

# NEW DORP MORAVIAN

## CHURCH

FEBRUARY

2025



### A Still More Excellent Way

We often call February “love month” because Valentine's Day falls in the middle of it. Though not on the same scale as Christmas, this is one of those occasions when gifts are exchanged in the name of love, honor, and affection. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13 is often called “the love chapter.” This text is often read at weddings, but its message applies much more broadly than just to the love between spouses. We should really try to bring this kind of love to all of our relationships. The preceding chapter of 1 Corinthians (Chapter 12) speaks of gifts from the Holy Spirit and ends with the transitional verse *“But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.”* (1 Corinthians 12:31, NRSV). In Chapter 13, Paul tells the Corinthians (and us) that we can have all manner of gifts and reason to boast, but if we do not have love, those gifts that we might have are worthless.

In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The only gift is a portion of thyself.” Christ gave himself for us, and sent to us the Holy Spirit with its gifts to help us to be better able to give back to Christ and to the body of Christ on Earth, the church. Through our sharing of our gifts, we show Christ-like love to one another, and to our Lord and Savior. *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the **common good** (emphasis mine).* (1 Corinthians 12:7 – NRSV).

The idea of “the common good” means that we give of



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ourselves and our gifts, talents, and resources to benefit not just others, and not just ourselves, but **both** ourselves **and** others. Achieving or working toward common good requires some give and take. There is a joke about give and take: "We have a give and take relationship. I just give and he/she just takes." That is not a path to a balanced and healthy relationship. Sure, there are occasions when we give to someone who appears to not be in a position to give directly back. But, virtually all of us have something to give to the community, even if we cannot directly reciprocate to an individual who has given to us. By everyone giving into the larger community, and all receiving from the larger community, each of us can feel the value of our contribution and also receive the benefit of the collective community.

Christ gave himself as the ultimate gift of his love and affection for us. We, too, are called to give in Christ's name, and in that same spirit of love and affection, loving everyone as Christ does. Through the Holy Spirit, we are equipped to give in ways that make the body of Christ more whole. Without you bringing and giving of your God-given gifts, the body of Christ (the church) is less complete than it will be with your addition to it. Without your siblings in Christ bringing their gifts, your opportunity for living an abundant life in Christ is diminished.

*For this reason, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within ... for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:6-7, NRSV)*

In 1976, Johnny Cash recorded the humorous song "One Piece at a Time," a story about putting together a Cadillac by getting one piece at a time over a number of years. Christ's church is also put together one piece at a time. You are a piece, and I am a piece, and our siblings in Christ all are pieces, too. Some pieces, the church got long ago. Other pieces have come more recently. All of these pieces are needed to put together Christ's church. Unlike the unsightly Cadillac in the song (with one tail fin and three headlights - two on the left, and one on the right), we are made most beautiful and complete in and through our variety. Christ is our Master Mechanic and you are a needed part in what he is putting together. The Holy Spirit has "stamped" you with a "part number"...



*But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.*

(1 Corinthians 12:18,27-28 – NRSV)

Whether or not you see yourself in the list above, you **ARE** gifted and needed. Won't you put yourself and your gifts into the hands of our Divine Master Mechanic? You'll be glad you did. Your siblings in Christ will be glad, too.

Blessings,

Pastor Walter

*A version of this article has been previously published.*



**Trash to Treasure Sale**



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 Ministries of the church. If you have any items you would like to donate to Trash to Treasure feel free to call our office at 718-351-0090.

**This month: February 8**

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



## Benevolence Giving for 2024

Listed below are the donations received in **2024** for the monthly benevolences. These are monthly donations given beyond our regular stewardship that also include our monthly Joyful Noise collections.

January	Wings of Mercy	\$197.00
February	HIV/AIDS Work at Ahuas Clinic	\$160.00
March	Annual Unity Offering	\$340.00
April	AMVETS	\$155.00
May	Moravian Open Door	\$97.00
June	Eden II School	\$297.00
July	God's Love We Deliver	\$112.00
August	Global Medical Relief Fund	\$153.00
September	Moravian Disaster Response	\$162.00
October	Thanksgiving Baskets	\$203.00
November	Staten Island Council of Churches	\$113.00
December	Heifer International	\$1,078.00

**This giving is over \$1,000 more than the total of 2023!**

Thank you for your generosity in continuing to support these very worthwhile ministries.

## ***Our Benevolence for the Month is HIV/AIDS Work at Ahuas Clinic***



“The Clínica Evangélica Morava in Ahuas, Honduras (the Ahuas Clinic) is a Moravian clinic that has been serving the remote region of La Moskitia for over 75 years. The clinic offers general medical services including surgeries and reproductive care, as well as public health initiatives like community health education and children's nutrition programs. Patients from the surrounding area often walk hours to receive care at the Ahuas Clinic, as it is the nearest facility that treats a wide variety of medical needs. There are currently eight patients receiving treatment for HIV / AIDS at the Ahuas Clinic, which includes IAC treatment (intensive adherence counseling) every two months, as well as counseling, emotional support, and additional medical admission and home visits as needed. As the clinic is able, it also supports the cost of patients' travel to Puerto Lempira, where the government hospital is located, for testing and specialist visits. HIV / AIDS patients should visit Puerto Lempira every six months, but cost is prohibitive (about \$120 per trip), so many patients make the trip once per year instead. Donations to the HIV / AIDS work at the Ahuas Clinic support medication and staffing costs related to treatment, as well as the cost of travel to Puerto Lempira.”


*(Article provided by Sylvie Hauser at the BWM  
and reprinted from February 2024 issue.)*



The Youth of the church will visit Top Golf on Saturday, February 1, for a fun time! Please see Alice or Kim for more information on this adventure.







# 2025 FEB

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p><b>2</b> Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>10am Worship/ Holy Communion/SS 11ish Fellowship</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship</p>	<p><b>10</b> 7:00 Board of Elders Meeting</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 10:30 am</p>
<p><b>16</b> Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>10am Worship//SS 11ish Fellowship</p>	<p><b>17</b> Church Office Closed</p>  <p>7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>23</b> Seventh Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>10am Worship/SS 11ish Fellowship</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 10:00 am</p>

# FEBRUARY



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p><b>1</b> Youth Outing to Top Golf</p>
<p>10:00 am Sonrisers</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> Trash to Treasure</p>  <p>10am—2pm</p>
<p>10:00 am Sonrisers</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> 	<p><b>15</b> 4pm—6:30pm Vanderbilt</p> 
	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p>10:00 am Sonrisers</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	



## Elders Meeting Summary from January 2025

As is typical, our meeting began with a devotion, a review of the minutes of the previous meeting, and a distribution of any relevant documents (agenda, received mail, etc.). A brief review on one aspect of the pastor's communication methods and style with church boards was shared by the pastor. Discussion was held on developing ministries for our youth and children and how we might create the best opportunities for families with young children to participate in the life of the church in ways that are meaningful for them. The 2025 schedule for Holy Communion and for other events was reviewed and updated. The work of the Nominating Committee was reviewed. Work continued on the review of our membership rolls. The Moravian Day of Giving was considered and our participation in it was discussed. The meeting closed with prayer.

## Ways you can SERVE

Are you looking for ways to serve God and the church? We have needs in several areas:

- \* Choir   \*Counters   \*Lector   \*A/V Tech
- \*Committee Work   \*Help with Youth Group
- \*Fellowship Hosts   \*Usher   \*Building & Grounds
- \*AND More

Please prayerfully consider giving of your time in one of these areas. For any questions you may have, please see Pastor Walter, Ji Kim, or one of the Board Members. **Let's serve together!**



**FEBRUARY**  
*Birthdays*

<b>2</b>	Roger Acker	<b>15</b>	Justin O'Donnell
<b>3</b>	Doris Burtner	<b>16</b>	Melody Harden-Sandhu
<b>7</b>	Caitlyn Godoy	<b>16</b>	Connie Vadola
<b>7</b>	Melissa Magrone	<b>20</b>	Barbara Impallaria
<b>10</b>	Roy Bjorklund	<b>24</b>	Carmel McCarthy
<b>14</b>	Tiffany Maffeo	<b>25</b>	Andrew Ciccone

**FEBRUARY**  
*Anniversaries*

<b>16</b>	Ed & Isabel Ranieri	<b>1975</b>
<b>25</b>	Frank & Joyce Fernandez	<b>1979</b>



# 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 February 15th.**

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

## ***Sonrisers Group***

The Sonrisers are a prayer and card ministry group that generally meet two Wednesdays out of the month in the Conference Center.

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

This month's meeting schedule is as follows:

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>February 6</b>  | <b>10:00 am</b> |
| <b>February 12</b> | <b>10:30 am</b> |
| <b>February 26</b> | <b>10:00 am</b> |





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@newdorp moravian.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:** John DiForte, Marie Moser, Dolores Cavallo, Richard Iadorola, Shyanna McKelvin (return of Long Covid), Erik Faraj (complications from serious stroke), Christinjoy Fernandez, Carmel McCarthy, Nadira Edwards (stage 4 cancer), Patrick Eng, Joyce Fernandez (treatments for breast cancer), Ruth Madison (undergoing chemotherapy), Ida Perez, Phyllis Collins (undergoing cardiac rehab), Barbara Carolan, Linda Griggs, Connie Vadola, Tanya Smith, William Hill and family (Mr. Hill is under hospice care), Wayne Chase (suffered a severe fall with expected long-term recovery), Charlotte Goldgrabe, Lois Zipf, Jayden Perez, Jay and Tara Christian, Stephen Gencarello (undergoing cancer treatment), Libby Neri (recovering from broken hip), Megan Iadorola, Estefania Griggs, Alfred Yee-Litt (under Hospice care), Angela Reala, and family, (following the death of her child, Ryan), Marla DiForte (broken ankle), Luke Downs (continued recovery with the addition of a feeding tube to assist him), Brian Robinson (leukemia and recovery from a recent stroke), Carol Burt, Miritza (breast cancer), the family of Brian Robinson, John Regina (recovering from surgery), the family of Elaine Herbert, all of those continuing to recover from natural disasters, and ongoing concerns throughout the world.

**For continued healing:** Deborah Griggs, and Alison Griggs

Please remember to pray for our denominational leaders, 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**



**Love one  
another.**

1 JOHN 4:7

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