

Great Kills Moravian Church Herald

July/August 2026

Volume 7, Page 1

Years ago, a friend took her children to a Roman Catholic early Mass and then to a Protestant church for Sunday School and worship. One Sunday after the Protestant service, she told the pastor that she'd heard the same sermon earlier that day at the Catholic church and wondered how. The pastor explained that many denominations use the Revised Standard Lectionary, a three-year cycle of readings, for worship. Apparently, the Catholic and the Protestant preachers both used the same gospel text for their sermons that week. If you're a guest at a different church, you might hear a sermon based on the same scriptures we are using back home in Great Kills. The Moravian Church follows a lectionary that corresponds for the most part with the Revised Common Lectionary. This summer, the recommended scripture texts are the same for both lectionaries.

According to Moravian.org, the Unitus Fratrum website, "The Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America shares full communion relationships and ecumenical partnerships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), and the Anglican Church of Canada. Churches in full communion do not need to agree on every doctrinal point, but are understood to have enough in common to worship together. In practice, this means that members of both denominations can participate in the same sacraments, and clergy of one denomination can serve a congregation of the other denomination."

If you travel this summer to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania or to Winston-Salem, North Carolina and visit a Moravian church, you will experience an authentic Moravian service. If you fly to another country-- to Herrnhut, Germany or the Caribbean, or Africa-- and visit a Moravian Church, you will participate in an authentic Moravian worship service also. None of those services will be the same. All will have a Moravian liturgy, though. Worshipers will sing Christian hymns. And you will worship the one God and Father of us all.

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

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 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: is over for the year. Pam has the fall schedule in mind, and she'll let everyone know what is planned. Meanwhile, a game night is in the works. There are also plans to celebrate a summer birthday. Children are encouraged to attend the John Hus celebration at Vanderbilt Moravian Church on July 12th at 11:00am.

We are so proud of our children. They sang for special Sundays. They collected regular as well as joyful noise offerings. They rang church bells. They counted eels with Pam. They brought their friends.

Everyone was promoted in school. There were two graduations. Maya Timari and Charles Montanti graduated from kindergarten.

Confirmation Class will begin in the fall.

Bible Study: Will continue to meet every Sunday throughout the summer following worship. The group is 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: \$3,029.00

Expenses: \$4,450.00

Surplus: -\$1,421.00

- Started wrap on boiler pipes
- Started new roof on church
- 5 new tables were donated by Masons Lodge for Fellowship Hall

New Church Directory:

The church Members and Friends directory will be out soon. Everyone who's included will get a copy. If your name is not in the directory and you want a copy, please ask at the church office. Please remember that the directory is not a membership list. There may be members who are not in the directory. Definitely there are non-members who are included. If your name was not included and you want it to be there, please notify the church office and we'll put you in the next edition. Also, notify the office of any errors. We hope that having contact information available, will help us develop and maintain friendships.

The Elders' Corner

On Thursday, June 25, 2026, the Elders held their monthly meeting. Muriel opened up with an Opening Prayer. Minutes of our May meeting were reviewed and approved. We had discussions about the Newsletter, that will be a combined July/August Newsletter, Worship, Bible Study, Christian Education, Media, and Ushers. We reviewed the new directory which should be out within the month. We discussed Pulpit Coverage for the following Sundays. Sunday, June 28th - Pastor Jesus Laguerra, July 5th - Pastor Patricia Honszer, July 12th - Chris Giesler (John Hus Celebration) with Communion, Tina Giesler Providing the music for Stan, Sunday, July 19th and Sunday July 26th - Pastor Jesus Laguerra, Jose Diaz providing the music for Stan on Sunday, July 26th. Requests for the wedding and usage of the building were reviewed, discussed and approved. We discussed finding a curriculum for a Junior Sunday School for our new confirmands. The meeting was closed with a prayer from Charlott. *Respectfully submitted, Sister Muriel Timari Vice – Chair Board of Elders*

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.

Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church

On Sunday, June 7, 2026, we were blessed to have Pastor Chris Giesler join us as we celebrated the Lord's Supper together. In anticipation of Father's Day, the Youth Singers treated us to a wonderful performance of "I See a Hero"—their music is always a highlight, and we deeply appreciate their ministry in song.

Following the service, we gathered for a special time of fellowship to honor Pastor Chris on the 40th anniversary of his ordination, which officially took place on Monday, June 8, 2026. It was a joyful occasion filled with warmth, gratitude, and wonderful company as we celebrated this remarkable milestone together.



Happenings at Great Kills Moravian Church



At the 2026 Synod of the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province, held June 24 -26 in Minneapolis, Minn., delegates elected the members of Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) to lead the province for the next two years.

The PEC is the Province's highest governing board, providing administrative leadership to congregations and program agencies. It is made up of four lay members, plus the presidents of each of the province's three districts (Eastern, Western and Canadian) and the president of the PEC.

Four lay members were elected to serve on the PEC included **Blondel Jones-Grant** of United Moravian Church in New York City. We are proud that Great Kills Moravian Church is part of her journey.



Events Happening beyond GKMC:

Vanderbilt Community Dinner:

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

Summer Birthdays:

7/3 Deborah Koop	8/2 Sandra Smith
7/4 Daniela Korbeci	8/3 Lily Price
7/4 Camryn Lodato	8/3 Lydia Ruocco
7/5 Harold Erwood	8/8 Frank Gargano
7/8 Blondel Jones-Grant	8/11 Michael Grace
7/9 Nancy Doran	8/19 Julia Ruocco
7/9 Rocco DelGiudice	8/21 Gail Coury
7/13 Janice Hermansen	8/21 Tom Emery
7/14 Charlie Montanti	8/25 Besnik Korbeci
7/14 Lauren Crea -Ricco	8/30 Zachary Koop
7/16 Jake Clifford	8/26 Parker Crea
7/18 Nancy Walker	8/28 Thomas Pisano, Jr.
7/24 Diana Montanti	8/29 Elise Leccese
7/26 Lilac Hallett	
7/27 Vanessa D'Avino	

Summer Anniversaries:

7/13 Stan and Muriel Timari
7/25 Zakariah and Peace Ali
7/26 Roco and Robbin DelGuidice
8/2 Todd and Vianey Hallett
8/4 Guy and Georgine Norbury
8/5 Luis and Mathilde Guterrez
8/7 Gary and Diane Hansen
8/12 Jerry and Charlott Bramwell
8/22 John and Kathy Lavelle
8/24 Vincent and Leslie Bruzzese

Pastors and co-leaders for July

Sunday, July 5th - Pastor Patricia Honszer/Sister Donna Ziegeler

Sunday, July 12th - Pastor Chris Giesler/Brother Jim Jimenez

Sunday, July 19th - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/Sister Muriel Timari

Sunday, July 26th - Pastor Jesus Laguerra/Sister Charlott Bramwell

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: Keep in touch. Do we have your email address and your phone number? Please let the church know when there are changes in your life.

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, Janet Buell, 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, Pastor Honszer's brother Art, (Please contact the church office to add or remove names from the prayer list)*

Pulpit Supply August, 2026

Sunday, August 2nd - Pastor Wolfgang Laudert


Sunday, August 9th - Pastor Jesus Laguerra

Sunday, August 16th - Pastor Chris Giesler - Communion Aust 13th Festival

Sunday, August 23rd - Pastor Jesus Laguerra

Sunday, August 30th - Sister Muriel Timari - Hymn Sing

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom- Holy Communion 11am John Hus Festival at VMC 12:15pm Bible Study	13	14	15	16	17	18 4pm-6pm Vanderbilt Comm Dinner
19 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Fellowship Hour	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom- Youth Disciple Time 12:15pm Bible Study	10	11	12	13	14	15 4pm-6pm Vanderbilt Comm Dinner
16 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Fellowship Hour	17	18	19	20 11am Elders Meeting	21	22
23 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 11:00am Worship In-person and Zoom 12:15pm Bible Study	31					

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.

July 5 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Zachariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25; Matthew 11:16-19,25-30

July 12 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:1-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

July 19 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

July 26 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

August 2– Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9,14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9 - Eleventh Sunday after Penetecost

1Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1,6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2,29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

August 23-Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28