



A progressive radically inclusive anti-racist community
201 West 13th Street New York NY, 10011 • (212) 2435470
www.churchofthevillage.org • facebook.com/churchofthevillage
office@churchofthevillage.org

January 28, 2024 • Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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



***Grace: The Uncontrolling
Love of God***

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 & SHARING GOD’S PEACE

God Is Good

**God is good, all the time!
All the time, God is good!
God is good, all the time!
All God’s people sing: God is good!**

**God is love...
God is with us...**

CELEBRATION OF JANUARY 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.**

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

BLESSING AND CELEBRATING OUR CHURCH LEADERS

Walk Together (The Journey is Long)
Walk together, the journey is long

Work together...

Dream together...

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Lamentations 3:22-23; Romans 8:35-39 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

YHWH'S favor is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed.
They rise up anew each morning, so great is God's faithfulness.

* * * * *

What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Trouble? Calamity? Persecution?
Hunger? Nakedness? Danger? Violence?
As scripture says,
“For your sake, we’re being killed all day long;
we’re looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.”
Yet in all this we are more than conquerors
because of God who has loved us.
For I am certain that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future,
neither heights nor depths – nor anything else in all creation –
will be able to separate us from the love of God
that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

The Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Grace: The Uncontrolling Love of God
Pastor Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF HEALING

Your Love, O God

**Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind and our eternal home.**

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

Goodness of God

I love you, God for your mercy never fails me;
all my days I've been held in your hands.
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God.

All my life you have been faithful.
All my life you have been so so good.
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love your voice; you have led me through the fire.
In darkest night you are close like no other.
I've known you as a parent.
I've known you as a friend.
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now;
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.

GRATEFUL RESPONSE

For the Harvests of the Spirit

For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God;
in the good we all in-he-rit, thanks be to God;
for the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that
still con-found us, most of all, that
love has found us, thanks be to God!

The image shows five staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God; in the good we all in-he-rit, thanks be to God; for the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God!"

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

God Is Building a New Way

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

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

**Holy cycles carry us, (3x)
bringing us into new life;
holy cycles carry us.**

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa & Katie Reimer

Lector/Reader: Colby Walsh

Dance Ministry: Jeana Mussachio

Call to Offering: Jorge Lockward

Altar Design: John C. Flake

Visuals Design: Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer

Usher: Sam Winfrey

Organ: Michael Johnson

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Sax/Clarinet/Flute/Bass: Matthew Willis

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Zoom Host: Martha Chapman

Ministers of Care: Monica Quintero (onsite); Jim Norton (online)

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock Image #911764800, by agsandrew

God is Good

W & M: Christopher Heckert

© 2008 Chris Heckert, christopherheckert@gmail.com

Used by permission

Walk Together (The Journey Is Long)

W & M: South African Freedom Song

Goodness of God

W & M: Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram & Jenn Johnson

© 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

CCLI License #1125761

For the Fruits of All Creation

(3rd. stz. For the Harvests of the Spirit)

W: Fred Pratt Green

M: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh melody

Words ©1970 Hope Publishing Co.

Onelicense.net # A-725898

Building a New Way

W & M: Martha Sandefer

© 1986 Martha Sandefer

WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

January 28 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet
January 30 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	The Red Door Place: Food Pantry
January 31 – Wednesday	6:30pm 6:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom Choir Rehearsal
February 3 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	The Red Door Place: Community Meal
February 4 – Sunday	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Community, Commitment, and Courage

I give because I need to support the people and places that give me life.

I give because I gotta put my money where my mouth is...

I give because this community looks like God's Kin-dom in action to me.

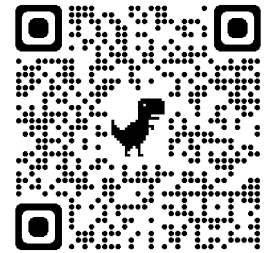
I give because this is the place in my life where I encounter the biggest variety of God's Children, and I love it!

We, the Stewardship Team, are grateful for the many ways your commitment to our community expresses itself. In particular, we are grateful that you see financial giving as one of the ways in which you covenant with other members of this community and with the God whose love draws us together and outward to the world in which our lives are lived. As you give prayerful discernment to your gifting for 2024 – your expression of solidarity with fellow journeyers in faith – please consider the many individuals, initiatives, and hopes that reside in our congregation and give as generously as you are able.

You can express your commitment via: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2024-stewardship-campaign>. Or, if you have questions, via: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org.

As we work together to foster, support and grow, we have tried to make it easy to give. Apart from our weekly collection basket for those on site, we offer the following:

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT**
- **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!



Jason Brubaker



John Kleinig



Jorge Lockward



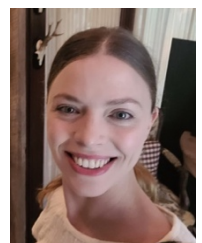
Jeanie Kurka Reimer



Katie Reimer



Sam Winfrey



Sarah Witman



AGAIN AND AGAIN: The Cycle of Grace **a new worship series**

January 7 – February 11

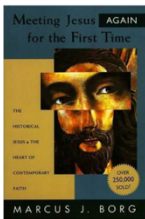
The new year invites us to ponder new ways of being – and brings into focus the ways we may repeatedly strive to grow over the course of our lives. Sometimes we seem to take two steps forward and one step back which can feel discouraging. Instead of viewing it as a disappointment or failure, what if we saw our continued efforts at growth as part of a cycle of grace, where the Divine continually beckons us to new life. This holy cycle is in operation in all aspects of our life and in all of creation. Like children learning to walk and forests renewing themselves after a fire, God’s grace meets us, again and again.



GLITTER ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 10am-6pm

Celebrate the beginning of Lent by receiving Blessed Glitter Ashes-on-the-go from our Pastors on the steps of COTV on 7th Ave. The glitter ash is a reminder to us and to others of the solidarity between God and the LGBTQ+ community.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

Wednesdays beginning January 10th; 6:30pm

In this study, Marcus Borg addresses the yearnings of those who want a fully contemporary faith that welcomes rather than oppresses our critical intelligence and openness to the best of historical scholarship. Borg shows how a rigorous examination of historical findings can lead to a new faith in Christ, one that is critical and, at the same time, sustaining. Join us via Zoom! <http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923; **Meeting ID:** 713 063 594 **Passcode:** 10011



CLOTHING DRIVE

December- January

For the month of December and January, we will be collecting clothing donations for several organizations where Church of the Village members work or have ties. We are seeking: - Donations of *new* socks and underwear for men in all sizes - Donations of *new* winter clothing items for men, women, and children -

Donations of *new* winter coats for men, women, and children You can bring these donations to worship on Sundays through December and January. (If you have gently used and / or additional items in all sizes, we are happy to take those donations for our community closet on an ongoing basis as well.)

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).



THE ALLIANCE: A YOUNG ADULT GROUP

1st Sundays after worship

The Alliance will meet the first Sunday of the month, starting October 1 after worship. Outings will include sharing meals together, exploring the city, museum visits, and more. Open to anyone who is young adult(ish), college age - mid-thirties. Bring a dish to share.

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 TO THE RED DOOR PLACE, 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 worshipping community, but when you can't join us for Sunday worship, you can view the worship recording anytime at [Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos](https://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. We encourage you to read and share them with others.



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

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

Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7;
(917) 723-0169

Dwight Campbell, Chair,

Vision & Ministry Council

Email: DCampbell5938@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