

NEW DORP MORAVIAN CHURCH

AUGUST

2024



AUGUST

Good Company

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I was warned about peer pressure when I was young, though I can't recall the age at which I was first given the warning. Were you, too, warned about peer pressure? I pretty much felt like I was making all of my decisions on my own and that peer pressure had no real influence on me. As I look back, through more mature eyes, I can see that peer pressure did influence my development – sometimes for good, and sometimes not. I was also admonished to be careful about the persons with whom I associated because “you are known by the company you keep.”

From the Book of Proverbs, we have, “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.” (13:20, NRSV) This seems a bit of a paradox to me. If this is good advice for everyone, the wise will not let the foolish walk with them, and, therefore, the foolish cannot become less foolish through the close influence of the wise. In Jesus' time there was a similar sentiment regarding the persons with whom one associates – “The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’” (Luke 5:30) Our Lord's response should be instructive for



us. "Jesus answered, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.'" (Luke 5:31-32)

What are we to make of this? Can we really make disciples of all nations (cf. Matthew 28:19) while remaining distant and separate? Jesus did not remain distant or separate. No, he sought out the "other." According to the Scriptures, even though Jesus "was tempted in every way that we are" he was "without sin." (Hebrews 4:15c, CEB) This is a feat that no human has since duplicated. So, what are we to do? We seem to not have the fortitude against temptation that Jesus had, but we still are called to go out in his name, be servant people, share the Good News, and take the Light of Christ into the darkness. How do we best work against our own falling and failing?

If we are influenced by the company that we keep, then we will do well to make our Lord, Jesus Christ, our first and best companion. Some good advice and observation from the author of Colossians is:

"Be rooted and built up in him, be established in faith, and overflow with thanksgiving just as you were taught. See to it that nobody enslaves you with philosophy and foolish deception, which conform to human traditions and the way the world thinks and acts rather than Christ. All the fullness of deity lives in Christ's body. And you have been filled by him, who is the head of every ruler and authority." (Colossians 2:7-10, CEB)

Beyond that, we need the close company (positive peer pressure) of fellow believers to "...encourage one another and build up each other..." (1 Thessalonians 5:11) We are called to serve not only as individuals, but also corporately – as one body. We can only do that by being in active and loving relationship with one another.

We cannot sit back and simply claim our own salvation and blessings from our Savior. We must be vulnerable and take risks to be an influence on others and to be the good company kept that others need. This is so that they can be first-hand witnesses and recipients of the



love of God shared through the Body of Christ, which is the church, which is you and me (among others). Playing it safe would seem to be against the teachings and example of Christ. Faithful followers of Christ will take risks and will also see reward. As you go into the corners of the world near and far in Jesus' name, may God bless you in your journeys among the sinners and the saints. Go in peace, and serve the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Walter

A version of this article has been previously published.



OFFERING TEAM

Thanks to our August Counters

Jeff Bollinger

Paul Chen

Marla DiForte

Our Benevolence for the Month of August is Global Medical Relief Fund's DARE TO DREAM HOUSE

Located in Staten Island, the Global Medical Relief Fund celebrated their 25th year last October! Founded by Elissa Montanti, the charity has arranged over 1,500 medical visits in the US from 59 countries, including the US.

Children from these countries may be wounded from war, natural disasters, or born with disabilities that cannot be addressed in their country. Those needing artificial limbs need continuous care throughout their teens due to growth and the need for new prosthetics. GMRF is committed to each child until the age of 21.

The Dare to Dream House provides room and board to children and their families while they are in the US for treatment. Their stay there is a time of healing, physically and emotionally.

Help support this wonderful charity with your giving this month so they may continue to serve those in desperate need of help.





Summer movie nights are back!

Summer movies continue through August beginning at 6:30 pm in the Conference Center!

Admission is free!

Come, get out of the heat, enjoy a meal, some fellowship, and take advantage of some free entertainment on a summer evening. Due to copyright restrictions movie titles can not be listed, or publicized, in any way but all selections will be family friendly.

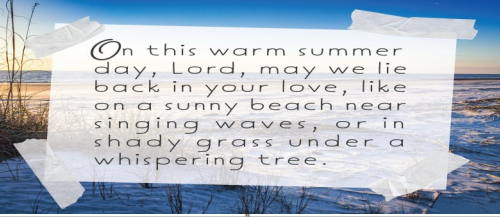
We look forward to seeing you!



Please let Pastor Walter know if you would like a pastoral visit if you are homebound or in the hospital. You may also schedule in-office visits by contacting the him.



2024 A

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
 <p><i>On this warm summer day, Lord, may we lie back in your love, like on a sunny beach near singing waves, or in shady grass under a whispering tree.</i></p>			
<p>4 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Worship 11ish Fellowship</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 6:30 pm Dinner/M</p>
<p>11 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Worship/Communion 11ish Fellowship</p>	<p>12 7 pm Board of Elders Meeting</p>	<p>13 August Thirteenth Festival</p>	<p>14 10 am S 6:30 pm Dinner/</p>
<p>18 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Worship 11ish Fellowship</p>	<p>19 7 pm Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 6:30 pm Dinner/</p>
<p>25 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Worship 11ish Fellowship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 10 am 6:30 pm Dinner</p>

AUGUST



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3
Movie	8	9	10  10am—2pm
Sunrisers n Movie	15	16	17 4 pm—6:30pm Vanderbilt Community Dinner
n Movie	22	23	24
Sunrisers n /Movie	29	30	31 



Community Meal

The Moravian Churches of Staten Island

invite you to come to our free community dinner.

Vanderbilt Moravian Church, 285 Vanderbilt Ave

Every 3rd Saturday of the month

from 4:00pm to 6:30pm.

The next Dinner is August 17th.

The Free Community Dinner at VAMC is distributed as a takeout. For more Information, contact the Church Office by phone or email.



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|-----------|----------------------------|------|
| 5 | Suzanne & Alfredo Nasti | 2007 |
| 14 | Sarah & David Machado | 2023 |
| 19 | Angie & Daniel Master | 1995 |
| 21 | Christine & Kevin Brown | 1971 |
| 24 | Jillian & Nicholas Bazzoni | 2013 |
| 31 | Kelly & Timothy Brown | 2002 |



August
BIRTHDAYS

3	Eliana Machado	17	Karen Passburg
4	Ellen Hoydal	20	Christopher Sibbio, Jr.
4	Philip Raia	21	Brittany Bugge
5	Mary Ellen Burtner	21	Libby Neri
6	Dylan Zipf	21	Peter Traut
6	Mary Searl	22	Olivia Delmar
9	Jane McCord	24	Jackie Passburg
9	John Traut	24	Sharon Merolo
11	Christine Brown	25	Dolores Cavallo
12	Marilou Amagsila	25	Alice Carolan
13	Ronaldrey Budhi	28	David Machado
15	Donna Rettle	29	Dom Ciccone
17	Brian Bartiromo	29	Peter Jones





Join us every **second Saturday** of the month for our Trash to Treasure sale hosted and run by Bob Iadarola. The sale is in our church basement from **10 am until 2 pm** and benefits Outreach and Missions of the church. If you have anything you would like to donate to Trash to Treasure feel free to call our office at 718-351-0090.

This month: **August 10th.**

**We do not accept clothing, bed linens, or large furniture items.*

Sunrisers' Prayer Group

This prayer group meets
two Wednesdays out of the month
in the Conference Center.

All are welcome to participate and/or
submit prayer requests.

This month the group will be meeting on
August 14th and 28th at 10am.





We are happy to partner with you in prayer. If you have a concern to add to our list, please complete a prayer request card if at worship and place it in the offering plate or call (718-351-0090), or email the church office. (office@newdorpMoravian.org).

Please be advised, we continue to pray for the members who have been on our prayer list. If a previous request is no longer listed, but the concern is still present, we will certainly add it back on with a new request. We do need you to help us keep our list up to date.

For Your Prayers at this time:

For health Concerns: Linda Griggs, Marie Moser, Connie Vadola, Dolores Cavallo, Lois Zipf, Ed Ranieri, Richard Iadorola, Libby Neri, Joyce Fernandez (undergoing treatment for breast cancer), Carol Grande, Nate Morse, Theresa and John Sahaj, Shyanna McKelvin (return of Long Covid), Theresa Dewidar (shingles), Alfred Yee-Litt (undergoing treatment for cancer), Erik Faraj (complications from serious stroke), Christinjoy Fernandez, Jackie Passburg, Carmel McCarthy, Carolann Cherubini, Phyllis Collins, Nadira Edwards (stage 4 cancer), Paul Iadarola (undergoing tests), Eliana Machado (recovering from surgery), Michele Manzo, Linda Williams, Dorothy Ambrosino, the family of Al Slipstein, Valeda Bell and family (her mother has entered hospice), the family of Nancy Burkette (wife of The Right Rev. Wayne Burkette), and ongoing concerns throughout the world.

For continued healing: Deborah Griggs, and Alison Griggs.

Please remember to pray for our Pastor, Board Members, and Committee Chairs as they lead us in the work of the church, and for our church, that we may follow God's leading in all of our endeavors.

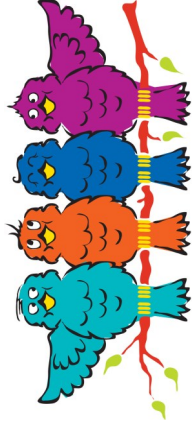
New Dorp Moravian

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Newsletter is also available to read on our website.

The Rev. Walter Bishop, Pastor



INVITE A FRIEND

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE: 718-351-0090

OFFICE@NEWDORPMORAVIAN.ORG

WWW.NEWDORPMORAVIAN.ORG

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