

*Come to the
wedding
banquet*

MATTHEW 22:4





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

Watchword for the Week - O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things. **Isaiah 25:1**

Prelude

Mr. Orlando Alonso

***Call to Worship & Daily Text ..October 12, 2014**

Sis. Blondel Jones Grant

***Introit**

The Chancel Choir

Processional Hymn #636 "Ye Who Called, Ye Who Called"

*** Liturgy pg. 37 Discipleship**

Welcome & Announcements

Sis. Hazel Hazel

Birthday/Anniversary Hymn #446 "The Lord Bless and Keep You"

Greeting Hymn:

" I Am Blessed"

Health Talk

Sis. Joycelyn Valentine

Intercessory Prayer Hymn #502 "Break Now the Bread of Life"

#1st Scripture Reading

Isaiah 25:1-9

Bro. Alan Cran Joseph

2nd Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

Bro. Lorne Canton

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

***THE GOSPEL**

Matthew 22:1-14

Bro. Philbert Jeffrey

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

Worship Selection

The Chancel Choir

SERMON

"You Are Invited! R.S.V.P"

Sis. Blondel Jones Grant

Hymn (insert)

"The Gospel Bells Are Ringing"

Worship Through Giving

Sis. Blondel Jones Grant

***Offertory Sentence:** Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
Matthew 6:25-26

***Dedication of Tithes and Offering:** Great God of love, in Christ you offer us the Great Banquet. We pray that your spirit will move us to extend that invitation to others. O God, you name us the salt of the earth. We pray that you would use us to bring the good news to a world that needs to hear it. Teach us to be good stewards of all that we have, our time, talents, and treasure. May we learn to share the feast with others. May we learn that in serving your Church, we glorify your name. Help us to accept your invitation with grace and be ready to serve.

Amen.

***Tithes & Offertory Hymn #782 "Come Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing"**

Offertory Hymn # 817 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Benediction

Recessional Hymn #535 "Joining Our Voices"

Nunc Dimittis pg. 251

Organ Postlude (congregation seated)

Mr. Orlando Alonso

#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 the Eighteenth 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 home. May God bless you.

Announcements October 12, 2014

- Here is the schedule for the weekly group review of the Unbinding Your Heart study: **MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY PRAYER CONFERENCE LINE AT 9:00 PM. TELEPHONE NO. 712-432-1500. THE PASS CODE IS 802324#. PLEASE CHOOSE ONE DAY AND CALL IN ONLY ON THAT EVENING EACH WEEK. THIS WILL BE YOUR GROUP.**
- You are invited to attend the Unbinding Your Heart group study here at church every Wednesday for the next 5 weeks at 6:30 pm.
- All persons who are interested in joining Confirmation class are invited to submit a **Membership Application** form.
- The Board of Trustees will meet this Thursday the 16th at 7:00 pm
- The preliminary Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 21st at 6:30 pm. All committees are asked to submit their budgets to the Board of Trustees by this meeting.

- Sister Winnifred Farquharson and Brother Gersham Sangster wish to express sincere thanks to all those who by their prayers, visits, telephone calls, and other forms of showing love, provided comforts and consolations during their time of bereavement for the loss of their aunts, Mavis Goldson and Melvina Russell. God bless you all.
- We are saddened to report the passing of Sis. Anne Browne, wife of Bro. Maxwell Browne, last Monday night. Funeral arrangements are being made.
- The Battle of the Rows fundraising event begins this month and runs up to Harvest Sunday. A box is now at the end of each row. All who sit in the specific row are asked to place any amount of donation in the box, each time they enter the sanctuary for worship or for any event. This will be tallied on Harvest Sunday to see which row contributed the MOST. **THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR CONSIDERING MAKING THIS A FUN FUNDRAISER!**
- Rev. Powell will commence a continuing education course in counseling at the NYU Langone Medical Center on 1st Ave. in November. This course will end in May 2015. It is the last course that he is required to do by the P.E.C before he is admitted to the Call Roster of the Province.
- The Unity Prayer Watch Day for United is Dec 4th. We need volunteers to fill the 48 half hour slots. Please mark your calendar. More information will follow.
- The Eastern District Young Adult Mission Retreat is being held from October 31 - Nov. 2, 2014. This event combines service and learning while engaging in global social justice issues at the local level. Participants are young adults 21 and older. Spaces are limited. The retreat location is in Bethlehem, PA . Travel assistance is available. Interested? Please contact Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer at the Eastern District office, cynthia@mcnp.org.
- The C.A.R.D. Organization will have its 15th Anniversary Fund Raising & Awards Banquet on Friday, October 31, 2014 from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am at Antun's, located at 9643 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village, NY. Tickets are \$90.00, per person. There will also be an advertising journal. For tickets please see Bro. Bernard or Sis. Drew. He will gladly accept deposits for your tickets. Journal information can also be obtained from Bro Bernard. Please support the C.A.R.D. organization.
- Join the Busy Bees trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Saturday, Nov. 29th. The outing includes a ticket to the Christmas Show, shopping and lunch. Tickets are \$120, per person. Please see any Busy Bee for more information. Flyers are also on the rack.
- The holidays are approaching quickly, and so is the UMC Fundraising Committee Dinner & Dance. It will be at the Eastwood Manor Caterers in the Bronx. The Friday, December 12th event is the last fundraiser for the year. The purchase of a \$90 ticket is an investment in UMC!

**An Affair to Remember
Friday, December 12, 2014**

UMC Holiday Celebration

At the Eastwood Manor Caterers
3371 Eastchester Rd, Bronx, NY

Enjoy an evening of fine dining & music
during a festive time of year.

Donations are \$90, per person. Please see:
Jonelle Bernard, Bernalyn Jones Clarke, Blondel Jones
Grant, Philbert Jeffrey, Melverton Newell, Goldine
Nicholas, Whitfield Nicholas, Gail Simon, Olivette
Simon, Shareen Simon, Trisha Simon or Oswald Steele

We are UNITED.

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

Sis. Jannette Abel
Sis. Alicia Benjamin Sis. Anna Bishop
Bro. Tralane Donovan
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. Berwin Roberts
Sis. Winifred Thomas
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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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Sharik	Potter	3 rd	Moretta	Steele	19 th
Shanice	Gainey	3 rd	Winnifred	Farquharson	20 th
Harold	Manning	11 th	Hilerene	Daniel	20 th
Kadeem	Simpson	17 th	Anna-Kay	Grant	28 th
Mozelle	James	17 th	Joan	Powell	29 th
Diamond	Greaux	17 th	Tesean	Hamm	31 st
Danika	Chambers	18 th	Anderson	McCarthy	31 st

2014 COMING EVENTS

Oct. 19	Worship Service - M.W.M
Oct. 26	Worship Service - Pastor
Nov. 2	All Saints & Holy Communion
Nov. 9	Worship Service- Stewardship Ministry
Nov. 16	Worship Service - Youth
Nov. 23	Harvest Thanksgiving - Pastor
Nov. 30 th	Advent Sunday - Pastor
Dec. 7 th	Advent Sunday & Holy Communion- Pastor
Dec. 14 th	Advent Sunday - Pastor

Clothed with joy

The parable that is today's Gospel lesson is a difficult one to understand. What do we do with the violence of the king? Does the king represent God? Is Jesus giving us the strong message of judgment that the parable seems to convey?

But I find a helpful message in the last part of today's Gospel, verses 11–14, which is not part of the parallel version of the parable that we find in Luke 14. After the first persons invited to the wedding banquet turn down the invitation (and suffer for it), the king sends out his slaves to round up whoever they find in the streets and invite them in to the feast.

Some of those then are thrown out because they are not properly dressed for a wedding. Some commentators have suggested that first-century Palestinian hosts provided wedding garments for guests, but there is no evidence for such a custom.

Rather, this raises for me the question of what we hope for and experience in our relationship with God. Here that relationship is pictured—as often in the Gospels—as a feast, a banquet, a dress-up occasion, a time to celebrate.

Do we experience our relationship with God as celebration, rejoicing, feasting? Or as drudgery, slavery, involuntary servitude? In another Gospel we hear Jesus say, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). C. S. Lewis describes his conversion as being “surprised by joy.” As Moravians we sing, “Jesus makes my heart rejoice,” “Jesus is my joy; therefore blessed am I” (*Moravian Book of Worship*, #662, #594). Is that our experience? Are we clothed with joy, ready for our feast with God?

Hermann Weinlick, retired pastor, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Moravian Church

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 12, 2014

