but we walk it together as a community—moving steadily out of the shadows and into the brilliant light of Easter morning.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Muriel Timari

### Upcoming Dates for The Lenten Season 2026

- **Palm Sunday:** March 29, 2026 - Worship 11:00 am
- **Holy Week Readings Monday—Wednesday Evening at New Dorp Moravian Church**  
**March 30th, March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1, 2026, 7:00 pm**
- **Holy Thursday:** April 2, 2026 - Worship 7:00 pm
- **Good Friday:** April 3, 2026 - Worship 7:00 pm
- **Easter Sunday:** April 5, 2026 – Worship 11:00 am



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



Great Kills Moravian Church

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\*office hours subject to change

Office Administrator: Elizabeth Loveridge

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:**

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.

**Christian Unity**

March 1, is Christian Unity Sunday. It's also the day that Todd Hallett, is scheduled to be installed as Director of Faith Formation for 11 local churches. Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant will lead our worship service. Also, we will have members of the other churches that Todd will be working with. Fellowship hour will follow the service. We hope to have a full house that day.

**Trustees news:**

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

Income: \$1,601.06

Expenses: \$1,714.55

Surplus: - \$ 113.49

Front entrance roof had ice clogging the gutters and leaders. The roof ice melt wire was defective. The ice melt wire (was donated) will be replaced.

The treasure's computer was replaced ( UBC computer fund). Still working with expeditor and architect to clear elevate and gas piping violations.

**Joint Board News:**

The Elders and Trustees came up with a criterion for canceling in person church.

The Joint Boards will make the decision to close in person church service for incremental bad weather or mechanical problems for the safety of the congregation. If we get a majority of the Joint Boards, we will make the decision. We will contact the congregation of our decision by email, phone chain, web site and individual calls for the congregation that doesn't have emails.

**The Elders' Corner**

On Thursday, February 19, 2026, the Elders held their monthly meeting. Charlott led us in a devotion and closed the meeting by reading from the Daily Text for the day. We had discussions about the Newsletter, Pulpit Coverage, Worship, Bible Study, Christian Education, Media, and Ushers. For Pulpit Coverage we discussed that on Sunday, March 1st, Pastor Blondel Jones- Grant will be here to install Brother Todd Hallett as The Director of Spiritual Formation for the Metro Area. We will be celebrating The Lord's Supper that day with a Fellowship to follow for Brother Todd.

On Sunday, March 8th Pastor Jesus Laguerra will be with us, and we will install the Officers, Sunday, March 15th , Bishop Chris Giesler will with us to celebrate our 140th Anniversary with a Lovefeast, for Sunday, March 22nd and March 29th Pastor Jesus Laguerra will be us.

We discussed the younger children collecting the regular offering and the Elders have decided that Confirmation age children can collect the regular offering. The younger

### **The Elder's Corner continued from pg 3**

children will only collect The Joyful Noise Collection. There will be a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 28, 2026. More information will be coming out soon.

Respectfully submitted, Vice Chair -Muriel

### **Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church**

These past couple of weeks have been a challenge with the winter weather. We saw ourselves zooming a lot. We have to remember from Matthew 18:20 which states: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." God has been within us during Zoom for sure.

The Confirmation Class made the goodies for The Vanderbilt Moravian Church Community Dinner. Under the direction of Sister Pam Bailey and Brother Todd Hallett along with Sister Debra Jelonek assisting them. The confirmation students are Lilac Hallett, Elise Leccese, and Peter Ziegeler. This was a service piece that was added to the curriculum. They worked very hard to make four delicious treats to be put in the box and added chocolate kisses to round out the desserts. The class was exposed how the whole process of baking the goodies, putting the boxes together, packing up, delivering and then giving out the food to the clients for this mission that the Staten Island Moravian Churches have been doing. The desserts boxes were well received from the clients.

Respectfully submitted, Muriel Vice - Chair



### March Birthdays

3/1 Robbin DelGiudice	3/12 Donna Montanti
3/3 Joseph Yang	3/16 Emma Ruch
3/3 Anthony Ruocco, Jr.	3/20 Jessica Hertman
3/4 James Ruch	3/21 Brenna Christie
3/6 Amber Samuel	3/28 Juliana MacPhail
3/6 Florence Willard	3/28 Russell Cutting
3/8 Bonnie Crea	3/31 Chad Siniscalchi
3/9 Liz Reres	3/31 Monique Yang
3/9 Alan Beinmoff	

### March Anniversaries

3/29 Ariana and Mauricio Sanchez

### Pysanky Egg Workshops at GKMC

**Each class will be \$25.**

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.

### Events Happening beyond GKMC:

#### Vanderbilt Community Dinner:

I would like to take the time to thank the Confirmation Class Lilac Hallett, Elise Leccese, and Peter Ziegeler for baking the desserts for the community dinner for the month of February. Under the direction of Sister Pam Bailey, Brother Todd Hallett and assisted by Sister Debra Jelonek, they worked together to provide the desserts. The confirmation students learned the process of putting the boxes together, to baking, packing, delivering and handing out food to the clients. The desserts were well received by the clients. Again, thank you to all of them that provided the desserts to the clients for the month of February.

*"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." Colossians 3:23*

Respectfully, Muriel Timari Coordinator for Vanderbilt Moravian Community Dinners

**Our Provincial Elder's Conference** has affirmed the church's call to justice and public witness. There are copies of the statement written on January 27 in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy.

**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 March**

**March 1st** - Pastor Blondel Jones- Grant/  
Sister Charlott Bramwell

**March 8th** - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/  
Sister Donna Ziegeler

**March 15th** - Bishop Chris Giesler/  
Brother Jim Jimenez

**March 22nd** - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/  
Brother Todd Hallett

**March 29th** - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/  
Sister Liz Reres

#### **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.

#### **Calling All Campers**

Looking for a place where you can find fellowship, a lot of fun, learn about God, and make new friends. We have a place named, "Hope Conference and Renewal Center" in Hope, New Jersey.

Out in the Narthex you will find the information about the Center and the different camps they are running this summer. Registration is all done online. The site is [camphope.org/camp](http://camphope.org/camp).

# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom-Holy Communion 12:00pm Fellowship Hour</p>	2	3	4	5	6 6:30pm Pysanky Egg	7
<p>8 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom-Youth Disciple Time, Joyful Noise Collection 12:15pm Bible Study</p>	9	10	11	12	13	14 9:30am Pysanky Egg
<p>15 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Fellowship Hour</p>	16	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	18	19 <b>11am Elders' Meeting</b>	20	21 9:30am Pysanky Egg
<p>22 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study</p>	23	24	25	26	27	28 Spaghetti Dinner at GKMC
<p>29 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom-Youth Easter Pageant 12:15pm Bible Study</p>	30 7pm Holy Week Reading at NDMC	31 7pm Holy Week Readings at NDMC				

Great Kills Moravian Church  
62 Hillside Terrace  
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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.*

### **March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent**

#### **Holy Communion**

**Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5,13-17; John 3:1-17**

### **March 8 – Third Sunday in Lent**

**Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42**

### **March 15 - Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41**

### **March 22 - Fifth Sunday in March**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45**

### **March 29 - Palm Sunday**

#### **Youth Easter Pageant**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11**