

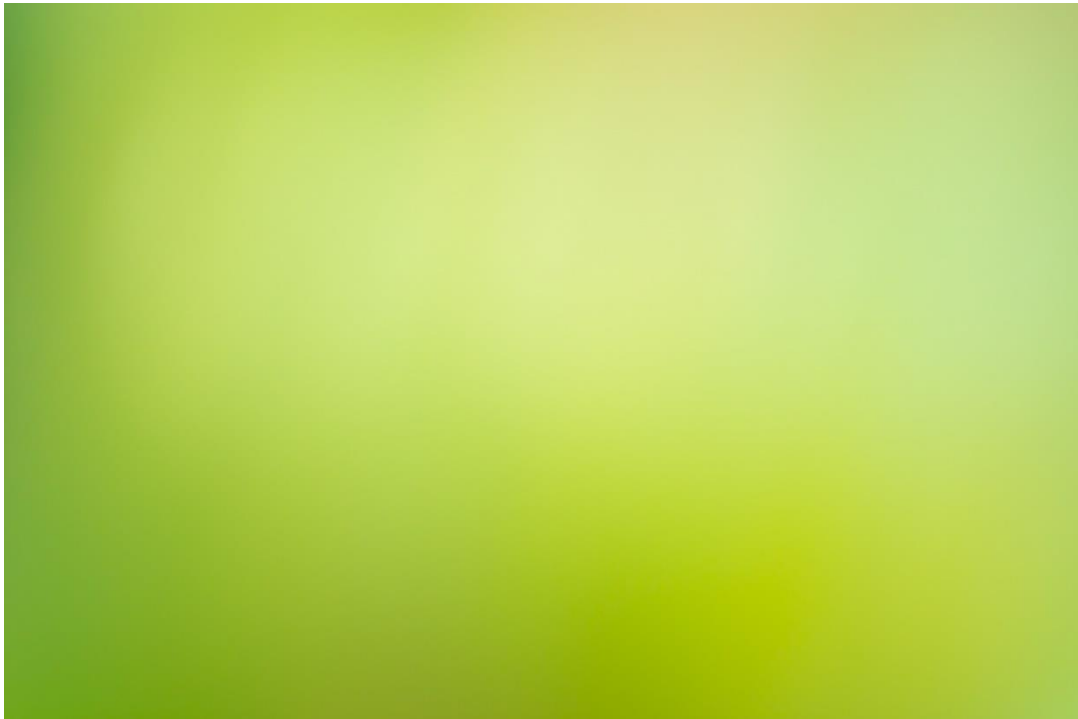


A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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

## **August 27, 2023 • Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Black Lives Matter / Welcome the Stranger, including Migrants and Refugees  
Stop Hate Against Muslims, Jews, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders**



# **Spirit Journeys: Held by Silence**

## 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

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.**

## WELCOME

## CELEBRATION OF AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

*We Sing in Praise of God's Love*

**We sing in praise of God's love, who sent you to us  
as a witness for justice and peace.  
May God's embrace be your shield as you boldly share  
who you are, what you've learned, what you bring.**

**God's blessing in your coming in,  
God's blessing in your going out.  
May God's love bless and increase the fruit of all your labor,  
in your life, your loves, your service,  
may God's love bless and increase.**

## OPENING PRAYER

### WE PROCLAIM

### CALL TO LISTEN

*Wade in the Water*

**Wade in the water  
Wade in the water, children,  
wade in the water,  
God's gonna trouble the water**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

*1 Kings 19: 1-13*

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Elijah was afraid; he got up and fled for his life. Elijah came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. Elijah asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep.

Suddenly an angel touched Elijah and said to him, "Get up and eat." Elijah looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again.

The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." Elijah got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place Elijah came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

God said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind...and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake...and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire... and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

The Word of Life.  
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Spirit Journeys: Held by Silence

Rev. Scott Sprunger  
Guest Preacher

WE RESPOND

*Be Still and Know*



Be still and know that I am God.  
I am with you.  
all shall be well.



Be still and know



that I am God.  
I am with you.  
all shall be well.

A TIME OF HEALING

*Through Our Fragmentary Prayer*

Through our fragmentary prayer  
and our silent heart hid sighs  
wordlessly the Spirit bears  
our profoundest needs and cries.

Deeper than the pulse's beat  
is the Spirit's speechless groan,  
making human prayers complete  
through the prayer that is God's own.

Search and sound our mind and heart,  
Breath and Flame and Wind and Dove,  
let your prayer in us impart  
strength to do the work of love.

## 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

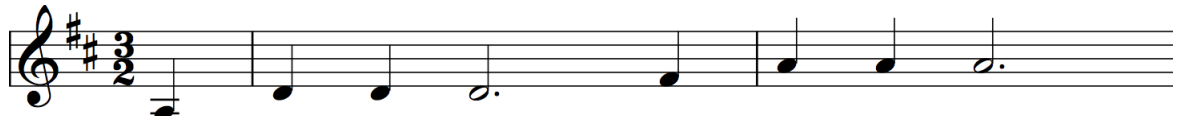
## OFFERTORY

### *We Are the World*

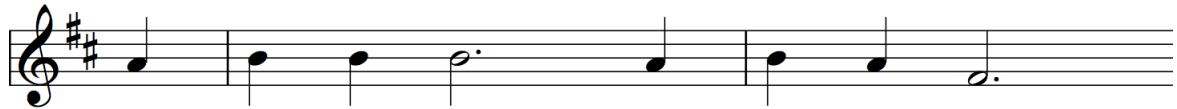
Michael Johnson, organ  
Matthew Willis, soprano sax

## GRATEFUL RESPONSE

### *For One Great Peace*



This thread I weave,      this step I dance,  
this pot I shape,      this fire I light,  
this check I write,      this march I join,



this stone I carve,      this ball I bounce,  
this fence I leap,      this bone I knit,  
this faith I state,      this truth I sign,



this nail I drive,      this pearl I string,—  
this seed I nurse,      this rift I mend,—  
this is small part,      in one small place,—



this flag I wave,      this note I sing,  
this child I raise,      this earth I tend,  
of one heart's beat      for one great Peace.

# WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

*O Healing River*

**O healing river, send down your waters,  
send down your waters upon this land.  
O healing river, send down your waters,  
O healing river, send your waters down.**

**This land is parching, this land is burning,  
no seed is growing in the barren ground.  
O healing river, send down your waters,  
O healing river, send your waters down.**

**We long for wholeness, we long for healing,  
we long for justice, we long for peace.  
O healing river, send down your waters,  
O healing river, send your waters down.**

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, & Scott Sprunger

**Dance Ministry:** Martha Chapman

**Call to Offering:** Sam Winfrey

**Altar Design:** John C. Flake

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

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

**Sax/Clarinet/Flute:** Matthew Willis

**Organ:** Michael Johnson

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Ushers:** Sam Winfrey

**Ministers of Care:** Sam Winfrey (on-site) & Monica Quintero (online)

**Zoom Host:** Sarah Witman

## CREDITS

**Cover Image:** iStock Image #1060586438, by lesichkadesign,  
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### ***Come and Find the Quiet Center***

W: Shirley Erena Murray

M: BEACHSPRING, B. F. White

© 1992 Hope Publishing

Onelicense.net # A-725898

### ***Wade in the Water***

W & M: African American Spiritual

### ***Be Still and Know***

W: based on Psalm 46:10

M: John Bell

© 1989 WGRG, Iona Community

(admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Onelicense.net # A-725898

### ***Through Our Fragmentary Prayers***

W: Thomas Troegger

M: Carol Doran

© 1989 Oxford Press University.

Onelicense.net # A-725898

### ***For One Great Peace***

W: Shirley Erena Murray

M: Jim Strathdee

W: ©1992 Hope Publishing Co. Music

© 1998 Desert Flower Music

Onelicense.net # A-725898

### ***Healing River***

W&M: Fred Hellerman & Fran Minkoff

© 1964 (renewed), Appleseed Music, Inc.

Onelicense.net # A-725898

### ***We Sing In Praise of God's Love***

W: adapted by Jorge A. Lockward

M: Nilcéia Protázio

Music © Nilcéia Protázio ([nilceiaprotasio@gmail.com](mailto:nilceiaprotasio@gmail.com))

## 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>August 27 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:30pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet Healing Conversations (following worship)
<b>August 29 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry
<b>August 30 – Wednesday</b>	9:00am 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study
<b>September 2 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>September 3 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet



## 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: REV. SCOTT SPRUNGER



Scott Sprunger is an anti-violence organizer and community educator. He was a pastoral intern at Church of the Village while he attended Union Theological Seminary. Scott met his life partner at Church of the Village in 2018 and they live together in Philadelphia.

## MATCHING GRANT



Our Stewardship Committee and a member of our church are together offering a Matching Grant Fund! Their collective donation to our church is \$7500. Your gift can help our community gain a total donation of \$15,000! Scan the code for more info and to donate.



## HOMECOMING POTLUCK



**September 17, 2023 after worship in the COTV gym.**  
Bring a dish to share. Food signups use the QR code here.



## COMMUNITY CLOSET

**Sundays, Noon to 1pm.**

Community Closet is seeking donations!



Ready to let go of some of your gently used clothing and accessories? Make space in your closet by helping to stock our free, inclusive, and identity-affirming community closet. Contributions can be brought to COTV on Sundays or email Pastor Alexis to arrange a possible pick-up!

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

**Every third Thursday of the month, 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

## HEALING CONVERSATIONS

**(Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month); 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).

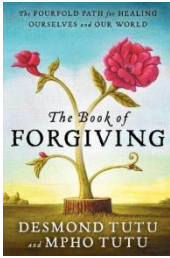
## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

**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).

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE BOOK OF FORGIVING*

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



There have been times when each and every one of us has needed to forgive. There have also been times when each and every one of us needed to be forgiven. And there will be many more times again. Out of brokenness we hurt others, and forgiveness is the journey we take towards healing the broken parts. It is how we become whole again.

Join us as we study “The Fourfold Path to Healing” outlined in “The Book of Forgiving” written by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. We would be delighted to have you join us. **Everyone is Welcome.** 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) 687-5321 or visit [www.thereddoorplace.org](http://www.thereddoorplace.org).

**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.



## 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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(719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward,

Minister of Worship Arts

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(917) 723-0169

Teresa Concepción,

Executive Director, The Red Door Place

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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)