



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

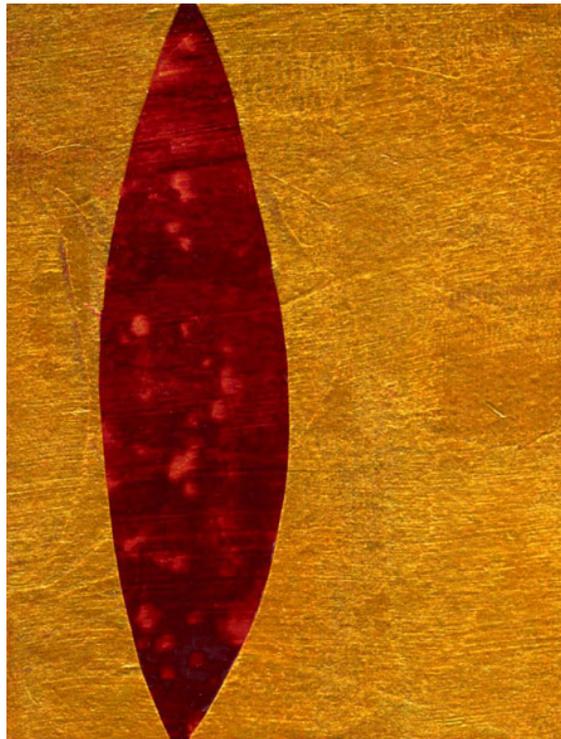
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**April 24, 2022 • 2nd Sunday of Easter**

**Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter**

**No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever**

**Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



***Show Me Your Scars***

## WE GATHER

*“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-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 Lenni-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 Lenni-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.”*

## WELCOME

### LOVERS, REBELS, & PROPHETS

In the steps of: *Louise Fawcett*

Louise Fawcett (nee Rhudy) grew up in West Virginia as the daughter of a Methodist pastor who served several churches. She recalls riding with her father from church to church on Sundays and giving him feedback on his sermons! Their family lived on a small farm and she recalls singing to one of their pigs, who apparently appreciated the music greatly. She spent a few years as a young woman working for regional church organizations and living on the road. Louise later attended Drew Seminary in Madison, NJ, where she met her husband-to-be, Neal Fawcett. They spent five years living in Germany where Louise worked at a nearby Army base teaching soldiers and arranging events for the spouses of the military personnel serving there. Upon their return to the US, Neal served a church in Teaneck, NJ. Eventually they moved to Brooklyn, where Louise still resides. Neal died of lung cancer decades ago; Louise and Neal have a son, Greg.

Louise’s professional life in the US included working with the General Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Women in several leadership positions. She traveled and led conferences and events all over the world.

Louise became a member of Washington Square United Methodist Church, one of the progenitor communities which helped to form the Church of the Village, in the 1970’s. She was an active member, helping with many projects. Upon her retirement, Louise took over the management of the food program at Washington Square UMC, then titled “Martha’s Kitchen” and grew the program.

When the Church of the Village was created by the joining of three Greenwich Village Methodist communities in 2005, the food programs of the churches also merged. Louise worked tirelessly to create ways for this important community service to adapt and grow. It is due to her efforts, along with others such as Dwight Campbell and Don Quigley, that the program Hope for our Neighbors in Need became a steady beacon of aid. In 2006, Louise was honored as an “angel” of the program. Now re-christened The Red Door Place in 2020, this program continues to serve thousands of people each week.

For many years, Louise coordinated the Ministers of Care at Church of the Village, assuring that church members in each borough had a person who cared and kept in touch with their needs. Louise has served on countless committees for our congregation and been a part of our local United Methodist Women group. Over the years she has quietly advocated for assistance to many members and friends who required a helping hand - finding small grants, raising funds, visiting folks, bringing home-cooked food and more.

Louise, now 89 years old, is a true “matriarch” of our community!

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*When the Spirit in Me*

**When the spirit in me sees the spirit in you (2x)  
It's so easy, so easy, so easy, so easy to love**

## CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

*Wounded World*

**Wounded world that cries for healing –  
here we hold each other's pain,  
wounded systems, bruised and bleeding  
bear the load, the scars of strain;  
dollars ration our compassion,  
harsh decisions rule the day,  
Jesus Christ, the wounded healer,  
free us to another way!**

**Wounded world that cries for healing,  
caught in vicious, hurtful wheels;  
lonely people, battered bodies,  
captive souls who cannot feel.  
People bleeding, nations hurting  
in a cycle of revenge;  
deep resentments, ancient rancors,  
deep suspicions rule the day.**

**Through the nations' spent frustrations,  
through the corridors of stress  
may there move a kindlier wisdom  
all may feel, and all may bless;  
may the earth be loved and nourished,  
may we shield all those in need;  
past the symptoms of our sickness  
let the voice of justice speak.**

## WE PROCLAIM

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

*John 20:19-31 (The Inclusive Bible)*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."  
Having said this, the Savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, “Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I’m sending you.” After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.”

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas – nicknamed Didymus, or “Twin” – was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, “We’ve seen Jesus!” Thomas’ answer was, “I’ll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound.”

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, “Peace be with you.” Then, Jesus said to Thomas, “Take your finger and examine the wound in my hands. Put your hand into the wound on my side. Don’t persist in your unbelief, but believe!”

Thomas said in response, “My Savior and my God!” Jesus then said, “You’ve become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Jesus performed many other signs as well – signs not recorded here – in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus’ name.

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

## MESSAGE

### *Show Me Your Scars*

**Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai**

Chief Connectional Ministries Officer of The Connectional Table  
The United Methodist Church, Guest Preacher

## WE RESPOND

*O Jesus, Wounded Healer*

**O Jesus, Wounded Healer, come and heal us,  
touch us and make us whole;  
heal your world.  
Raise your people to life.**

## A TIME OF HEALING

*Jésus le Christ / Jesus, the Christ / Cristo Jesús*

Jé - sus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re,  
Je - sus, the Christ, your light shines with - in us.  
Cris - to Je - sús, oh fue - go que a - bra - sa;

ne lais - se pas mes té - nè - bres me par - ler.  
 Let not my doubts nor my sha-dows speak to me.  
 que mis ti - nie - blas en mi no ten-gan voz.

Jé - sus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re,  
 Je - sus the Christ, your light shines with - in us.  
 Cris-to Je - sús, di - si - pa mis som - bras

don - ne moi d'ac-cueil - lir ton a - mour.  
 Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love.  
 y que en mi so - lo ha - ble tu a - mor.

**Silence**

**Lesson**

*Matthew 11:28-30; John 14:27; Isaiah 11:1-6 (The Inclusive Bible)*

“Come to me, all you who labor and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.  
 Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart.  
 Here you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; but the kind of peace I give you is not like the world’s peace.  
 Don’t let your hearts be distressed; don’t be fearful.”

“The day is coming when a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse’s roots, a branch will blossom:  
 The spirit of God will rest on you – a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength,  
 a spirit of knowledge and reverence for God.

You will delight in obeying God, and you won’t judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay.  
 You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land’s downtrodden.  
 With a single word you will strike down tyrants; with your decrees you will neutralize evil people.  
 Justice will be the belt around your waist – faithfulness will gird you up.

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;  
 the calf and the lion cub will graze together, and a little child will lead them.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful and gracious God  
**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
  - 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

*God's Been Faithful*  
Soloist: Suzie Wilder

In my moments of fear,  
through every pain, every tear  
there's a God who's been faithful to me.  
When my strength was all gone,  
when my heart had no song  
Still in love God proved faithful to me.  
Every word God's promised is true –  
what I thought was impossible  
I've seen my God do.

*God's been faithful, faithful to me.  
Looking back, God's love and mercy I see.  
Though in my heart I have questioned,  
even failed to believe;  
yet God's been faithful, faithful to me.*

When my heart looked away,  
the many times I could not pray;  
still, in love, God was faithful to me.  
The days I spent so selfishly  
reaching out for what pleased me –  
even then God was faithful to me.  
Every time I choose to come home  
God is waiting for open arms  
and I see once again...

*God's been faithful...*

# WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

*God Is Building a New Way*

**God is building a new way, (3x)  
sending love and pow'r our way;  
God is building a new way.**

**We are building a new way, (3x)  
feeling stronger ev'ry day;  
we are building a new way.**

**Love and justice is our cry, (3x)  
holy wisdom, holy fire;  
love and justice is our cry.**

*Stay online after service for five-minute breakout rooms.  
Afterwards, you may continue fellowship in the main Zoom room,  
or join breakouts for a discussion with the Preacher or to speak with a Minister of Care.*

To join conversation with Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai  
type the word “**PREACHER**” in capital letters into the chat.  
For those on-site, please go to the Chapel of the Beloved Community,  
one floor down by the stairs or elevator.

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

**Worship Leader:** Dwight Campbell

**Call to Offering:** Sarah Witman

**Dance Ministry:** Jeana Musacchio

**Ministers of Care:** Sarah Capers, Monica Quintero

**Altar Design:** Suzie Wilder

**Vocalists:** Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder, Natasha Wright

**Saxophone & Flute:** Matthew Willis

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Ushers:** Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

**Zoom Host:** Sarah Witman

**Chat Host:** Becca Love

**Visuals Host:** Danielle Haupt

**Sound Engineer:** Inti Maldonado

## CREDITS

**Cover Image:** *\_* Into the Wound, by Jan Richardson (janrichardsonimages.com), Used by permission

### **Scripture Lessons:**

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible*. Sheed & Ward.  
© 2007 *Priests for Equality*

### **When the Spirit in Me (The Jesus in Me)**

W & M: Anonymous.

Lyric adaptation by Jorge Lockward

### **Wounded World**

W & M: Shirley Erena Murray;

2nd. stz. by Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

M: Hal H. Hopson

© 1996 *Hope Publishing Co.*

*Onelicense.net # A-725898*

### ***O Jesus, Wounded Healer***

W & M: Pedro Rubalcava

© 2001 *Pedro Rubalcava. Published by OCP.*

*Onelicense.net A-725898*

### ***Jésus le Christ***

W & M: Jacques Berthier

*Music* © 1998 *Ateliers et Presses de Taizé.*

*GLA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.*

*Onelicense.net A-725898*

### ***God's Been Faithful***

W & M: Jacques Berthier

*Music* © 1998 *Ateliers et Presses de Taizé.*

*GLA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.*

*Onelicense.net A-725898*

### ***Building a New Way***

W & M: Martha Sandefer

© 1986 *Martha Sandefer*

## 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>April 24 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Exploring Faith
<b>April 26 – Tuesday</b>	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP: Food Pantry
<b>April 27 – Wednesday</b>	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
<b>April 28 – Thursday</b>	6:30pm – 7:45pm	Choir rehearsal
<b>April 29 – Friday</b>	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
<b>April 30 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>May 1 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:15pm 1:30pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Ministers of Care MET District Conference (via Zoom)

# WE ARE FAMILY

*Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission  
Stewardship Campaign*

Families give support, and families need support. Here at The Church of the Village, we choose to be family for one another, and we each strive to do our part. Every member of The Church of the Village family has gifts to bring.

The practice of regular giving in any amount recognizes God's abundance and strengthens our family. It builds our relationships with one another and expresses our trust in God's love. It does not matter how large or small the contribution, each donation adds to the flourishing of the family! What's important is that we do this together, with each family member doing their part as they are able. As we hear in 2 Corinthians 8:12:

*For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has,  
not according to what one does not have.*

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!*

## OUR GUEST PREACHER: REV. KENNETHA BIGHAM-TSAI



Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer of The Connectional Table (CT), came to the CT as a board member in 2012 and to the chief executive role in 2018. Before coming to the Connectional Table in a staff role, Rev. Bigham-Tsai served on the CT board and led in shaping General Conference legislation related to marriage equality and ordination for LGBTQIA+ persons. She has served local churches, as a district superintendent, and in many leadership positions within her annual conference and at the general church level, including as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional conferences since 2012 and as co-chair of the Michigan delegation for the 2020 General Conference. Bigham-Tsai is a sought-after speaker who has a passion for equity and justice for all. She and her husband, Kee Tsai, have two children, Keeton, 22, and Kamden, 14.

## LOVERS, REBELS, & PROPHETS

### A New Worship Series

**April 24 – June 5**

The Church of the Village has a rich history of loving radically, pushing against oppressive structures, and speaking the truth people need to hear. This series will explore the living history of COTV in the form of stories, reflections, sermons, and other opportunities to hear and share about where we've been. We will dive into the beliefs that have rooted and grown with us as a community, and we reflect on how the past influences the present, as we continually create new "history" to pass on.

## UMCOR: UKRAINE



United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries. Visit <https://umcmission.org/umcor/ukraine/> for more information.

## 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 CHOIR

Join us Thursdays 6:30-7:45pm onsite: 201 West 13<sup>th</sup> St, NY, NY 10011)

and online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86979925984> as we prepare to lead worship in song on Sunday. All voices welcome!

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

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays; 8:30pm ET**



Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) will meet every Thursday via this [link](#) to discuss a variety of topics, grow friendships, and gather support from one another.

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](#).

## COTV ONLINE FITNESS

**Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET**



COTV Online Fitness with Lina returns Tuesdays at 10:30 am ET.

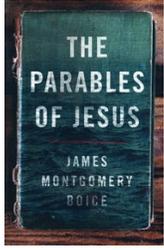
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

**Meeting ID:** 878 7016 4212

**Passcode:** fitness

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE PARABLES OF JESUS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



A new Bible Study, *The Parables of Jesus* by James Montgomery Boice, begins Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

*"Some sections of the Bible give us grand theology. Some move us to grateful responses to God. But the parables break through mere words and make us ask whether there has indeed been any real difference in our lives." - James Montgomery Boice*

Boice brings Jesus' words to bear on life today. Through his careful study and clear explanation of each parable he helps us understand just what Jesus meant, and how our hearts and lives ought to respond.

This author shares the meaning that is in scripture and adds some historical facts of the culture and other background information that will help everyone understand the meaning of each parable. He also shares different viewpoints and shares the viewpoints of Bible commentators of the past. If you enjoy the parables and want to understand them better, this is the Bible Study to help you. Jesus' parables are memorable for a reason. Discover their power for yourself.

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 from 3:30 – 5:30pm. No early line up permitted before 3pm.**

**Lineup will begin behind the rope at 3pm on the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Street.**

**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!***

**The huge increase in unemployment and homelessness** means that The Red Door Place has gone from providing food for 1,700 persons before the pandemic, to 2,500 in April, to now more than *4,000 persons every week*. TRDP has plenty of volunteers. **What we need is money.** We are desperately trying to keep enough food coming in to give out to every guest. TRDP is one of only a few emergency food programs in Manhattan still giving out a significant amount of food to each guest at the pantry on Tuesdays and still offering a hot meal on Saturdays.

**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 Hope for Our Neighbors in Need food 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 worshipping 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.

## OUR ADVENTURE IN ONLINE-ONSITE COMMUNITY



The Church of the Village never “closed” during the Covid-19 pandemic because we shifted our entire ministry to be online in March 2020. Then, as the world began slowly to emerge in the summer of 2021 from the worst of the pandemic, there was no thought among the Church of the Village leadership of “going back” to the way of “doing church” before the pandemic.

Our reality and our reach have changed dramatically in a year. We continue to attract worshippers and receive new members from across the U.S. and beyond its borders, as well as from the New York City area. As a faith community, the Church of the Village is no longer tied to a building. We opened to all of our vaccinated members in September 2021 and to the public in December 2021. Currently, we are still practicing masking and social distancing but not requiring proof of vaccination to enter the building.

People are attracted to the Church of the Village because of our progressive theology, radical inclusivity, extravagant welcome, and focus on social, economic, and climate justice. Many who worship with us or decide to join cannot find this sort of faith community where they live.

We believe it is God’s desire that each of us have the chance to have as full a life as possible by seeking the common good in healthy community together. We are committed to building an online and onsite community to reach as widely as possible. With this dream becoming reality, we can re-imagine John Wesley’s vision and say that the whole world, literally, can be our parish.

We encourage you to participate in as many online and onsite opportunities in the Church of the Village community as possible. Consider how you can contribute to the thriving of our lives together. If you want more information on how to connect with Church of the Village, contact [Pastor Jeff Wells](#) or [Pastor Alexis Lillie](#).



## 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)

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