Welcome to Middle Church

We are glad you are here today. If you are visiting for the first time, we invite you to return often and make Middle Church a home for you, your family, and friends. Complete the pew card to receive our newsletter or weekly emails. To join our movement, see staff after worship. Learn more at middlechurch.org. Please silence your mobile phone and leave food or drink outside. Please do not walk across the front of the sanctuary while worship is in progress. For the safety of all, no animals are permitted in the building. Thank you for your cooperation.

For best 2-CO2 ACCESS to the HEARING LOOP, sit by the side, front, and back aisles. By entering the sanctuary, you grant Middle Collegiate Church unrestricted right to use and publish, transmit or telecast photographs or likenesses that might be taken of you this day for use in communications related to the church. You agree that all such material will be the sole property of Middle Church. If you are uncomfortable, you are welcome to worship in the sanctuary balcony.

Today at Middle Church

• WE CARE (INFANT-AGE 4) — 9:15 AM-11:30 AM • 3rd Fl Nursery — Childcare.
• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP — 9:30–10:30 AM • Sanctuary — THREE KINGS’ DAY/DIA DE LOS REYES “Neighborhood Thoughts” Jacqui Lewis, preacher • John 1:1–18 • Special Music from Middle solosists • Community
• BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION — on hiatus until spring.
• JOIN THE MOVEMENT — 10:30–10:45 AM • Sanctuary — Learn about Middle membership.
• COMMUNITY HOUR — 10:35–11:40 AM • Social Hall — 9:30 worshipping and those arriving for 11:45 worship share coffee and conversation.
• KIDS IN THE MIDDLE (GRADES K–2) — 10:45–11:10 AM • 3rd Fl Studio — Explore the Bible with the arts—singing, acting, dancing, and branch.
• BIBLE IN THE MIDDLE (ADULT) — 10:45–11:30 AM • 4th Fl Studio — Weekly lively conversations exploring scripture for deeper meaning in our lives.
• CELEBRATION WORSHIP — 11:45–12:45 AM • Sanctuary — THREE KINGS’ DAY/DIA DE LOS REYES “Neighborhood Thoughts” Jacqui Lewis, preacher • John 1:1–18 • Special Music from Middle solosists • Community
• BUTTERFLY MEAL PREPARATION/DISTRIBUTION — On hiatus until spring.
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• COMMUNITY HOUR — 12:45–1:30 PM • Social Hall — Coffee and conversation.
• VIRTUAL CHAT & CHEW — 5:00–7:00 PM • ZOOM — Join our digital team for a ZOOM virtual meet-up. Register at bit.ly/mc-monthlyonline.
• FREEDOM SCHOOL: VILLAGE CHORES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH — 190–215 PM • Community Room — For info, contact John at jdelcueto@middlechurch.org.

Videos and Podcasts — Worship music and sermon videos: youtube.com/MiddleChurch. Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: facebook.com/MiddleCollegeMiddleChurch. Middle Church Celebrations podcast is available from middlechurch.org.

Dear Middle Family — This week we will most likely set $87,000 by June 30, 2020 in order to fund our ministries and programs. As you know, we are committed to funding 50% of our budget by 2022, and this year’s goal is an important part of getting there.

As part of our giving, we have raised $428,878.22 in gifts and pledges. This puts us at 50.22% of our December 31st goal of $478,500!

Your generosity is AMAZING!

Democracy is a crisis.

As we enter into 2020, we are proud to say that we are setting the pace to accomplish our shared dreams for Middle Church together. While we meet our mid-year fundraising goal, we would like to ensure we are on track to reach our FY 2020 goal by June 30, 2020. In honor of marking into 2020 as a team, can we count on you to give $20, $200, $2,020 or $20,200 today? Or set up a recurring $2 weekly or monthly contribution? You can donate in worship, in a dip, or online at middlechurch.org, or through text message. Thank you, Middle Family!

In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren, and Middle Consistory

Donate at middlechurch.org.

Worship Celebration

January 5, 2020 • 9:30 & 11:45 AM
Three Kings’ Day / Dia de los Reyes

Welcome home to Middle Church! After worship begins, please wait to be seated. Please respect this sacred time by not moving during prayers, preaching, and choir singing.

• Indicates you may find a seat—an usher may assist you—or take a big break.

= Gathering =

Prelude++ Solace: A Mexican Serenade

Intro Who Would Imagine a King

Welcome to Worship Elise Tiralli

HyMN++ Arise, Your Light Is Come

Reflecting =

Announcements++ Jacqui Lewis

Moment of Silence/Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer/Congregational Amen

John Janka

Passing of the Peace/Welcoming Guests++

Anthem If Love Ruled the World

Scripture John 1:18

Sermon Neighborhood Thoughts

Responding =

Communion+++ The People of God

Offering to Join the Movement Matthew Johnson Harris

To become a member of Middle Church, see the clergy ASAP at the pulpit after worship.

Offering/Fellowship “What a Wonderful World”

May the Lord increase you all and make your love for one another and for all people ever richer.

DOXOLOGY/Dedication Prayer++

Elise Tiralli

O come, ye faithful, joy and comfort, O come ye, O come to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

HyMN+ Won’t You Be My Neighbor?

Benediction++ Jacqui Lewis

Postwe Three Kings of Orient Are

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION = Allison Sniffin, organ/piano

Middle Church Band = Dionne McClain-Freeway-Music Director, piano; BAASSIK, bass guitar; Bernice Brooks, drums.

This Week at Middle Church

Monday, January 6

• Momentum Meals — Social Hall — Lunch 11:30 AM–1:00 PM / Dinner 5:30–6:30 PM • Free, nutritious meal and food pantry for clients and the community.


Tuesday, January 7 — No Programming

Wednesday, January 8

• Ukulele Choir Lector Session — 6:45–8:30 PM • Parlor – Ukulele beginners gather for monthly fun and instructive sessions.

• Justice Committee Meeting — 7:00–8:30 PM • 4th Fl Classroom — For more information, contact Amanda at aashcraft@middlechurch.org.

Thursday, January 9

• Creative Writing — On hiatus—resumes on January 16.

• Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir — 7:00–9:00 PM • Community Room — Weekly rehearsal. For more information, contact John at jdelcueto@middlechurch.org. — Arts

Friday, January 10 — No Programming

Saturday, January 11 — No Programming

Sunday, January 12

• We Care (Infant–Age 4) — 9:15 AM–11:15 AM • 3rd Fl Nursery — Childcare.

• Celebration! Worship — 9:30–10:45 AM • Sanctuary — Baptism of Jesus • Amanda Hambrock Ashcraft, preacher • Middle Church Choir.

• Butterfly Meal Preparation and Distribution — on hiatus until spring.

• Join the Movement — 10:30–10:45 AM • Sanctuary — Learn about Middle membership.

• Community Hour — 10:35–11:40 AM • Social Hall — 9:30 worshipping and those arriving for 11:45 worship share coffee and conversation. — Community

• Kids in the Middle (Grades K–2) — 10:45–11:30 AM • 3rd Fl Studio — Explore the Bible with the arts—singing, acting, dancing, and branch.

• Bible in the Middle (Adult) — 10:45–11:30 AM • 4th Fl Studio — Weekly lively conversations exploring scripture for deeper meaning in our lives.

• New Member Orientation — Part 1 — 10:45–11:30 AM • Room 204 — Join Middle clergy for a two-part orientation between the worship celebrations. New members will be welcomed at both worship celebrations on January 19. For more information or to RSVP, contact Nathan at njohnson@middlechurch.org.

• Youth in the Middle (Grades 6–12) — 10:45–11:30 AM • 3rd Fl Youth Room — Honest conversations, service-learning projects, and creative responses to connect faith and justice.

• Revolutionary Parenting — 10:45–11:30 AM • Parlor — Conversations and community at the intersection of parenting, faith, and the belief that we can raise a just, liberated, and ethical generation.

• Voter Reform Project — 10:45–11:30 AM • 4th Fl Classroom — Voter registration, Census 2020, and ending voter suppression. Join the team: votingproject@middlechurch.org.

• Celebration! Worship — 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • Sanctuary — Baptism of Jesus • Amanda Hambrock Ashcraft, preacher • Middle Church Choir.

• Butterfly Meal Preparation and Distribution — On hiatus until spring.

• Join the Movement — 12:45–1:15 PM • Sanctuary — Learn about Middle membership.

• Community Hour — 12:45–1:30 PM • Social Hall — Coffee and conversation.

• Freedom School: Village Chores for Children and Youth — 9:00–11:00 AM • Community Room — For info, contact John at jdelcueto@middlechurch.org.

• ¡Hablamos! — 10:00–1:30 PM • Conference Room — Our Spanish language social club! Through monthly discussion, lectures, comida, film and art, we’ll explore our voices on the issues facing our Latinx community. ¡Ven como tú eres! (Come as you are!) All levels are welcome. For more information or to join the group, contact Bianca at bianca.michalska@gmail.com.
MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH
Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – Senior Minister in Charge
Rev. Chad Tanaka-Pack – Interim Exec. Minister for Care & Membership
Natalie Perkins – Digital Minister
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CONSISTORY
ELDERS
Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.
Ivan Anderson
Vickie Burns
Pete Greentill
Darian Johnston
Gerald Lazore
Hadaryah Morgan
Jeff Mummert
Claudia Slack
DEACONS
Edna Benitez
Lila Boyer
Pamela Edgar
Kelly Smith
Phyllistine Travis
LOCAL DEACONS
Dennis Barton
Beth Ellor
Johanna Goepl
Karde Zaitsu-Helck
Representatives to INTERSECTIONS
ELDER – Danita Branam
DEACON – Robert Perry

This Week: Neighborhood Thoughts
God’s word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood, bringing the Reign of God on earth. How does that change the hood? The nation? The world?

Last Week: An Immigration Story
How does the story of Jesus in Egypt relate to our current context? How does it relate to your life?

New Member Orientation – Save the Dates!
Sundays, January 12 and 19 • 10:45-11:30 AM
Join Middle clergy for a two-part New Member Orientation between the celebrations. New members will be welcomed at both worship celebrations on January 19. For information or to RSVP, contact Nathan at njohnson@middlechurch.org.

Calling All Writers and Artists!
Middle Literary Magazine Needs You!
Submit your writing and/or art to our 9th annual Literary Magazine! The theme will be “Practicing Ethical Politics.” Poetry, fiction, essay, art, photos, children’s work—even a video clip—are all welcome! Send your submissions to editor Carol Wierzbicki at litmag@middlechurch.org by February 9.

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH IS ON LENAPE LAND ON TURTLE ISLAND.

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH VISION STATEMENT
Middle Collegiate Church is a multicultural, multiethnic, intergenerational movement of Spirit and justice, powered by Revolutionary Love, with room for all. Following in the Way of Jesus’ radical love, and inspired by the prophets, Middle Church is called by God to do a bold new thing on the earth. We aim to heal the soul and the world by dismantling racist, classist, sexist, xenophobic, and homophobic systems of oppression. Because our God is still speaking in many languages, we work in inter-religious partnerships to uproot injustice, eradicate poverty, care for the brokenhearted, and build the Reign of God on earth. This activism is fueled by our faith; our faith is expressed in art; our art is an active prayer connecting us with the Holy Spirit. Middle Church affirms the transformative power of moral imagination, reclaiming and reframing Christianity inside our walls, on the street, and in virtual spaces around the globe.

Won’t You Be My Neighbor?
It’s a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
A beautiful day for a neighbor.
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

It’s a neighborly day in this beauty wood,
A neighborly day for a beauty,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you!
I’ve always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.
So let’s make this most of this beautiful day,
Since we’re together we might as well say,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?
Won’t you be my neighbor?
Won’t you please?
Wouldn’t you please?
Please won’t you be my neighbor?

Written by Fred Rogers | © 1967, Fred M. Rogers