Celebrating The Life of

Carle A. Birch

February 22, 1935-October 15, 2026

Service

Thursday, November 19, 2026

Viewing: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Funeral Service: 6:30 PM

UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH

200 E. 127th St • New York, New York 10035

Order of Service

Musical Prelude
Opening Sentences
Opening Hymn #752.....“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”
Prayer of Invocation

Memorial Liturgy

Leader: Lord, our God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
Congregation: Have mercy upon us

Lord, our God, you do not willingly bring affliction or grief to your children. **Leave your peace with us**.

Lord, our God, you have raised Christ from death as the assurance that those who sleep in death will also be raised.
Bless and comfort us we humbly pray.

Eternal God accept us as your children in your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who came into the world from you, was born a human being, and lived among us. He took the role of a servant and has redeemed us from all sin and from death, with his holy and precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and dying. Christ has done this so that we may be his own, live in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence and happiness, since he, being risen from the dead, lives and reigns, forever and ever.
Amen

Our Savior has said: Whoever hears my words and believes the One who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has already passed from death into life.
Savior of the world lead us in paths of righteousness for your name’s sake.

We do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves. If we live it is for the Lord that we live and if we die, it is to the Lord that we die. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord, for Christ died, rose from death, and lives again in order to be the Lord of the living and of the dead.
Living Redeemer, we find hope in you.

As a father has compassion on his children, so God has compassion on those who honor him; for he knows how we were formed, he remembers that we are dust. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you, says the Lord. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, and sustains those who are bereaved. And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.
The steadfast love of the Lord lasts forever, and his goodness endures for all generations.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and forever shall be, world without end. Amen

Solo ..... Bro. Julio Gumbs - "When peace, Like a River"

Tribute(s):

1- United Moravian Church

• Sis. Eldra Drew

• Sis. Danielle Chambers *Steel Pan for Youth of United Group*

2- Birch/ Hermon N.Y. Chapter.....Rev. Mother Deborah A. Smith

3- Dennis J. Lowry.....Grandson

Eulogy .....Dina Shinnery

Offertory Hymn #528 (CH). My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

Dedicatory Prayer

1st Scripture Reading..... I Corinthians 15:50 – 58 - Javan Zapata

2nd Scripture Reading..... I Timothy6:6 – 12 - Chaselee Zapata

Ministry in Song ..... *Chancel Choir…."Blessed are They"*

Sermon ..... The Measure of a Godly Life

Hymn of Response #753 ..... "Lead On, O King Eternal"

Prayer for the Family

Sounding Taps ..... SSG Dexter Hendricks

Benediction

Recessional Hymn ..... The Trumpet

We sing his love, who once was slain,
Who soon o'er death revived again,
That all his saints through him might have
Eternal conquests o'er the grave:

Soon shall the trumpet sound,(x 3)
and we shall rise, shall rise, shall rise,
shall rise to immortality.(x 2)

The saints who now with Jesus sleep
His own almighty power shall keep,
Till dawns the bright illustrious day
When death itself shall die away:

How loud shall our glad voices sing,
When Christ his risen saints shall bring,
From beds of dust and silent clay,
To realms of everlasting day!

When Jesus we in glory meet,
Our utmost joy shall be complete;
When landed on that heavenly shore,
Death and the curse shall be no more:

Hasten, dear Lord, the glorious day,
And this delightful scene display,
When all your saints from death shall rise
Raptured in bliss beyond the skies:

OBITUARY

Carle A. Birch affectionally known as Birch-O, Uncle/Dad & Sweet Mouth was born on February 22, 1935, to Olmon Burke & Cassilda A. Smith in St. Thomas Virgin Island. He was baptized at the New Herrnhut Moravian Church a few months after his birth. Carle came to New York at the tender age of thirteen on August 10th, 1948. Carle attended Public School 120 James Fenmore Cooper Junior High School in Manhattan. He continued his studies at the Manhattan High School of Aviation Trades & later went on to the Academy of Aeronautics in Flushing Queens, New York.

Carle was confirmed at First Moravian Church in New York. In 1953 Carle enlisted in the Army during the Korean War. During his military tour his duties entailed the following: Aircraft Mechanics & Military Police. During his 27 ½ years of service he had other duties which included the National Guard & regular army assignments.

Carle met and fell in love with Dorothy Sewer whom he married in November of 1957. This loving union produced two wonderful daughters Cheryl & Leesa (deceased) and blessed him with grandchildren: Dennis(Jamel), Chaselee, Javan & Cianta'. Carle later returned to ST. Thomas where he became a School Bus Safety Field Inspector for the St. Thomas – St. John School District. Carle was selected to attend a course at the California Highway Patrol in Sacramento. He was the first resident of the Caribbean region to attend and graduate from the school. The material presented at the time of the course was geared toward teaching techniques on pupil management, first-aid instructions & public relations. On his return, Carle conducted workshops for St. Thomas bus drivers in handling emergency evacuations and other emergencies that may occur on the buses.

Carle later had a son Kurt 'Terry' and two more grandchildren Semone & Jenee. Carle was a dedicated member of New Herrnhut Church in St. Thomas. He joined the Adult Choir singing Tenor & Men's Choral

as a Baritone, as well as the Trombone Choir. The New Herrnhut Church Choir performed on various islands. These performances not only raised funds for various churches but blessed the people who heard the love of God through song.

In 1994, Carle returned to New York and renewed his membership in the combined Third and Fourth Moravian churches now known as the United Moravian Church. Because of his love of music and praising God, he became a member of the Chancel Choir and the Men's Fellowship Group. He was also an active member of the USVI group within the Church.

Carle was a dedicated family man, a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend, and neighbor. He believed that the family should stay strong and "STICK TOGETHER!!" With a twinkle in his eyes and a "sly smile" that would pull you in and always show his love. Carle served his country in the earthly army and now Carle serves in the Lord's heavenly army. May Carle rest in peace & rise in Glory.

He leaves to mourn his memory:
Daughter: Cheryl Birch- Lowry
Daughter: Rev. Deborah A. Smith
Son: Kurt "Terry" Monsanto
Son-in-Law: Charles Zapata
Grandchildren: Dennis "Jamel", Chaselee, Javan, Cianta', Semone & Janee
A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends too numerous to list.

Called home before him:
Brothers: Leon Hermon, Valmy Hermon, Godfrey Hermon, Alvin Hermon, Henry Hermon Jr., Leslie Hermon, Humphrey Hermon, Brother-n-Law McKenzie Smith.
Sisters: Era Smith, Ednid Hanson, Lillian Aubrey, Clarita Birch, Rita Birch.
Wife: Dorothy Birch
Daughter: Leesa Birch-Zapata

SERVICE OF INTERMENT

Hymn: Standing on the Promises of God

1 Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring;
"Glory in the highest," I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

3 Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

Burial Liturgy

(All Pray) *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name;*
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord God, Son, the Savior of the world.
Be gracious unto us.
By your human birth
By your prayers and tears
By the grief and anguish of your soul

By your cross and suffering
By your atoning death
By your rest in the grace
By your triumphant resurrection
By your divine presence
By your coming again to your church on earth, or our being called home to you.

Bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God.

The Pastor says:
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die, and those who live and believe in me will never die. Therefore, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor. Where, death, is your victory? Where, grave, is your sting? It is sin which gives death its power, and it is the Law which gives sin its strength. All thanks to God, who delivered us from the fear of death, the power of sin, and the condemnation of the Law. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We now commit the body of Carle A. Birch to the ground, in sure and certain hope of the resurrection of all believers to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. He shall change our weak, mortal bodies and make them like his own glorious body, using that power by which he is able to bring all things under his rule.

Keep us in everlasting fellowship with the heavenly Church Triumphant and let us rest together in your presence from our labors.
Hear us gracious Lord and God

Glory be to him who is the Resurrection and the Life, who quickens us while in this dying state, and after we have obtained the true life, gives us life forevermore. Glory be to Christ in the church which waits for him on earth and in the church, which is around him in heaven, forever and ever. Amen.
Hymn: When We All Get to Heaven

Benediction
May the peace of God which transcends all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of the Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Acknowledgement

The family expresses its deepest appreciation for the love and concern expressed by all at this time of bereavement in our family. Your thoughtfulness has helped to make our pain a little less difficult. Thank you so much.

Pallbearers

Kurt Terry Monsanto
Dennis J. Lowry Lowry
Chaselee Zapata
Javan Zapata
Taresh Terry Rampersad
Jamal lndustrious Jr.
Lloyd Keith

Honorary Pallbearers

Howard Francis
Julio Gumbs
Rudolph Ruby William
Charles Zapata
Grcgory Joshua
Steven Mason
Ali Knott
Dungeon Boys

Additional Acknowledgements

Adriane Louard Brown
NCL - Norwegian Cruise Line-Sun
Assistant Port Director Sean Cowie
Rochelle Mercer (Grand Niece)
Deputy Assistant Director of field Operations
Kerry Gorman
Deputy Director - Mission Support



"He loved to cruise!"

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