

**BETSEY JACKSON  
BOARD ROOM  
DEDICATION**

*For Kids!*

**SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023**



Sometimes we need to say

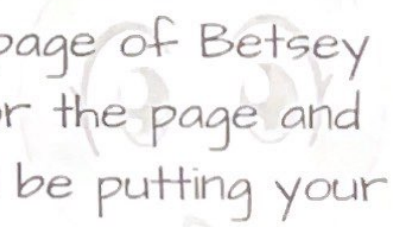
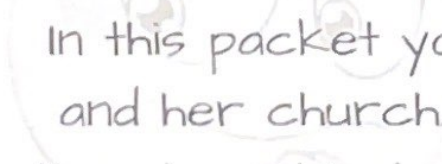
**I'M SORRY**

for things we have done that are wrong.  
Sometimes the church needs to do this too!

Our first pastor, Rev. Dr. John Romeyn was an enslaver (someone who made people slaves). We discovered that an enslaved woman named Betsey who lived in Dr. Romeyn's household was also a founding member of this church!

There is no way that we can say sorry for all of the bad things that happened to Betsey, but we can do a small part by remembering her as one of the first members of this church and an important part of our history.

On May 21, 2023 we will name a room in the church after her, so we can remember her better - the Betsey Jackson Board Room. We will also hang a new painting that represents Betsey in that room.



In this packet you will find a coloring page of Betsey and her church. We invite you to color the page and then turn it in to Jaime Staehle. We will be putting your coloring pages up on the wall right next to the big fancy painting on the day it is revealed!

BORN IN NEW  
JERSEY ABOUT  
1782

UNKNOWN IF SHE  
WAS MARRIED OR  
HAD CHILDREN

PROBABLY EMANCIPATED (FREED)  
IN 1811

ENSLAVED WOMAN, PROBABLY IN THE  
HOUSEHOLD OF OUR FIRST PASTOR,  
REVEREND JOHN ROMEYN



AMONG THE 28 FOUNDING MEMBERS  
OF OUR CONGREGATION IN 1808

WHO WAS  
BETSEY JACKSON?

DIED AUGUST  
31, 1822

IN MANHATTAN

CAUSE OF DEATH,  
YELLOW FEVER

BURIED IN POTTER'S FIELD  
(POSSIBLY WASHINGTON  
SQUARE PARK)



IN 1626, THE DUTCH WEST INDIA COMPANY BROUGHT THE FIRST ENSLAVED PEOPLE FROM AFRICA TO NEW AMSTERDAM (THE ORIGINAL NAME FOR NEW YORK CITY).

NEW YORK WAS HOME TO THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE, ORGANIZED SYSTEM OF ENSLAVEMENT IN THE ENGLISH COLONIES.

IN 1711, THE CITY PASSED THE FIRST "RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE" LAW, WHICH ALLOWED ENSLAVED PEOPLE TO BUY THEIR OWN FREEDOM.

IN 1799, THE STATE PASSED A GRADUAL EMANCIPATION LAW, WHICH STATED THAT ANY ENSLAVED PEOPLE BORN AFTER JULY 4, 1799 WOULD BE FREED AT AGE 25.

THE FIRST KNOWN ENSLAVED AFRICAN TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK WAS A MAN NAMED RENTY, WHO ARRIVED IN 1626.

# DID YOU KNOW?



## FACTS ABOUT ENSLAVEMENT IN NEW YORK CITY

CURRENT DAY WALL STREET WAS A STOCKADE BUILT FROM THE EAST RIVER TO THE HUDSON RIVER WITH WORK FROM ENSLAVED LABOR.

CURRENT STONE STREET SITUATED IN LOWER MANHATTAN WAS THE FIRST STREET IN THE NEW COLONY CONSTRUCTED OF PAVING STONES BY THE WORK OF ENSLAVED AFRICANS.

MANY ENSLAVED PEOPLE WERE USED TO BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CITY SUCH AS THE BRIDGES, ROADS, AND BUILDINGS.

THERE WERE STILL ENSLAVED PEOPLE IN NEW YORK CITY WELL INTO THE 19TH CENTURY, DESPITE THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE STATE.



ENSLAVEMENT'S LEGACY CAN STILL BE SEEN IN THE CITY TODAY IN THE FORM OF MONUMENTS AND LANDMARKS.

