



the  
**Church  
of  
the Village**

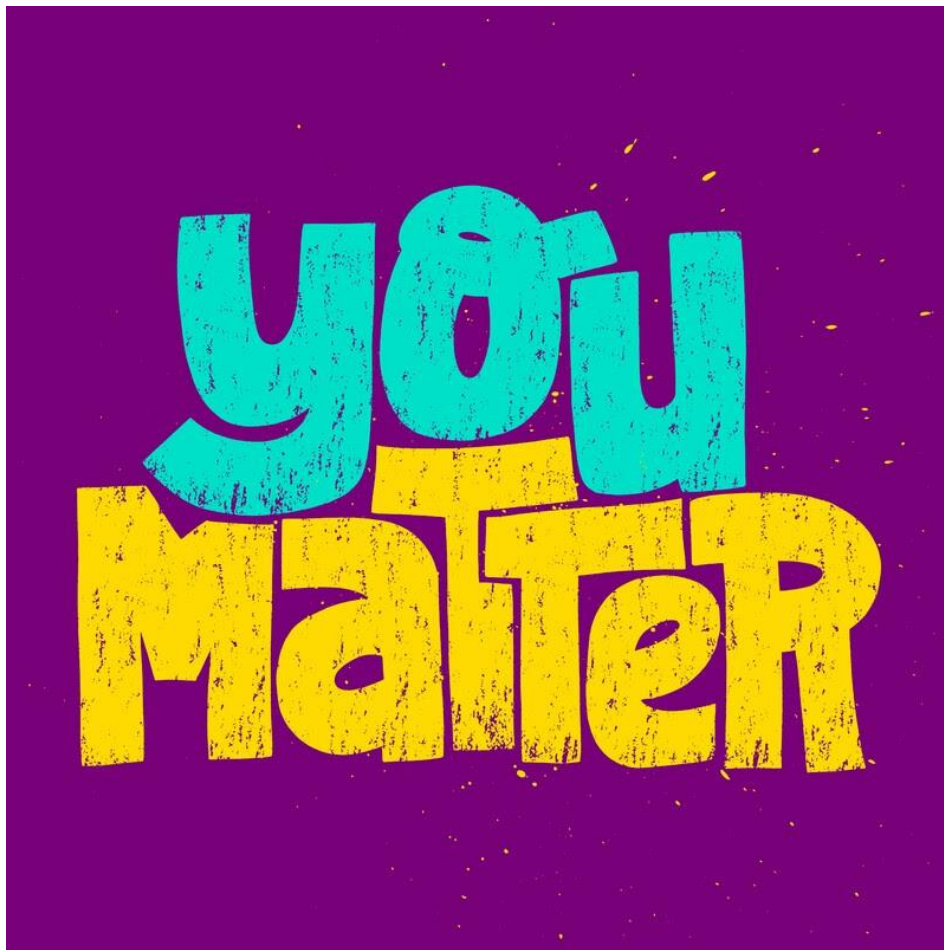


A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470  
www.churchofthevillage.org • facebook.com/churchofthevillage  
office@churchofthevillage.org

**January 8, 2023 • Third Sunday of Christmas • Epiphany Sunday**

**Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter  
No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever  
Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



***Who Am I? Do I Matter?***

## WE GATHER

*“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Leni-Lenape, called ‘Lenapehoking.’ The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware.*

*We acknowledge the Leni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.”*

## GATHERING SONG

*All My Days*

**You know my words, before they’re said.  
You know my need and I am fed.**

**You give me life. You know my ways,  
my strength, my path, for all my days,  
my strength, my path, for all my days.**

**If I should fly beyond the dawn,  
the shadows will not overcome.**

**If I lie down in deepest night,  
still you are there, my God, my light,  
still you are there, my God, my light.**

**Our every thought, each word we say,  
the whole of time, the present day,  
are held within your mighty hand,  
too wonderful to comprehend,  
too wonderful to comprehend.**

**O mend my heart and free my voice.  
From sin released, I will rejoice.**

**O search me, God, my spirit cries,  
and let my song of praise arise,  
and let my song of praise arise!**

## WELCOME

## WE PROCLAIM

# CALL TO LISTEN

*Listen*

**Listen to the song of the wind (3x)  
Listen, God is singing, God is singing**

**Listen to the voice deep within...**

## LESSON

Psalm 139:1-10 (adapted from *The Inclusive Bible*)

Awesome God, you have searched me, and you know me.  
You know if I am standing or sitting, you read my thoughts from far away.  
Whether I walk or lie down, you are watching; you are intimate with all of my ways.

A word is not even on my tongue, Loving One, before you know what it is.  
You hem me in, before and behind, shielding me with your hand.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, a height my mind cannot reach!

Where could I run from your spirit? Where could I flee from your presence?  
If I go up to the heavens, you're there; if I make my bed in Death, you're already there.  
I could fly away with wings made of dawn, or make my home on the far side of the sea,  
but even there your hand will guide me, your mighty hand holding me fast.

The Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

***Who Am I? Do I Matter?***

Rev. Jeff Wells  
Lead Pastor, *Church of the Village*

## WE RESPOND

### A TIME OF SHARING

**Who am I *now*?  
Who do I feel lured or inspired to become at this stage in my life?**

*Here Is Bread for the Hungry Heart*

**Here is bread for the hungry heart,  
here is drink for the thirsty soul,  
here is forgiveness full and free –  
here, at this table set by love.**

# WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

In preparation for Communion, we encourage those online to prepare elements for participation, such as bread or cracker and juice or another beverage.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!  
Our hearts are lifted!

Let us give thanks to God!  
It is right to give our thanks  
and praise.

*(call and echo)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of loving pow'r  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed, blessed is the One  
who comes in the name of God's love.  
Glory, glory on earth and heaven,  
Hosanna in the highest!**

## SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

Friends, this is the bread of life, broken and given for you and for all.  
And this is the cup of salvation, poured out for you and for all.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful Spirit, **Hear our prayer.**

## A TIME OF OFFERING

### 4 WAYS TO GIVE:

- The Vanco giving app, using the link on our website <https://www.churchofthevillage.org> or the Vanco mobile app or secure Vanco web link.  
Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.
  - Setting up a direct bank transfer from your bank to COTV's bank
  - Mailing a check to COTV's address: 201 West 13th St., NY, NY, 10011
  - For those in the church building: Placing your gift in the offering basket in the sanctuary
- For help with any of these, send an email to [giving@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org)  
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

## OFFERTORY

# WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

## BLESSING

## CLOSING SONG

*When You Wonder, When You Wander*

**When you wonder, when you wander,  
seeking anything, ev'rything,  
in the searching, in the longing,  
God is holding you still.**

**In your caution, in your questions,  
asking honestly, fervently,  
in your wrestling, in your straining,  
God is holding you still.**

*And anywhere you may go, God will go with you.  
And anywhere you may go, you are God's child.*

**In the desert, in the forest  
when the way is lost, the hope is dim  
In your troubles, in the the journey  
God is holding you still**

**In the mountains, in the valleys  
when the way is tough, your strength is gone,  
In the struggle, in the blessing  
God is holding you still**

*And anywhere you may go, God will go with you.  
And anywhere you may go, you are God's child.*

**In the changes, in surprises  
when you can't let go – it's hard to shift,  
In restraining and releasing  
God is holding you still.**

**In the famine, in the harvest  
in the call to trust, the call to risk  
in the blessing, in the breaking  
God is holding you still.**

*And anywhere you may go, God will go with you.  
And anywhere you may go, you are God's child.*

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care, if you are on-site,  
you can go to the area by the stairs next to the lobby/narthex at the back of the sanctuary.

If you are online, you can connect with a Minister of Care  
by typing **"CARE"** in capital letters in the Zoom chat.

## WORSHIP HOSTS

**Worship Design Team:** Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer, Rev. Jim Norton

**Worship Leader:** TBD

**Dance Ministry:** Megan Haungs

**Prayers of the People:**

**Call to Offering:** Jorge Lockward

**Altar Design:** Martha Chapman

**Visuals Design:** Katie Reimer

**Vocalists:** Emily Austin, Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Isaac Ellis, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder

**Saxophone & Flute:** Matthew Willis

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Ushers:** Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

**Zoom Host:** Martha Chapman

**Zoom Chat:** Maya Carter

## CREDITS

### ***Cover Image:***

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### ***All My Days***

W: Laurie Zelman

M: Mark A. Miller

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### ***Listen***

W & M: Thomas Turner

© Thomas Turner

### ***Here is Bread***

W & M: Mary Kay Beall and John Carter

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### ***Red Lake Sanctus***

W: Isa. 6:3, Matt. 21:9

M: Monte Mason after melodies found in

*Chippewa Music* by Frances Densmore

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### ***TBD***

M: African American Spiritual, arr. by Michael Johnson

### ***When You Wonder, When You Wander***

W: Stz. 1, Adam Tice; Additional stanzas Jorge Lockward

M: Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

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Music © 2017, Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

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## WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE

The Church of the Village is a progressive and radically inclusive community that is committed to dismantling racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression. The foundation for all of our theology and practice is Jesus' instruction to "love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself."

We seek to build a world overflowing with justice, mercy, kindness, and compassion.

Our church building stands on ancestral lands of the Lenape people. The colonizers who stripped Indigenous peoples of their lands used Christianity to justify their actions. We are beneficiaries of a history of appropriation, slavery, and forced migration. We repent and commit to being a community that seeks to repair the harm done to Indigenous peoples and build new pathways to love and justice.

We celebrate human diversity – welcoming people of every color, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and cognitive ability, and economic status. We strongly support environmental justice and stewardship of the Earth. We believe many roads lead to God and are respectful of a diversity of spiritual paths. We believe our community flourishes with many points of view, opportunities for creative expression, and participatory worship.

To learn more about The Church of the Village, please complete our [Virtual Welcome Card](#).

You can also submit a prayer request on the Welcome Card form.

We will gladly send you our weekly email newsletter and Daily Inspiration emails.

If you have questions, please contact [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org).

Please follow us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage)), Twitter (@umcofthevillage), and Instagram (churchofthevillage). Check out our [YouTube channel](#) for videos of music, worship, Finding Center, and more.

You can also learn more on our website at [churchofthevillage.org](http://churchofthevillage.org).

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>January 8 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
<b>January 10 – Tuesday</b>	10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry
<b>January 11 – Wednesday</b>	6:00pm 6:30pm	Bible Study (via Zoom) Choir Rehearsal
<b>January 13 – Friday</b>	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
<b>January 14 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>January 15 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)

# 2023 Stewardship Campaign

*Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission*

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together.  
Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community.  
As you prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023, we invite you to be bold in your  
generosity as we continue this adventure together.

Submit your pledge: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign>  
Questions: Email [giving@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org)

We all work together as members and supporters of our spiritual community to foster the ministries and mission of the Church of the Village. Here are ways you can offer your gifts:

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT** from your bank account to COTV. This option includes no fees for the giver or the church. You can set this up directly through your bank for one-time gifts/payments or recurring gifts/payments to COTV. For assistance with this process, please contact [giving@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org).
- **VANCO:** [Vanco](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want.
- **CHECK:** you can send a check payable to "The Church of the Village," and mail it to:  
Church of the Village  
PO Box 167  
New York, NY 10113

For assistance with using any of these methods or to talk about remembering Church of the Village in your will, email [giving@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org). *Please note - emails to this address should be about how we can help you set up your giving process but should NOT include any specific information about pledge amounts, gift amounts, or any other confidential information from the individual sending the message.*

*Thank you for being a part of the family of The Church of the Village  
and supporting the work and ministry of this community!*



## 2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together.

Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community.

As you prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023, we invite you to be bold in your generosity as we continue this adventure together. Submit your pledge: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign>

Questions: Email [giving@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org)

## A WORK IN PROGRESS

A new worship series

Sundays, January 8 – February 19, 2022



Last Fall we went “Back to Basics” and talked about some of the elements at the core of our communal spiritual journey. This Winter we’re creating space for each community member to develop their own “basics.” Each Sunday, we’ll ask questions like, “Who am I?” “What values are important to me?” “How do I live intentionally in the world?” There are no right or wrong answers! We’ll take time together to reflect on the concepts raised, as we deepen our personal and communal spiritual lives.

## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Friday mornings; 9:00am

Our weekly prayer group includes an inspirational reading, time to support one another, and prayers for ourselves, others, and events in the world. We gather via Zoom conference call Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00am (**Meeting ID: 850 0514 7319** **Passcode: 594909**). For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at [smcapers99@gmail.com](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com).

## COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:00 am ET



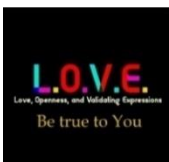
COTV Online Fitness with Lina now on Tuesdays at 10:00 am ET.

Join us via [Zoom!](#)

**Meeting ID:** 878 7016 4212 **Passcode:** fitness

L.O.V.E. (LGBTQA+ group)

2nd Sundays; 12:00pm ET following worship

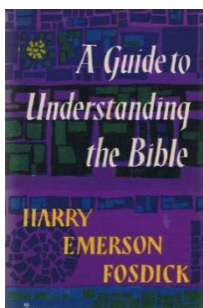


Our LGBTQA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions)! We will meet the second Sunday of each month after church for City Adventures — outdoor explorations around the neighborhood and times for connection. All are welcome as we create a safe space to bring our whole selves, learn from each other, and walk our journeys together. For more information, please email

[PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org). Join Us via [Zoom](#).

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



Our next Bible Study is *A Guide to Understanding the Bible* by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Harry Emerson Fosdick presents a study of the development of Biblical ideas. We will study the ideas developed by Fosdick (Idea of God; Idea of Man; Idea of Right and Wrong; Idea of Suffering; Idea of Fellowship with God; Idea of Hospitality). This book presents a different perspective for studying scripture.

We would be delighted to have you join us. **Everyone is Welcome.**

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Facilitated by Sarah Capers, Deaconess. Join us via Zoom!

<http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: **713 063 594** Passcode: **10011**

## THE RED DOOR PLACE



Donations, in person, to the program can be made Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 9am to 3pm. Ring the bell on the red door on 13th street or call the number posted at the door.

**Food Pantry: Tuesdays; 2pm - 5pm - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Appointments are available via the [Plentiful App](#) (download from the play/app store). You can search for us, in the app, by name “The Red Door Place” or scroll through the list (towards the bottom) and our pantry will show. After registering on the app, you will receive a QR code - **BRING the QR code with you to your appointment**. Arrive within 5 minutes of your scheduled appointment and present your QR code for scanning.

**If you do not have a QR code, you will not receive pantry.** **Note:** Missed appointments can be rescheduled to a later open slot or the following Tuesday. If you have any questions call 347-497-9718 and ask for Teresa.

**Community Meal: We will continue to hand out bags of food on Saturdays beginning around 11:30am.** Guests may arrive earlier to get a place in line; we have chalk marks on the sidewalk at 6-foot intervals to indicate where people should stand at a safe distance.

### ***THE RED DOOR PLACE – NEEDS MONEY FOR FOOD!***

**IF YOU WANT TO HELP**, ask your employer, your family, your friends to GIVE! Put out an appeal on your Facebook page. Email people you think would be able to donate.

**TO MAKE A DONATION**, you can donate online using [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app. Or send checks made payable to Church of the Village and write The Red Door Place (TRDP) in the memo line. Mail to: Church of the Village, PO Box 167, New York, NY 10113.

### **GIVE TO THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE ON VANCO**

The Church of the Village is now accessible via Vanco. [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want. Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.

### **BECOME A CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER PARTNER**

Each week, we receive many prayers through our website, the Red Door Place empowerment ministry, on prayer cards during worship, and from our Ministers of Care team. These prayers are distributed via email to our large team of **Prayer Partners** who lift them up to God. If you would like to pray for others, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers ([smcapers99@gmail.com](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com)) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at [ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer](http://ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer).

### **COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK**

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshiping community, but when you can't join us for Sunday worship, you can view the worship recording anytime at [Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos](https://Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos).

### **SERMON ARCHIVE**

If you missed worship or want to read the sermon again, we post many of our past Sunday sermon manuscripts and worship bulletins on our website at [ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons](http://ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons). We encourage you to read and share them with others.

## CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE COVID-19 PROTECTION POLICY

Updated September 23, 2022



From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Church of the Village has been diligent about protecting everyone connected to our church community. We have followed guidelines offered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the City and State of New York, as well as those shared by the NY Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our leadership has stayed on top of new developments and adjusted our policies periodically to fit evolving conditions.

We recognize that for our members, supporters, visitors, and staff who are in proximity to New York City or visit our building, the status of the pandemic has shifted dramatically. The rates of infection, hospitalizations, and especially deaths have fallen to very low levels. This does not mean they cannot go back up and we will continue to monitor the situation. In addition, mask requirements have been lifted for most public spaces, including public transportation in NYC.

Therefore, we have decided to lift our own mask requirement for entry to our church building. This applies to staff as well as members and to groups that rent or use space in our building.

We continue to strongly recommend that everyone be vaccinated and boosted to the highest extent for which you are eligible. The most recent bivalent booster is available to anyone age 12 or older (Pfizer) or 18 and older (Moderna). The bivalent boosters protect against the original Covid-19 virus strain and provide stronger protection against Omicron, which is the most widespread and transmissible variant. To find a location and schedule your vaccination or booster anywhere in the United States, [click here!](#) This is not for your protection only, but for the well-being of our community, our city, and the country.

Also, we strongly encourage those persons at higher risk for infection or hospitalization – especially those with underlying health conditions – to continue to take all appropriate safety measures like masking and social distancing. All of us need to self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance about self-isolation and testing (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

Finally, while not yet widespread, we encourage everyone to be alert to the rising number of cases of Monkeypox. Among those most at-risk are some members of the LGBTQ+ community and people living with HIV. However, this virus is not limited by gender or sexuality and can spread to anyone, anywhere, through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact. The Human Rights Campaign provides excellent resources on their [“What You Need to Know” web page](#).



## How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

During the Coronavirus outbreak and beyond, we want to make sure our members and supporters know how to reach key staff and leaders in the Church of the Village.

Pastor Jeff Wells

Email: [PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9; (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8; (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: [Jorge@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Jorge@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7; (917) 723-0169

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place

Email: [Teresa@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Teresa@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.5, (347) 497-9718

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: [Office@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Office@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Dwight Campbell, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: [newdccov@gmail.com](mailto:newdccov@gmail.com)

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: [scape131@aol.com](mailto:scape131@aol.com)

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: [quinteromm@gmail.com](mailto:quinteromm@gmail.com)

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: [figueroaalfida045@gmail.com](mailto:figueroaalfida045@gmail.com)