



# WE GATHER

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME VIDEO

## CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER

For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet  
Joy Harjo

Put down that bag of potato chips, that white bread, that bottle of pop. Turn off that cellphone, computer, and remote control. Open the door, then close it behind you. Take a breath offered by friendly winds. They travel the earth gathering essences of plants to clean. Give it back with gratitude. If you sing it will give your spirit lift to fly to the stars' ears and back. Acknowledge this earth who has cared for you since you were a dream planting itself precisely within your parents' desire. Let your moccasin feet take you to the encampment of the guardians who have known you before time, who will be there after time. They sit before the fire that has been there without time. Let the earth stabilize your postcolonial insecure jitters. Be respectful of the small insects, birds and animal people who accompany you. Ask their forgiveness for the harm we humans have brought down upon them. Don't worry.

The heart knows the way though there may be high-rises, interstates, checkpoints, armed soldiers, massacres, wars, and those who will despise you because they despise themselves. The journey might take you a few hours, a day, a year, a few years, a hundred, a thousand or even more. Watch your mind. Without training it might run away and leave your heart for the immense human feast set by the thieves of time.

Do not hold regrets.

When you find your way to the circle, to the fire kept burning by the keepers of your soul, you will be welcomed. You must clean yourself with cedar, sage, or other healing plant. Cut the ties you have to failure and shame. Let go the pain you are holding in your mind, your shoulders, your heart, all the way to your feet. Let go the pain of your ancestors to make way for those who are heading in our direction.

Ask for forgiveness.

Call upon the help of those who love you. These helpers take many forms: animal, element, bird, angel, saint, stone, or ancestor. Call your spirit back. It may be caught in corners and creases of shame, judgment, and human abuse. You must call in a way that your spirit will want to return. Speak to it as you would to a beloved child. Welcome your spirit back from its wandering. It may return in pieces, in tatters. Gather them together. They will be happy to be found after being lost for so long. Your spirit will need to sleep awhile after it is bathed and given clean clothes. Now you can have a party. Invite everyone you know who loves and supports you. Keep room for those who have no place else to go. Make a giveaway, and remember, keep the speeches short. Then, you must do this: help the next person find their way through the dark.

## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Good to Be Alive*

**It's so good to be, to be here all together  
It's so good to be, so good to be alive  
Thank you, God, for this goodness.  
So good to be, to be alive.**

We've gathered here as a family of seekers  
to be transformed into what is yet to be.  
This is why we sing, this is why we say today:  
Thank you, God, we're on our way!

## WE PROCLAIM

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 3:20-35 (adapted from *the New Revised Standard Version*)

Jesus went home; and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." Jesus called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then Jesus' mother and brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." Jesus replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

This is a Word of Welcoming Unity.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### MESSAGE

*Call Yourself Back*

**Pastor Alexis Lillie**

Minister of Leadership and Congregational Development, Church of the Village  
New York City

## WE RESPOND

### WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

*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.**

## INVITATION

God be with you.  
And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts.  
We lift them to you, Eternal One.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Friends, these are gifts of God for you and for all people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Come, Bring Your Burdens to God*

**Come, bring your burdens to God,  
come, bring thanksgiving to God,  
come, bring your burdens to God,  
bring all that's within you to God.**

## TIME OF OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

## CLOSING HYMN

*Color Esperanza*

Sé qué hay en tus ojos con solo mirar,  
que estás cansada de andar y de andar  
y caminar girando siempre en un lugar.  
Sé que las ventanas se pueden abrir  
Cambiar el aire depende de ti;  
te ayudará, vale la pena una vez más.

**Saber que se puede, querer que se pueda,  
quitarse los miedos, sacarlos afuera;  
pintarse la cara color esperanza;  
tentar al futuro con el corazón.**

I can see it clearly deep in your eyes  
I see you're tired of struggling with life  
with each reprise, the vicious cycle never dies.  
But, I also know there's always a chance;  
that life can offer new ways to dance.  
God is at hand, the Spirit calls beyond your plans.

**Let's trust it can happen, allow it to happen,  
release fear, replace it with hope everlasting.  
Let's paint all our faces *color esperanza*  
enticing the future with wide, open hearts.**

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

## BLESSING

To join conversation with Pastor Alexis Lillie,  
type the word “PREACHER” in capital letters into the chat.

If you’d like to connect to the Welcome Team,  
type “WELCOME” in capital letters in the chat.

For those who want to talk or pray with a Minister of Care, you can be in a breakout Room  
one-on-one with Virginia Riker by typing “CARE” in capital letters in the chat.  
(Please be aware that you may have to wait a couple minutes if someone is “in line” ahead of you.)

## **WORSHIP HOSTS**

**Worship Design Team:** Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts  
**PowerPoint Design:** Emilee Davis, Danielle Haupt, Katie Reimer  
**Worship Leader:** Alexa Ray  
**Prayers of the People:** Erich Dietrich  
**Time of Offering:** Stewardship Team  
**Dance Ministry:** Maura Burns  
**Minister of Care:** Virginia Riker  
**Vocalists:** Katie Braden, Alfida Figueroa, John C. Flake, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Jorge Lockward, Paul Pillitteri,  
Katie Reimer, Rebecca Watts & Suzie Wilder  
**Saxophone & Flute:** Matthew Willis  
**Keyboard:** Katie Reimer, Jorge Lockward & Rebecca Watts  
**Bass:** Richard Garretson  
**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga  
**Zoom Host:** Paul Pillitteri  
**Zoom Visual Host:** Emilee Davis  
**Zoom Chat Host:** Maya Carter  
**Zoom Usher:** Karen Hackett  
**Onsite Usher:** Sam Winfrey  
**Zoom Video Host:** Sarah Alphin  
**Sound Engineer:** Inti Maldonado

## **CREDITS**

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### ***For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet***

W & M: Joy Harjo

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### ***Good To Be Alive***

W & M: Marvin E. Swimpson

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### ***Softly and Tenderly***

W: Will L. Thompson. Adapted by Jorge Lockward & Katie Reimer

M: Will L. Thompson

### ***Color Esperanza***

W & M: Cachorro López, Coti Sorokin & Diego Torres

## 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](mailto: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](http://churchofthevillage.org).

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>June 6 – Sunday</b>	10:30am	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
<b>June 7 – Monday</b>	9:30am	Agape Sangha Meditation Group (via Zoom)
<b>June 8 – Tuesday</b>	10:00am (new time) 3:30pm – 5:30pm 6:30pm – 7:45pm	Fitness Class (via Zoom) TRDP (HNN): Food Pantry Choir Rehearsal
<b>June 9 – Wednesday</b>	6:30pm – 8:30pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
<b>June 10 – Thursday</b>	9:30am	Agape Sangha Meditation Group (via Zoom)
<b>June 11 – Friday</b>	9:30am – 10:15am	Together in Prayer conference call dial:(559) 546-1200 Code: 533-689-191
<b>June 12 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP (HNN): Community Meal
<b>June 13 – Sunday</b>	10:30am 12:15pm	Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) United Methodist Women (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:

- **BANK TRANSFER:** You can make individual gifts or your regular pledged offering by setting up an electronic bank transfer from your account to the church's account; there are no fees for this service to you or to the church.
- **VENMO:** You can also give online using [Venmo](#) – a digital wallet that lets you make and make payments or gifts via your mobile device with no fee. On Venmo, you can find us by typing: @COTVNYC. Venmo can be downloaded, for free, for iOS and/or Androids using your respective app store.
- **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](mailto: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>

## VIBRANT LIVING

~ Flourishing in the Messiness of Life ~



*"Life is about using the whole box of crayons." - RuPaul*

What does it take to open ourselves to a vibrant life? Why do we sometimes struggle to cry out in pain, to roar with laughter, or to stay in awe? How can we resist the numbness and fear that prevents us from flourishing?

This worship series listens for the way of the Spirit, who leads us to vitality in the midst of the complications and struggles of our lives. The Spirit releases us from a limited palette into all the sparkling colors of human experience. The Spirit brings us closer to each other, closer to the Earth, and closer to ourselves. Join us as we learn to come fully alive in resonance with the Spirit. Come and experience a vibrant life through extravagant welcome, Spirit-filled worship and loving community.

Join us Online: Sundays, May 30 - July 18 at 10:30am ET / 9:30am CT / 7:30am PT

## COTV CHOIR

**Tuesdays from 6:30pm – 7:45pm**

Our fabulous Choir is back in session! All voices are welcome.

Join us via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86979925984> every Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:45pm.

## TUESDAY FITNESS CLASS

**Tuesday mornings; NEW TIME 10:00am beginning in June**

Join COTV Member Lina and trainer at 10:00am Tuesday mornings & GET MOVING!

Join us via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89405467584?pwd=ZjhKUUh2VVZyMkRMNW5QeFlmU0kvZz09>

## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

**Friday mornings; 9:30am**

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 by conference call Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15am. For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at [smcapers99@gmail.com](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com).

## DECOMPRESS AND SHARE CALL

Is on summer hiatus. We will return this fall. For more information please contact [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org).

## AGAPE SANGHA MEDITATION GROUP

Will be on summer hiatus beginning June 10.

For more information about Agape Sangha Meditation please contact Joy Sanjek at [joyfulwork47@gmail.com](mailto:joyfulwork47@gmail.com).

## L.O.V.E. (LGBTQA+ group)

**First Thursday of the month, (June – August) at 8:00pm**

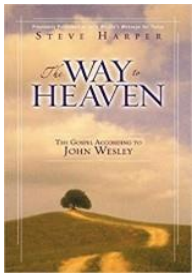
Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions)! **Summer schedule:** We will meet the first Thursday of each month (June, July, August) at 8pm ET via this [link](#) to discuss a variety of topics, grow friendships, and gather support from one another.

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](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org). Join Us via Zoom.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE WAY TO HEAVEN*



### Wednesdays; 6:30pm

The Way to Heaven is a twentieth-anniversary revision of John Wesley's Message for Today. Dr. Steve Harper presents Wesley's writings and the ideas of Wesley scholars in language that is clear and accessible but never simplistic. Written in the spirit of Wesley, here are "plain words for plain people." The heart of this book is a thoughtful and inspiring look at Wesley's theology of grace and its power to transform.

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 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

## ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

You can find many resources and suggestions for anti-racism study, conversation, donations, and activism on our website. In addition, our emails Monday through Friday, nearly every day, include links to articles, protests, events, and other ways to learn and participate. For more information and/or to sign up for the Daily Inspiration emails, go to our website: [churchofthevillage.org](http://churchofthevillage.org).

## THE RED DOOR PLACE (HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED)



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 (HNN) – NEEDS MONEY FOR FOOD!***

**The huge increase in unemployment and homelessness** means that The Red Door Place (HNN) 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 (HNN) 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 (HNN) 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 VENMO app – by typing @COTVNYC. Or, [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app makes it easy to give when and where you want. Or, send checks made payable to Church of the Village and write The Red Door Place (HNN) 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 VENMO**

The Church of the Village is now on Venmo – a digital wallet that lets you make and share payments with friends via your mobile device at no additional charge. Both the sender and receiver have to live in the U.S. Venmo can be downloaded, for free, for iOS and/or Androids using your respective play store. Look us up @COTVNYC.

### **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 join the Prayer Partners team, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers ([smcapers99@gmail.com](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com)) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at [ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer](http://ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer).

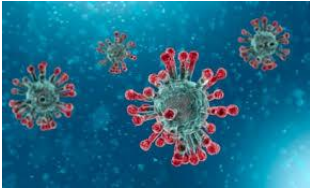
### **COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK**

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshipping community, but when you can't join us for Sunday worship, you can view the worship recording anytime at [Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos](https://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](http://ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons). We encourage you to read and share them with others.

## **CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE COVID-19 RESPONSE**



The Church of the Village continues to bloom during this time of pandemic. Below are the changes we are currently adapting to as this situation continues to evolve and unfold. Through it all, we trust that God is always with us.

### **WORSHIP**

Worship has continued to thrive during this time of COVID-19. The Worship Vision Team has made substantial changes to our worship services, and we are currently worshipping fully online, with a few leaders in the sanctuary as we begin re-engaging our physical space. We are now deeply committed to being an online / onsite congregation. As we consider how to safely, justly, and responsibly, invite people back onsite in the future, we will maintain vibrant online worship and continue to create connected virtual community.

We strive to involve as many voices as possible in leading worship and to find new ways to open space for participation and communal interaction, such as hand gestures during songs, call and response moments in the liturgy, moments where all gathered are invited to harvest their experience of worship in the Zoom chat, and space for casual conversation before and after worship. We are grateful to our many singers, instrumentalists, various worship leaders, Stream Team members, PowerPoint team, and others who make our virtual worship so participatory, meaningful, and smooth!

### **COMMUNION**

We are continuing to explore ways to get at the essence of communion even as we are not able to gather together in person. We are using this season to experience communion in a fresh way, where we are still coming together to meet God and each other at one table.

### **GROW AND CONNECT GROUPS**

We remain committed to powerful connection across distance and are continuing to offer small groups virtually during pandemic. For details on specific groups, see the information above. Also, please [subscribe to our mailing list](#) to stay informed of schedules, topics, and new offerings.

### **HEALING AND SUPPORT**

Our church has increased our offerings for healing and support through the week since physical distancing became the new normal. We offer a Fitness Class with Lina Tuesdays at 10:00am beginning in June. What used to be the Daily Prayer Call is now Decompress and Share, offered via Zoom/phone (Weds. & Fri., 6:30pm). All of these are ways that people can receive regular support and connection during this difficult time.

### **THE RED DOOR PLACE (aka HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (HNN))**

While many emergency food programs around NYC have had to close their doors during this difficult time, we have been able to adapt the ways we offer food to people in need, to minimize the risk to our guests, volunteers, and staff. We are proud to continue serving over 4,000 people each week through this vital ministry. Special thanks to Teresa Concepción for her leadership and creativity, and to our many volunteers who make it possible for this ministry to continue. We also have two chaplains, Sarah Capers and Regina Cassidy, available to guests of HNN for online prayer and support.



## 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](mailto:PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: [PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: [Jorge@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Jorge@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (917) 723-0169

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: [Office@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Office@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.10

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place (aka Hope for Our Neighbors in Need)

Email: [Teresa@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:Teresa@churchofthevillage.org)

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.28

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: [marthachapman62@gmail.com](mailto:marthachapman62@gmail.com)

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: [scape131@aol.com](mailto:scape131@aol.com)

Virginia Riker, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: [livnyc@gmail.com](mailto:livnyc@gmail.com)

Katie Reimer, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: [reimerkatie@gmail.com](mailto:reimerkatie@gmail.com)