

# middle church

JUST LOVE

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## Sunday Worship Celebration

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MARCH 5, 2023 • 11:45 AM • WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

(Trad.)

I want Jesus to walk with me  
I want Jesus to walk with me  
All along my pilgrim journey  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me  
In my trials, Lord, walk with me  
When my heart is almost breaking  
Lord, I want Jesus, to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me,  
When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me,  
When my head is bowed in sorrow  
Lord, I want Jesus, to walk with me.

• REFLECTING •

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Mira Sawlani-Joyner

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

## LORD'S PRAYER

Mira Sawlani-Joyner

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.)

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### ANTHEM

"Anyone"

Caelyn Osbern, Soloist

(D. Lovato, B. Bourelly, D. Alexander,

E. Mirzazdeh, J. Moon, S. Roman)

### SCRIPTURE

Genesis 16 selected verses

Jacqui Lewis

### SERMON

"A Handmaid's Tale"

Jacqui Lewis

## • RESPONDING •

## COMMUNION

Jacqui Lewis, Mira Sawlani-Joyner  
and Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft

Gather for yourself and your household something to eat and something to drink. It can be bread and wine; crackers and grape juice; pancakes and coffee; French toast and mimosas; a piece of fruit and water. Everyone can participate, from the youngest to the oldest.

You will be invited to consecrate those ordinary elements with prayer, and the words of institution. And then we will eat together and drink together, communing with each other and with the Living God. You are welcome, just as you are, to participate in this special ritual of Grace and Love.

## INVITATION TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Danita Branam

### OFFERTORY

"Fly Away"

Sandra Santana, Soloist

(Lenny Kravitz)

Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://middlechurch.org/donate) or Venmo @[@MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://www.venmo.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)

### DOXOLOGY

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

(Trad.)

## DEDICATION PRAYER

Monique Fortuné

## HYMN

“Lead with Love”

(Melanie Demore)

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.

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.

Leader:

Don't give up hope  
You're not alone  
Don't you give up  
Keep movin' on

All

**(Don't give up hope)**  
**(You're not alone)**  
**(Don't you give up)**  
**(Keep movin' on)**

### CHORUS

Lift up your eyes  
Don't you despair  
Look up ahead  
The path is there

**(Lift up your eyes)**  
**(Don't you despair)**  
**(Look up ahead)**  
**(The path is there)**

### CHORUS

I know you're scared  
And I'm scared too  
But here I am  
Right next to you

**(I know you're scared)**  
**(And I'm scared too)**  
**(But here I am)**  
**(Right next to you)**

### CHORUS

## BENEDICTION

Jacqui Lewis

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## PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

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**Gospel Ensemble** • John Del Cueto, Director of Music and Choirs

**Middle Church Band** • Booker King, bass; Jonathon Peretz, drums; Dionne McClain-Freeney, piano; Ann Klein, guitar

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## Sermon Focus: What's Next?

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### THIS WEEK: A HANDMAID'S TALE

- This Handmaid's Tale bears eerie resemblance to post Roe America. The church needs to be prophetic in the way we respond to the (mis)use of women's bodies?

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### LAST WEEK: STALKED BY GOODNESS AND MERCY

- On this Lenten journey God is pursuing us with goodness and mercy. Take comfort in that.

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

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

Michael Weydert; 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.

**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/).



A blue graphic with yellow starburst decorations. In the center is a circular photo of children's hands stacked in a huddle. The text 'SAVE THE DATE' is at the top, and 'FREEDOM SUMMER AUG. 21-25 | K-5TH GRADE' is at the bottom. Logos for Middle Church and Trinity Lower East Side are also present.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FREEDOM SUMMER**  
AUG. 21-25 | K-5TH GRADE

MIDDLECHURCH.ORG

TRINITY LOWER EAST SIDE  
middle church  
JUST LOVE

# 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.**

**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.

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## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

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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!**

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**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.

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## SUNDAY, MARCH 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 Connections](#)

## MONDAY, MARCH 6

- 6:30 p.m.: [Acting Class](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Lenten Study: Women & Femmes in the Bible](#)

## TUESDAY, MARCH 7

- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force](#)

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Queer Black Men](#)
- 8:00 p.m.: [Congregational Meeting](#)

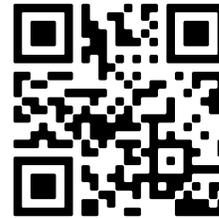
## THURSDAY, MARCH 9

- 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](#)
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## SUNDAY, MARCH 12

- 10:00 a.m.: [Kids Sunday Enrichment](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 11:45 a.m.: [Worship Celebration](#)
- 12:45 p.m.: [Congregational Meeting](#)
- 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.



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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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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

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