

middle church

JUST LOVE

Sunday Worship Celebration

JUN 4, 2023 • 11:45 AM • PRIDE MONTH

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Natalie Perkins

HYMN

“Draw the Circle Wide”

(Gordon Light; Mark Miller)

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No on stand alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No on stand alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side—
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

• REFLECTING •

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Romal Tune



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

LORD'S PRAYER IN SPANISH

John Del Cueto

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

John Del Cueto

ANTHEM "Standing in the Need of A Blessing"

(Patrick D. Bradley)

SCRIPTURE Genesis 1:1-5

Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews

SERMON "The Light, the Shadow & Everything In Between"

Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews

• **RESPONDING** •**COMMUNION**

Rev. Natalie Perkins, Gloria Tate and Michael-Ray Mathews

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

Jason Enlow

OFFERTORY "Work, Fight and Pray"

(Pamela Warrick-Smith)

Pamela Warrick-Smith, Soloist

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

Edna Benitez

HYMN

“Lean On Me”

(Bill Withers)

Sometimes in our lives we all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show

You just call on me, people, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

BENEDICTION

Rev. Natalie Perkins

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Sterling Cozza, piano

Sermon Focus: What's Next?

THIS WEEK: THE LIGHT, THE SHADOW & EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

- We can trust God's co-creative process as we work healing in our lives and in the world. We can trust this solidarity in the chaos, in the darkness and in the light.
-

LAST WEEK: STANDING TOGETHER! THE POWER OF UNITY

- United we rise, divided we fall.

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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.

Pray for 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 Sheila Robinson Sheila Harding Jessi Matei Joe Tigner Sandra Catena Sandra Cunningham Joy Rosenthal Dolly Linda Doria Laura Donovan Bridget Kelso Anthony Mia McClain Victoria Dillard James Cunningham Gwen Kingsberry NATO 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/.

Join us for Butterfly Outreach Mission!

We welcome you to join us at Tompkins Square Park Corner at 9th Street and Ave B as we deliver homemade sandwiches and love letters to our neighbors who might appreciate a meal and friendly face. Please email Patrick at Ptmulcahy21@gmail.com or Deborah at Bergamotmusic@gmail.com for more info on what to bring and expect.

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](https://venmo.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)

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”)

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.



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

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

to hear a weekly prayer, scripture, and reflection from a Middle pastor. Updated Mondays, 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, JUN 4

- 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.: [I Wish My Dad: The Power of Vulnerable Conversations between Fathers and Sons](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Queer Connections](#)

MONDAY, JUN 5

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

TUESDAY, JUN 6

- 5:45 p.m.: [Reparations Task Force Class](#)
- 7:30 p.m.: [Feeling Queer: Holy Grief, Rage, Tenderness, & Joy Class](#)

WEDNESDAY, JUN 7

- 8:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise East](#)
- 10:00 a.m.: [Pray to Rise West](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Middle's Migrant Response](#)
- 7:00 p.m.: [Ukuleliacs](#)

THURSDAY, JUN 8

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

SUNDAY, JUN 10

- 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 & Youth](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [Celebrating Grads Party](#)
- 1:00 p.m.: [PrideXPurpose Compassionate Convo: Reclaiming Queerness in Spirituality](#)
- 2:00 p.m.: [Butterfly Outreach Ministry](#)

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. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft – *Consulting Community Minister*

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