



FEBRUARY 22, 2026 • 11:45 AM • BLACK HISTORY MONTH • LENT

## • GATHERING •

**INTROIT**      “Get Up, Stand Up”      (Bob Marley)  
JJGC

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **HYMN**      **“Lift Every Voice and Sing”**      (James W. Johnson)

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Allen Singleton

# SIYAHAMBA

We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, we are marching  
We are marching, in the light of God.  
We are marching, we are marching  
We are marching, in the light of God.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Rev. Dr. Jacqui 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.**

## **CHORAL AMEN** (Trad.)

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE** Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

*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**

Thank You

(Richard Smallwood)

JJGC, Soloist Helen White

**SCRIPTURE**

Gospel of Thomas 113:1-3

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

1 His followers said to Jesus: “When will the realm come?” 2 “It will not come by looking for it. It will not be a matter of saying, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘Look! There it is.’ 3 Rather, the realm of the Father is spread out upon the earth, but people don’t see it.”

**SERMON**

Images

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

• RESPONDING •

**INVITATION TO REFLECT**

**POWER THIS MOVEMENT**

Ivan Anderson

*If you'd like to join our movement for love and justice, go to [middlechurch.org/join](http://middlechurch.org/join).*

**OFFERTORY**

Anthem of Praise

(Richard Smallwood)

JJGC

*Donate at [middlechurch.org/donate](http://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**

Ivan Anderson

**HYMN**

"Total Praise"

(Richard Smallwood)

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

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## PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

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**Director of Music and Choirs** • John Del Cueto

**Middle Church Band** • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Piano), Jonathon Peretz (Drums), Booker King (Bass), Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir (JJGC)

**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**

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### IN-PERSON

**Sundays • 1:00-4:30P**

FEB 22, MAR 22,  
APR 19, MAY 17

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### 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](http://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.**

Pray with us for Allan Dabrio Marrero & Matthew, Piero Bracamonte and Peter Calderon his uncle, Kathe Lovegren & family, Tonya & Susan Evans, Carol Geu & family, Stephen Hanna & little Maverick, Tere Blessings & family, and for the health, safety, and well-being of all in our Middle community.

**To make a prayer request,** speak to a minister, or inquire about financial assistance, visit [middlechurch.org/prayer/](http://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](http://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

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# 90-0458939 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.



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

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/](http://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](http://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](http://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 will require a search by EIN 90-0458930  
Congregational Collegiate Collective in order to select Middle Church. Please reach out to our Stewardship Office ([stewardship@middlechurch.org](mailto: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.



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## MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10003

[Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch](https://Facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch)  
[Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis](https://Facebook.com/Rev.Jacqui.Lewis)  
[YouTube.com/MiddleNYC](https://YouTube.com/MiddleNYC)  
[Instagram.com/middlechurch](https://Instagram.com/middlechurch)  
[Instagram.com/revjacquilewis](https://Instagram.com/revjacquilewis)  
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[Jacquilewis.substack.com/](https://Jacquilewis.substack.com/)  
[Middlechurch.substack.com/](https://Middlechurch.substack.com/)

**E-MAIL** [middleinfo@middlechurch.org](mailto:middleinfo@middlechurch.org)

**WEBSITE** [middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org)

**PHONE** (212) 477-0667



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

# Middle Events Calendar

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 10:00 AM [Warming Station](#)
- 10:00 AM [Just Love Family Programming](#)
- 10:00 AM [Bible in the Middle - Hybrid](#)
- 11:45 AM [Worship Celebration](#)**
- 12:00 PM [Just Love Kids](#)
- 12:45 PM [Chat & Chew - Hybrid](#)
- 1:00 PM [Leadership Lab In-Person Cohort](#)
- 1:00 PM [Community Social Hour](#)
- 1:15 PM [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)
- 4:00 PM [New New Yorks Community Dinner](#)

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 6:30 PM [Acting Class - Hybrid](#)
- 7:00 PM [Queer Connections - Online](#)
- [8:00 PM How to Fight Racism: A Conversation with Jamar Tisby - Online](#)

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 6:00 PM [Creative Writing: Live at The Salmagundi Club](#)
- 7:00 PM [Digital Learning Collective - Online](#)
- [7:00 PM East Village Group - AA](#)
- 8:00 PM [Book Series: St. Francis - Online](#)
- 8:30 PM [East Village Group - AA](#)

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 8:00 AM [Pray to Rise - Online](#)
- 5:30 PM [Deportation Defense Training](#)
- 7:00 PM [New Membership Gathering - Online](#)
- 7:30 PM [Queer Black Men - Online](#)

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 1:00 PM [New Adventures - Online](#)
- 6:00 PM [Resistance Sing-In](#)
- 6:30 PM [Creative Writing - Online](#)
- 6:30 PM [Leadership Lab: Digital Cohort](#)
- 7:00 PM [Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir](#)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- 10:00 AM [Voter Reform Group - Online](#)
- 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](#)
- 2:00 PM [Family #ICEOUT Sing In](#)

All events are listed in ET unless noted.

Visit [middlechurch.org](#) for details and updates.

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



**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** - [etiralli@middlechurch.org](mailto:etiralli@middlechurch.org).

**Want to host your next event at Middle?** Visit [middlechurch.org/rentals](#) or scan this code to find our rates and inquiry form here:



**HYMN****"Lift Every Voice and Sing"**

(James W. Johnson)

**LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en  
2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - tning  
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had -  
tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - tning  
died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry  
way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the

skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?  
light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new  
slaug - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we  
get Thee; Shad - owed be -neath Thy hand, May we for

day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.  
ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

[Back to Bulletin](#)

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Tune: ANTHEM, 66 10 66 10 14 14 66 10; J. Rosamund Johnson, 1873-1954

**HYMN****"Total Praise"**

(Richard Smallwood)

**TOTAL PRAISE**Text: Richard Smallwood  
Tune: Richard Smallwood; arr. by Stephen Key

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills

know - ing my help is com - ing from You.

Your peace You give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength.

You are the strength of my life.

I lift my hands in to - tal praise to You.

You. A - men, a - men. A - men.

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

men. A - men, a - men. A - men.

men. A - men, a - men. A - men.

men. A - men, a - men. A - men.

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