



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

November 27, 2022 • First Sunday of Advent

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



Living in the In-Betweenness

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.”

GATHERING SONG

Hope Will Not Fail

**Hope will not fail,
no, hope will not fail.
Though anguish and apathy seem to prevail,
no, hope will not fail;
hope, hope will prevail.**

**Believe in the power, the power of hope!
Though anguish and apathy seem to prevail,
no, hope will not fail; hope, hope will prevail.**

WELCOME

CELEBRATION OF NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

We Sing in Praise of God’s Love

WE PROCLAIM

CALL TO LISTEN

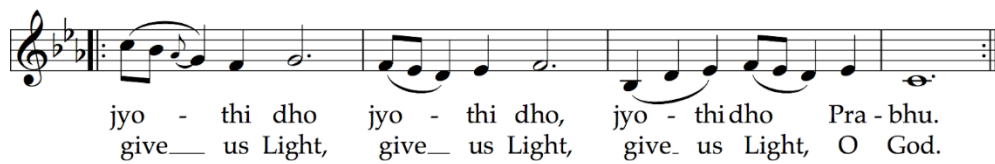
Jyothi do Prabhu (Give Us Light)

call and response

Jyo - thi dho, jyo - thi dho, jyo - thi dho Pra - bhu.
Give us Light, give us Light, give us Light, O God.

Jyo - thi dho Pra - bhu,
Give us Light, O God,

continues on next page



LESSONS

Luke 1:46b-55 (The Inclusive Bible)

“My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior. For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed. For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name. Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you. You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty. You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy – the promise you made to our ancestors – to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.”

Matthew 1:18-25

When Jesus’ mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly.

This was Joseph’s intention when suddenly the angel of God appeared in a dream and said, “Joseph, heir to the House of David, don’t be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus – ‘Salvation’ – because he will save the people from their sins.”

All this happened to fulfill what God has said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and give birth, and the child will be named Immanuel” – a name that means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed, and they went ahead with the marriage. He did not have intercourse with her until she had given birth; she had a son, and they named him Jesus.

Words of Life for a world in need.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Living in the In-Betweenness

Rev. Jeff Wells
Lead Pastor, *Church of the Village*

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

How do you experience the “in-betweenness” of life – in Advent and beyond?

As the Pauper Waits for Plenty

**As the pauper waits for plenty,
as the weeping wait for mirth,
as a farmer waits for harvest,
and a woman waits for birth,
so do I wait for you.**

**As a songbird waits for morning
and an eaglet waits for flight,
as a flutist waits for music
and an artist waits for light,
so do I wait for you.**

**As the homeless long for shelter
and the weary for a bed,
as the thirsty long for water,
and the hungry long for bread,
so do I long for you.
So do you long for us.**

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

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

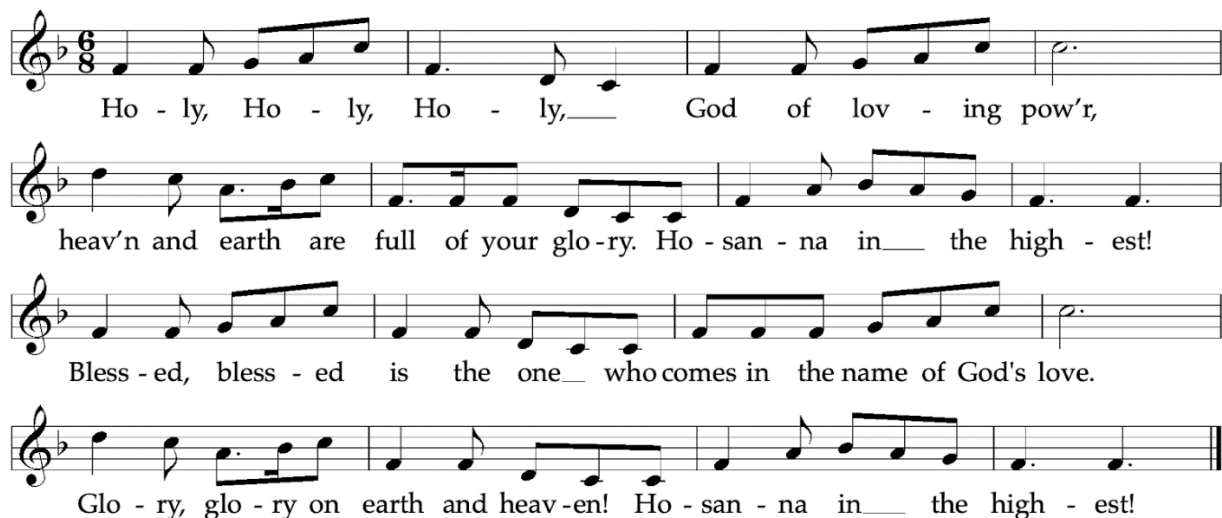
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**God be with you.
And also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts!
Our hearts are lifted!**

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

(call and echo)



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, God of lov - ing pow'r,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed, bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of God's love.
Glo - ry, glo - ry on earth and heav - en! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

Friends, this is the bread of life, broken and given for you and for all.
And this is the cup of salvation, poured out for you and for all.
Thanks be to God.

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

In the Bleak Midwinter

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world! God's Love is come:
let all their praises bring!
Let every heart prepare, make room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!**

**Joy to the Earth! God's justice reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy!**

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, Rev. Jim Norton, Becca Love
Worship Leader: Alfida Figueroa
Dance Ministry: Jeana Musacchio
Call to Offering: Jorge Lockward
Altar Design: Martha Chapman
Visuals Design: Katie Reimer
Vocalists: Emily Austin, Maura Burns, Katie Braden, Isaac Ellis, Alfida Figueroa, Reyno Francisco, Karen Hackett, Michelle Morris, Paul Pillitteri, Katie Reimer, Suzie Wilder
Saxophone & Flute: Matthew Willis
Keyboard: Jorge Lockward
Drums & Percussion: Juan Felipe Mayorga
Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey
Zoom Host: Gabriel Borges
Zoom Chat: Paul Pillitteri

CREDITS

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Hope Will Not Fail

W: David Bjorling (USA)

M: Mark Miller (USA)

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Jyothi do Prabhu (Give Us Light)

W&M: Charles Vas (India)

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and the Christian Conference of Asia, Manila, Philippines.

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As the Pauper Waits for Plenty

W: Delores Dufnet, OSB (USA)

M: Peter Cutts (USA)

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Land of Rest Sanctus

W: Isa. 6:3, Matt. 21:9

M: LAND OF REST, Folk Tune, USA

In the Bleak Midwinter

M: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst

Joy to the World

W: Isaac Watts, alt.

M: Lowell Mason (arr. from G.F. Handel)

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

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| November 27 – Sunday | 10:10am 10:30am | Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) |
| November 29 – Tuesday | 10:00am 2:00pm – 5:00pm | COTV Fitness with Lina TRDP: Food Pantry |
| November 30 – Wednesday | 6:00pm 6:30pm | Bible Study (via Zoom) Choir Rehearsal |
| December 1 – Thursday | 6:00pm – 8:30pm | Pageant Rehearsal |
| December 2 – Friday | 9:00am – 10:00am | Together in Prayer (via Zoom) |
| December 3 – Saturday | 11:30am – 2:00pm | TRDP: Community Meal |
| December 4 – Sunday | 10:10am 10:30am 12:00pm – 3:30pm | Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live) Pageant Rehearsal |

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!*



2022 COTV CHURCH CONFERENCE

Thursday, December 8, 2022, 6:30pm

The Church of the Village will hold a Church Conference on Thursday, December 8 at 6:30 pm. This is the annual meeting of our congregation and the highest decision-making body of our local church. All members of the Church of the Village are encouraged to participate, with voice and vote. This is an important part of being together in beloved community.

Because we will be voting for members of the Board of Trustees, New York State Religious Corporation Law prohibits us from holding a hybrid meeting. Therefore, the Church Conference will be held virtually using Zoom to make it accessible to as many members as possible. A Zoom link will be provided closer to the date of the meeting. Reports and draft documents to be reviewed at the Church Conference will be distributed ahead of the meeting in a digital Conference Bulletin. This year, Rev. Dr. Cathy Gilliard of the Park Avenue UMC will serve as our presiding elder.

In addition to electing Trustees, the Conference will receive reports from administrative committees and ministry teams, vote on the 2023 budget and staff compensation, and vote on the leadership slate for 2023 proposed by the Leadership Discernment and Development Committee (aka "Nominations"). Please join us on December 8, if you are able.

HELD BETWEEN EARTH AND HEAVEN

A New Worship Series

Sundays, November 27 – December 18, 2022



The Life-Light blazed out of the shadows; the shadows couldn't put it out. John 1:5

Life often confronts us with dichotomies: joy in the midst of pain, beauty in the messiness, anticipation conjoined with anxiety. Advent meets us in this liminal space between our realities and deepest yearning and speaks to the experience of "in-betweenness": the messiness, the difficulty, the hope, the promise. At its center, we gather to breathe in the possibility that is found in something tiny, something developing, something wild transpiring beyond our imagination. An invitation to bring heaven and earth closer together

17th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18, 2022, 10:30am ET



Calling ALL Shepherds, Magi, and Angels...

If you'd like to play a part, sing, dance, help with livestream, greet/usher, or your child would like to dance please visit churchofthevillage.org/annual-christmas-pageant-22 or contact Martha Chapman at marthachapman62@gmail.com or 917-705-8570.

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 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

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

2nd Sundays; 12:00pm ET following worship

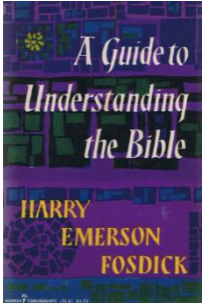


Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions)! We will meet the second Sunday of each month after church for City Adventures — outdoor explorations around the neighborhood and times for connection. All are welcome as we create a safe space to bring our whole selves, learn from each other, and walk our journeys together. For more information, please email

PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org. Join Us via [Zoom](#).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Wednesdays; 6:00pm – beginning September 14, 2022



Our next 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 6:00 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!

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 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://www.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>).

Finally, while not yet widespread, we encourage everyone to be alert to the rising number of cases of Monkeypox. Among those most at-risk are some members of the LGBTQ+ community and people living with HIV. However, this virus is not limited by gender or sexuality and can spread to anyone, anywhere, through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact. The Human Rights Campaign provides excellent resources on their [“What You Need to Know” web page](#).



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

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