

Great Kills Moravian Church Herald

April 2026

Volume 4, Page 1

Easter is exciting. When I was young, children always got new clothes for Easter. My mother made dresses for my sisters and me. I remember going to every store looking for just the right hat. And we always went to church on Easter Sunday. We sang those beautiful seasonal hymns with “Alleluias” in various harmonies:

”Christ is risen.” “He is risen indeed. Alleluia.”

Little girls don’t wear hats and gloves any more. Boys don’t get jackets and ties.

Everyone who comes to church gets a warm welcome though. They are welcome, even if they come to church only once a year. It’s the happiest day. Perhaps the children will ask their parents what’s so special about Easter. Perhaps the hymns will remind the older folks about what they learned in Sunday School. Children might see what fun the kids in Sunday School are having. Everyone is welcome. We hope they will come again.

On Easter Sunday we preach Jesus Christ, God’s son, risen from the dead. Every week, and at every church function, Fellowship Hour, and Community Dinner we witness to each other that we are friends, and heirs with Christ, because

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, Alleluia!

Charlott Bramwell



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



Great Kills Moravian Church

Phone: 718-317-7788

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*Office: Mon- Thurs 9am - 1pm

*office hours subject to change

Office Administrator: Elizabeth Loveridge

Email: office@greatkillsmoravian.org

Website: www.greatkillsmoravian.org

We are also on Facebook

Email: 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. 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.

Trustees news:

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

February:

Income: \$3,814.03

Expenses: \$9,807.90

Surplus: - \$ 5,993.87

Main alarm system batteries and fire/smoke and CO detector batteries were changed.

Insurance inspector inspected boiler and passed with DOB.

Yearly Third party inspection was done on elevate. Passed Quarterly cleaning of stove vent filters was done. Monthly exterminator spraying was done.

Pysanky Egg Classes: Class will be \$25 which includes refreshment.

Mon. April 6 @ 10:00 am. Contact Janice Hermansen or Nancy Walker to register.

The Elders' Corner

On Thursday, March 19, 2026, the Elders held their monthly meeting. Todd led us in devotions and closed the meeting in prayer. We had discussions about the Newsletter, Pulpit Coverage, Worship, Bible Study, Christian Education, Media, and Ushers. For Pulpit Coverage we discussed that on Thursday, April 2, Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant will be with us for Maundy Thursday, Friday, April 3, the Elders and Trustees are leading the Tenebrae Service for Good Friday. On Sunday, April 4th, Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant will be here for Easter. On Sunday, April 12th and April 19th, Pastor Jesus Laguerra will be with us. Also, on the 19th we will have a multi – generational service where the Youth will be us and adults. For Sunday, April 26th, Brother Todd Hallett will bring us the message.

Under Media we discussed using a split screen so people on Zoom would be able to see what is going on during the service. It was used for the first time this past communion. It gave the people on Zoom to see the words and Pastor Blondel with communion. This provides more of a connection with the people on Zoom. We were very excited that this could be done. Hopefully, more will come from it. Please thank Sister Liz Reres and Brother Todd Hallett for making this happen.

The Elders discussed what true Moravian Service means. Sister Muriel had a discussion with Bishop Chris Geisler. He stated that there are a variety of styles of Moravian worship services. As long as the service uses the Moravian Liturgies and includes hymns from the Moravian Book of Worship, they are authentic Moravian

Elders Corner continued

worship services. The beauty of the Moravians you have flexibility. (See the article about *The Moravian Church in America* on page 6) We are doing all this here in our beautiful Great Kills Moravian Church. Remember the Moravians are guided by these words, ***“In essentials, unity; In non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, love.”***

Respectfully submitted, Sister Muriel Timari Vice – Chair Board of Elders

Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church From the Elders

Wow!! March was a very busy month for all of us. First, on Sunday, March 1st, 2026, Brother Todd Hallett was installed as The Area Director of Faith Formation for The Metro Area. He is responsible for eleven churches, including Great Kills Moravian Church. Pastor Blondel Jones – Grant was here to install Brother Todd and to celebrate Holy Communion. After the service we all went downstairs for Fellowship where we had a delicious meal and enjoyed one another’s company. Congratulations Todd on your new role. We continue to pray that you will be “steadfast and immovable” as you guide all our faith formation. May the Lord’s joy be your strength as you lead our community to deeper knowledge, faith, and love.

Then, on Sunday, March 15th, 2026, we celebrated the 140th Anniversary of Our Church!! GREAT KILLS MORAVIAN CHURCH is 140-years-old. What an amazing accomplishment!

Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church From the Elders continued

Bishop Chris Geisler was with us to celebrate this special occasion with a Lovefeast. Special music was provided by Brother Peter Ziegeler who sang “How Great Thou Art” that was his Grandmother’s favorite hymn. She had recently passed away this past February. Brother Peter sounded like an angel. It was absolutely beautiful. I am sure that his Grandmother was looking down from heaven smiling and loving every minute of it. Then we all went downstairs for a delicious meal. We all had a great time.

Lastly, on Sunday, March 29th, 2026, which was Palm Sunday. Pastor Jesus Laguerra and the Youth with Sister Maggie McGloin and Sister Muriel Timari led a parade of the waving of the Palms. What an opening celebration to begin Holy Week. The congregation was treated to the Youth Easter Pageant. It was beautiful. The youth read and sang songs. Lilac on the drums. The last song “Alive, Alive, My Jesus’ is Alive” was a great hit. The congregation was singing and clapping with the music. We want to thank the youth Lilac and Teddy Hallett, Kayden Liyange, Zoe McGloin, Diana and Charles Montanti, Peter and Cayleigh Ziegeler, Aidan and Kira Zheng. The teachers Sister Pam Bailey, and Sister Veronica Merone. Along with Stan Timari.

Respectfully submitted, Sister Muriel Timari Vice - Chair

March 1st Celebration, Congratulations Brother Todd Hallett



March 15th Fellowship, 140th Anniversary of Great Kills Moravian Church!



March 29th, Palm Sunday at Great Kills Moravian Church



April Birthdays

April 4 Victoria Pezzengrilli
 April 7 Nancy Burri / Maya Timari
 April 8 Mark D'Avino / Wanda Bench-Emery
 April 9 Leslie Bruzzese
 April 13 Allan Ali/ Charles Montanti IV
 April 15 Angela Jordan
 April 16 Alexis Pulice / Barbara Balla /
 Leonardo Gutierrez
 April 18 Margaret Grace
 April 20 Joseph Christopher Crea-Ricco
 April 25 Zakariah Ali
 April 27 Barbara Pezzengrilli

April Anniversaries

April 24 Mark and Vanessa D'Avino

We are updating our Members and Friends directory. People who attend services regularly and have their names in the directory will be included in the new directory with the same information. If you want to change the information, add a new address, an email address, or remove the names of your grown children, please let the church office or Muriel or Charlott know. People we haven't seen in a while are getting letters asking if they want to be included in the latest directory. If a letter for your adult child arrives at your house, please do not be insulted. We just want to know your adult son or daughter's preference.

One of our own, Adam Landestoy, son of Todd and Vianey Hallett, brother of Lilac and Teddy, has almost completed basic training in the U.S. Navy. If you remember Adam, you might want to send congratulations or other greetings. His address is: Adam Landestoy
 Ship 3 DIV 919
 Recruit Training Command
 3600 Ohio Street 60088-3156

Events Happening beyond GKMC:

Vanderbilt Community Dinner:

Looking for bakers who would like to bake for this month's Community Dinner. We are asked to provide the desserts this month. The dinner will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

We will be providing eighty desserts for the clients. I like to have at least four to five desserts in the box with a piece of chocolate. If you can't provide all eighty of one dessert I will arrange to get the other forty made.

We will be packing up on Friday, April 17th at 4:00 pm. Please let me know if you are interested in baking for this month's desserts. You can see me before or after church or leave a message on the church office phone. I will get it.

Thank you very much for volunteering for this worthy mission that Vanderbilt Moravian Church does that is sponsored by the Central Board of Elders.

Respectfully submitted, Sister Muriel Timari

Eastern Region Moravian Women

2026 Spring Rally

Theme: "Stronger Together: Women Stirring Hearts, Spiritual Growth, Love and Good Works"

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 10:00am-3:00pm

Breakfast @9:00am

New Dorp Moravian Church

2205 Richmond Rd.

Staten Island, NY 10304

Cost \$25pp contact NDMC

Camp Hope: 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.

"The Beauty of The Moravian Church in America" from www.moravian.org from page 4

The Moravian Church has proclaimed the gospel in all parts of the world. Our influence as a visible part of the body of Christ far exceeds our numbers, due to our cooperation with religious faiths on every continent. Grateful for our heritage and firm in our faith, The Moravian Church ministers to the needs of people wherever they are.

The Moravian Church in America, part of a worldwide Protestant denomination serving Christ since 1457, continues a long-standing heritage of Christian faith. The Moravian Church is Christ-centered, emphasizing community, the person and teachings of Jesus, and simplicity in doctrine and lifestyle. Our relationship with Jesus Christ provides the basis for our relationship with each other and inspires us to serve. We also look to the leading of the Holy Spirit to guide our daily lives. In addition, Moravians are guided by these words: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, love."

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 Reginald Family, The Beepath Family, 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, 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, Ryan, Susan,*

Pastors and co-leaders for April

April 5th—Pastor Blondel Jones - Grant/
Sister Muriel Timari

April 12th - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/
Sister Normalee Mallawaarachchi

April 19th - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/Youth/
Sister Muriel Timari

April 26th - Brother Todd Hallett/
Sister Charlott Bramwell

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Maundy Thursday 7pm Service	3 Good Friday 7pm Service	4
5 Easter 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom- Holy Communion 12:15pm Bible Study	6 Pysanky Egg	7	8 6pm-10pm Eastern Star	9 11am AARP 6pm-10pm Great Kills Lodge	10	11
12 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	13	14	15	16	17	18 4pm Vanderbilt Community Dinner
19 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom- multi – generational ; Joyful Noise; Youth Disciple Time 12:15pm Fellowship Hour	20	21	22	23 6pm-10pm Great Kills Lodge	24	25
26 9:30am Sunday School, Confirmation Class 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	27	28	29	30		

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.

April 5 - Easter

Holy Communion

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-8

April 12 - Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a,22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 19 - Third Sunday of Easter

Multi-Generational Service, Joyful Noise Collection, Youth Disciple Time. Fellowship Hour

Acts 2:14a,36-41; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 26 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10