



**the
Church
of
the Village**

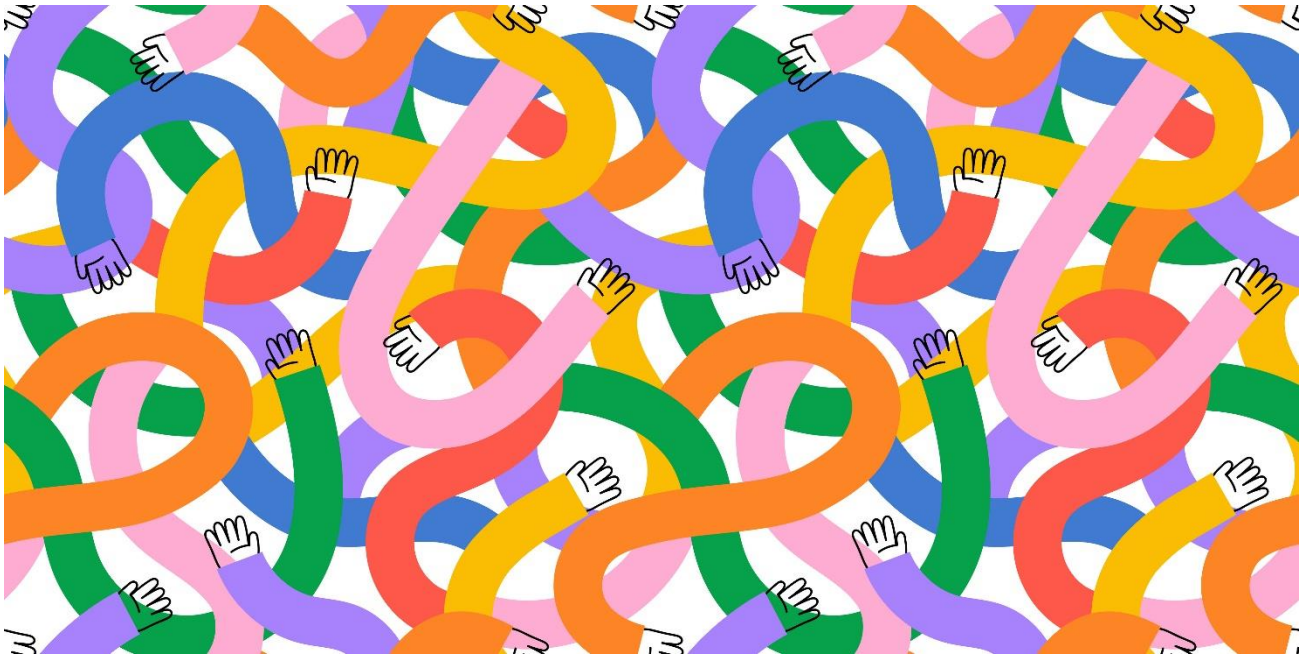


A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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

September 17, 2023 • Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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



**Coming Home:
An Invitation to Intense Becoming**

WE GATHER

“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenne-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 Lenne-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 Lenne-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

Welcome

Let’s walk together for a while and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,

*Singing welcome, welcome to this place.
You’re invited to come and know God’s grace.
All are welcome the love of God to share
’cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.*

Let’s talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,

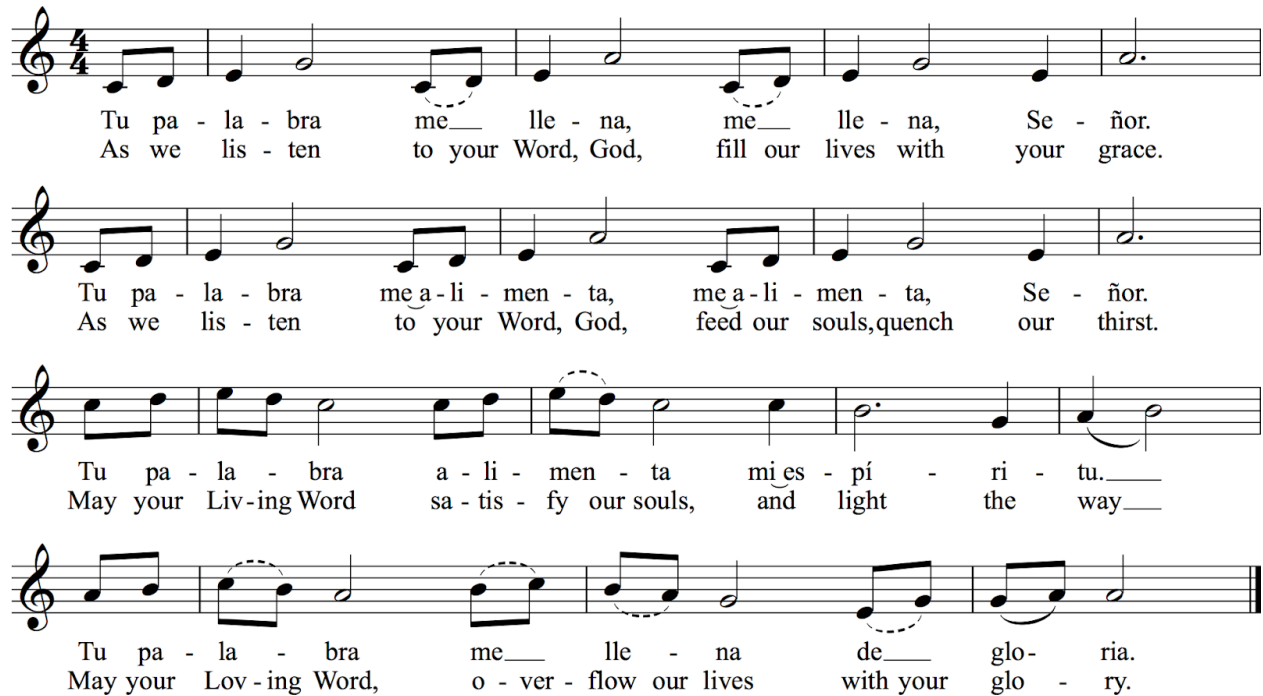
Let’s dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Tu Palabra / As We Listen



Tu pa - la - bra me__ lle - na, me__ lle - na, Se - ñor.
As we lis - ten to your Word, God, fill our lives with your grace.

Tu pa - la - bra me a - li - men - ta, me a - li - men - ta, Se - ñor.
As we lis - ten to your Word, God, feed our souls, quench our thirst.

Tu pa - la - bra a - li - men - ta mi es - pí - ri - tu__
May your Liv - ing Word sa - tis - fy our souls, and light the way__

Tu pa - la - bra me__ lle - na de__ glo - ria.
May your Lov - ing Word, o - ver - flow our lives with your glo - ry.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 46:1-6 (The Inclusive Bible)

God is our refuge and our strength, who from of old has helped us in our distress.

Therefore we fear nothing – even if the earth should open up in front of us
and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea, even if the earth’s waters rage and foam
and the mountains tumble with its heaving.

There’s a river whose streams gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High.

God is in its midst, it will never fall – God will help it at daybreak.

Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble,
God’s voice resounds, and it melts the earth.

The Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Coming Home: An Invitation to Intense Becoming

Pastor Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

God, Who Began a Good Work in You

God, who began a good work in you,
God, who began a good work in you
will be faithful to complete it,
will be faithful to complete it
God, who started the work;
will be faithful to complete it in you

If the struggle you're facing is slowly replacing your hope with despair
or the process is long and you're losing your song in the night.

You can be sure that God's love is surrounding you,
safe and secure, God will never abandon you.
You are God's treasure and God finds great pleasure in you.

One: God be with you.
All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!
All: Our hearts are lifted.

One: Let us give thanks to God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Le-lo Le-lo Lai-lo (3x)
Lo-le Lo-le Lo-lai.

Holy, holy, holy,
God of loving pow'r.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.
Hosanna in the highest!

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

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
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

OFFERTORY

Total Praise
COTV Choir

God, I will lift mine eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from you.
Your peace, you give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you
Amen.

GRATEFUL RESPONSE

Everyday Is a Day of Thanksgiving

Everyday is a day of thanksgiving.
God, you've been so good to me.
Everyday you're blessing me.
Everyday is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O my God, today!

You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
you opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
I will glorify you, O my God, today!

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

When You Wonder, When You Wander

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

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

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

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, & Dwight Campbell

Worship Leader: Jackie Stzendera

Dance Ministry: Martha Chapman, Ted Warner, Sylvie Bayeux

Call to Offering: Jorge Lockward

Altar Design: John C. Flake

Visuals Design: 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, Miles Mitchell, Shelby Hall Denney, Nora von der Heydt

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

Zoom Chat: Natasha Wright

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock Image #1471929384, by Dedraw Studio, Used by permission

Welcome

W: Laurie Zelman & Mark Miller

M: Mark Miller

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Onelicense.net # A-725898

Tu Palabra/As We Listen

W & M: Raúl Carranza.

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He Who Began a Good Work in You

W & M: Jon Mohr

© 1987 by Jonathan Mark Music and Birdwing Music.

Used under CCLI #1125761

Sanctus (le lo le lo lai lo)

Spanish Villancico adapted by William Loperena O.P.

© Orden de Predicadores, Bayamon P.R.

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Total Praise

W: from Psalm 121

M: Richard Smallwood

© 1996 Bridge Building Music (BMI)/T Autumn Music (BMI),

admin. Bridge Building Music

Everyday is a Day of Thanksgiving

W & M: Leonard Burks

© Leonard Burks.

When You Wonder, When You Wander

W: Adam Tice

M: Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

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Music © 2017, Jorge Lockward & Elyse Ambrose

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WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have questions, please contact PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org.

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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sept. 17 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet Homecoming Potluck (after worship)
Sept. 19 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry
Sept. 20 – Wednesday	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
Sept. 23 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
Sept. 24 – Sunday	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

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:** [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. *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!*

COMING HOME a new worship series



The Fall season offers a time of homecoming and re-set, as many of us get back into schedules and routines after the busy-ness of Summer. For the month of September, we'll ponder various types of homecomings and what it means to "return" to important places: to God, ourselves, our community, the earth. Join us September 10 - October 1 as we come home together.

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.



HOMEcomings 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 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 4th 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).

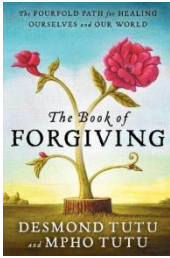
TOGETHER IN PRAYER

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.

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.

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) 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.



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: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8;
(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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Chair, Ministers of Care

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Alfida Figueroa, Chair,

Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com