



**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 26, 2023 • Fifth Sunday in Lent

**Celebrating Women's History Month / Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter
No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever
Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



"A Rattling"

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

I Believe




I be - lieve some-thing good_ is a - bout to hap - pen.
I be - lieve some-thing good_ is a - bout to hap - pen.
I be - lieve some-thing good_ is a - bout to hap - pen
some - thing good is on_____ the way_____

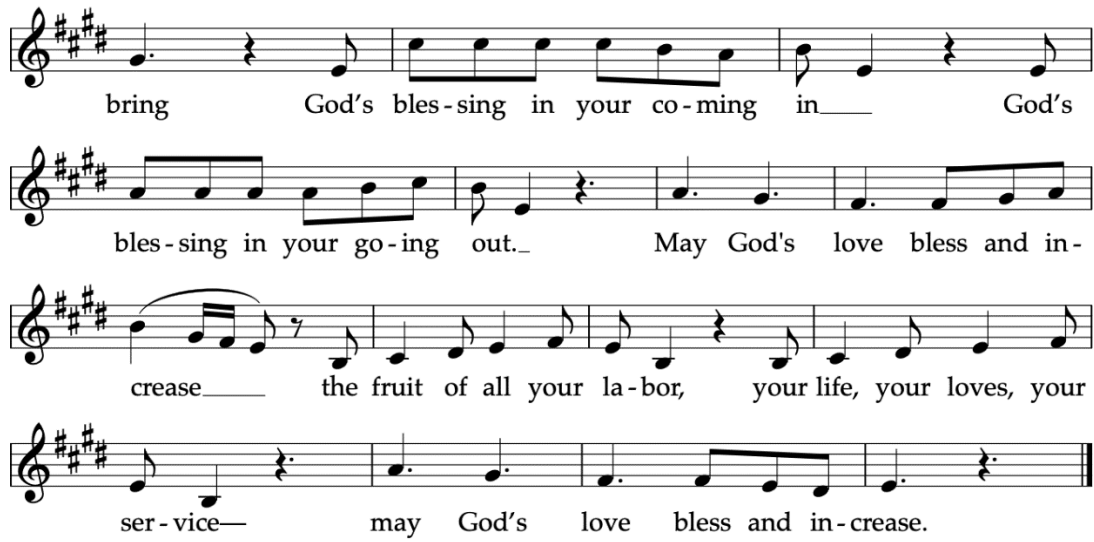
WELCOME

CELEBRATION OF MARCH BIRTHDAYS

We Sing in Praise of God's Love



We sing in praise of God's love, who sent you to us as a
wit-ness for jus - tice and peace. May God's em-brace be your
shield as you boldly share who you are, what you've learned, what you



bring God's bles-sing in your co-ming in God's
 bles-sing in your go-ing out. May God's love bless and in-
 crease the fruit of all your la-bor, your life, your loves, your
 ser-vice— may God's love bless and in-crease.

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Open My Heart



O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.
 O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.
 O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.
 O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.
 O - pen my heart. O - pen my heart.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (The Inclusive Bible)

The hand of YHWH was upon me, and it carried me away by the Spirit of YHWH and set me

down in a valley – a valley full of bones. God made me walk up and down among them. And I saw that there was a vast number of bones lying there in the valley, and they were very dry. God asked me, “Mere mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “Only you know that, Sovereign YHWH.”

And God said, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: ‘Dry bones, hear the word of YHWH! Sovereign YHWH says to these bones: I am going to breathe life into you. I will fasten sinews on you, clothe you with flesh, cover you with skin, and give you breath. And you will live; and you will know that I am Sovereign YHWH.’” So I prophesied as I was commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and all the bones came together, bone to matching bone.

As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh clothed them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then God said to me, “Prophesy to the wind; prophesy, mere mortal, and say to it: ‘Thus says Sovereign YHWH: Approach from the four winds, Breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’”

I prophesied as I was commanded, and breath came into them; they came alive, and stood up on their feet – a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, “Mere mortal, these bones are the whole House of Israel. The people keep saying, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is gone, and we are doomed.’ Prophesy, therefore, and say to them, ‘Thus says Sovereign YHWH: I am going to open your graves and raise you up from the dead, my people. I will return you to the land of Israel. When I open your graves and raise you up, you, my people, will know that I am YHWH. Then I will put my Spirit into you and you will return to life, and I will settle you back on your own land. Then you will know that I, YHWH, have spoken and made all this happen, says Sovereign YHWH.’”

A Word of Hope and Possibility.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

“A Rattling”

Reverend Vicki Flippin
Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Yale Divinity School

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

Jesus Christ, Hope of the World

**A little beyond this our time
the future announces with gladness
no war, no racism, no crime,
no more desolation, no sadness.**

**We hope for a new world of trust:
No one will be feeble nor strong.
The systems we have are unjust:
they always divisions prolong.**

*¡Venha teu Reino Senhor!**
transform our lament into dancing,
and all our hope and our longings
transform in the fullness of life.
Aie, eia, ae, ae, ae //

**A bud of your hope is sprouting,
the token of flowers in spring:
a world to arrive, no doubting,
with justice and joy that you bring.**

The seeds of your kindom we bear,
your future is drawing so near
the earth, with your help, we prepare
until you, in fullness, appear.

* *Your kin-dom come*

A TIME OF HEALING

Softly and Tenderly God's Love Is Waiting

Softly and tenderly God's love is waiting,
waiting for you and for me;
see, like a mother, God's watching and waiting,
waiting for you and for me.

Come home, come home;
you who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, God's love is waiting,
waiting until we come home.

Fear Not the Pain

The musical score is written for a voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "Fear not the pain. Let its weight fall back in-to the earth;". The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef, with the same time signature and key signature. The lyrics are: "for_ hea - vy are the moun-tains, hea-vy are the seas." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some chords and rests.

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

Be Thou My Vision

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

I'm Gonna Live So

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

I'm gonna love...

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, Rev. Jim Norton

Worship Leader: Dwight Campbell

Dance Ministry: Jeanna Mussachio

Call to Offering: Katie Reimer

Altar Design: Martha Chapman

Visuals Design: Bailey Roach & Katie Reimer

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

Violin: Miles Mitchell

Sax & Electric Bass: Matthew Willis

Organ: Michael Johnson

Keyboard: Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Ministers of Care: Valerie Roa (onsite) & Rhonda Wade (online)

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

Zoom Chat: TBD

CREDITS

Cover Image: iStock Image #98345147, by *aleksandarvelasevic*,
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I Believe

W & M: Melanie DeMore

© *Melanie DeMore*

We Sing in Praise of God's Love

W: adapted by Jorge A. Lockward

M: Nilcéia Protázio

Music © *Nilcéia Protázio (nilceiaprotasio@gmail.com)*

Open My Heart

W & M: Ana Hernández

© *Ana Hernández*

Used by permission.

Jesucristo, esperanza del mundo/Jesus Christ, Hope of the World

W: Edmundo Reinhardt, Brazil trans. Pablo Sosa

M: João Carlos Gottinari

W: © 1988, *GIA Publications, Inc.*

M: © 1994, *Abingdon Press, admin. Music Services*

Fear Not the Pain

W: Rainer Maria Rilke

M: Rachel Pollak Kroh

Music © 2013 *Rachel Pollak Kroh*

Used by permission.

Be Thou My Vision

M: SLANE, Irish melody

I'm Gonna Live So

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 26 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
March 28 – Tuesday	10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry
March 29 – Wednesday	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
April 1 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
April 2 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)

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!*

OUR GUEST PREACHER: REVEREND VICKI FLIPPIN



Rev. Vicki Flippin was born and baptized into the Taiwan Methodist Church, the child of a Women's Division missionary and a Chinese war veteran. Rev. Flippin's family moved to the United States when she was a toddler, and she was raised in the United Methodist Church in Missouri. She graduated college from the University of Chicago, where she discerned a call to work for social change through professional ministry. After attending Yale Divinity School, she was ordained an elder in the UMC and worked for LGBTQ equality, racial justice, and immigrant rights in local churches for 14 years, including a wonderful five years as associate pastor at Church of the Village. She also served as Co-President of the national board of the Methodist Federation for Social Action. In 2022, Rev. Flippin made the decision to follow her joy in working with students and joined the administration of Yale Divinity School where she now serves as Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

RECLAIMING SIN: UNDERSTANDING OUR HUMANITY WITHOUT SHAME

Our New Worship Series; Sundays during Lent, 10:30am ET



The concept of sin has been used all too often as a way to shame and control people within a religious system. As a reflex, the progressive church movement sometimes responds by ignoring this concept and shying away from using the word altogether. Avoiding sin doesn't negate its reality. It affects the personal, institutional, systemic, and so many things in between. Join us this Lenten season as we gently and lovingly explore this concept of sin, through the lens of ethics, grace, repentance, and love - tackling concepts that affect our individual and communal lives.

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE CONVERSATIONS

ANTI-RACISM - FROM INTENTION TO ACTION



Thursday, April 13, 7pm ET

Presenter: Erich Dietrich

Clinical Professor of Higher Education and International Education,
NYU

(WHITE) CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Sunday, May 21, 12:45pm ET



Presenter: John Kleinig

Emeritus Professor of Criminal Justice/Philosophy
John Jay College/Graduate Center
CUNY

Join the **Anti-racism Task Force Conversations** via Zoom: **Meeting ID: 867 6866 3955** **Passcode: 029447**

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.

COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:00 am ET



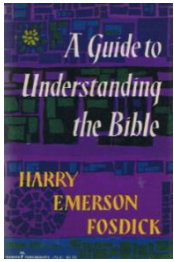
COTV Online Fitness with Lina now on Tuesdays at 10:00 am ET.

Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212 **Passcode: fitness**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



Our current Bible Study is *A Guide to Understanding the Bible* by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Harry Emerson Fosdick presents a study of the development of Biblical ideas. We will study the ideas developed by Fosdick (Idea of God; Idea of Man; Idea of Right and Wrong; Idea of Suffering; Idea of Fellowship with God; Idea of Hospitality). This book presents a different perspective for studying scripture.

We would be delighted to have you join us. **Everyone is Welcome.**

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 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 [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 347-497-9718 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!

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 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.

CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE COVID-19 PROTECTION POLICY

Updated September 23, 2022



From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Church of the Village has been diligent about protecting everyone connected to our church community. We have followed guidelines offered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the City and State of New York, as well as those shared by the NY Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our leadership has stayed on top of new developments and adjusted our policies periodically to fit evolving conditions.

We recognize that for our members, supporters, visitors, and staff who are in proximity to New York City or visit our building, the status of the pandemic has shifted dramatically. The rates of infection, hospitalizations, and especially deaths have fallen to very low levels. This does not mean they cannot go back up and we will continue to monitor the situation. In addition, mask requirements have been lifted for most public spaces, including public transportation in NYC.

Therefore, we have decided to lift our own mask requirement for entry to our church building. This applies to staff as well as members and to groups that rent or use space in our building.

We continue to strongly recommend that everyone be vaccinated and boosted to the highest extent for which you are eligible. The most recent bivalent booster is available to anyone age 12 or older (Pfizer) or 18 and older (Moderna). The bivalent boosters protect against the original Covid-19 virus strain and provide stronger protection against Omicron, which is the most widespread and transmissible variant. To find a location and schedule your vaccination or booster anywhere in the United States, [click here!](#) This is not for your protection only, but for the well-being of our community, our city, and the country.

Also, we strongly encourage those persons at higher risk for infection or hospitalization – especially those with underlying health conditions – to continue to take all appropriate safety measures like masking and social distancing. All of us need to self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance about self-isolation and testing (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).



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, (347) 497-9718

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Dwight Campbell, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: DCampbell5938@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scapel31@aol.com

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: quinteromm@gmail.com

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com