



**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

March 6, 2022 • First Sunday in Lent

Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter

No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever

Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



Worship and Community

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

Gather Us In

**Here in this place new light is streaming
Now are the shadows vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the brave and the tame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name**

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race**

**Gather us in, the poor and the haughty
Gather us in, the weak and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song**

**Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth**

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kindom, now is the day**

**Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones**

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

When God's People

**When God's people lift their song
and from their hearts sing praise to God,
suceden cosas, suceden cosas maravillosas*. (2x)**

**All hearts are healed, all fears released,
we feel God's holy presence as we sing. (2x)**

**suceden cosas maravillosas= amazing things happen*

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18 (The Inclusive Bible)

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

Then Jesus said, “The truth is, unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who make themselves as humble as this child are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But those who would cause any of these little ones who believe in me to stumble would be better off thrown into the sea with millstones around their necks. Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! Stumbling blocks are inevitable, but woe to those through whom they come!

If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to enter Life without your limbs than to have two hands or two feet and be hurled into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away. It is better to enter Life without sight, than to have two eyes and be hurled into the eternal fire.

See to it that you never despise one of these little ones, for I swear that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my abba God.

What do you think? Suppose a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them strays away – won’t the shepherd leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go in search of the stray? If the shepherd finds it, the truth is, there is more joy over the one found than over the ninety-nine that didn’t stray. In the same way, it is never the will of your Abba God in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

If your sister or brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out the error, but keep it between the two of you. If she or he listens to you, you have won a loved one back; If not, try again, but take one or two others with you, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses. If your sister or brother refuses to listen to them, refer the matter to the church. If she or he ignores even the church, then treat that sister or brother as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

The truth is, whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted you by my abba God in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.” Peter came up and asked Jesus, “When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? seven times?” “No,” Jesus replied, “not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. And here’s why.

The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt.

At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, ‘I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!’

Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt.

Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ “The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, ‘Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!’ But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor’s prison until the money was paid.

When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. The ruler sent for the official and said, ‘You worthless wretch! I canceled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?’

Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full.

My Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

This is the Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Worship and Community

Pastor Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

For Everyone Born

**For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread;
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.**

*And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!*

**For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive;
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live.**

**For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.**

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

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

Pelas dores deste mundo / For the Troubles and the Suffering

**For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy:
the whole creation's laboring in pain!**

**Lend a ear to the rising cry for help
from oppressed and hopeless people.
Come! hasten your salvation, healing love!**

**We pray for peace, the blessed peace
that comes from making justice,
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, God!**

**We pray for power, the power
that will sustain your people's witness:
until your Kin-dom come, Kyrie eleison!***

**Kyrie eleison (Greek): Lord, have mercy. Ancient Christian 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

OFFERTORY

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 HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So

**I'm gonna live so God can use me,
anywhere and anytime (2x)**

**I'm gonna pray so...
I'm gonna sing so God can use me,
anywhere and anytime (2x)**

To join conversation with Pastor 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 do that in the narthex behind the sanctuary with Sam Winfrey.
If you are online, you can connect with Virginia Riker
by typing “**CARE**” in capital letters in the Zoom chat.

WORSHIP HOSTS

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

Worship Leader: Cassie Hinnen

Call to Offering:

Dance Ministry: Martha Chapman & Aliyah Miller

Ministers of Care: Virginia Riker, Sam Winfrey

Altar Design: Suzie Wilder

Vocalists: Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Riot Mueller, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Zoom Host: Paul Pillitteri

Chat Host: Becca Love

Visuals Host: Emilee Davis

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image:

En la Cena Ecológica del Reino (In the Ecological Dinner
of the Kingdom), By Fr. Maximino Cerezo Barredo CMF,
Permission requested

Gather Us In

W & M: Marty Haugen

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When God's People

W: Stz. 1, Hispanic Caribbean Worship Chorus; English
trans. and additional stz. 2 by Jorge Lockward. M: Hispanic
Caribbean Worship Chorus, transcribed by Jorge
Lockward.

Transcription, English. trans. and additional stanzas ©
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For Everyone Born

W: Shirley Erena Murray;

M: Brian Mann

Words © 1988 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 2006 Brian Mann (Admin. General Board of
Global Ministries, GBGMusik)

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For the Troubles and the Suffering of the World

W & M: Rodolfo Gaede Neto, Eng. trans., Simeí Monteiro
& Jorge Lockward

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Everyday is a Day of Thanksgiving

W & M: Leonard Burks

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I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

W & M: African American Spiritual

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

March 6 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:15pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Ministers of Care (via Zoom)
March 8 – Tuesday	10:30am 3:30pm – 5:30pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP: Food Pantry
March 9 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
March 10 – Thursday	6:30pm – 7:45pm	Choir rehearsal
March 11 – Friday	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
March 12 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
March 13 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:15pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) UMW (via Zoom)



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:** [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!*

To make your pledge to this year's campaign please visit: <https://forms.gle/ApxV5fSkVBCT3Qfz7>

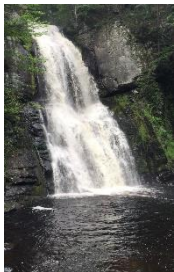
CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

For 2022 through February, congregational giving at COTV totaled \$25,276.00, which is 20.62% of our congregational giving goal for 2022. Thanks be to God and to our faithful COTV family.

WADE IN THE WATER: THE BEAUTY, MYSTERY, AND POWER OF WORSHIP

Our New Worship Series

Sundays, February 27 – April 4, 2022



*“It is not the voice but the choice, not the clarity but the charity,
not the harp but the heart that makes music in the ear of God.”*

– from inscription in a choir stall at the Church of St. Damien, Assisi, Italy

Candles, Prayers, Ancient Texts, Songs, Bread, Grape Juice – these are but a few of the things we engage every Sunday as we gather for worship. What is the story behind them? How do they shape our lives and the life of the world? How do we engage them in ways that speak to progressive values and lead to the realization of God’s Dream? These are some of the questions we will explore in this Season.

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 & 3rd Thursdays; 8:30pm ET



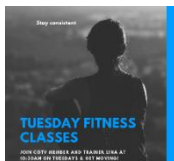
Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions!) will meet every Thursday via this [link](#) to discuss a variety of topics, grow friendships, and gather support from one another.

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](#).

COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:30 am ET



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

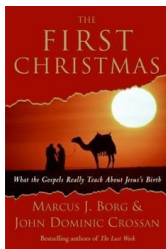
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212

Passcode: fitness

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE FIRST CHRISTMAS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



Our current study, *The First Christmas* by Marcus Bored, will focus as an in-depth examination of the Christmas stories recorded in the gospels. We will examine the similarities and differences of each story during the Advent Season. Everyone is invited to join us.

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to join. 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 from 3:30 – 5:30pm. No early line up permitted before 3pm.

Lineup will begin behind the rope at 3pm on the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Street.

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 [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 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.

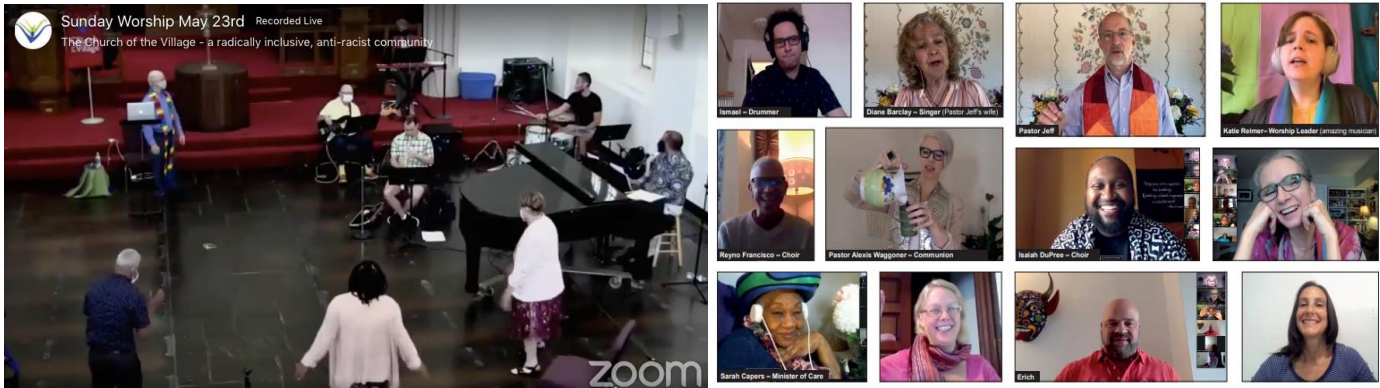
COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshipping 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 have expanded vision and our capacities since then to become a fully online and onsite community. We are actively evaluating when to open fully to the vaccinated public.

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 [Pastor Jeff Wells](#) or [Pastor Alexis Lillie](#).



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

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: figueroarollins@gmail.com