

# middle church

JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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AUGUST 15, 2021 • 11:45 AM • RISING TO FIERCE LOVE

• GATHERING •

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Natalie Perkins

**HYMN**

“We Are All Connected”

(Sue Straw)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

Mother Earth, Father Sun  
Moon and stars, we all are one  
We are all connected, we are all connected.

Rocks and plains, hills and trees  
Mountains, forests, oceans, seas  
We are all connected, we are all connected.

Deer and fish, dog and flea  
Bird and butterfly and bee  
We are all connected, we are all connected.

Boys and girls, old and young  
All Earth’s creatures live as one  
We are all connected, we are all connected.

• REFLECTING •

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

Natalie Perkins

**MIDDLE RISING**

Darrell Hamilton

Text BULLETIN to 833-786-0733 to receive this week’s bulletin to your smart device.

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

Darrell Hamilton

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.**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Middle Family

*Join your Middle family in break-out rooms to pass the peace.*

**ANTHEM**

“New World Coming”

(Bernice Johnson Reagon)

Tina Owens, soloist

**SCRIPTURE**

Ephesians 2.14–22

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

**SERMON**

“Peace Ain’t Easy, But It’s How We Rise”

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

• **RESPONDING** •

**INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Ben Perry

**OFFERTORY**

“Master, the Tempest Is Raging”

(Baker/Palmer)

Dionne McClain-Freeney, soloist

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate) or Venmo @**MiddleCollegiateChurch**  
or Text GIVE to 833-786-0733

**DEDICATION PRAYER**

Natalie Perkins

**HYMN**

“One Foot/Lead with Love”

(Melanie DeMore)

Summer Choir • Natalie Perkins, leader

You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.  
Put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.

**BENEDICTION**

Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

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**PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION • For all credits, visit [YouTube.com/MiddleNYC](https://www.youtube.com/MiddleNYC).**

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“One Foot/Lead with Love” • Copyright © 2016 Melanie DeMore (BMI) Licensed for free non-commercial distribution.

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## Sermon in Action

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### THIS WEEK: PEACE AIN'T EASY, BUT IT'S HOW WE RISE

- What does a world flourishing in peace look like?
- What would it look like to rise in peace—in yourself—in your community—in our country—in our world—and as Middle Church?
- White supremacy and capitalism hinder the peace God designed for us. What are other barriers and hindrances to God's peace?

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### LAST WEEK: THIS WEEK: THIS AIN'T OATMEAL

- What is the work you are putting off but feel called to do?
- If limitations were not a factor, what would be your wildest dream to accomplish?
- God has prepared a meal and called us to "get up and eat." Where will you go in the strength that you have now received?

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

**We are praying for all our Middle family every day.**

I rejoice in the family I have found in Middle Church; for my beloveds; Jools Woodward; Gloria Cunningham Burgess Alicia Swain Janna Myers Sheila Robinson Renee Cunningham Marshall Drexel Cunningham, Valencia Armijio Brittany Davis Reddick Cunningham Sheila Harding Skip Reid Amanda Ashcraft Jacqui Lewis Pam Payne Family Marc Aronson Mia McClain Bridget Kelso Anthony Joe Tigner Robert Cunningham Vallory Leca Devora Jones Louise Tatum Michael Boss and The Raider Nation.

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

## INTERACTIVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

**Join us on Zoom!**

**11:45 A.M. ET • SUNDAYS IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER**

**Learn more: [middlechurch.org/summer-worship](http://middlechurch.org/summer-worship)**

# Welcome to Middle Church

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**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).

**Text BULLETIN to (833) 786-0733 to receive this week's bulletin to your smart device.**

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

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## DEAR MIDDLE FAMILY—

**Giving at Middle** — With summer in full bloom, we have turned the corner into our new fiscal and programming year at Middle Church (July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022). Our Consistory has approved our annual budget and we the congregation have a goal to raise \$1,000,000 in contributions this year to fund our ministry programming. This brings us in line with our agreed-upon target of funding 50% of our budget by 2022. We are SO excited about what is in store for this community of love and justice seekers this year as we continue to claim and reframe Christianity from a place of Love. Period.

Please take a moment to let us know how you plan to invest in powering this movement with your gifts this year by using the options below, or feel free to reach out to our Director of Development, Devon Mosley ([stewardship@middlechurch.org](mailto:stewardship@middlechurch.org)) to discuss your giving plans.

### To support our ongoing ministry, programs, and operations:

- Visit [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate)
- Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch
- Text **GIVE** to **833-786-0733**

### To support our Middle Rising rebuilding efforts as we continue plans for our future space:

- Visit [middlechurch.org/rising](http://middlechurch.org/rising)
- Venmo @MiddleRising
- Text **GIVE** to **833-786-0733** (select **Middle Rising**)

### To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address them to:

- Middle Collegiate Church, Attn: Stewardship Dept.  
50 East 7th Street, New York, NY 10003

**Charitable Giving** may require use of Middle Collegiate Church's EIN: 13-5564117 (aka "Ministers, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York")

—In gratitude, Jacqui, Darren Johnston—Consistory Chair, and the Middle Church Consistory

**TODAY! Middle Mixer!**

**Sunday, August 15 • 2–4 PM**  
**Central Park — Great Lawn**

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

# Middle Events Calendar

All events are listed in ET unless noted.

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, AUGUST 15

- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:30 a.m.: [Rev. Natalie on the Run Worship](#)  
[Viewing: Central Park, Manhattan](#)  
(cancelled in the event of rain)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Interactive Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Middle Mixer in Central Park](#)

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

- *New Adventures on hiatus for August*
- 6:30 p.m.: [Creative Writing Group](#)

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Project](#)
- 10:30 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 11:30 a.m.: [Rev. Natalie on the Run Worship](#)  
[Viewing: Prospect Park, Brooklyn](#)  
(cancelled in the event of rain)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Interactive Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Chat and Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Young Adults Small Group](#)

for grades k - 5th

**AUGUST 23RD-25TH**

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM ET

MOST HOLY REDEEMER

173 E 3RD ST, NY NY 10009

**FREEDOM  
SUMMER**

Engaging our young folx in faith  
formation, the arts, & activism  
as we learn how to become  
just leaders



rsvp by 8/15 to  
[ahashcraft@middlechurch.org](mailto:ahashcraft@middlechurch.org)



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## 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."

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### 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](#)

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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH IS ON LENAPE LAND ON TURTLE ISLAND.

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### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

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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.

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### MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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

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

Rev. Darrell Hamilton – *Exec. Minister for Operations & Resource Development*

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

Rev. Natalie Perkins – *Director of Digital Ministry*

SANCTUARY 112 Second Avenue (at 7th St.) Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch

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#### CONSISTORY

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##### 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

Deborah Berg McCarthy

Thelma Boyiri

Pamela Edgar

Beth Ellor

Kelly Smith

Dennis Barton INTERSECTIONS

##### LOCAL DEACONS

Linda Doria

Johanna Goepel

Vincent Parham

Sandra Santana

Kaede Zaitzu-Helck

- **To support our ongoing ministry, programs, and operations:** Visit [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate) • Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch • Text **GIVE** to **833-786-0733**
- **To support our Middle Rising rebuilding efforts:** Visit [middlechurch.org/rising](http://middlechurch.org/rising) • Venmo @MiddleRising • Text **GIVE** to **833-786-0733** (select **Middle Rising**)

