

# THE VANDERBILT NEWS

WINTER 2026 ISSUE

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”  
Numbers 6:24-26

## PASTOR'S CORNER



### Giving and Receiving Abundant Life

Dear Church Family and Community,

We are approaching Lent, one of the most important seasons of our lives. It reminds us of the depth of God's love for us and the entire world. (John 3:16). By giving his life on the cross and rising from the grave, Jesus offers “abundant life” – a deeply meaningful, fulfilling, and satisfying life here and in the world to come (John 10:10). As we go through this season, may we experience the transforming love of God that sent Jesus to the cross, and the power of God that raised him from the dead. “As we receive this love, may we find the courage to share it with those longing to experience it, and to live the life of power through Jesus. I join you on this journey through Lent, and I look forward to joyfully singing with you, “He Lives, He Lives, Christ Jesus lives today.”

In Christ alone,  
Rev. Wellesley Ferguson



Health & Wellness

VAMC partners with the Office of Faith-Based

Initiatives at the Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness to be a collective voice in addressing health inequities in our congregation and community through the SI faith community. We pray together for a healthy body, mind, and spirit – the three most important dimensions of wellness.”



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Community Health and Wellness Survey - Understanding, Knowledge

and Awareness of Health Disparities in Our Community.



Please take 7 min. to complete this survey. Sponsored by:



National Black Leadership Commission on Health, Inc.

National Black Leadership Commission on Health, Inc. & VAMC collaborate to promote health, reduce disparities, and achieve equity in our community.



Congregational Depression Awareness Program

CDAP Trains volunteers from faith communities

to share valuable information about depression in their congregations and communities, VAMC is a collaborative partner.

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND FAITH-BASED TRAINING INFO SESSION**

The Congregational Depression Awareness Program (CDAP) is a 10-hour certification training offered through Johns Hopkins University Dept. of Psychiatry for clergy and volunteers from local faith congregations. The program trains participants to understand depression and other mental illnesses and share information and resources with their congregants and community members.

By taking this training, members will be able to:

- Recognize signs of mental illness
- Share information on depression and its risks with community members
- Address stigma associated with mental illness
- Identify resources for mental health treatment

Join our orientation session to learn more about the CDAP program.

When: Wednesday 2/11/26  
Time: 12pm-1pm  
Via zoom

REGISTER HERE!

Scan the QR to register.



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

## ABOUT US

### CONTACT

The Rev. Wellesley Ferguson

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Staten Island, NY 10304  
(718) 447-2966

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Vanderbiltmoravian.org

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon & Wed: 9 AM – 12 PM  
Fri: 10 AM – 5 PM

### WORSHIP

**Sunday Worship:** 10am (In-person or via Zoom)  
+ Sunday School (for children ages 5 to 12)

**Prayer Meetings:** (via Zoom)  
Thursdays at 7:30 pm  
Meetings are held via Zoom. For further info, please contact the Church Office.

**Bible Study:** (via Zoom)  
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

A list of reoccurring events scheduled weekly/monthly at Vanderbilt, available at-a-glance. (More details & specialty events can be found on pg. 2)

**Tuesday:**  
5:30-6:30 am - Prayer (Virtual, weekly)

**Wednesday:**  
7:30 pm - Virtual Bible Study (weekly)

**Thursday:**  
7:30 pm - Women of Grace Meeting (Virtual, weekly)

**Saturday:**  
4:00 pm - Moravian Community Dinner (The third Saturday of every month)

For virtual events, contact the church office for link/details.

The Moravian Church



**MORE INFO**

**Tuesday Prayer**

Please join the Fellowship Prayer Band on Tuesday mornings from 5:30-6:30 am to read the daily texts for that day followed by prayer. Contact the church office for more information.

**Wednesday Bible Study**

VAMC and Fellowship Virtual Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. Contact the office for details.

**Women of Grace**

Please join the Women of Grace - Hope without Borders virtually on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Contact the church office for more information.

**Monthly Community Dinner**

Moravian Community Outreach Ministries hosts a Monthly Community Dinner at VAMC every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. 4-6 pm.



**Sunday School**

Meets every Sunday. For ages 5-12 at 10 am. All are welcome.

Learning about God in both traditional and creative ways. Depending on the week, activities can include Bible stories, lessons on values, role-playing, singing, crafting, drawing, creating, life lessons, experimenting, painting, cooking, music, exploring and playing games.



**Volunteer Opportunities**

Students in need of service credits, and anyone else looking to volunteer, are welcome to volunteer with VAMC. Some possible areas to volunteer: our monthly Community Dinners, the Moravian churches Community Garden, our pop-up pantries, Sunday School, Vacation Bible Camp and other events. Please contact the church office for more information.

**VANDERBILT ACTIVITIES**



**Our Lenten Journey**

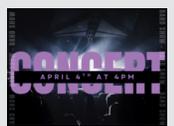
Lent begins on Ash Wed., Feb. 18, 2026

Throughout Lent, there is a 5:30am Prayer call each weekday that anyone can feel free to join. It is a joint endeavor with Fellowship Moravian Church. Each morning a different person will share a devotion based on the Daily Text. Please contact the church office if you need the conference call phone number.

**March 29, 2026** - Palm Sunday Service at 10:00 am.

**April 3, 2026** - Good Friday Service (time TBD)

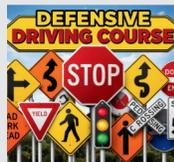
**April 5, 2026** - Easter Sunday Service at 10:00 am



**VAMC Spring Festival Concert**

April 4th at 4:00 PM  
An evening of Gospel, Jazz & Steel

Pan. Proceeds support sanctuary accessibility through the installation of a chair lift. Tickets are \$75 and are available through the church office or after Sunday services.



**Defensive Driving Class**

Defensive driving class at VAMC. Sat., March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Certificate at completion entitles you to 10% off on your car insurance for 3 years. Also can be used to take off up to 3 points (due to moving violations) from your license. Cost is \$38. Make checks payable to Vanderbilt Avenue Moravian Church to reserve a seat. Space is limited. Contact Joy Ferguson at (646)279-8106



**Black History**

March 1<sup>st</sup> - We will be celebrating Black History Month at our 10am

Sunday service. Those who have traditional ethnic attire from the country of their heritage are encouraged to wear it to the service. All welcome.

Immediately after the service there will be a fundraiser luncheon for those who choose to attend. The cost is \$40. The food served will highlight some of the various ethnicities represented in our congregation.



**Moravian Youth Annual Worship**

March 8th - On this day, we will be joining in on

the Metro Area Moravian Youth Annual Worship Service at New Dorp Moravian Church at 10 am, rather than at our home church. This service is run by the Youth from at least 8 area Moravian churches and is always special and inspiring. (Fortunately it is on Staten Island this year!). All ages welcome.



**Community Garden**

Community Garden Recruitment meeting for upcoming garden season:

Saturday, March 21st at 10:00 am  
Monday, March 23rd at 7:00 pm  
at Castleton Hill Moravian Church 1657 Victory Boulevard

Come learn about volunteering to raise fresh produce for Project Hospitality. Regular volunteers also have the option of having their own plot to grow their own vegetables for themselves.



**Lenten Service**

Staten Island Council of Churches Annual Lenten Service - Sunday, March

1st at 4:00 pm at St. Clare's Church, 110 Nelson Avenue, SI, All welcome!

**A Job Well Done!**



On Easter Sunday 2025, the congregation and guests of Vanderbilt Avenue Moravian Church were back in the church sanctuary for the first time since March 2020. This long-awaited re-opening was an accomplishment brought about by the dedicated members of the Vanderbilt Avenue Moravian Church family.

The church was in need of major repairs and necessary upgrades for at least 30 years. Various obstacles, financial and otherwise, prevented this major work from being done.

In March 2020 the church moved to Zoom for worship due to COVID. The church was then unable to return to the sanctuary due to the deteriorating ceiling.

With much prayer, faith in God, and a big heart, Pastor Wellesley Ferguson and the Joint Board set their minds on repairing the broken ceiling, renovating, rewiring, and installing AC and heating. Eventually all of this came together, beginning with the pastor connecting with a reliable contractor, and then the boards and members rallying to raise funds and see this monumental project through. Many thanks to our hardworking board members under the leadership of the pastor, Sister Judi Sapp, Brother Bill Mundy, Sister Dawne Benjamin, Sister Gwen Pierre-Louis, and Brother Rufus Arkoi. Above all, thanks be to God for making this all possible, when at first it seemed impossible.

