

# *the fearful heart and the crocus*

**December is World AIDS Month**

**2025: Safe & Sound—Hold Your Ground!**

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

+ **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

+ **Gaudeté Sunday!**

+ **Anniversary of Sandy Hook (2012)**

+ **Gun Violence Awareness Sunday**

❖ **Hannukah begins at sundown**

+ **The Rev. Elder Miller Hoffman, preaching**

(Is. 35: 1-6, 10 & Mt. 11: 2-11)

10:00 am Choir Rehearsal for 11am

11:00 am **Celebration Liturgy** Live-streamed!

9:00 pm Sylvia's Place Youth Shelter

## **Monday, December 15: Office Closed**

♥ **Happy Birthday Rev. Diane Fisher!**

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Tuesday, December 16**

♥ **Happy Birthday Rev. Kristen!**

1:00 pm Lunch Distribution (until 3pm)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Wednesday, December 17**

❖ **Internat'l Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers**

1:00 pm Lunch Distribution (until 3pm)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

6:00 pm **Q Clinic (3rd floor)**

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Thursday, December 18**

9:00 am Food Pantry

1:00 pm Lunch Distribution (until 3pm)

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

6:00 pm **Covenanted Bible/Theology Study w/Rev. Reg via Zoom**

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Friday, December 19**

12:15 pm **Taize Prayer w/Rev. Brett (Facebook)**

5:00 pm The Gary Skala Drop-in Clinic (HYS—to 8pm)

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **Saturday, December 20**

9:00 pm MCCNY HYS at Sylvia's Place

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

+ **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

+ **Ms. Tonie Boykin, preaching**

(II Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 & Luke 1: 26-33)

10:00 am Choir Rehearsal for 11am

11:00 am **Celebration Liturgy** Live-streamed!

9:00 pm Sylvia's Place Youth Shelter

**\* 11am CELEBRATION LIVE-STREAMED EVERY SUNDAY!**

\* **Pantry and shelter remain open. + For pastoral calls: 332-400-7488**

Please make sure the Church has your cell phone number and email address!

Send to: [RvPatMCCNY@aol.com](mailto:RvPatMCCNY@aol.com)

**MCCNY**   
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NEW YORK

December 14, 2025

✚ Advent III/ Gaudeté Sunday

MCC globally celebrates "57 Years of Offering Our Light to the World"

53rd Anniversary Year at MCCNY: Safe & Sound—Hold Your Ground!

The Community at Worship 11am

ASL Interpreter (First, second, and third Sundays of the month and special celebrations)

Pat Dash

## PRELUDE

John Fischer, Music Director  
Carolyn Traore, Song Leader  
Heidi Siegell, Soloist

## PROCESSION

"O Ven, O Ven Emanuel/O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#50/Pink Pages (verses 1-4)

*Please stand as able*

## WELCOME

The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner  
Metropolitan Community Church of New York

## ✚ The Sign of Peace

## THE LESSON

La Lección Primera

Isaías 35: 1-6,10

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35: 1-6,10

Que se alegre el desierto, tierra seca; que se llene de alegría, que florezca, que produzca flores como el lirio, que se llene de gozo y alegría. Dios lo va a hacer tan bello como el Líbano, tan fértil como el Carmelo y el valle de Sarón. Todos verán la gloria de Dios, la majestad de nuestro Dios. Fortalezcan a los débiles, den valor a los cansados, digan a los tímidos: "¡Ánimo, no tengan miedo! ¡Aquí está su Dios para salvarlos, y a sus enemigos Dios los castigará como merecen!" Entonces todos verán y los todos oirán; todos saltarán como venados y todos gritarán. En el desierto, tierra seca, brotará el agua a torrentes. Los que Dios ha redimido; entrarán en Sión con cantos de alegría, y siempre vivirán alegres. Hallarán felicidad y dicha, y desaparecerán el llanto y el dolor.

**+ Esta es la Palabra de Dios**

**TE ALABAMOS, O DIOS**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of God, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. God will come and save you." Then all eyes shall be opened, and all ears shall be opened; then everyone shall leap like a deer, and all tongues sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. And the ransomed of God shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**+ This is the Word of God**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

MCCNY Choir

La Lección Segunda

Matteo 11: 2-11

The Second Lesson

Matthew 11: 2-11

Juan, que estaba en la cárcel, tuvo noticias de lo que Jesús estaba haciendo. Entonces Juan envió algunos de sus seguidores a que le preguntaran si Jesús era de veras la persona que había de venir, o si debían esperar a otro. Jesús les contestó: "Vayan y díganle a Juan lo que están viendo y oyendo. Cuéntenle que todos ven, todos andan, los leprosos quedan limpios de su enfermedad, todos oyen, los muertos vuelven a la vida y a los pobres se les anuncia la buena noticia. ¡Y dichoso aquel que no encuentre en mí motivo de tropiezo!" Cuando ellos se fueron, Jesús comenzó a hablar a la gente acerca de Juan, diciendo: "¿Qué salieron ustedes a ver al desierto? ¿Una caña sacudida por el viento? Y si no, ¿qué salieron a ver? ¿Una persona vestido lujosamente? Ustedes saben que los que se visten lujosamente están en las casas de la familia real. En fin, ¿a qué salieron? ¿A ver a un profeta? Sí, de veras, y a uno que es mucho más que profeta. Juan es aquel de quien dice la Escritura: 'Yo envío mi mensajero delante de ti, para que te prepare el camino.' Les aseguro que, entre todos las personas, ninguno ha sido más grande que Juan el Bautista; y, sin embargo, el más pequeño en el reino de los cielos es más grande que Juan."

**+ Esta es la Palabra de Dios**

**TE ALABAMOS, O DIOS**

When John heard in prison what Jesus was doing, John sent word by the disciples of Jesus saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: everyone receives their sight, everyone walks, those with a skin disease are cleansed, everyone hears, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the reign of heaven is greater than John."

**+ This is the Word of God  
THANKS BE TO GOD**

## SELECTION

## SERMON

**The Rev. Elder Miller Hoffman  
Metropolitan Community Churches**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## THE OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

**Offering Call**

+ Please consider an extra gift to the Global Justice Institute!

~ Please prayerfully consider direct donations through your bank or credit card giving.

## THE CELEBRATION AND SHARING OF COMMUNION

**Deacon Brenton Buchanon  
Deacon Len Richardson  
The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner**

**+ Celebrated in Memory of Danny Haywood,**  
*Beloved husband, father, and brother who loved Jesus and put all his hope in Him.*

God is with you  
**AND ALSO WITH YOU**  
Let us open our hearts  
**WE OPEN THEM TO GOD**

Let us give God thanks and praise  
**IT IS A GOOD AND JOYFUL THING TO DO**

*MCCNY celebrates an OPEN COMMUNION. Everyone is welcome to share in the Gifts of God for the People of God. (Grape juice is used so that all may freely share in this meal. For those with health concerns, distributors sanitize their hands immediately before the service. Communion wafers for those with wheat or gluten allergies are available upon request. Please let your server know if you need this service.) A prayer of blessing will be offered, unless you request the sacrament only.*

**PLEASE OBSERVE THE SACREDNESS OF THIS SACRAMENT by praying silently or by joining in the singing of hymns.**

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

"Abranse los Cielos"

#1/Pink Pages

"What Child is This"

#67/Pink Pages

"All My Heart . . ."

#5/Pink Pages

## CLOSING SONG

**"Oh, Happy Day!"**

*Please stand as able*

*Oh, happy day (oh, happy day), Oh, happy day (oh, happy day)—  
When Jesus washed (since Jesus washed), When Jesus washed (since Jesus washed)  
Washed my sins away (oh happy day)  
He taught me how—to watch, fight, and pray (fight and pray)  
And we'll rejoice (rejoice), Every day (every day) . . .*

## BENEDICTION

**❖ Everyone is welcome to a reception following the service!**

**+ Stained Glass by Jackson Hall**



# PROGRAMMING at MCCNY

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PROGRAM:** Spiritual Direction is a process in which a mentor accompanies one person - the directee - for an extended period of time. Through conversation, prayer, and spiritual exercises, the mentor helps the directee clarify spiritual issues so that s/he can move toward a deeper experience with the Divine. To seek Direction, contact Bishop Reg at 332-400-7488.

**LIVE-STREAMING at MCCNY:** All worship celebrations (9am Traditional and 11am Celebration) are now live-streamed. Go to [facebook.com/mccny](https://www.facebook.com/mccny) and celebrate with your family of faith!

**BIBLE STUDY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** The Queer Life & Faith religious education program is led by Bishop Reg Richburg every Thursday at 5 pm. Our discussions connect the Scriptures, our faith, and queer Life. We use educational materials and methodologies that will help look at life from different perspectives: art, videos, and dialogue, among others. Come to one session, some sessions, or all sessions on Zoom. Contact: [lambseeker@hotmail.com](mailto:lambseeker@hotmail.com)

**MCCNY E-Prayer Ministry:** If you would like to participate in the prayer ministry or send prayer requests, please contact [prayers@mccny.org](mailto:prayers@mccny.org). You will receive a weekly list of prayer concerns about members and friends of our congregation, the wider MCC community, and social justice issues.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** to list the Church and our phone number among those to be contacted in case of illness or an emergency. Church Pastors will contact and visit you.

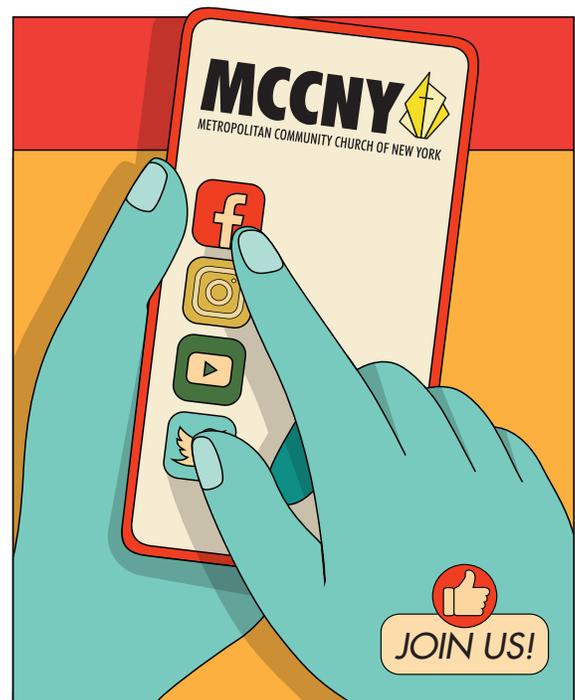
**MCCNY has a new phone number! 332-400-7488**

**TRANSGENDER  
SUICIDE HOTLINE**  
(Trans Lifeline):  
**877-565-8860**

**NEW Special Toll Free**  
Suicide & Mental Health Hotline  
for LGBTQ+ Community:

**1-877-330-6366**

*Thank you, Canada!*



**CONNECT with MCCNY**

**Website:** [www.mccny.org](http://www.mccny.org)

**Facebook:** MCCNY

**Instagram:** @m\_c\_c\_n\_y

**Youtube:** @MCCNewYork

**Twitter:** MCCNewYork

# LOOKING AHEAD!

## Christmas Eve by Candlelight

December 24 at 7pm

Gala Holiday Party to follow!

The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner, preaching

## Christmas Day with Lessons & Carols

December 25 at 11am

Sumptuous Holiday Brunch to follow!

The Rev. Dr. Robin Gorsline, preaching

To give a gift to a shelter resident or food pantry client, mark the memo of your donation "FP Gift or "Shelter Gift."

**GIVE TO  
GJI** →



**GIVE TO  
MCCNY** →



### WHAT TO DO IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR



#### DO NOT OPEN DOORS

ICE cannot come in without a signed warrant by a criminal court judge. They can only come in if you let them.



#### REMAIN SILENT

ICE can use anything you say against you in your immigration case so claim your right to remain silent!

*"Say "I plead the fifth amendment and choose to remain silent!"*



#### DO NOT SIGN

Don't sign anything ICE gives you without talking to an attorney.



#### REPORT & RECORD!

Report immediately: UWD hotline 1-844-363-1423.

Take pictures & video unless you're on federal government property.  
Take notes of badge numbers, number of agents, time, type of car and exactly what happened!



#### FIGHT BACK!

Get a trustworthy attorney & explore all options to fight your case. If detained, you may be able to get bail - don't give up hope! Join your local team to defend yourself from enforcement!

unitedwedream.org/end  
@UnitedWeDream



### Know Your Power

#### Record and Report:

**Step 1** - Ensure Audio and recording is on and ready to be used and linked to a cloud.

**Step 2** - Get information of the officer's, name, badge and agency.

**Step 3** - Narrate the date, time and location of event.

**Step 4** - Do not disclose the information of your loved ones or yourself to the agents.

**Step 5** - Report it to the **MigraWatch** Hotline and send your video/pics to [migrawatch@unitedwedream.org](mailto:migrawatch@unitedwedream.org)

Always remember you have the power to make choices, you have a choice over your safety, how you respond and what you choose to share.

To learn more about your power and your rights visit:

[unitedwedream.org/knowyourpower](http://unitedwedream.org/knowyourpower)

While asserting our rights does not guarantee the stop of arrest at the moment, it is important to exercise our rights to facilitate our defense. You are not alone. Our movement is ready to support you, fight for your freedom, and reclaim the humanity of our community.



unitedwedream.org/knowyourpower

Text KnowYourPower 877-877

## PASTORAL STAFF

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| The Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner . . . . . | <b>Pastor</b>            |
| The Rev. Dr. Brett Degoldi . . . . .    | <b>Staff Clergy</b>      |
| The Rev. Reg Richburg . . . . .         | <b>Staff Clergy</b>      |
| The Rev. Dr. Jim Merritt . . . . .      | <b>Staff Clergy</b>      |
| John Fischer . . . . .                  | <b>Director of Music</b> |
| Heidi Siegell . . . . .                 | <b>Music Ministry</b>    |
| The Little Big Band                     |                          |

### MCCNY Charities

|                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| LaDedra Brown . . . . . | <b>HYS Program Manager</b> |
| Kailiah Hayes . . . . . | <b>Food Pantry Manager</b> |

### LAY DELEGATES

|                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Deacon Brenton Buchannan | Deacon Jen Heyward          |
| John Fischer             | Mary Jane Gibney, alternate |

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bp. Pat Bumgardner . . . . .    | <b>Moderator</b>                 |
| Lyndsey Jones-McAdams . . . . . | <b>Special Events</b>            |
| Rob Franek . . . . .            | <b>Public Relations/Outreach</b> |
| Sam Davis . . . . .             | <b>Scribe</b>                    |
| Montel Cherry-Holmes . . . . .  | <b>Member at Large</b>           |

### BOARD OF DEACONS

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Deacon Brenton Buchannan | Deacon Philip Pares   |
| Deacon Tressie Carter    | Deacon Len Richardson |
| Deacon Jen Heyward       | Deacon Frances Wood   |
| Deacon Les LaRue         |                       |

## PROGRAMMING

### Religious Education/Membership

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Bishop Reg Richburg . . . . .   | <b>Facilitator</b> |
| Deacon Tressie Carter . . . . . | <b>Membership</b>  |

### Christians of African Descent

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Deacon Brenton Buchannan . . . . . | <b>Facilitator</b> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|

### E-Prayer Group

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Deacon Jen Heyward . . . . . | <b>Facilitator</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Hospitality . . . . . | <b>Deacon Brenton Buchannan</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|

### Newsletter/Bulletin

|                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Deacon Frances Wood . . . . . | <i>The Query</i> Editor           |
| Deacon Les LaRue . . . . .    | <i>The Query</i> /Bulletin Design |

### Audio & Virtual Ministries . . . . .

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Live-streaming . . . . . | John Phelps |
| Virtual Worship Leader   | Bob Ferrara |

### Web Sites . . . . .

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| . . . . . | John Phelps |
|-----------|-------------|

### ASL Interpreter . . . . .

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| . . . . . | Pat Dash |
|-----------|----------|

### Instagram and Facebook