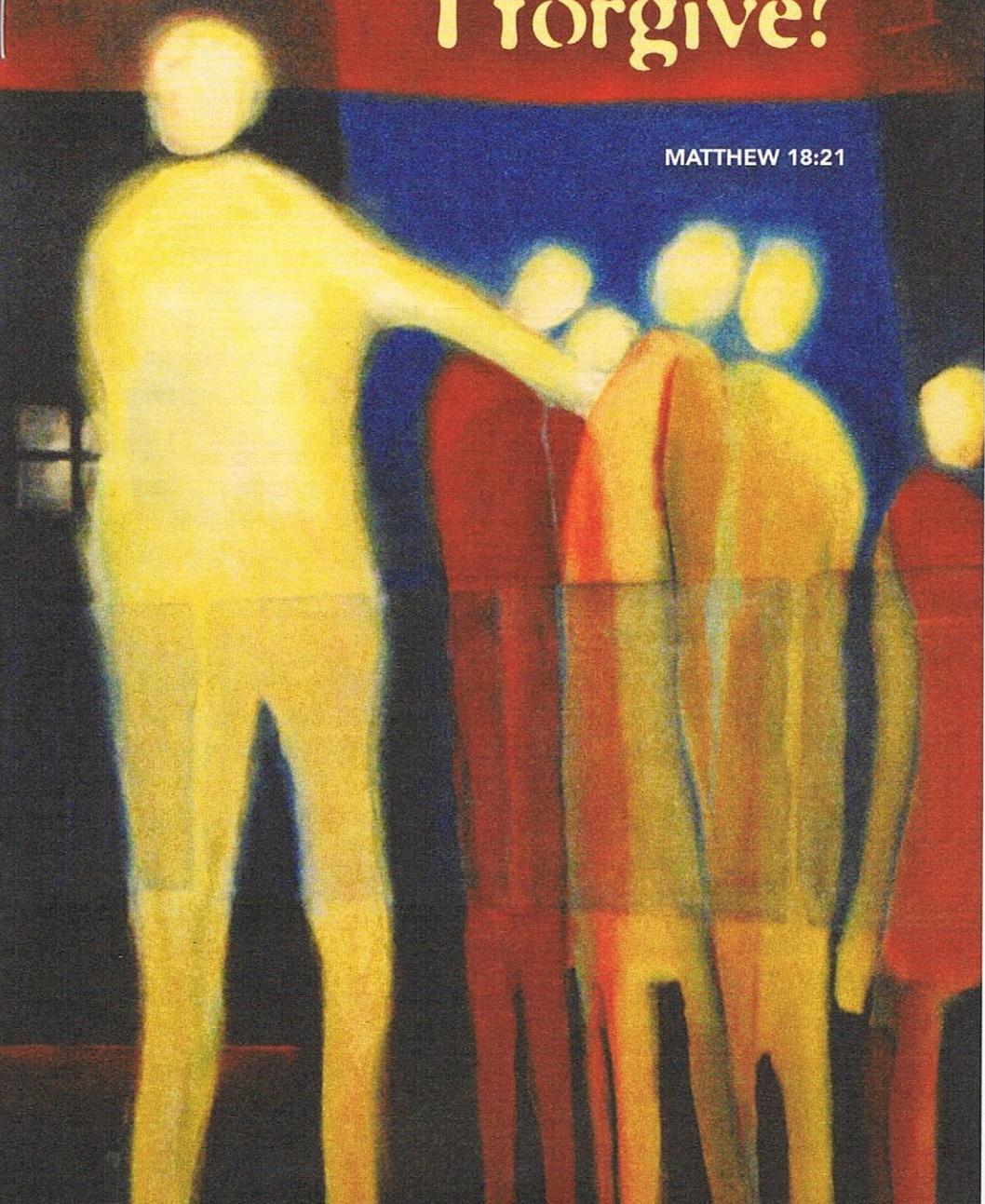


Lord, how often should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21





UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH

200 East 127th St., New York, NY 10035

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unitedmoravian@gmail.com // www.unitedmoravian.org

Rev. Nigel Powell, Pastor

Bro. Philbert Jeffrey, Vice-Chair, Board of Elders

Sis. Bernalyn Jones-Clarke, Chairwoman, Board of Trustees

Mr. Fabio Alvarez Organist/Choir Director

In an atmosphere of love and unity, we seek to spread the gospel through worship and service to all people.

Watchword for the Week: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.

Psalm 103:2

Organ Prelude

Mr. Fabio Alvarez

***Call to Worship & Daily Text .. September 17, 2017**

Rev. Nigel Powell

***Introit**

The Chancel Choir

***Opening Hymn #381**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

***Liturgy—A JOURNEY THROUGH PSALM 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

I want so much, Lord. I desire so many things that promise to make my life easier, fuller or more exciting and meaningful. And yet the "things" of this life do not provide the fullness of life. Give me wisdom to know my wants from my needs. Give me eyes to see, the fullness of my life in you. Give me a heart that is willing to journey with the Shepherd.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

Because of you, Lord, my life is fertile. You planted the seed of faith in my heart and you cause it to grow. Everything in my life—the joys, the sorrows, the worries, the discoveries -has been embraced by your love and contributes to who I am today.

He leads me beside still waters.

Although there is turbulence in life, your spirit fills me with peace and calm. There is a stillness that you provide when I find myself navigating troubled waters. Protect me from fear, worry and anger when life becomes threatening, that I might enjoy life as you intended it.

He restores my soul.

Lord, when circumstances of life threaten to defeat me, you offer healing to me. Even if I question your presence in my life or if worry overwhelms me and I

wonder if I can go on, you refresh my soul. In time, you breathe new life into me. You fill me with so much of yourself that the world simply becomes the place where I come to know you.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

When I look back at my life and see the choices that I have made, I stand humbled and acknowledge your guidance. I seek your wisdom as I face each day. I ask that you journey with me one step at a time.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley I fear no evil for you are with me; go your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

Challenges will come. They will threaten to take my breath away. But your breath remains. Your Spirit guards my life. You give me hope. You give me peace and the warmth of your Son brings a smile to my heart.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You have invited me to a party in your honor. There is a place for me at your table, in your kingdom. With all the faithful, Lord, you have welcomed me to break bread with you and confess my faith in your love. Those who ridiculed me because of my faith will see your glory in me. Let them see it now so that they might take their place at your table also.

You anoint my head with oil.

You have chosen me, Lord, for a holy purpose. You have gifted me to perform your work. You have called me to do your will. Convict me with your Spirit so that I might never betray you and assure me of your forgiveness in the event that I do.

My cup overflows.

The words of my mouth are attempts to express what cannot be spoken. My life is so full, so rich that only my heart can sing the praise that you deserve. In my greatest moments of emptiness, Lord, you fill me up. Fill me now with your truth, your Word.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

It doesn't matter where I live, where I work, where I travel, who I am with or how long I walk this earth. If I bring you with me, my journey will be blessed.

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

May my life be a prayer. May my life be a witness. May my life be my confession of faith in you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Bro. Emiel Henry

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

***Greeting Hymn #525 vs.1 "Join We All with One Accord"**

*** Praise and Worship**

Praise and Worship Team

Intercessory Prayer

Prayer Warriors

(The Sunday School leaves for classes)

#1st Scripture Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

Bro. Matthew Walker

2nd Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Sis. Angela Ephraim

***Choral Response # 846**

"Glory to you O Lord"

***The Gospel**

Matthew 18:21-35

Sis. Goldine Nicholas

***Choral Response #846**

"Praise, Praise, Praise, Praise"

Worship Selection

The Chancel Choir

Sermon: "Keys to Walk Good Together"

Rev. Nigel Powell

***Hymn #587**

"Our Lamb Has Conquered"

***Offertory Sentence**

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.
(1 Timothy 6:18-19 NKJV)

***Dedication of Tithes and Offering:**

Help us dear Lord Jesus to respond in our giving like the widow and her mite in scripture. May our giving become like the five loaves and two fish; one little boy's lunch but still able to feed thousands. This we ask in your holy Name. **AMEN**

Tithes and Offertory Hymn #416 (Celebration Hymnal) "We're Marching to Zion"

Presentation of Tithes/Offerings

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

Closing Hymn #751

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Organ Postlude (Congregation seated)

Mr. Fabio Alvarez

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

WELCOME

On behalf of the United Moravian Church I extend a warm welcome to everyone as we gather to worship on this Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost. 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.

Announcements Sept. 17, 2017

- Join us for Bible Study this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.
- Sunday School begins today. Registration forms are on the rack in the lobby. Please fill them out and return them to Sis. Jonelle Bernard or Sis. Atiya Cobbs.
- Our Sunday School needs more teachers to help spread the word of God to our young people. If you are interested in becoming a Sunday School teacher, please speak with Sis. Jonelle Bernard or Sis. Atiya Cobbs.
- All are invited after worship today to a special meet and greet luncheon and presentation in the Social Hall. It is being hosted by Varian, a medical company that is affiliated with the adjacent facility, and our new neighbors. If you're able, proceed to the Hall after worship.
- The Elders have a meeting right after service in the Hughes Security room.
- The Finance Committee is also meeting right after service.
- A memorial service will be held here tomorrow for a former United member, Gloria Gordon Lewis. The service is at 7:00pm with a gathering in the Social Hall immediately following.
- The Moravian Holy Land Tour 2018 welcomes more participants. The trip is January 3-12, and the deadline for registration for the advertised price of \$2,998 per person double occupancy is Tuesday, September 19th. You may call Bishop Hopeton Clennon for more information at 484-635-0400, or visit www.moraviantour.com.
- The UMC Anniversary Concert is next Sunday, September 24th at 3:00 pm. Please share concert information with family and friends. It will be an uplifting event. See a Chancel Choir member for tickets.
- The next day United's annual crusade will begin, September 25th – 29th at 7:00 pm. The planned speakers are Rev. Fitzgerald Henry of Little Rock Baptist Church, a frequent guest at recent UMC prayer breakfasts, and our Youth Minister, Jeremy Ricks. Our theme is "Christ Within Us– Christ Among Us". Let's all make plans to worship together each night and bring a friend too.
- The start date for Confirmation classes has changed. Instead of Friday, Sept. 29th, classes will begin on Friday, Oct. 6th at 5:15 pm. Sis. Regina Solomon is the Confirmation Instructor and the person to speak with to register your child. The Membership forms on the rack are used for registration.
- The Moravian Women in Ministry is planning to deliver toys & knitted items to Harlem Hospital in December. They are asking United members to donate new & unwrapped toys for various ages towards this effort. Donated items should be placed in the large Narthex drum. The ladies thank you in advance for your support.

- This Friday the Moravian Women are heading to Washington D.C. for their Fall Workshop. We pray for their safe travel there and back.
- United Steel Orchestra is now recruiting new members. Please encourage our youth to learn to play our cultural instruments, now found in many schools and universities throughout the world. This program is free and taught by Bro. Clifton Anthony. For those interested, but missed the Sept. 15 meeting, please contact Sis. Claire Martin-McKay at 917-488-4269 or Bro. Akkeem Adams at 347-346-3384.
- The Moravian Women will lead the October 22 worship service.
- Mark your calendar for Friday, Oct. 27th. The Christian Action for Renewal & Development (C.A.R.D) is hosting their Annual Awards & Fundraising Banquet at Antun's Caterers in Queens. This year our own Sis. Eldra Drew is receiving honors. The fun starts at 8:30pm. Tickets are \$90, per person. Flyers with more information are on the rack.
- This years UMC Dinner Dance will be held on Friday December 8th at Eastwood Manor. The gala will be a night of mingling, great food, and of course music. Festivities begin at 8:00 pm and end at 2:00 am. Tickets, per person, are \$100. What's included? Food, drinks, family, friends & fun. Reserve your tickets with a Fundraising Committee member today before they run out.
- You can check your blood pressure here at United in the Medical Office on Sundays after church.

Welcome back to

Pastor

The Joint Board

Group leaders & members

UMC Brothers & Sisters who were traveling

It is time again to

PRAISE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Crusade participation will be a great way to pick up momentum!

Monday Sept. 25th - Friday Sept. 29th

at 7:00 pm



**UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL DINNER DANCE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017**

at the
**Eastchester Manor
3371 Eastchester Rd
Bronx, NY 10469**

Cocktail Hour 8:00 - 9:00 pm

Passed hors d'oeuvres

Delicious Buffet

Lively Fellowship & Dancing



until 2:00am

Come and Dance the Night Away - Music by DJ Frankie

Donations: \$100, per person

Door prizes

***See a Joint Board Banquet Committee Member
for more information and tickets.***



Rev. Nigel Powell—Pastor

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Donnamaria James	4 th	Loretta Jones	21 st
Simone Merchant Taylor	7 th	Evelyn Lloyd	21 st
Marsha Henry	9 th	Elfrieda Daniel	23 rd
Eldridge Brown	10 th	Melverton Newell	23 rd
Trisha Simon	12 th	Patrick Bernard Jr.	27 th
Teresita Tongue	16 th	Joel Lucas	29 th
Shareen Simon Edwards	17 th	Keisha Merchant	30 th
Marlene Murray	17 th	Kieyen Merchant	30 th
Gersham Sangster	17 th	Iris Woodley	30 th
Tenisha Simon	19 th		

COMING EVENTS

Sept. 22-23	Moravian Women's Workshop in D.C.
Sept. 24	UMC Anniversary Concert @ 3:00 pm
Sept. 25 -29	UMC Annual Crusade Services @ 7:00 pm
Oct. 1-6	Antigua Group Excursion to Canada
Oct 6 -8	Youth Ministry Weekend in Ohio
15-Oct	Stewardship of Talents collection
Oct. 28	Busy Bees lobsterfeast in the Poconos
Nov. 19	Harvest Service
Dec. 8	UMC Annual Dinner Dance
Sun. Dec. 17	United's Prayer Watch Day

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

**Sis. Jannette Abel
Sis. Joyce Anderson
Sis. Ena Billy
Sis. Anna Bishop
Bro. Tralane Donovan
Sis. Elaine Elvin
Sis. Henrietta Gumbs
Sis: Millicent Hodge
Sis. Hyacinth Isaacs
Sis: Minerva Joseph
Sis. Carmelita Keith
Sis. Zenna Reid
Sis. Alma Thompson
Bro. Maynel Thompson Sr.
Bro. Alvin Williams
Bro. Lurvey 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.

2017 BOARD OF ELDERS

Name & Title		Zip Codes
Rev. Nigel Powell Chairman		
Philbert Jeffrey - Vice Chair Moravian Men's Fellowship		New Jersey, 10475, 10473, 10472
Sis. Regina Solomon - Secretary		10465, 10466, 10468
Bro. Lloyd Farquharson - Assist. Sec. Island Group		10451, 10454, 10455
Sis. Iris Joseph - Ushers Board Moravian Women in Ministry		10453, 10458
Bro. Stephen James Sr. Sick and Home Bound/ YAC-YOU		Westchester, Rockland, Connecticut
Sis. Melsadis Dolphin Sick and Home Bound		10452, 10456, 10457
Sis. Jonelle Bernard Sunday School		Queens, Brooklyn, Long Island
Bro. Iva Grant Moravian Men's Fellowship		10462, 10469
Sis. Goldine Nicholas Chancel Choir		Manhattan
Sis. Myrna Higgins Room Rentals/Community Dinner		10470, 10474
Bro. Emiel Henry		10459, 10460, 10467

2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name		Title
Bernalyn Jones-Clarke		Chairwoman
Sonia Bernard		Vice-Chair
Patrick Bernard– Ex Officer		Treasurer
Akkeem Adams– Ex Officer		Financial Secretary
Jamala Hunte		Secretary
Trisha Simon		Assistant Secretary
Etta Chambers		Gifts/Grants Coordinator
Whitfield Nicholas		Maintenance Committee
Yolanda Christopher		Assistant Treasurer
Peggie Williams		
Tracye Harvey		

Listening to the Sermon

Use the space provided below to make your personal notes. Reflect prayer-fully 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

.....
.....

Main points to remember

1.....
.....
2.....
.....
3.....
.....

Having heard the sermon, I have decided on the following:

1.....
.....
2.....
.....
3.....
.....

A Trait with Which We Struggle

“Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” (Matthew 18:21). Peter asks what feels like a loaded question. It is one we ask ourselves on a continual basis—probably because we want the answer to change. We want Jesus to say that if someone continually hurts us, it’s OK to write them off. It’s OK to say, “That’s it, I’m done with you.” It’s OK to hold a grudge, to withhold forgiveness for the rest of our lives. But that’s not what Jesus says.

Jesus has just explained to the disciples the lengths to which they are to go to try to find reconciliation in the church when one sins against another. He doubles up on his point by explaining to Peter, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.” (Some translations even up the ante by translating it “seventy times seven.”)

We are not to grow weary in showing forgiveness—because God never wearies of forgiving us. Every time we come to God to ask for forgiveness, if we truly repent in our hearts, we are given it. *Every time.* Just as we have been forgiven, we are then to show forgiveness to others. Jesus illustrates that point by telling a parable about the consequences of not forgiving.

Forgiveness is a trait of disciples of Christ. It is a trait with which we may struggle, especially if the sin against us is one that cuts deep to our core. Yet, in Jesus, we see the lengths to which God will go to ensure our own forgiveness. Are we willing to let go of our own pain, in order to offer the grace of forgiveness we’ve experienced to those who have sinned against us?

*Beth Rohn-Habegger, pastor, Canaan Moravian Church,
Davenport, North Dakota*

The Moravian Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2017



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