



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

May 8, 2022 • Fourth Sunday of Easter

Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter

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

Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



Being a Link in the Chain

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 Renape 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.”

WELCOME

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

Don't Be Afraid

**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger
and I have promised to be always near.**

Psalm 23 (The Inclusive Psalms)

Adonai, you are my Shepherd –
I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in green meadows,
you lead me beside restful waters:
you refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
for the sake of your Name.

Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and staff –
they give me courage.

You spread a table for me
in the presence of my enemies,
and you anoint my head with oil –
my cup overflows!

Only goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in your house, Adonai,
for days without end.

WE PROCLAIM

LESSONS

Excerpts from *Hebrews 11 (The Inclusive New Testament)*

Faith is the reality of all that is hoped for; faith is the proof of all that is unseen.
Because of faith, our ancestors were approved by God.

By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word from God,
and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

By faith, Abel offered a better sacrifice to God than Cain, and for that was declared to be just...

By faith, Enoch was taken up and didn't have to experience death...

By faith, Noah warned about things not yet seen –
revered God and built an ark in order to save his household...

By faith, Sarah and Abraham lived in the promised land as resident aliens, dwelling in tents with their children
and grandchildren, who were heirs of the same promise...

By faith, Sarah received the ability to conceive, even though she was past child-bearing age...

By faith, Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac...

By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning their future...

By faith, Jacob, near death, blessed each of Joseph's sons,
leaning on the top of his staff as though bowing in worship....

By faith, Joseph, near the end of his life, recalled the Exodus of the Israelites
and made arrangements for his own burial...

By faith, Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth.
They defied the royal edict because they saw he was such a fine child...

By faith, Moses, now an adult, refused to be identified as the son of Pharaoh's daughter...

By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing Pharaoh's rage...

By faith, he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood...

By faith, the people passed through the Sea of Reeds as though on dry land...

By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after being encircled for seven days... By faith, Rahab, the prostitute didn't
perish with those who were disobedient after she welcomed the spies in peace.

What more can I say? There is no time for me to give an account of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, or
David, Samuel and the prophets. These were those who through faith conquered nations,
did what was just and emerged unscathed from battle. They were weak people who were given strength,
became brave in battle and put foreign invaders to flight...

These are all heroes of our faith, but none of them received what was promised,
since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect apart from us.

Our Elders have always said,
“What we do today will affect the next seven generations.”
Repetitive traumas that happened to our ancestors,
as many as seven generations before, can be passed down to our children.

Métis/Cree Elder Kerrie Moore
Integrative healing therapist

All that you touch You Change.
All that you Change Changes you.
The only lasting truth is Change.
God Is Change.

Octavia Butler
African American Science Fiction writer and Prophet

These are the Stories of Life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Being a Link in the Chain

Martha Chapman, Guest Preacher
Chair of Vision and Ministry Council, Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

Don't Be Afraid

**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger
and I have promised to be always near.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Sacred Dancer: Megan Haungs

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

God Is Building a New Way

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

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

**Love and justice is our cry, (3x)
holy wisdom, holy fire;
love and justice is our cry.**

Stay online after service for five-minute breakout rooms.

*Afterwards, you may continue fellowship in the main Zoom room,
or join breakouts for a discussion with the Preacher or to speak with a Minister of Care.*

To join conversation with Martha Chapman
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 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 Team: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer

Worship Leader: Erich Dietrich

Prayers of the People: Lina Nilsen

Call to Offering: Erich Dietrich

Dance Ministry: Megan Haungs

Ministers of Care: Virginia Riker, Sam Winfrey

Altar Design: Suzie Wilder

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

Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Zoom Host: Sarah Witman

Chat Host: Martha Chapman

Sound Engineer: Inti Maldonado

CREDITS

Cover Image: *Predecessors, collage by QuiShaun Hill*

From left to right:

Washington Square Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1860, successor of Sullivan Street Methodist Church, predecessor of Church of the Village.

Photo courtesy of American Guild of Organists, NY Chapter.

First German Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1900,

site of Church of All Nations, predecessor of Church of the Village. Source unknown.

Central Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1856,

Successor of Vestry Street Wesleyan Chapel,

predecessor of Metropolitan-Duane UMC,

predecessor of Church of the Village.

Photo courtesy of the New York Historical Society

Don't Be Afraid

W & M: John Bell

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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

May 8 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am 12:15pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) United Methodist Women
May 10 – Tuesday	10:30am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Online Fitness (via Zoom) TRDP: Food Pantry
May 11 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
May 12 – Thursday	6:30pm – 7:45pm	Choir rehearsal
May 13 – Friday	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
May 14 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
May 15 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)

WE ARE FAMILY

Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission
Stewardship Campaign

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!*

OUR GUEST PREACHER: MARTHA CHAPMAN



Martha Chapman is an active member of The Church of the Village. She is currently the Chair of the Vision and Ministry Council, serves on the Finance Committee and coordinates Dance Ministries. She is a Co-director of the [Omega Dance Company](#), in residence at the Church of the Village, where she has danced and choreographed for close to 30 years. Her professional life is as a dance teacher at several NYC dance studios, teaching ballet for all ages; prior to this she performed in regional ballet companies across the US and internationally. She joined the Washington Square UMC, a predecessor congregation, in 1995 after attending there in the 1980s under the pastorship of Rev. Paul Abels.

LOVERS, REBELS, & PROPHETS

A New Worship Series

April 24 – June 5



The Church of the Village has a rich history of loving radically, pushing against oppressive structures, and speaking the truth people need to hear. This series will explore the living history of COTV in the form of stories, reflections, sermons, and other opportunities to hear and share about where we've been. We will dive into the beliefs that have rooted and grown with us as a community, and we reflect on how the past influences the present, as we continually create new "history" to pass on.

UMCOR: UKRAINE



United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries. Visit <https://umcmission.org/umcor/ukraine/> for more information.

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

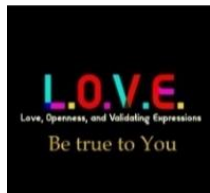
Join us Thursdays 6:30-7:45pm onsite: 201 West 13th St, NY, NY 10011)

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

Summer Sessions: June, July, August will meet after worship (12pm) on the 1st Sunday of the month.



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.

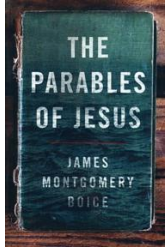
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212

Passcode: fitness

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE PARABLES OF JESUS*

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



A new Bible Study, *The Parables of Jesus* by James Montgomery Boice, begins Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

"Some sections of the Bible give us grand theology. Some move us to grateful responses to God. But the parables break through mere words and make us ask whether there has indeed been any real difference in our lives." - James Montgomery Boice

Boice brings Jesus' words to bear on life today. Through his careful study and clear explanation of each parable he helps us understand just what Jesus meant, and how our hearts and lives ought to respond.

This author shares the meaning that is in scripture and adds some historical facts of the culture and other background information that will help everyone understand the meaning of each parable. He also shares different viewpoints and shares the viewpoints of Bible commentators of the past. If you enjoy the parables and want to understand them better, this is the Bible Study to help you. Jesus' parables are memorable for a reason. Discover their power for yourself.

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

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 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!

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-YOX3>.

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.



United Women in Faith* Assembly 2022
May 20-22, 2022

(*aka United Methodist Women)

Questions? Email scape131@aol.com

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 to the public in December 2021. Currently, we are still practicing masking and social distancing but not requiring proof of vaccination to enter the building.

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: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com