

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023 • 11:45 AM • BLACK HISTORY MONTH

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

“We’ve Come this Far by Faith”

(Albert Goodson)

We’ve come this far by faith,
Leaning on the Lord.
Trusting in Your holy word.
You've never failed us yet.
Oh, oh- oh- can't turn around,
We’ve come this far by faith.

Don't be discouraged with troubles in your life.
God will bear your burdens
And move all misery and strife.

• REFLECTING •

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jacqui Lewis

LORD'S PRAYER

Wanda Lewis

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

(Trad.)

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Monique Fortuné

ANTHEM "Open My Heart" (James Harris III, Terry Lewis, James Quenton, Yolanda Adams)
Wayne Wilson, soloist

SCRIPTURE Luke 17:5-10 Michael Livingston

SERMON "Thanking Your Slave: Redwood in the Backyard" Michael Livingston

COMMUNION Mira Sawlani-Joyner
Natalie Perkins

• **RESPONDING** •

INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT Ivan Anderson

OFFERTORY "Up Above My Head" (Myron Butler)

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @**MiddleCollegiateChurch**

DOXOLOGY From all that dwell below the skies (Trad.)
Let faith and hope with love arise.
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

DEDICATION PRAYER Monique Fortuné

HYMN "What A Fellowship" (Elisha A. Hoffman, Anthony J. Showalter)

What a fellowship, what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms

REFRAIN: Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim's way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms REFRAIN

What have I to dread, what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms REFRAIN

BENEDICTION

Natalie Perkins

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano; Bernice Brooks, drums; Sam Weber, bass
Vocal Ensemble • Shari Gill, Wayne Wilson, Samantha Waite, Tina Owens, Sandra Santana, Kendra Krueger, Ivan Anderson

Sermon Focus: What's Next?

THIS WEEK: THANKING YOUR SLAVE, REDWOOD IN THE BACKYARD

- We must not normalize obscenities whatever the source. What may seem benign in a particular historical context, even a “sacred” one, could be toxic today.
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LAST WEEK: JUST LOVE. PERIOD.

- How can we lean more fully into calling to reclaim and reframe Christianity as the religion of Jesus an the prophets? Just love.
-

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 Alicia Swain Janna Myers Amanda Ashcraft Jacqui Lewis Ben Perry Elsie Taralli Natalie Perkins Marc Aronson Cori Margolin Catherine Vail Devora Jones Pam Payne and family Connie Acquaah Louise Tatum Brittany Davis Drexel Cunningham Robert Cunningham Reddick Cunningham Darron and Marian Cunningham Valencia Armijio Vallory Leca Renee Cunningham Marshall Michael Bos Sandra Catena Sandra Cunningham Joy Rosenthal Dolly Linda Doria Laura Donovan Bridget Kelso Anthony Mia McClain Joe Tigner Jessi Matei Ukraine Puerto Rico FWCC and The Raider Nation; Phil Chavez, Lorraine.

To make a prayer request, request a call from a Middle pastor, or inquire about financial assistance, visit middlechurch.org/prayer/.

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.

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

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 Collegiate Church. If you are uncomfortable, you are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary balcony.

GIVING AT MIDDLE—

Dear Middle Family —

We are called to the Rising—Middle Rising! We are in our rebuilding campaign and have shifted our giving goals with you, the congregation, to embrace our exciting future. Your donations to Middle now go to our “ONE FUND” to support Middle’s operations, staff, programming, and fundraising for our new building. This streamlined giving process helps Middle plan, grow, and rise from the ashes stronger to achieve our budget needs and help endow the future of this movement. The fire that destroyed Middle’s historic East Village site has not stopped us from putting our Fierce Love out in the world.

Please visit www.middlechurch.org/rising to make your **Pledge** to our **Middle Rising** campaign (**which can be given over three years**) so that we can count on your support toward our ongoing operations, programming, and fundraising for our new building. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for and together, with you onboard, we will have enough! We’re grateful for who you are as part of this community.

Love— *Jacqui, Vickie Burns—Consistory Chair, and the entire Middle Church Consistory*

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

- Visit middlechurch.org/donate
- Venmo @MiddleCollegiateChurch

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

- Middle Collegiate Church, Attn: Stewardship Dept.
PO Box 1400, New York, NY 10276

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”)

Please reach out to our Stewardship Director, Devon Mosley (stewardship@middlechurch.org) to discuss any questions about your giving plan.

DONATE BY PHONE

To make a donation to Middle Church, scan the code below with your smartphone camera.



Middle Events Calendar

All events are listed in ET unless noted.

Visit 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, FEBRUARY 5

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Virtual Chat & Chew](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Queer Connection](#)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 1:00 p.m.: [Queer Lunch Break](#)
- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 6:00 p.m.: [¡Hablamos! Otra Ves!](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [February New Member Meeting](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Voter Reform Meeting](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:25 p.m.: [Everyday Racism with Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Children's Black History Month Teach-In](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children and Youth](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Middle Church events, activities, and the latest updates, scan the code below with your smartphone camera.



MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D. – *Senior Minister and Public Theologian*

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins – *Minister for Worship and Online Community*

Rev. Benjamin Perry – *Minister for Church Growth and Media Strategy*

Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner – *Minister for Spiritual Development and Care*

Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Consulting Community Minister*

MAILING PO Box 1400, New York, NY 10276

WORSHIP Sundays at 11:45 AM online and in-person at:
245 East 17th 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

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