

# Great Kills Moravian Church Herald

June 2026

Volume 6, Page 1

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“Do this in remembrance of me,” Jesus told his disciples when he broke bread and poured wine at a Passover celebration, instituting the sacrament of Holy Communion. Today a worship leader says those words when we, as a congregation, take Communion, usually on the first Sunday of the month. We remember Jesus. Why do we remember him? Well, Jesus is God’s son, and the author and finisher of our faith. He intercedes for us. What do we remember? Well, some people remember that he healed the sick. Some people remember that he encouraged children. Some remember that he was murdered and he rose from the dead after three days. It’s been 2000 years now. People remember things differently. Rituals have gotten in the way. How do we remember Jesus?

The Moravian Church publishes a daily devotional guide called *The Daily Texts* that takes the reader through the Old Testament and the New Testament over two years. *The Daily Texts*, will help you learn and remember what God does, and who Jesus is, and was, and is to come.

In the Bible we find God constantly telling his people to remember things. At Passover where Jesus said, “do this in remembrance of me,” God’s people remember that God told them to *remember* that God took them out of the land of Egypt. God told them to remember and teach their children.

Last week we celebrated Memorial Day, a day to remember. On Memorial Day we specifically remember the people who died in wars while serving our country. It’s important to remember that they gave that “last full measure of devotion” and why it was important to fight and die in various wars since the Civil War. Why indeed? How do we find out why our soldiers fought and died? Some history books tell us one thing; some history books tell the opposite. For example, some say the Civil war was fought to free slaves. Some say it was westward expansion and the economy, not slavery at all. Some books say that before World War II, six million people, mostly Jewish people, were exterminated as a final solution. Despite all evidence, there are Holocaust deniers. So how do we remember what happened?

Pray a lot. Examine the evidence. Evaluate credentials of the person preaching to you. Remember what you saw and heard. Teach your children.

Charlott Bramwell

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



Great Kills Moravian Church

Phone: 718-317-7788

Fax: 718-356-2826

\*Office: Mon- Thurs 9am - 1pm

\*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 Camp Hope. 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 will be coming to an end in June. Please contact Pam Bailey to register your child for September, 2026.

**Confirmation Class** Congratulation to Lilac Hallett, Elise Leccese, and Peter Ziegeler, they were confirmed on Pentecost, May 24, with Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant officiating. 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.

**Sunday School Youth Offering:** We are excited to announce that starting in **September 2026**, our Sunday School program will begin collecting a dedicated offering from our youth. This initiative is designed to be a foundational part of our youth's spiritual growth, helping to teach them the importance of stewardship and the joy of giving back to God from the heart. By participating in this weekly act of worship, our young members will gain a practical understanding of how their contributions support the church's mission and reflect a spirit of gratitude for God's many blessings.

*Muriel Timari*

## Trustees news:

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

Income: \$7,946.47

Expenses: \$9,807.90

Surplus: -\$1,813.43

## The Trustees Report

- Repaired stove.
- Had plumber inspect church for indoor water and heat pipes.
- Started work on front steps electric.
- Summer inspection for A/C.
- Estimates for new church roof.
- Repair broken pipes and heads for lawn sprinkler.
- Lawyer and expeditor: working on removing fines from DOB for gas piping.
- Removing fine for elevate.
- Inspection of stove suppression system, bi-annual inspection.
- Installed new carpet for hallway.
- Repaired bathroom doors.
- Meet with police about drug use on church property.
- Ordered additional cameras around garage.
- Additional lighting around garage.
- Ordered No Trespassing signs around church property .
- Arranged for removing vegetation along back fence.
- Cleaned up drug use needles.
- Removed debris around garage.
- Working with alarm company to assure parsonage alarm system is working.
- The parsonage alarm is turned on.

## Juneteenth From: The Moravian Monthly

Juneteenth marks that moment of revelation when freedom long promised finally became freedom proclaimed. It is a shared garment, a collective inheritance, and a responsibility we bear for one another.

## The Elders' Corner

On Thursday, May 21, 2026, the Board of Elders gathered for their monthly meeting. Vice-Chair Muriel Timari led the opening devotions and closed our time together in prayer. The board engaged in productive discussions spanning key church ministries, including the upcoming directory, newsletter updates, worship logistics, Christian education, media, and ushering.

### Pulpit Coverage Schedule for June:

**June 7th:** Pastor Chris Giesler will preside and serve Holy Communion. **June 14th:** Pastor Jesus Laguerra will lead the service. **June 21st (Father's Day):** Pastor Chris Giesler returns to preach. We extend our gratitude to Tina Giesler, who will be stepping in to cover for Stan. **June 28th:** Pastor Jesus Laguerra will lead our final service of the month.

### Ministry Highlights & Updates:

- **Youth Confirmation:** We celebrate our three youth members—Elise Leccese, Lilac Hallett, and Peter Ziegeler—who made their confirmation on Sunday, May 24. The Elders share the congregation's immense joy and excitement for these young faith journeys.
- **Bible Study:** Todd Hallett announced that the Sunday morning Bible Study group is moving into a new chapter, beginning a deep-dive study into the Book of Revelation.
- **John Hus Celebration Service (July 12th at 11:00 AM):** The Elders discussed whether to close Great Kills Moravian for this special joint service at Vanderbilt Moravian Church. It was decided to keep GKMC open for regular worship. However, Charlott Bramwell will attend the Vanderbilt service as our representative and will participate by reading a scripture passage.

## The Elder's Corner continued

### ● Staten Island Moravian Picnic: Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 12, 2026!

Following last year's highly successful turnout, we hope to see another strong showing from the GKMC family.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted, **Sister Muriel Timari**  
*Vice-Chair, Board of Elders*

## Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church

### Mother's Day Celebration

On Sunday, May 10, 2026, the Youth Singers graced our service with a beautiful rendition of the song, "The Ones Who Mother Me." In celebration of the day, all women in attendance were presented with a lovely rose.

### Ascension Sunday Guest Speaker

For Ascension Sunday on May 17, 2026, we were blessed to welcome Sister Susan Attzs Mendoza. Her moving message, titled "A Person Named Whosoever," deeply touched the congregation. During the singing of the hymn "Just As I Am," she invited attendees to step forward for a special time of personal prayer and ministry.

### Pentecost & Youth Confirmation Service

This past Sunday, May 24, 2026, marked a joyous Pentecost celebration as three of our youth made their Confirmation. Pastor Blondel Jones-Grant led the service, and Todd Hallett served as the Confirmation Class instructor. Todd spoke warmly about each youth, sharing the unique meaning of their names and explaining how their chosen scripture readings perfectly aligned with their spiritual journeys.

## Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church

The youth who took this meaningful step in their faith are: **Elise Leccese**, **Lilac Hallett**, and **Peter Ziegeler**. During the confirmation, Pastor Blondel called forward an Elder to escort each youth as hands were laid upon them for the blessing. Afterward, their parents and the Joint Board stepped up to formally welcome them into our church family.

**As a special gift from the church to commemorate this milestone in their faith journey, each confirmand was presented with a prayer shawl and a Bible.**

Following the ceremony, Pastor Blondel delivered an inspiring message titled "I Send You," speaking directly to the confirmands and the wider congregation. The confirmands then participated in Holy Communion for the first time.

To conclude this wonderful day, the congregation gathered downstairs to enjoy fellowship with one another. It was a profoundly spiritual day, and the presence of the Holy Spirit was truly felt by all.

## Pulpit Exchange Sunday

This past Sunday, May 31, 2026, our congregation experienced a deeply uplifting day of worship as we warmly welcomed Pastor Earl Goulbourne from Grace Moravian Church. Pastor Goulbourne delivered a powerful and inspiring message that resonated deeply with everyone in attendance, leaving our hearts filled with renewed faith and gratitude based on Matthew 28:16-20. Following the service, the spiritual nourishment continued during a wonderful Fellowship Hour, where members and visitors alike gathered together. It was a beautiful afternoon filled with laughter, connection, and community. Respectfully submitted, *Sister Muriel Timari Vice-Chair*

## The Theology of the Call To Worship

The main reason for a **Call to Worship** is to recognize that God, not man, initiates the worship service. It acts as a divine summons from God to His people, inviting them to leave behind worldly distractions and enter into a "divine-human dialogue".

### Core Functions of a Call to Worship

**Shifting Focus to God:** It ensures the service is God-centered rather than man-centered from the start, anchoring the focus on His character and worthiness rather than the congregation's feelings or circumstances.

**Initiating Sacred Dialogue:** It establishes that God speaks first through His Word (usually a Scripture passage), and the congregation's worship (songs, prayers) is a direct response to His initiative.

**Unifying the Congregation:** It gathers "scattered" hearts and minds, bringing a diverse group of individuals together into a single, unified body focused on the same agenda.

**Marking Sacred Time:** It serves as a liturgical "threshold," signaling that the time for socializing or casual activity is over and that the congregation is now entering a distinct, holy encounter with the living God.

**Establishing Biblical Authority:** By reading directly from Scripture (often the Psalms), it declares that God's Word—not human creativity or "hype"—governs and shapes the gathering.

*Muriel Timari - Worship - VC Brd. of Elders*



**Confirmation May 24, 2026**



# Confirmation May 24, 2026



## Events Happening beyond GKMC:

### Vanderbilt Community Dinner:

This month we provided the deserts for the Community Dinner held at Vanderbilt Moravian Church. We fed eighty clients this month. A big shout out goes to our bakers, Pam Bailey, Kristen Evangelist, Vianey Hallett, Liz Reres, and Muriel Timari. The desserts smelled delicious and looked scrumptious. Thank you to Charlott Bramwell for always providing the chocolates to round off the dessert box. Thank you to Stan Timari for putting the boxes together. Thank you to Donna and Charlie Montanti, Jim Jimenez and Muriel Timari for packing up the desserts. A big thank you goes to Jim Jimenez for delivering the desserts to Vanderbilt along with delivering some clothing, food and the high chair that were donated.

The Community Dinner is always held the third Saturday of every month. If you would like to help bake or donate something for the dinner that would be much appreciated. Please contact me or see me. I will welcome you with open arms for helping in any way with this mission project.

*Respectfully, Muriel Timari Coordinator for Vanderbilt Moravian Community Dinners*

### **June Birthdays**

6/2 Georgine Norbury	6/15 Susan Pulice
6/2 Laura Hepworth	6/16 Jerffery Walker
6/3 Stan Timari	6/17 Richard Scarpato
6/6 Laura Coury	6/18 Barbara Feltus
6/7 Luis Gutierrez	6/25 Amanda DelGiudice
6/8 Veronica Merone	6/26 Carl Dahlberg
6/9 Teddy Hallett	6/26 Todd Hallett
6/10 Melissa Price	6/26 Diane Hansen
6/11 Cynthia Morrison	

**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:** The new directory will go out this summer. If you have changes to your information, such as address, phone number, or email address, that you want our congregation to know, please inform the church office.

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

**Prayers For:** *Bill Ducey and Family, Jesus Laguerra and Family, The Reginald Family, The Beepath Family, The family of Dennis Brackett, Elizabeth Peterson- Reres Family, Ethel and Bill Ducey, Donna and Charlie Montanti, John Ducey, Bill and Carol Burt, Linda Golino, Susan C, Jim Jimenez, Joanne K, Joyce Fernandez, Maggie, James Peterson, Doug Wycoff, Sean and his mom Sue and stepdad Bill, Ryan, Susan, Marge Van Nostrand (Please contact the church office to add or remove names from the prayer list)*

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

Sunday, June 7th - Pastor Chris Giesler/  
Sister Muriel Timari

Sunday, June 14th - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/  
Sister Normalee Mallawaarachchi

Sunday, June 21st - Pastor Chris Giesler/  
Charlott Bramwell

Sunday, June 28th - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/  
Brother Todd Hallett

# June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 4:30-9pm Eastern Star
7 9:30am Sunday School, 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom- Holy Communion 12:15pm Fellowship Hour	8	9	10 6pm-10pm Eastern Star	11 6pm-10pm GK Lodge	12	13
14 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom- Youth Disciple Time 12:15pm Bible Study	15	16	17 6pm-10pm Eastern Star		19	20 4pm-6pm Vanderbilt Comm Dinner
21 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	22	23	24	25 11am Elders Mtg	26	27
28 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Fellowship Hour	29	30	31			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.***

### ***June 7 - Second Sunday after Pentecost***

***Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13,18-26***

### ***June 14 – Third Sunday after Pentecost***

***Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8***

### ***June 21 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost***

***Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39***

### ***June 28 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost***

***Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4,15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42***