

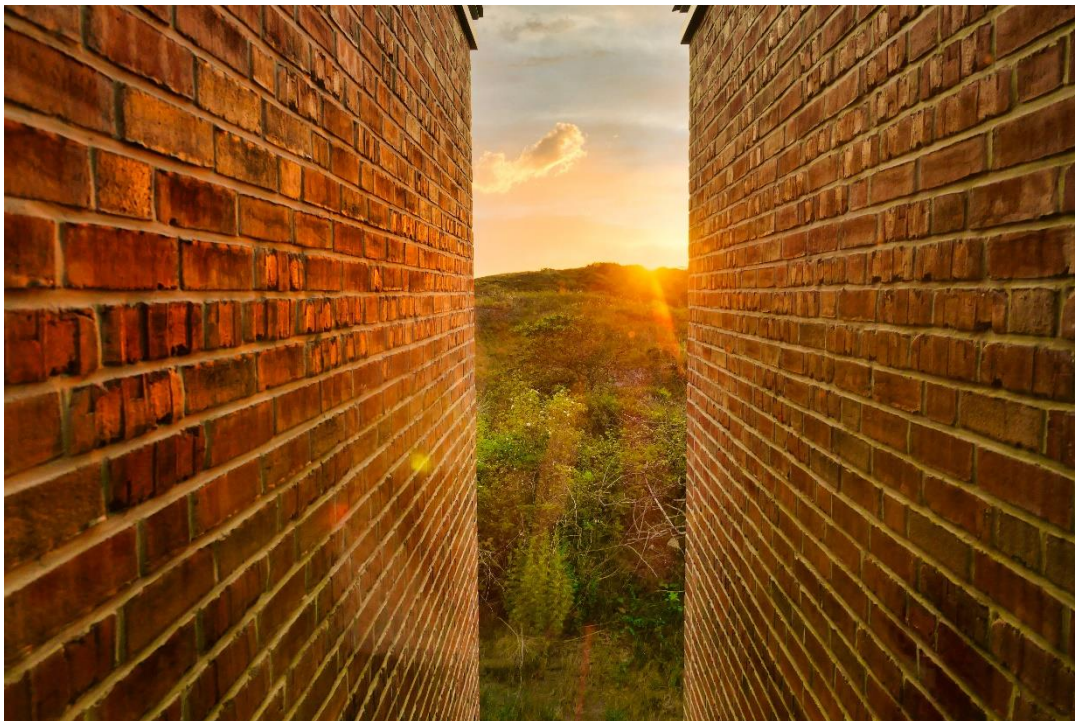


A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470  
[www.churchofthevillage.org](http://www.churchofthevillage.org) • [facebook.com/churchofthevillage](https://facebook.com/churchofthevillage)  
[office@churchofthevillage.org](mailto:office@churchofthevillage.org)

## **August 13, 2023 • Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**Black Lives Matter / Welcome the Stranger, including Migrants and Refugees  
Stop Hate Against Muslims, Jews, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders**



# **Spirit Journeys: Still Searching for Meaning**

## 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

*Psalm 131:2-3a*

**O God, my heart has no lofty ambitions,  
my eyes don't look too high.  
I am not concerned with great affairs  
or marvels beyond my scope.  
It's enough for me to keep my soul tranquil  
and quiet like a child in its mother's arms;  
my soul is as content as a nursing child.**

My soul is at rest in God alone, my salvation comes from God.

## WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

### WE PROCLAIM

### CALL TO LISTEN

*Wade in the Water*

**Wade in the water  
Wade in the water, children,  
wade in the water,  
God's gonna trouble the water**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Genesis 3: 8-19, (adapted from The Inclusive Bible)*

When they heard the sound of YHWH walking in the garden in the cool of the evening, the man and the woman hid from YHWH's presence among the trees of the garden. YHWH called to the man: "Where are you?" "I heard you walking in the garden," replied the man. "I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid." "Who told you of nakedness? Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I forbade you to eat?" The man replied, "It was the woman you put beside me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it."

Then YHWH asked the woman, "What is this that you have done?"  
The woman replied, "The snake tempted me, so I ate."

Then YHWH said to the snake, "Because you have done this, you are accursed: lower than the cattle, lower than the wild beasts, you will crawl on your belly and eat dust every day of your life. I will make you enemies of one another, you and the woman, your offspring and hers; Her offspring will wound you on the head, and you will wound hers in the heel."

To the woman God said, "I will greatly multiply your pains in childbearing; you will bear your children in pain. You will desire union with your man, but he will be bent on subjugating you."

To the man God said, "Because you listened to your woman and have eaten from the tree which I forbade you, when I said, 'You are not to eat from it,' the earth will be cursed because of you! With painstaking labor you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will yield thorns and thistles when you try to eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat bread, until you return to the earth, just as you were taken from it. You are dust, and to dust you will return."

The Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

**Spirit Journeys: Still Searching for Meaning**

**Rev. Jim Norton, Guest Preacher**

## WE RESPOND

### WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

*When Our Confidence Is Shaken*



When our con - fi - dence\_ is\_\_\_ sha - ken in be - liefs we  
So - lar sy - stems, void\_\_ of\_\_\_ mean - ing, freeze the spi - rit  
In the dis - ci - pline\_\_ of\_\_\_ pra - ying, when it's hard - est  
God is love, and thus\_\_\_ re - deems us in the Christ we



thought se - cure, when the spi - rit in its sick - ness seeks but  
 in - to stone; al - ways our re - search - es lead us to the  
 to be - lieve; in the drud - ge - ry of ca - ring, when it's  
 cru - ci - fy; this is God's e - ter - nal ans - wer to the



can - not find a cure, God is ac - tive in the ten - sions  
 ul - ti - mate un - known. Faith must die, or come full cir - cle  
 not e - nough to grieve; faith, ma - tu - ring, learns ac - cep - tance  
 world's e - ter - nal why. May we in this faith ma - tu - ring



of a faith not yet ma - ture, of a faith not yet ma - ture.  
 to its source in God a - lone, to its source in God a - lone.  
 of the in - sights we re - ceive, of the in - sights we re - ceive.  
 be con - tent to live and die, be con - tent to live and die!

\*\*\*\*\*

One: God be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!  
**All: Our hearts are lifted!**

One: Let us give thanks to God!  
**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\*\*\*\*\*

*(call and echo)*

**Le-lo Le-lo Lai-lo (3x)**  
**Lo-le Lo-le Lo-lai.**

**Holy, holy, holy,**  
**God of loving pow'r.**  
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**  
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

# SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

## 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](mailto:giving@churchofthevillage.org)  
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

## OFFERTORY

*Summertime*  
from George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*

## GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*For One Great Peace*

This block contains musical notation for the 'Grateful Response' section. It consists of four staves of music in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/2 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some lines split across two staves. The lyrics are: 'This thread I weave, this step I dance, this pot I shape, this fire I light, this check I write, this march I join, this stone I carve, this ball I bounce, this fence I leap, this bone I knit, this faith I state, this truth I sign, this nail I drive, this pearl I string, this seed I nurse, this rift I mend, this is small part, in one small place, this flag I wave, this note I sing, this child I raise, this earth I tend, of one heart's beat for one great Peace.'

This thread I weave, this step I dance,  
this pot I shape, this fire I light,  
this check I write, this march I join,  
this stone I carve, this ball I bounce,  
this fence I leap, this bone I knit,  
this faith I state, this truth I sign,  
this nail I drive, this pearl I string,—  
this seed I nurse, this rift I mend,—  
this is small part, in one small place,—  
this flag I wave, this note I sing,  
this child I raise, this earth I tend,  
of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

# WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

*O Healing River*

**O healing river, send down your waters,  
send down your waters upon this land.  
O healing river, send down your waters,  
O healing river, send your waters down.**

**This land is parching, this land is burning,  
no seed is growing in the barren ground.  
O healing river, send down your waters,  
O healing river, send your waters down.**

**We long for wholeness, we long for healing,  
we long for justice, we long for peace.  
O healing river, send down your waters,  
O healing river, send your waters down.**

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:** Elizabeth Levanah

**Call to Offering:** Paul Pillitteri

**Altar Design:** John C. Flake

**Visuals Design:** Katie Reimer & Bailey Roach

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

**Sax/Clarinet/Flute:** Matthew Willis

**Organ:** Michael Johnson

**Keyboard:** Jorge Lockward

**Drums & Percussion:** Juan Felipe Mayorga

**Ushers:** Sam Winfrey

**Ministers of Care:** Sam Winfrey (on-site) & Monica Quintero (online)

**Zoom Host:** Gabriel Borges

**Zoom Chat:** Calvin Miller

## CREDITS

*Cover Image: iStock Image #1285374341, by Nektarstock, Used by permission*

### ***My Soul Is at Rest***

W & M: Jacques Berthier

© 1991 *Les Presses de Taizé*

(admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

### ***Wade in the Water***

W & M: African American Spiritual

### ***When Our Confidence is Shaken***

W: Fred Pratt Green

M: CWM RHONDA

### ***For One Great Peace***

W: Shirley Erena Murray

M: Jim Strathdee

W: ©1992 *Hope Publishing Co. Music*

© 1998 *Desert Flower Music*

*Onelicense.net # A-725898*

### ***Healing River***

W&M: Fred Hellerman & Fran Minkoff

© 1964 (renewed), *Appleseed Music, Inc.*

*Onelicense.net # A-725898*

## 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>August 13 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:15pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet United Women in Faith
<b>August 15 – Tuesday</b>	2:00pm – 5:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry
<b>August 16 – Wednesday</b>	9:00am 6:30pm	Together in Prayer (via Zoom) Bible Study
<b>August 19 – Saturday</b>	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
<b>August 20 – Sunday</b>	10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm 12:00pm	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Community Closet Exploring Faith (following worship)



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

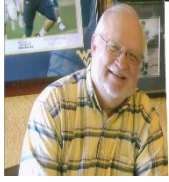
We all work together as members and supporters of our spiritual community to foster the ministries and mission of the Church of the Village. Here are ways you can offer your gifts:

- **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](mailto: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](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!*

## OUR GUEST PREACHER: REV. JIM NORTON



Jim Norton is a retired United Methodist pastor who served for 46 years, mostly in West Virginia. His education includes a major in English, two minors (Speech and Philosophy), an M.Div. degree from Duke University (major focus in Pastoral Psychology), post-graduate work at the University of Tennessee and the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute (focusing on Family Systems theory and practice).

He lives with his wife, Polly, a retired Human Resources Director, and their son, Trevor, in Fairmont, WV.

## HOMECOMING POTLUCK

September 17, 2023 after worship in the COTV gym.

Bring a dish to share. Food signups use the QR code here.



## COMMUNITY CLOSET

Sundays, Noon to 1pm.

Community Closet is seeking donations!



Ready to let go of some of your gently used clothing and accessories? Make space in your closet by helping to stock our free, inclusive, and identity-affirming community closet. Contributions can be brought to COTV on Sundays or email Pastor Alexis to arrange a possible pick-up!

Spread the word! Church of the Village's Community Closet will be available every Sunday for 1 hour after service in the narthex. All are welcome to browse the racks and shop for free! If you know of someone who may be desiring a new style or a wardrobe change, please invite them to check us out! We have a variety of styles and sizes but are especially looking for donations of womenswear in sizes 10 and above as well as menswear in good condition. Interested in hosting the Community Closet after service one Sunday? Sign up here or e-mail [Beccalove123@gmail.com](mailto:Beccalove123@gmail.com) for more info!

## DANCE PRAYER

Every third Thursday of the month, 6:30pm-7:30pm



Join us in the sanctuary every third Thursday of the month for Dance Prayer! We will come together with an opening prayer and moment of reflection and then spend 45 minutes moving our bodies and dancing together to a diverse playlist. There will be no designated choreography and no final performance, just a joyful space to connect with your own rhythm while rejoicing in the gift of dance and community. Each gathering will then close with a moment of prayer and reflection before we part ways.

## HEALING CONVERSATIONS

(Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month); 12:30pm

Healing Conversations is a place to share your feelings about the losses in your life in a safe, supportive, and friendly atmosphere. Your feelings of loss may be caused by events that are recent or in the distant past. You are invited to join our small group on site or online via Zoom (**Meeting ID:** 838 5366 1938 **Passcode:** 690827).

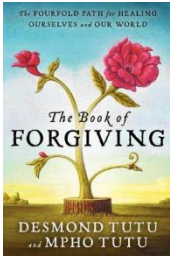
## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

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](mailto:smcapers99@gmail.com).

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: *THE BOOK OF FORGIVING*

Wednesdays; 6:30pm



There have been times when each and every one of us has needed to forgive. There have also been times when each and every one of us needed to be forgiven. And there will be many more times again. Out of brokenness we hurt others, and forgiveness is the journey we take towards healing the broken parts. It is how we become whole again.

Join us as we study “The Fourfold Path to Healing” outlined in “The Book of Forgiving” written by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. We would be delighted to have you join us. **Everyone is Welcome.** 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) 687-5321 or visit [www.thereddoorplace.org](http://www.thereddoorplace.org).

**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](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 worshiping 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.



## 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)

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Pastor Alexis Lillie,

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