



You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased LUKE 3:22



UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Nigel Powell, Pastor

Bro. Oswald Steele, Vice-Chair, Board of Elders

Bro. Patrick Bernard Sr., Chairman, Board of Trustees

Mr. Fabio Alvarez Organist/Choir Director

Watchword for the Week: God says, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”

Isaiah 43:1

Prelude

Mr. Fabio Alvarez

***Call to Worship & Daily Text ..January 10, 2016**

Rev. Nigel Powell

***Introit**

The Chancel Choir

***Processional Hymn #312 “All Praise to You, O Lord”**

***Special Anniversary Litany**

Rev. Nigel Powell

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

All: To declare Your loving kindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.

Leader: For You, LORD, have made us glad through Your work; we will triumph in the works of Your hands.

All: O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep.

Leader: O, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!*

All: For His mercy endures forever.

Leader: Let those He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy praise Him.

All: They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; They found no city to dwell in.

Leader: Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses.

All: He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place.

(Psalms 92:1-5 & 107:1-4)

[Hymn 548] Congregation

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,**

**The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!**

**To God all glory, praise and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heav'n.**

*[Sitting]
[Silent confessions]*

Bro. Oswald Steele

Leader: Let us now lay our confessions before our Lord sincerely believing that he will forgive those that sincerely repent.

All: Precious Lord Jesus, in this year of *the 48th anniversary of our congregation*, we confess that we have not always followed your leading as we ought to have. Sometimes we have failed to heed your commandments; we have allowed pride and dislike for others to interfere with our service of your will and we have not always responded to the needs of others. Now forgive our sins, just as we forgive those who sin against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from all evil. Amen.

Leader: We thank you for the life of Bishop Edwin Greider and his bringing of the West Indian Moravians together for worship in New York.

All: We celebrate the life and witness of Bro. Benjamin Joseph and Rev. Victor Flinn for the formation of the Third Moravian congregation.

Leader: We thank you for the life of Rev. Dr. Charles Martin, his Beth Tphillah Ministry and the formation of the Fourth Moravian congregation.

[Hymn 546] Congregation

**O bless the Lord, my soul!
His grace to all proclaim!
And all that is within me
Join to bless his holy name.**

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!

All: Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

Leader: For the LORD *is* the great God, and the great King above all gods.

All: For He *is* our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

[Hymn 543 vs 1.] Chior

Sing hallelujah, praise the Lord!
Sing with a cheerful voice;
Exalt our God with one accord,
And in His Name rejoice.
Ne'er cease to sing, O ransomed host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Until in realms of endless light
Your praises shall unite.

(Rev. Powell)

Leader: Let us pray for our congregation;

All: Dear Lord and God, we thank you for calling the 'United' congregation into being on January 7, 1968 and the power of your hand in building our sanctuary. Thank you for the faithful leadership of Rev. Henkelman, Rev. Lloyd, Rev. Hicks, Rev. Edwards, Rev. Ferguson, Rev. McKoy and Rev. Powell. We thank you for the leadership of our Joint Boards and auxiliaries and especially for all those who gave themselves to the life and service of our congregation. We pray for those whom we call our first-fruits; the brothers and sisters who became members of United in 1968. Let your blessing remain upon their lives forever and use them to inspire us to trust and faithfully serve you. Amen.

***Hymn 442** "Bless, O Lord, This Congregation"

Welcome & Announcements *(Please see printed items)* Sis. Goldine Nicholas

Birthday/Anniversary Hymn #447 "With Your Presence, Lord"

Greeting Hymn: " I Am Blessed"

***Hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer"**

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,

Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Intercessory Prayer

Sis. Jennifer Aska

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight:
This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise
To seize the everlasting prize;
And shout, while passing through the air,
Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!

#1st Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

Sis. Gail Simon

2nd Scripture Reading

Acts 8:14-17

Bro. Melverton Newell

***Choral Response #846 "Glory be to you, O Lord"**

***THE GOSPEL**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sis. Blondel Jones Grant

***Choral Response #846 "Praise, Praise, Praise, Praise"**

Worship Selection

The Chancel Choir

SERMON

Rev. Nigel Powell

***Hymn #321 "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"**

Worship Through Giving

***Offertory Sentence**

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NKJV)

***Dedication of Tithes and Offering:**

Eternal God, we know that in your heart a contrite spirit is more acceptable than burnt offerings. Therefore, as we ask that you bless our tithes and offering, grant that the gifts we bring be the authentic demonstration of our dedication. We give ourselves— body, soul, and spirit— to you, which is our reasonable service. **AMEN**

Tithes & Offertory Hymn #529 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Presentation of Tithes/Offerings

***Ascription of Praise #817 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***Unveiling the Plaques**

Sis. E. Drew and Sis. B. Jones-Grant

*** The Benediction**

***Recessional Hymn #Hymn #317 "Brightest and Best of the Stars"**

January Birthdays

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|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Sis. Olive Jones | 3 rd | Sis. Brendalie Jones Benjamin | 19 th |
| Sis. Kevisha Watkins | 5 th | Bro. Amare Turner | 21 st |
| Bro. Mayers A. Turner | 6 th | Bro. Samuel Goudie | 21 st |
| Sis. Inez Atkinson | 9 th | Sis. Nahzari Christopher | 21 st |
| Sis. Leana Palmer | 10 th | Bro. Patrick Bernard Sr. | 22 nd |
| Sis. Eldra Drew | 13 th | Sis. Esmie Fraser-McLeod | 25 th |
| Rev. Nigel Powell | 16 th | Bro. Alim Jones | 26 th |
| Sis. Peggy Williams | 19 th | Bro. Delvin Edwards | 26 th |

In celebration of
U.M.C's 48th Anniversary
bouquets were donated by
Sis. Iris Joseph & the
Moravian Women in Ministry.



Sis. Eldra Drew's
children & grandchildren
honor her birthday today
with a bouquet of
flowers.





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#Means the lesson is read responsively. * Means that the congregation stands.

WELCOME

On behalf of United Moravian Church I extend a warm welcome to everyone as we gather to worship the Lord on the day we celebrate our 48th Anniversary. May we share and experience the love of Jesus, find healing for our hurts and answers to our prayers. Visitors, we are especially glad that you are here with us. Please join us for a moment of fellowship in the Social Hall after our worship. We invite you to worship with us again and please join our fellowship if you are seeking a church home.

Announcements January 10, 2016

- The Salvation Army on 125th and 3rd Ave will move to 125th and Lexington in February. In order to assist them with this move United will host two community dinners in February. After the Salvation moves from their current building it will be demolished and a new multi-story senior citizen building will be constructed.
- Please join us for Bible Study this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.
- Confirmation classes meet on Thursday at 6:30 pm.
- Let us continue sending abundant blessings to our two dear members who are ailing. Sis. Ludwina George was transferred to Jewish Home Life Care, located at 100 W. Kingsbridge Rd (Greenwall Bldg) in the Bronx. Her room and phone number (both temporary) are 319A & 718-579-1148. Visiting hours are 10:00 am -10:00 pm. Sis. Elaine Elvin is resting at home. Her number is 718-597-6181.
- Heartfelt thanks are sent to all who donated poinsettias for holiday decorating. Sisters Eleanor Samuel and Myrna Higgins truly appreciated the assistance in beautifying the church.
- Please submit your nominations today to The Nomination Committee for five Elders, four Trustees and three lay delegates to the 2016 Eastern District Conference Synod. Of the five Elders, you may nominate for reelection Philbert Jeffrey, Myrna Higgins & Emiel Henry plus two new members. Of the four Trustees you may nominate for reelection, Shareen Simon-Edwards and Bernalyn Jones-Clarke plus two new members. The nomination committee members are Sis. Mercelle Mason, Sis. Saudia Bromfield and Sis. Elaine Merchant.
- As a reminder, only members in good standing are eligible to vote at the church council. Please see any member of the Board of Trustees if you have any questions.

- This Saturday the 16th is the 10th Anniversary Breakfast sponsored by YOU/ YAC at 9:00 am. The guest speaker will be Rev. Fitzgerald Craig Henry. Tickets are \$20 and \$12 for adults and children respectively. Please see any YOU/YAC member for tickets.
- Our Congregation Council will be held next Sunday the 17th at 11:00 am. Worship service will begin at 10:00 am.
- Youths and Young Adults, have you heard about the E100 Bible reading challenge? The E100 Bible Reading Challenge is a new and exciting way to read through the Bible. The Challenge is based on carefully selected short Bible passages; 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. They help you get the big picture of the Bible without getting bogged down. Please see a member of the Y.A.C to register, and get more information. **The E100 Bible Reading Challenge will be launched on Sunday, Jan 31st at 11:00 am.** See you there!
- The Men's Fellowship Committee will meet on Sunday January 24th right after service.
- Offering statements will be printed upon request for pickup. If you need your statement emailed please provide the Board of Trustees with the email address.
- The Ushers on duty next Sunday are: Chennell Christopher, Glenroy Aska, Andre Collette, Jade Simon, Jalah Christopher, Glenroy Hazel, Amare Turner, Asaria Williams.

Coming Events

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| Jan. 16 th | Annual Prayer Breakfast - 9:00 am - Sis. C. McKay |
| Jan. 17 th | Worship Service - 10:00 am - Pastor |
| Jan. 17 th | Congregation Council Meeting at 11:00 am |
| Jan. 24 th | Boards Commissioning Worship Service - Pastor |
| Jan. 31 st | E-100 Bible Reading Challenge Worship Service - Pastor |
| FEBRUARY | |
| Feb 7 th | Worship Service/Holy Communion—Pastor |
| Feb 7 th | Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm |
| Feb 14 th | Stewardship of Talents/Worship Service - Pastor |

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| Lenten Season Schedule |
| Feb. 10– Ash Wednesday / Feb. 17 - Antigua Group |
| Feb. 24 - Moravian Women / Mar. 2 - Men's Fellowship |
| Mar. 9 - Jamaica Group / Mar. 16 - Youth Group |
| Mar. 23 - U.S.V.I. |

**PRAY & GIVE SUPPORT TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**Sis. Jannette Abel
Sis. Alicia Benjamin
Sis. Anna Bishop
Bro. Tralane Donovan
Tel: 646-682-9272
Sis. Elaine Elvin
Sis: Ludwina George
Sis: Millicent Hodge
Sis. Eva Joseph
Sis: Minerva Joseph
Sis. Carmelita Keith
Sis. Rose Lemond
Sis. Bernice McLean
Sis. Hyacinth Pelle
Bro. Luvey Williams
Sis. Iris Woodley**

When we are not in the best of health it is always comforting to know prayers and support are available. Remember those who are unable to join us week to week. To add them to our list of infirmed members call the church office at 212-722-2109.

Listening to the Sermon

Use the space provided below to make your personal notes. Reflect prayerfully and thoughtfully on them over the coming week. Seek the help of the Holy Spirit to apply God's truth to your heart and life.

SERMON TITLE

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Main points to remember

1.....
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2.....
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3.....
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Having heard the sermon, I have decided on the following:

1.....
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2.....
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3.....
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Baptism by fire

“Baptism by fire” suggests a form of initiation by trial, a very difficult entry into some new chapter or experience of life—like your first organic chemistry class in college. On this Sunday, something brand new is afoot. People can sense it. The messianic hope is thick in the air, and this Elijah-like prophet named John is doing something very different. He has started a movement asking people to turn from old ways; he accuses the Pharisees and welcomes the poor, calls for the end of exhortation and the start of forgiveness and mercy. He is baptizing people into this movement.

When they ask him if *he* is the awaited Messiah, he denies it and says there will be yet another . . . one who baptizes with fire.

What can this mean? When this Jesus appears and is baptized before the people, there is no fire. There is a dove, the heavens open, and the voice of God proclaims Jesus a Son, beloved and well-pleasing—but there is no fire.

The fire comes later . . . after a crucifixion and resurrection: the fire on the heads of the terrified disciples—the Holy Spirit. Many of us were baptized as infants in the loving arms of our parents and godparents. There was probably cake, and we were nicely dressed. Our fire would come later. Perhaps it has come and gone. Whatever form that fire took, let us reflect on that and look for the Holy Spirit in that “baptism.” How did that “baptism by fire” shape our character? In the midst of that trying time, did we hear the voice of God saying, “You are my son, you are my daughter, with whom I am well-pleased—my beloved”?

*Amy Gohdes-Luhman, pastor, Waconia Moravian Church,
Waconia, Minnesota*

The Moravian Church

First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 10, 2016

