



the
**Church
of
the Village**

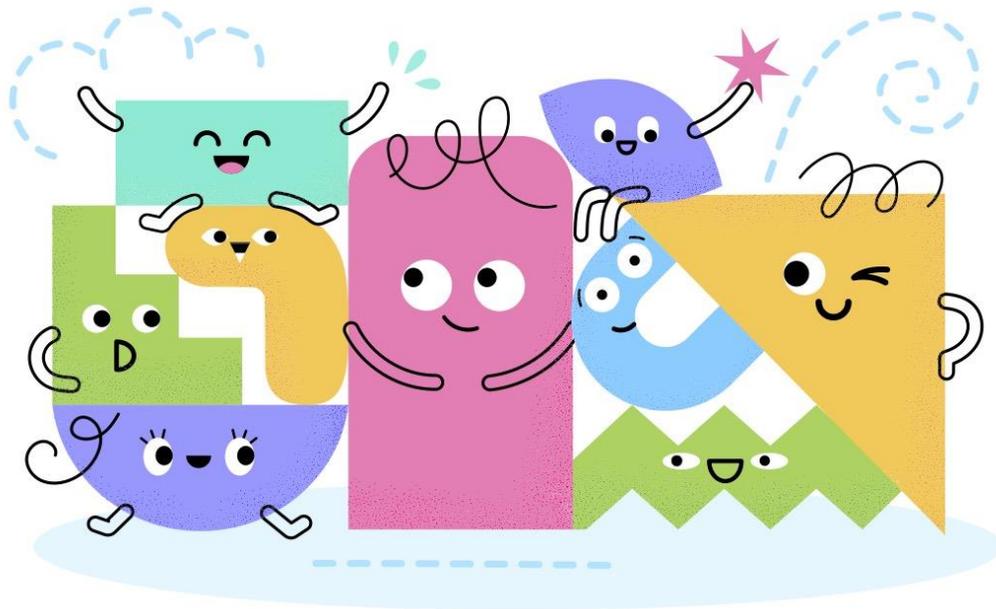


A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

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

March 19, 2023 • Fourth 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**



***Who Counts?
A Family Sunday at COTV***

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

*Fanga Alafia**
(call and response)

Fanga alafia: **Ashe! Ashe!**
Fanga alafia: **Ashe! Ashe!**

Welcome into our heart: **Ashe! Ashe!**
We’ll never be apart: **Ashe! Ashe!**

Gladness will be our song: **Ashe! Ashe!**
Justice will be our dance: **Ashe! Ashe!**

*Fanga: A traditional Yoruba dance of welcome.

Alafia: A greeting wishing the well-being of the person being greeted.

Ashe: Yoruba word that speaks of the force of life that flows from the Creator and joins all things.

WELCOME

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

Jesu Tawa Pano / Jesus We Are Here

Jesus we are here ///
we are here with you

Jesu Tawa Pano ///
tawa pano muzita renyu

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Matthew 22:34-40 & Luke 15:1-7
*(adapted from *The Inclusive Bible*)*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: “Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?”

Jesus answered: ““You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your

mind.’ That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law is based – and the Prophets as well.”

A Word that shows us how to live.
Thanks be to God!

Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!”

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, doesn’t leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and search for the lost one until it’s found? And finding it, you put the sheep on your shoulders in jubilation. Once home, you invite friends and neighbors in and say to them, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.

MESSAGE

Who Counts?
A Family Sunday at COTV

Pastor Alexis Lillie
Minister for Leadership and Congregational Development,
Church of the Village

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

**How can we help each other?
What can we do when we hurt each other?**

Welcome to the Table

**Welcome to the Table!!!
And you...are welcome to the Feast!**

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

Why do we do communion every Sunday?
What do we want God to do in this moment with us?
What do we want to see happen in the world?

In preparation for Communion, we encourage those online to prepare elements for participation, such as bread or cracker and juice or another beverage.

Thank you, God!

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

The bread which we break together, is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup, over which we give thanks, is a sharing in the life of Christ.

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

No One Is Alone (from Into the Woods)
Soloist: Suzie Wilder

Mother cannot guide you.	People make mistakes.
Now you're on your own.	Fathers, mothers, people make mistakes,
Only me beside you.	holding to their own, thinking they're alone.
Still, you're not alone	Honor their mistakes, everybody makes,
No one is alone, truly	one another's terrible mistakes.
No one is alone	Witches can be right.
Sometimes people leave you	Giants can be good.
halfway through the wood.	You decide what's right
Others may deceive you.	You decide what's good.
You decide what's good	Just remember:
You decide alone.	Someone is on your side.
But no one is alone.	

Someone else is not.
While we're seeing our side,
maybe we forgot: they are not alone.
No one is alone.

Hard to see the light now,
just don't let it go
Things will turn out right now,
we can make it so.
Someone is on your side.
No one is alone.

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 pray...

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: Jason Brubaker

Dance Ministry: Maura Burns & Aliyah Miller

Call to Offering: Sam Winfrey

Altar Design: Martha Chapman

Visuals Design: 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

Sax & Electric Bass: Matthew Willis

Organ: Michael Johnson

Keyboard: Katie Reimer

Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga

Ushers: Sam Winfrey

Ministers of Care: Monica Quintero (onsite) & TBD (online)

Zoom Host: Calvin Miller

Zoom Chat: Gabriel Borges

CREDITS

*Cover Image: iStock Image #1458689427, by Ilia Shkliar,
Used by permission.jpg*

Fanga Alafia

W & M: West African Greeting Song

Jesu Tawa Pano / Jesus We Are Here / Heme aquí, Jesús

W & M: Patrick Matsikenyiri

© 1990, 1996 General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik.

Onelicense.net # A-725898

Welcome to the Table

W & M: Connie Borchard

© Connie Borchard. Used by permission.

No One Is Alone

W & M: Stephen Sondheim

© 1986 Riling Music Inc. & W B Music Corp.

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 19 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
March 21 – Tuesday	10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm	COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry
March 22 – Wednesday	9:00am 6:30pm 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
March 25 – Saturday	11:00am 11:30am – 2:00pm	UWF Communion Brunch TRDP: Community Meal
March 26 – 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!*

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.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ANNUAL COMMUNION BRUNCH: MOSAIC IN FAITH

Saturday, March 25, 2023, 11am – 2pm ET; Continental Breakfast and Light Lunch will be served.



United
Women
in Faith

You are invited to Metropolitan's District's Annual
Communion Brunch!

Guest Speaker: **Katie Reimer**

Donation \$25

Registration Deadline: March 17, 2023

For more information visit: churchofthevillage.org/unity-women-in-faith-communion-brunch-2023

ANTI-RACISM CONVERSATIONS

THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY IN RACISM

Friday, March 24, 7pm ET



Presenter: Jennifer Pinkney-Pastor

Assistant Professor Social Sciences,
Human Services and Criminal Justice
Borough of Manhattan Community
College

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

Assistant Professor Social Sciences,
Human Services and Criminal Justice
Borough of Manhattan Community
College

Join 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.

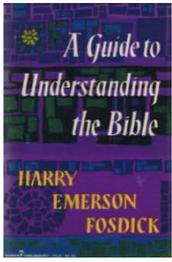
Join us via [Zoom!](#)

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: scape131@aol.com

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: quinteromm@gmail.com

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com