

# middle church

JUST LOVE

---

## Sunday Worship Celebration

---

NOVEMBER 15, 2020 • 11:45 AM • GOD IS ...

TRANSGENDER WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE

• GATHERING •

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Wesley Rowell

**HYMN**

“Lord, Help Me to Hold Out”

(James Cleveland)

Lord, help me to hold out,  
Lord, help me to hold out,  
Lord, help me to hold out,  
until my change comes.

• REFLECTING •

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

Elise Tiralli

“Siyahamba”

(South African Traditional Song)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.

**MIDDLE IN TWO MINUTES**

Ben Perry

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER**

Ben Perry

Ever-loving and holy God, hallowed be your name. Your reign come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the reign, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL AMEN**

Sandra Santana

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Tina Owens

**ANTHEM**

“Hold on a Little While Longer”

(African-American Spiritual)

L Morgan Lee, voice • Kendall Ramseur, cello

**SCRIPTURE**

Acts 11.19–26

Malaika Mumeka

**SERMON**

“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood”

Dr. Paula Stone Williams

• **RESPONDING** •

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Georgia Bridgers

**OFFERTORY**

“Perfect People”

(The Walls Group)

Middle Community Chorus

Kristina Nicole Miller and Marcel Herder, lead vocals

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](https://middlechurch.org/donate) or Venmo @**MiddleCollegiateChurch**  
or Text [Amount] to 917-924-4666

**DEDICATION PRAYER**

Joey Morelli

**HYMN**

“Bamba Layla (Never Give Up)”

(Traditional South African)

Village Chorus for Children and Youth

Bamba layla, bamba layla

Bamba layla, bamba layla

Bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba

Oh—

Bamba, bamba layla

Never give up, never give up

Never give up, never give up

Never, never, never, never, never

Oh—

Never, never give up

**BENEDICTION**

Jacqui Lewis

**Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Paula Stone Williams** is an internationally-known speaker on issues of gender equity, LGBTQ advocacy, and religious tolerance. She has been featured in *TEDWomen*, *TEDSummit*, *TEDxMileHigh*, *The New York Times*, *Red Table Talk*, the *Denver Post*, the *New York Post*, *New Scientist Magazine*, *Radio New Zealand*, and *NPR*. Her *TED* talks have had more than five million views. <https://paulastonewilliams.com>

**Village Chorus for Children and Youth** • John Del Cueto, Director • Amelia Petkos, Brooks Leslie, Caelyn Osbern, Carlo Vizioli, Cerentha Cook, Coraline Petkos, Dominick Vizioli, Ellington Tanner, Lucien Tanner, Miranda Oden Cook, Soraya Gibson, Vivienne Petkos, Zane Ashcraft.

**“Lord, Help Me to Hold Out”** Text: James Cleveland. B.1932, © 1974, Planemar Music Co. Tune: James Cleveland. B.1932, © 1974, Planemar Music Co.; arr. By Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, b. 1953, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725559.

---

### THIS WEEK: A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- The church in Jerusalem believed Jesus when he said the work of the church is to love God, love neighbor, and love self. What can we learn from the church in Jerusalem and Barnabas that can bring us together to heal our current divide?

---

### LAST WEEK: VOTE FOR LOVE— WHEN JUSTICE ROLLS

- When you think of “justice rolling down like waters,” what does your life look like? Our city? This nation?
- What does “righteousness like a mighty steam” mean to this Middle community? How do you make that happen?

**PRAYER CORNER** *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.*

**We are praying for all our Middle family every day.** Gloria Cunningham Burgess, Raider Nation, Freedom, Liberty, Alicia Swain, Gwen Kingsberry, Stacey Cameron, Aquaman, Black Widow, Hawkeye, Janna Myers and Amanda Ashcraft.

**To make a prayer request**, request a call from a Middle pastor, or inquire about financial assistance, visit [middlechurch.org/prayer](https://middlechurch.org/prayer).



**Nov. 12, 19 • Dec. 3**  
**6:00–7:00 PM ET**

There is so much to mourn right now. Whether you lost someone close to you, or are just grieving the state of our world—you don't need to carry this weight alone.

**Grief Gatherings**  
RSVP: [bit.ly/midlegrief](https://bit.ly/midlegrief)

**middle church**  
JUST LOVE

# Welcome to Middle Church

---

**We are glad you are worshipping with us 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. Sign up for updates or weekly emails at [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org).

---

**VIDEOS AND PODCASTS** — Worship music and sermon videos: [youtube.com/MiddleChurch](https://www.youtube.com/MiddleChurch).  
Re-watch the Worship Celebration livestream: [facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch).  
Middle Church Celebrations podcast: [middlechurch.org/podcasts](http://middlechurch.org/podcasts).

---

**DEAR MIDDLE FAMILY**— Fiscal Year 2021 is in full swing! Even in this time of uncertainty, we hope that you are encouraged that our community can band together and do amazing things! This year will be no different. With our annual programming, and newly created **Middle Collegiate Church Cancel Rent/Mortgage Program** and **Black Lives Matter Fund**, we are ready and excited to meet the needs of our community.

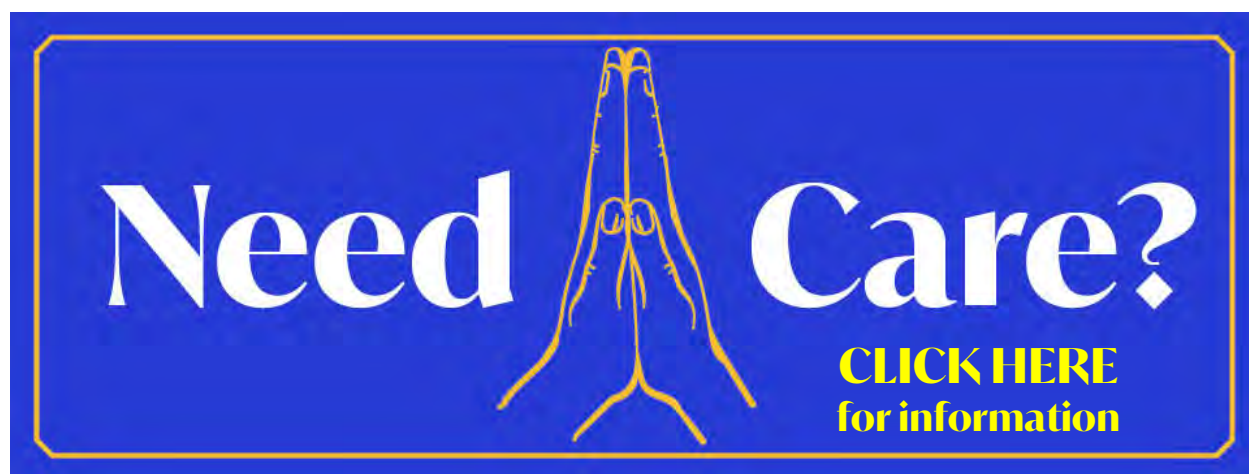
**Our current budget requires \$900,000 in congregational giving** by June 30, 2021 in order to fund our ministries and programs. We have no doubt that we can do this, but only with your help! **As of this printing, we have raised \$402,688.07** (\$240,537.85 actuals; \$162,150.22 recurring commitments). That puts us at **45%** of our June 30th goal of \$900,000!

**We are THRILLED to share that a donor has made a \$50,000 pledge match to Middle Church, if we—the congregation— can match it in new cash and pledges by December 2020.** Simply put, we need to raise \$50,000 of our annual goal in NEW recurring donations and pledges by **December 1, 2020** in order to receive this wonderful gift! This year's offering is critical to our vision and ministry. Can we count on you to make a pledge today? A weekly pledge of \$25 becomes an offering of \$1,200 for the year! No gift is too small. **Please make your donation online at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate) or through Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch or by texting [Amount] to 917-924-4666.**

Middle family, we are so grateful to you for your love and generous spirit. It is because of you that we can make change that heals souls and the world. We know that this year has posed unbelievable stress for many, and we're here for you if you need help.

—In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren, and Middle Consistory.      Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate).

---



# Middle Virtual Gatherings

All events are listed in ET. Visit [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org) for details and the latest updates.

**Registration for all programming ends 1 hour before the event begins, so be sure to RSVP!**

**EVERY DAY: Prayer Phone**—Call 212-477-0666 and press 4 for English or press 5 for Spanish to hear a weekly prayer, scripture, and reflection from a Middle pastor. Updated Mondays, 8:30 a.m.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids' Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 2:00 p.m.: [Virtual Coffee with Rev. Amanda](#)
- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- 1:00 p.m.: [New Adventures](#)
- 6:00 p.m.: [Grief Gathering](#)
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- 2:00 p.m.: [Virtual Queer Friendsgiving](#)

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

- 10:00 a.m.: [Revolutionary Parenting](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [The Soul of Money](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids' Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Young Adults Small Group](#)

## Join the Weekly Chat & Chew

A weekly opportunity to see each others' faces and talk about the sermon.



Link at [bit.ly/middle-talk](https://bit.ly/middle-talk)

Every Sunday, 12:45 p.m. ET

# New November & December Programs

CLICK HERE

## MIDDLE CHURCH ZOOM COVENANT

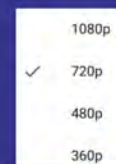
- Please take time before the meeting to download the Zoom app and/or familiarize yourself with zoom.us — it's easy and free to do so. **If you need help troubleshooting, [CLICK HERE](#).**
- Please visit this page at least 5 minutes before your meeting to ensure you are using the correct link for your intended meeting.
- Upon entering, confirm that you are in the right meeting.
- Please change your display name. Enter your Full Name, pronouns, and your city. i.e. "Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft (she/her, NYC)"
- Upon entering the meeting, please hit video, as we'd love to see you.
- Also, hit mute to avoid any audio issues. Unmute yourself when you'd like to weigh in on the conversation.
- Sometimes, the host of the meeting will mute and unmute everyone as the meeting requires.
- If you have a question related to the conversation but would prefer to just type it in, there is a "Chat" section on the Zoom video where you can type in a question. We'll be checking that chat box often to ensure we address all member comments before the meeting ends.
- Zoom participants will adhere to demonstrating Revolutionary Love at all times. If a participant's behavior is deemed inappropriate by the meeting host, they will be removed. Inappropriate behavior includes but is not limited to: harassment, threats, bigotry of any kind, and not identifying themselves.
- For additional troubleshooting, see the sidebar.
- We are thrilled you are here and look forward to a wonderful time together.

### TROUBLESHOOTING FAQ

Having trouble with the livestream or Zoom call? Try one (or all) of these tricks to see if it fixes the problem.



REFRESH THE PAGE



CHANGE THE VIDEO QUALITY IN THE VIDEO SETTINGS



PAUSE THE STREAM AND WATCH ON A DELAY

And, make sure you've powered down your device recently!  
As Anne Lamott says, "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FROM OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- [AA Meetings](#) can be found here.
- **Downtown Meditation** offers online [Wednesday Dharma Talk and Sitting at 7:00 pm](#)

---

## 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.

---

### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

---

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – *Senior Minister in Charge*

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Exec. Minister for Congregational Life, Care, & Movement Building*

Rev. Marlene Fox – *Exec. Minister for Operations, Stewardship, & Finance*

Rev. Benjamin Perry – *Minister for Outreach and Media Strategy*

Natalie Perkins – *Director of Digital Ministry*

SANCTUARY 112 Second Avenue (at 7th St.)

OFFICE 50 East 7th Street  
New York, NY 10003

TELEPHONE 212-477-0666

CARE LINE 212-477-0666 ext. 318

E-MAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org

WEBSITE middlechurch.org

Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch

Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis

YouTube.com/MiddleChurch

Instagram.com/middlechurch

Instagram.com/revjacquilewis

Twitter.com/middlechurch

Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis

---

### CONSISTORY

---

#### ELDERS

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.

Ivan Anderson

Vickie Burns

Pete Grenfell

Darren Johnston CHAIR

Gerald Lazore

Hadaryah Morgan

Claudia Slacik

Shanta Thake

Tom Smucker INTERSECTIONS

#### DEACONS

Edna Benitez

Lila Boyer

Pamela Edgar

Beth Ellor

Kelly Smith

Dennis Barton INTERSECTIONS

Johanna Goepel LOCAL DEACON

Vincent Parham LOCAL DEACON

Kaede Zaitzu-Helck LOCAL DEACON