

May 22, 2022 • Sixth Sunday of Easter

office@churchofthevillage.org

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



Our Impulse to Include

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: Metropolitan-Duane United Methodist Church

Metropolitan-Duane United Methodist Church traces its a part of its lineage back to 1833 with the founding of **First Wesleyan Chapel** on Vestry Street. In 1856, a sanctuary was built on Seventh Avenue, between 13th and 14th Streets, in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City. In 1857, it was renamed **Central Methodist Episcopal Church**. Ulysses S. Grant attended Central Church at this time. In 1896, Central M.E. Church was renamed **Metropolitan Temple M.E. Church**.

By the 1890s, the neighborhood surrounding the church had changed as millionaires moved north and their mansions were replaced with tenements or converted to rooming houses. The congregation refocused its mission by opening the church every night of the week for a variety of events and activities. The new orientation earned the nickname: The Church of the Open Door. In the early 1920s, the church hosted a Spanish congregation of about 100 persons and received members from multiple nationalities.

The Metropolitan Temple church building was destroyed by fire in 1928 and a new building was completed in 1932.

Another precursor church to the **Metropolitan-Duane UMC** was the **Bedford Street Methodist Episcopal Church**, organized in 1807. A church building was constructed in 1810 at Bedford and Morton Streets. In 1913, the congregation merged into **Metropolitan Temple Methodist Episcopal Church**.

The **Duane Street Methodist Episcopal Church** was founded in 1797. The first church building erected on Duane Street between Hudson and Greenwich. In 1798, the church reported 753 white and 147 black members. The Duane Street church was absorbed into Metropolitan Temple in 1939, and the combined church was renamed **Metropolitan-Duane Methodist Episcopal Church**.

PFLAG, the first such group in the world for parents and family of lesbian and gay children, was founded at the "Met-Duane" church in 1973. The minister then, Rev. C. Edward Egan, was one of the founders, along with Jeane and Morty Manford and about 18 others. PFLAG continued to meet at the church until about 1996. The church was also the first meeting location of the Salsa Soul Sisters, a black and Latina lesbian group, between 1974 and 1976, after which it moved to the Washington Square UMC. From c. 1977 to 1988, the church hosted worship services of the Metropolitan Community Church of New York, which was founded to minister to the LGBT community whose members were not

welcome in most churches. The funeral of Gay and Transgender activist, Marsha P. Johnson, was held at Metropolitan-Duane in 1992. The church was a place of spiritual and physical comfort and pastoral care during the AIDS crisis and the aftermath of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

In 2005-2006, Metropolitan-Duane United Methodist Church consolidated with Church of All Nations (Iglesia de Todas Las Naciones) and Washington Square United Methodist Church to become The Church of the Village. The combined congregation meets in the former building of the Metropolitan-Duane UMC.

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 to love

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

Isaiah 56:1-7 (The Inclusive Bible)

Thus says YHWH: "Do what is right! Work for justice! For my liberation is about to come, and my justice is about to be revealed."

Happy is the person who does this, and happy is the person who holds to it — who observes the Sabbath and does not profane it, and keeps one's hands from evil deeds.

Foreigners who would follow YHWH should not say, "YHWH will surely exclude me from this people." Nor should the eunuch say, "And I am a dried-up tree."

For thus says YHWH: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbath, who choose that which pleases me and hold fast to my Covenant – to them I will create within my Temple and its walls a memorial, and a name better than that of daughters and sons. I will give them an everlasting name that will not be excised.

And the foreigners who join themselves to me, ministering to me, loving the name of YHWH, and worshiping me – all who observe the Sabbath and do not profane it, and cling to my Covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples!"

I Will Change Your Name

I will change your name you shall no longer be called Wounded, Outcast Lonely or Afraid.

I will change your name, your new name shall be: Confidence, Joyfulness Daring, Bold and Brave, Cherished, Treasured Holy Friend of God

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-39 (adapted from The Inclusive Bible)

An angel of God spoke to Philip and said, "Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes to Gaza, the desert road." So Philip began his journey. It happened that an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, the ruler of Ethiopia, had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage and was returning home. He was sitting in his carriage and reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and meet that carriage." When Philip ran up, he heard the eunuch reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" "How can I," the eunuch replied, "unless someone explains it to me?" With that, he invited Philip to get in the carriage with him. This was the passage of scripture being read:

"You are like a sheep being led to slaughter, you are like a lamb that is mute in front of its shearers: like them, you never open your mouth. You have been humiliated and have no one to defend you.

Who will ever talk about your descendants, since your life on earth has been cut short?"

The eunuch said to Philip, "Tell me, if you will, about whom the prophet is talking – himself or someone else?" So Philip proceeded to explain the Good News about Jesus to him. Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is some water right there. Is there anything to keep me from being baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop; then Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch didn't see him anymore and went on his way rejoicing.

The Word of Gracious Inclusion. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Our Impulse to Include

Pastor Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

I Will Change Your Name

I will change your name you shall no longer be called Wounded, Outcast Lonely or Afraid.

I will change your name, your new name shall be: Confidence, Joyfulness Daring, Bold and Brave, Cherished, Treasured Holy Friend of God

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Loving God, we confess how we let the names others give us define who we are.

And we impose hurtful names when people fall short of who you created them to be.

Free us from these painful habits.

Show us the art of naming all creation as you see it. Amen.

God's love has been poured into our hearts. Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

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.

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

Friends, this is the bread of life, 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
- 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
 OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

Draw the Circle Wide COTV Choir

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide Draw the circle, draw the circle wide No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side Draw the circle, draw the circle wide

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still!
Let this be our song: no one stands alone!
Standing side by side
draw the circle, draw the circle wide

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 Jeff Wells 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: Reyno Francisco Dance Ministry: Elizabeth Levanah Prayers of the People: Olive Beltrán Call to Offering: Jorge Lockward

Ministers of Care: Sam Winfrey (on-site) & Rhonda Wade (online)

Altar Design: Suzie Wilder

Vocalists: Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Michelle Morris, 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: Maya Carter Visuals Host: Emilee Davis Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

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Scripture Lesson:

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When the Spirit in Me (The Jesus in Me)

W & M: Anonymous.

Lyric adaptation by Jorge Lockward

I Will Change Your Name

W & M: D. J. Butler, alt.

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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 <u>Virtual Welcome Card</u>.

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 <u>PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</u>.

Please follow us on Facebook (<u>Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage</u>), 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 <u>churchofthevillage.org</u>.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

May 22 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
May 24 – Tuesday	10:30am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP: Food Pantry
May 25 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
May 26 – Thursday	4:00pm 6:30pm – 7:45pm	L.E.M. Ecological Civilization (via Zoom) Choir rehearsal
May 27 – Friday	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
May 28 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
May 29 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)

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.
- VANCO: <u>Vanco</u>'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. 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!

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 **Global Ministries** 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.

COTV CHOIR

Join us Thursdays 6:30-7:45pm onsite: 201 West 13th 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)

1st Sundays; 12:00pm ET following worship



Our LGBTOIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) We will meet on the 1st Sunday of each month (June, July, and August) after worship for in-person lunch 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.

Join Us via Zoom.

COTY ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET



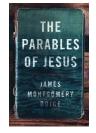
COTV Online Fitness with Lina returns Tuesdays at 10:30 am ET.

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; 2pm - 5pm - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Appointments are available via the <u>Plentiful App</u> (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.

<u>If you do not have a QR code you will not receive pantry</u>. **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!

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 <u>VANCO</u>'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. <u>VANCO</u>'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) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at 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.

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. 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 <u>Pastor Jeff Wells</u> or <u>Pastor Alexis Lillie</u>.



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

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: <u>PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org</u> Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8; (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: 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

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.5

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: marthachapman62@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scape131@aol.com

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: quinteromm@gmail.com

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com

The Living Earth Movement Series Presents:

Ecological Civilization: The Living Earth Alternative

Thursday, May 26
1pm PDT / 3pm CDT / 4pm EDT
with David Korten and Jeff Wells

Headed toward self-extinction on a dying Earth, it is within our human means to create a world of material sufficiency and spiritual abundance for all. In this session, David Korten and Jeff Wells will explore pathways to the living Earth alternative.

For more information, contact Jeff Wells (917) 604-5227 or <u>pastorjeff@churchofthevillage.org</u>
www.livingearthmovement.eco