



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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[www.churchofthevillage.org](http://www.churchofthevillage.org) • [facebook.com/churchofthevillage](https://facebook.com/churchofthevillage)  
[office@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:office@churchofthevillage.org)

**April 30, 2023 • Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Celebrating Earth Month and Arab American Heritage Month  
Black Lives Matter / Welcome the Stranger, including Migrants and Refugees  
Stop Hate Against Muslims, Jews, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



**CROSSING THE BORDER**

# 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 Lenape 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.”*

## GATHERING SONG

*Longing for Peace with Creation*

Longing for peace with creation.

**(clap, clap)**

Longing for peace in the world.

**(clap clap)**

Longing for peace we sing together:

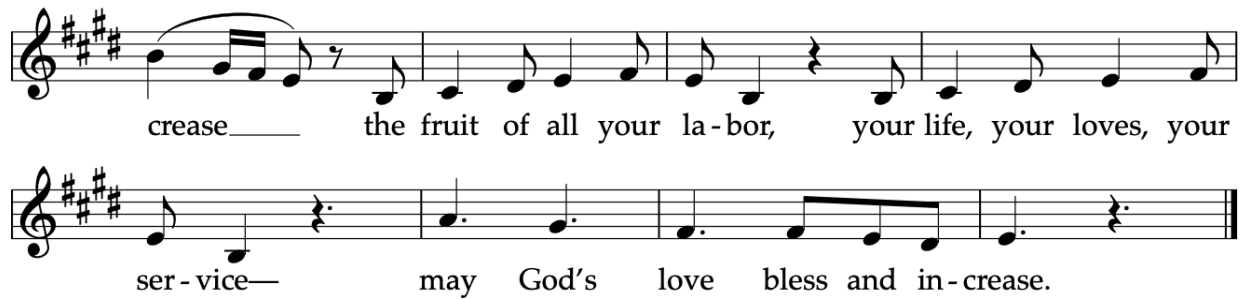
**Let us now begin...**

**as we clap our hands!**

## CELEBRATION OF APRIL BIRTHDAYS

*We Sing in Praise of God's Love*

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are: We sing in praise of God's love, who sent you to us as a wit-ness for jus-tice and peace. May God's em-brace be your shield as you boldly share who you are, what you've learned, what you bring God's bles-sing in your co-ming in God's bles-sing in your go-ing out. May God's love bless and in-



crease the fruit of all your la-bor, your life, your loves, your  
ser-vice— may God's love bless and in-crease.

**WELCOME**

**WE PROCLAIM**

**CALL TO LISTEN**

*Open My Heart*



O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.  
O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.  
O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.

O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.  
O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.  
O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

*Acts 2:42-47 (The Inclusive Bible)*

The followers of Jesus devoted themselves to the apostles' instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles. Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need.

They met in the Temple, and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people.  
Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Matthew 18:1-3 (The Inclusive Bible)*

The disciples came up to Jesus with the question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”  
Jesus called for a little child to come and stand among them.

Then Jesus said, “The truth is, unless you change and become like little children,  
you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

**MESSAGE**

*Crossing the Border*

**Reverend Doug Cunningham**  
Guest Preacher

**WE RESPOND**

**A TIME OF SHARING**

**What childlike characteristic would you most like to incorporate into your life  
and how would you go about doing that?**

**A TIME OF HEALING**

*Come Bring Your Burdens to God*

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Come, bring your bur-dens to God, come, bring your bur-dens to God, come, bring your bur-dens to God, bring all of yourbur dens to God."

*Matthew 11:28-30*

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.”

*Psalm 23*

God, you are my shepherd – I want nothing more. You let me lie down in green meadows; you lead me beside restful waters: you refresh my soul. You guide me to lush pastures for the sake of your Name.

Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death, I fear no danger, for you are with me.  
Your rod and your staff – they give me courage.

You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies, and you anoint my head with oil –  
my cup overflows!

Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house,  
O God, for days without end.

*Shepherd Me, O God*

***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants  
beyond my fears, from death into life.***

God is my shepherd, so nothing I shall want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
my spirit shall sing the music of your Name.

Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.

**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

*If They Could See Me Now*  
(from "Sweet Charity")

## GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*Take My Hands*

**Take these gifts, oh, take these gifts. (2x)**  
**Let them be tokens of your love.**  
**Take these gifts, O God.**

**Take my hands, oh, take my hands. (2x)**  
**Let them bless; let them open wide.**  
**take my hands, O God.**

**Bless this world, oh, bless this world (2x)**  
**may it heal, may it be made whole,**  
**bless this world, O God.**

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

## BLESSING

## CLOSING SONG

*Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*

**Goodness is stronger than evil.**  
**Love is stronger than hate.**  
**Light is stronger than the shadows.**  
**Life is stronger than death.**

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

**Worship Leader:** Alfida Figueroa

**Dance Ministry:** Megan Haungs

**Call to Offering:** Sam Winfrey

**Altar Design:** Martha Chapman

**Visuals Design:** Katie Reimer & Bailey Roach

**Vocalists:** Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Martha Chapman, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, John Wesley Heaton, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Jackie Stzendera, Suzie Wilder

**Sax:** Matthew Willis

**Organ:** Michael Johnson

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Ushers:** Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

**Ministers of Care:** Virginia Riker (onsite) & Rhonda Wade (online)

**Zoom Host:** Calvin Miller

**Zoom Chat:** Natasha Wright

## CREDITS

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### ***Longing for Peace***

W & M: Per Harling

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### ***Open My Heart***

W & M: Ana Hernández

© Ana Hernández

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### ***Come, Bring Your Burdens to God***

W & M: South African Worship Chorus

### ***Shepherd Me, O God***

W & M: Marty Haugen

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### ***Take My Hands***

W: Adam M.L. Tice. Stz. 1, Jorge Lockward

M: Sally Ann Morris

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### ***Goodness Is Stronger than Evil***

W: Desmond Tutu, alt.

M: Nehemiah Lockett

W: © 1995 Desmond Tutu (Admin. Doubleday,  
a div. of Random House, Inc.)

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M: © 2017 Nehemiah Lockett. Used by permission.

## 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 30 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
<b>May 2 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry
<b>May 3 – Wednesday</b>	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
<b>May 6 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>May 7 – 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!*

## OUR GUEST PREACHER: REVEREND DOUG P. CUNNINGHAM



My wife Rebecca Asedillo and I are retired from various ecumenical and United Methodist ministries. We are the parents of two daughters. Lisa teaches ethics and worship at Pacific School of Religion. Nora is an executive for spiritual growth with United Women in Faith and a new mother. These days we are particularly engaged with our much beloved granddaughter.

## FOR THE SAKE OF LIFE

### Our New Worship Series; Sundays, April 16 – May 21, 10:30am ET



One of the blessings of community is to grow together. We do not walk through life unchanged, and being held, supported, challenged, and loved through our journeys is a crucial part of living well. In this season, we will explore the many ways we are called into abundant life. Even as we face much discouragement and despair in the world around us, there are moments the Spirit reminds us, it is good to be alive! Join us as we gather in the energy of spring to see what new life and possibilities are available to us.

## HEALING CONVERSATIONS

### Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month, beginning April 23, 2023; 12:30pm

Healing Conversations is a place to share your feelings about the losses in your life in a safe, supportive, and friendly atmosphere. Your feelings of loss may be caused by events that are recent or in the distant past. You are invited to join our small group on site or online via Zoom (**Meeting ID:** 838 5366 1938 **Passcode:** 690827).

## COMMUNITY CLOSET

### Sundays starting 4/16, Noon to 1pm.



Spread the word! Church of the Village's Community Closet will be available every Sunday for 1 hour after service in the narthex. All are welcome to browse the racks and shop for free! If you know of someone who may be desiring a new style or a wardrobe change, please invite them to check us out! We have a variety of styles and sizes but are especially looking for donations of womenswear in sizes 10 and above as well as menswear in good condition. Interested in hosting the Community Closet after service one Sunday? Sign up [here](#) or e-mail [Beccalove123@gmail.com](mailto:Beccalove123@gmail.com) for more info!

## DANCE PRAYER

### Thursdays starting 4/20, 6:30pm-7:30pm



Join us in the sanctuary every third Thursday of the month for Dance Prayer! We will come together with an opening prayer and moment of reflection and then spend 45 minutes moving our bodies and dancing together to a diverse playlist. There will be no designated choreography and no final performance, just a joyful space to connect with your own rhythm while rejoicing in the gift of dance and community. Each gathering will then close with a moment of prayer and reflection before we part ways.

## ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE CONVERSATION



### (WHITE) CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Sunday, May 21, 12:45pm ET

Presenter: John Kleinig

Emeritus Professor of Criminal Justice/Philosophy  
John Jay College/Graduate Center  
CUNY

Join the Anti-racism Task Force Conversations via Zoom: **Meeting ID: 867 6866 3955** **Passcode: 029447**

## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

### Wednesday 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 REHEARSAL

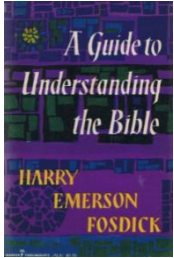
Choir  
Rehearsal

**Wednesdays, 6:30pm – 7:45pm ET**

Open call to make a joyful noise! New singers are always welcome. Rehearsals are currently Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm. If you love to sing or play an instrument, contact our Choir Coordinator Paul Pillitteri or Jorge Lockward, our Minister of Worship Arts.

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

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



Our current 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 6:30 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://www.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](https://www.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>).



## 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: [DCampbell5938@gmail.com](mailto:DCampbell5938@gmail.com)

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: [scapel31@aol.com](mailto:scapel31@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)