



"IN THE DEPTH OF WINTER, I  
FINALLY LEARNED THAT THERE WAS  
IN ME AN INVINCIBLE SUMMER."

- ALBERT CAMUS -

◆ ◆ ◆  
A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE  
◆ ◆ ◆



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello Friends,

Today as I write this, a few small snowflakes are falling outside the window of our Community Church offices on 35th street, and as they fall, they are carried here and there by gusts of wind.

Today, I feel a bit like a snowflake myself: vulnerable, blown in one direction, or another by tragedies. I see tragic wars around the world, including in our own backyard; tragic failures of our systems to keep us our neighbors safe and warm; tragic failures of our communities to instill a sense of safety in the most vulnerable - not to mention an international tragedy in our failure to protect and preserve our natural world in the face of impending climate disaster. As our days grow shorter and nights grow colder, and the world around us looks ever more dangerous and foreboding, it can be easy, even attractive, to indulge in despair. Apathy and hopelessness can begin to look like good common sense.

This year, let us not fall into the trap of isolation and fear. When we name these feelings, and the forces in our world that cause them, we can become free of their power, and find space for joy. This season, let us be intentional about caring for ourselves, and others. Times are tough for us all - and we are not alone in the struggle. Let this message serve as an invitation to reach out - for any reason, or no reason at all - when it all feels like a bit too much. Make space for warmth, and sharing. A phone call can change your day, and the day of another. In my experience, the joy of receiving unsolicited holiday cards is only matched by the joy in sending them. Let us be gentle with ourselves and others, and as we say on Sundays, let care be the watchword of our lives together.

So our light goes out, this winter - everywhere - into the world. May it be so.

Warmly,  
Br. Zachary Stevens-Walter



## EDITOR'S CORNER

As most folks are aware, the end of this year was not the most ideal in a medical sense for yours truly. After 3 hospital visits, doctors were finally able to identify the cause of my pancreatitis and I underwent surgery to have my gallbladder removed. This was my first time going through surgery, as well as the first time in my life I stayed overnight in a hospital—let alone for several nights on multiple occasions. I am not ashamed to admit I was slightly terrified throughout the process, scared that all of the good things that had come into my life in recent years would be lost instantaneously.

What helped put me at ease, and what I will be eternally grateful for, is the grace and care extended to me. Not only by the staff here at The Community Church, but by the congregation and community as a whole. I come from a working-class background and have been working non-stop since I was 14 years old. My first job was as an off-the-books dishwasher making below minimum wage. Now, I have the privilege of not only working in the field I studied, but with and for people who truly care for me and for each other.

Simply knowing that I would be given the time I needed to recover help[ed] put my mind at ease and helped keep my head up even in the darkest moments of this odyssey. I thank you all and look forward to another year of laughter, tears, joy, and—hopefully—less hospital visits.

Sincerely,  
Dylan Rice  
Communications Coordinator

## MINISTERS & STAFF

**Rev. Peggy Clarke**

Senior Minister  
[pclarke@ccny.org](mailto:pclarke@ccny.org)

**Rev. Jude Geiger**

Min. of Community Engagement  
[jgeiger@ccny.org](mailto:jgeiger@ccny.org)

**Br. Zachary Stevens-Walter**

Chaplain  
[zstevenswalter@ccny.org](mailto:zstevenswalter@ccny.org)

**Dr. Janice Marie Johnson**

Commissioned Lay Minister  
[jmjohnson@ccny.org](mailto:jmjohnson@ccny.org)

**Jeff Loveland**

Director of Finance and Operations  
[jloveland@ccny.org](mailto:jloveland@ccny.org)

**Gerald "Jerry" Brown**

Director of Music  
[jbrown@ccny.org](mailto:jbrown@ccny.org)

**Darnell White**

Musician in Residence  
[dwhite@ccny.org](mailto:dwhite@ccny.org)

**Esther Rosado**

Director of Adult Ministries  
[erosado@ccny.org](mailto:erosado@ccny.org)

**Jil Novenski**

Director of Religious Education  
[jnovenski@ccny.org](mailto:jnovenski@ccny.org)

**Dylan Rice**

Communications Coordinator  
[drice@ccny.org](mailto:drice@ccny.org)

**Starling Carter**

Media Coordinator  
[scarter@ccny.org](mailto:scarter@ccny.org)

**Irina Poverny**

Senior Accountant  
[lpoveren@ccny.org](mailto:lpoveren@ccny.org)

**Anthony Taylor**

Sexton  
[ataylor@ccny.org](mailto:ataylor@ccny.org)

**Ameer Ali**

Superintendent

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## COMMITTEES

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
[info@ccny.org](mailto:info@ccny.org)

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
[council@ccny.org](mailto:council@ccny.org)

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
[info@ccny.org](mailto:info@ccny.org)

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**  
[info@ccny.org](mailto:info@ccny.org)

**SHELTER COMMITTEE**  
[zstevenswalter@ccny.org](mailto:zstevenswalter@ccny.org)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
[lesliemck153@gmail.com](mailto:lesliemck153@gmail.com)

**UNGA**  
[UNGA@ccny.org](mailto:UNGA@ccny.org)

**GALLERY35**  
[info@ccny.org](mailto:info@ccny.org)

**ETHELWYN DOOLITTLE JUSTICE  
AND OUTREACH FUND**  
[doolittleccny@gmail.com](mailto:doolittleccny@gmail.com)

**ANTIRACISM ACTION GROUP**  
[erosado@ccny.org](mailto:erosado@ccny.org)

**JOHN HAYNES HOLMES MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
[info@ccny.org](mailto:info@ccny.org)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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WED.  
DEC. 20  
7:00 PM

**SAY HELLO TO...  
THE MANDELBAUMS!**  
ZOOM ROOM: 212 683 4988



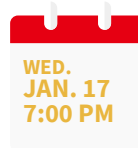
SUNDAY  
DEC. 24  
5:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS  
CAROLING**  
24 East 35th Street



THUR.  
JAN. 4  
11:00 AM

**CONVERSATIONS  
ON ISSUES**  
ZOOM ROOM: 212 683 4988



WED.  
JAN. 17  
7:00 PM

**SAY HELLO TO...  
REV. JUDE GEIGER!**  
ZOOM ROOM: 212 683 4988

*For more details about upcoming events, see the [Calendar page](#) on our website!*

# MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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## COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Join us at 10 Park Ave., Apt 16K for "Community Fellowship" on Sundays at 12:30pm. All are welcome to attend and participate in this informal yet structured gathering, which is led by Commissioned Lay Minister, **Dr. Janice Marie Johnson**.

Check the website and calendar for dates!

## SAY HELLO TO...

The Mandelbaums: Weds., December 20, 7:00 PM  
Rev. Jude Geiger: Weds., January 17, 7:00 PM  
Fay Bennet Lord: Weds., February 21, 7:00 PM  
Use Zoom room **212 683 4988**

## 30s AND 40s BRUNCH

A monthly "brunch" after the service for community members and friends in their thirties and forties!

Check calendar and website for details on locations.  
Contact **Rev. Jude** at [jgeiger@ccny.org](mailto:jgeiger@ccny.org) to RSVP.

## CONVERSATIONS ON ISSUES

Join **Brother Zachary Stevens-Walter** and members of our community every first Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. for "Conversations on Issues"!

Contact Br. Zachary at [zstevenswalter@ccny.org](mailto:zstevenswalter@ccny.org) to learn more.

# WEEKLY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## MONDAY

**Conversations on Self-Care**  
5:30 PM

## TUESDAY

**Council Meeting**  
*First Tuesdays of the month*  
6:30-8 PM

## THURSDAY

**Zoom Art Community**  
2:30 PM  
*(every other week - see website for details)*  
**La Hora del Café**  
7:30 PM

## FRIDAY

**Evening Centering with Dr. Janice Marie Johnson**  
8:00 PM  
*(every other week - see website for details)*

## SATURDAY

**Antiracism Action Group**  
11 AM- 12:30 PM

## WELLSPRING GROUPS

**Deep Questions: Reflecting on our 8 Principles:** Meeting on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 11am - 12:30pm

**Sacred Earth:** Thursdays from 5:30pm-7pm

To learn more and/or join a group, see our website or contact Rev. Jude at [jgeiger@ccny.org](mailto:jgeiger@ccny.org)

**All events are on Zoom.**

## GET INVOLVED!

### PLEDGE DRIVE 2024

Take part in our 2024 Pledge Drive and help support ongoing programs and efforts at the Community Church of New York!

Visit [ccny.org/pledge](https://ccny.org/pledge) to learn more!

### GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE

Break bread at the table with members of our community! If you're interested in hosting an event, contact **Janet Koplos** at [janetkoplos@gmail.com](mailto:janetkoplos@gmail.com)

### UNGA

UNGA is our program on global values, ideas, concerns and initiatives including the United Nations. Reach out to Dana at [UNGA@ccny.org](mailto:UNGA@ccny.org) to discover or develop your own ways to contribute.

### WORSHIP ASSOCIATES

Rev. Peggy is seeking Worship Associates. If you're interested in playing a more active role on Sunday mornings, please let her know by contacting her at [pclarke@ccny.org](mailto:pclarke@ccny.org).

### SERVICE GREETERS

Rev. Jude Geiger is seeking 2 PM Service Greeters. If you're interested in serving as a greeter on Sunday afternoons, please let him know by contacting [jgeiger@ccny.org](mailto:jgeiger@ccny.org).

**Stay tuned for future opportunities to get involved with New York Cares and prison ministry!**



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children & Youth are always welcome at Community!

Whether it's Children's Chapel and Learning Workshops on Sundays or mid-week kids' programs, there are many opportunities for the youngest among us to grow their souls both online and in person.

Community is the place to be!

Visit [CCNY.org](http://CCNY.org) for more information or contact Jill Novenski, the Director of Religious Education for Children & Youth, at [jnovenski@ccny.org](mailto:jnovenski@ccny.org)

## PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES!



### Sunday Morning Zoom Chapel & Learning Workshops

*Sundays on Zoom, 9:30am – 11:00am  
Children & Youth (ages 5-17)*

### Sunday Afternoon Kids' Community

*Sundays in person, 2:00pm – 3:00pm  
Children & Youth (ages 0-17)*

### UU Kids Connect GAME TIME!

*Third Wednesdays on Zoom, 6:30pm – 7:30pm  
Children & Youth (all ages)*

See our website for more information!

*inspired by..*



**Gallery35**, a collective of multi-disciplinary visual artists, continues its 2023-24 season with their November/December exhibit **“Inspired By”**

Our artists were invited to create new work that was inspired by other artists. The show offers an extraordinarily diverse collection of works, some influenced by famous artists (past and contemporary) as well as local art instructors. We were inspired by European artists including Rembrandt, Matisse, Modigliani, Manet, Bonheur, Ingres, Picasso and Bolot, to Japanese artists Tohaku and Kusama, Cuban artist Elso to photographer Haas, to mid-20th century O’Keeffe, Warhol, and Frankenthaler.

An Artists’ Reception was held on Friday, November 19. The entire show can be viewed on Gallery35’s website: [gallery35nyc.com/on-exhibit-now/](https://gallery35nyc.com/on-exhibit-now/)

As with our last show, some of the works can be seen in person at the church’s 10 Park Ave apartment during church activities or by appointment until the end of December. This will be the Gallery35’s venue for future onsite shows over the next few years while awaiting the church’s new location. . The gallery has more exciting exhibitions lined up for the 2023/2024 season.

January/February—Transitions

March/April—City Life

May/June—Just for Fun

Additional onsite shows will be presented down the road.

Watch for announcements on our gallery website: [gallery35nyc.com](https://gallery35nyc.com)



## SUPPORT IN COMMUNITY

Thank you for being part of our community! Our church thrives through the active participation of community. There are many ways for you to share your gifts and talents with us.



**Join us for service on Sundays at 2pm. Learn more about our church and our program offerings**



**Set up a payment with your bank for one-time or automatic payments**



**Text ccuugive to 73256 and follow the prompts**



**Visit our website: [ccny.org/giving](http://ccny.org/giving)**

For news and updates about programs and events at Community Church, sign up to receive our emails!

**STAY CONNECTED!**



**[@communitychurchny](https://www.instagram.com/communitychurchny)**



**[Youtube.com/CCNY\\_UU](https://www.youtube.com/CCNY_UU)**



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**THE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**OF NEW YORK**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

24 East 35th Street  
New York, New York 10016

Phone: (212) 683-4988

Visit our website: [www.ccny.org](http://www.ccny.org)

*Rev. Peggy Clarke, Senior Minister*

*Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister of Community Engagement*

*Brother Zachary Stevens-Walter, Chaplain*

*Jil Novenski, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth*

*Esther Rosado, Director of Adult Ministries*

*Gerald A. Brown, Director of Music*

*Darnell White, Musician in Residence*

*Janice Marie Johnson, Commissioned Lay Minister*