

JUST LOVE LIBERATES



middle church

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 • 11:45 AM

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN

"I Know I've Been Changed"

(trad Af Am)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"River"

(Leon Bridges)

Soloist Rob Marerro

LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Amanda Hambrick

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.**

CHORAL AMEN

(Trad.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Amanda Hambrick

As you are able, please make your way to the microphone to also greet those worshipping with us online

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

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

“I Choose Love”

(Mark A. Miller)
Ensemble

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:1-12

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

¹ When Jesus^u saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^u on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON

Blessed and Highly Favored

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

COMMUNION

Clergy

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

Geraldine Smith

If you'd like to join our movement for love and justice, go to middlechurch.org/join.

OFFERTORY

“I Smile”

(Kirk Franklin)

Donate at middlechurch.org/donate or Venmo @MiddleChurch

DOXOLOGY

(Trad.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

DEDICATION PRAYER

Monique Fortuné

HYMN

“Lead with Love”

(Melanie DeMoore)



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

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION**Director of Music and Choirs** • John Del Cueto**Middle Church Band** • Dionne McClain-Freeney (piano), small ensemble

January Playlist: Did you miss anything at Middle last month? Check out our monthly recap for a selection of moving musical performances and a touching sermon. Watch them again or share the playlist with friends.



LEADERSHIP LAB

2026**IN-PERSON****Sundays • 1:00-4:30P**FEB 22, MAR 22,
APR 19, MAY 17**DIGITAL****Thursdays • 6:30-8:00P**FEB 19 – APR 30
(Break on Apr 2)**LIMITED AVAILABILITY FOR BOTH TRACKS**

Learn from Jacqui Lewis, John Janka, and a cadre of staffulty in this 7th cohort. Build collective power to engage anti-racism, leadership development, and liberation work to move the world around you.

CURRICULUM: CONFLICT • BURNOUT • IDENTITY POLITICS • PUBLIC SQUARE LEADERSHIP

ATTENDANCE REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATE**TUITION****\$125****REGISTER AT MIDDLECHURCH.ORG**

PRAYER CORNER *Please pray with us this week for these people and concerns.***We are praying for all our Middle family every day.**

For all who are fighting for freedom

For Minnesota and all who are vulnerable and who are defending the vulnerable everywhere

For the detained and all who love them: For Allan Dabrio Marrero and Matthew his husband, for Piero Bracamonte and Peter Calderon his uncle

For students, parents, faculty and administrators in our schools in this social and political climate

For those who are working hard to pay rent

For those who are seeking employment

For the health and well being of all in our Middle community and those we love, including Rashida Brown and Kristal Mosley's cousin and her family in Houston

For our chronically ill siblings to receive the care they need

For those who have recently lost loved ones

For the surprising joys and pleasures

To make a prayer request, speak to a minister, or inquire about financial assistance, visit middlechurch.org/prayer/.

Welcome to Middle Church

We are glad you're here today! If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out the card you were given with the bulletin and drop it in the offering bag when it comes by. We hope you'll come back often to be with us!

To learn more about the history of this church— we call it a movement — or to learn about New Members classes, or to get involved with our community groups, visit us at www.middlechurch.org.

By entering the Sanctuary, you grant Middle 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 Church.

GIVING AT MIDDLE



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

As of January 1, 2026, all contributions made to Middle Church, reserved and restricted for the sole and exclusive use by Middle Church, are, for federal income tax purposes, treated as contributions made to Congregational Collegiate Collective, Inc. and are deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

Our new legal name is Middle Ministry, LLC, but we are authorized to do business and be known as Middle Church. All donations should be written to Middle Church. The parent entity is named: Congregational Collegiate Collective, Inc. EIN# 90-0458930 and is a nonprofit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

You will see references to our new parent entity's name and EIN on our website, within 2026 donation acknowledgement communications and donor directories such as Candid and GuideStar.

HERE ARE ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT MIDDLE CHURCH

Back by Popular Demand! Our brick campaign is here again and you can still leave a lasting mark on Middle Church's future in the very foundation of our renewed home.

Bricks are a powerful way to honor loved ones, celebrate milestones, and show your commitment to love, justice, and joy. Each engraved brick will be placed on our Rising Wall or Freedom Wall, symbols of our collective story and our bold vision for the future.

Your gift not only secures your place in Middle's history, it fuels the fierce love that flows through our worship, justice work, art, and care for one another.

Give a brick today: <https://secure.everyaction.com/kUHfiP3LYUaN5yxP5lgLkw2>

Middle has always been more than a building—it's the love, justice, music, art, and community that flow within and beyond our sacred space. To keep that spirit thriving, we need your continued support for all the vital things that make Middle, Middle: our staff, programs, worship, justice work, and care for one another.

Your giving today fuels this ministry of fierce love. Together, we are not just restoring a church, we are building the movement for justice and joy our world so deeply needs.

Please give at middlechurch.org/donate/.

Sunday Worship and programs happen thanks to our clergy, staff, musicians, volunteers, and all of you who participate in-person and online. We can't do it without you! Please visit www.middlechurch.org/donate to make your gifts to support our ongoing operations and programming of this new building. We are the ones we've been waiting for and together, with you onboard, we will have enough!

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

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

- Visit middlechurch.org/donate
- Venmo @MiddleChurch
- To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address to:

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

**Charitable Giving may require the search via Congregational Collegiate Collective, Inc EIN: 90 - 0458930 in order to designate it to Middle Church.

Please reach out to our Stewardship Office (stewardship@middlechurch.org) for instructions regarding giving securities or to discuss any questions about your giving plan.

DONATE BY PHONE

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



Middle Events Calendar

All events are listed in ET unless noted.

Visit middlechurch.org for details and updates.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

10:00 AM [Just Love Family Programming](#)
10:00 AM [Bible in the Middle](#)
11:45 AM [Worship Celebration](#)
12:00 PM [Just Love Kids](#)
12:45 PM [Chat & Chew - Hybrid](#)
1:00 PM [Community Social Hour](#)
1:15 PM [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
1:30 PM [Geraldine Smith Celebration of Life](#)

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



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:00 AM [Prayer Shawl Project - Online](#)
6:30 PM [Acting Class - Hybrid](#)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00 PM [Book Discussion Series: Shadowing St. Francis - Online](#)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:00 AM [Pray to Rise - Online](#)
7:00 PM [Ukuleliacs - Online](#)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

1:00 PM [New Adventures - Online](#)
6:30 PM [Creative Writing - Online](#)
7:00 PM [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

10:00 AM [Just Love Family Programming](#)
10:00 AM [Bible in the Middle](#)
11:45 AM [Worship Celebration](#)
12:00 PM [Just Love Kids](#)
12:45 PM [Chat & Chew - Hybrid](#)
1:00 PM Faith & Freedom Movements
Teach-In
1:15 PM [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)

Want to get more involved? To learn more about programs, regular volunteer opportunities, and community groups, please reach out to our Director, Events and Community Center, [Elise Tiralli](mailto:Elise.Tiralli@middlechurch.org) - [elise.tiralli@middlechurch.org](mailto:Elise.Tiralli@middlechurch.org).

Want to host your next event at Middle?
Visit middlechurch.org/rentals to find our rates and inquiry form here:



MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister, Public Theology and Partnerships
Macky Alston, M.Div. Executive Minister, Operations and Development
Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins, Executive Minister, Hybrid Church
Rev. Amanda Hambrick, Community Minister, Justice & Community Organizing
Making it Happen: Middle Church Staff, and YOU!

MAILING Middle Church
50 E 7th Street
New York NY 10003

Share our message on social media
and invite others to like, follow, and connect
with us.

WORSHIP Sundays at 11:45 AM ET online & in-person at: Middle Church
50 East 7th Street New York, NY 10003

Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch
Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis
YouTube.com/MiddleNYC
Instagram.com/middlechurch
Instagram.com/revjacquilewis
Twitter.com/middlechurch
Twitter.com/RevJacquiLewis
Jacquilewis.substack.com/
Middlechurch.substack.com/

E-MAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org

WEBSITE middlechurch.org

PHONE (212) 477-0667



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

HYMN**“I Know I’ve Been Changed”**

(trad Af Am)

I know I've been changed.
I know I've been changed
I know I've been changed
The angels in heaven done signed my name.

Know I've been changed - 6x's
The angels in heaven done signed my name.

V1

If you don't believe that I've been redeemed
The angels in heaven done signed my name
Then follow me down to the Jordan stream
The angels in heaven done signed my name.

V2

Stepped in the water, the water was cold
The angels in heaven done signed my name
It chilled my body but not my soul
The angels in heaven done signed my name

[Back to Bulletin](#)**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.//

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

Chorus:

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

Chorus:

Leader: ALL
I know you're scared (I know you're scared)
And I'm scared too (An I'm scared too)
But here I am (But here I am)
Right next to you (Right next to you)

Chorus

[Back to Bulletin](#)