

JUST LOVE LIBERATES



middle church
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

MARCH 1, 2026 • 11:45 AM • WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH • LENT

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN

["Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"](#)

(Ruth Duck)

Ensemble

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"I Am Sending You Light"

(Melanie DeMore)

Ensemble

LORD'S PRAYER

Monique Fortuné

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

Monique Fortuné

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

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

Strength, Courage, and Wisdom

(India Arie)

Noel Wippler

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¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed,[a] who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

SERMON

Hold On: Making it Through with Matriarchal Magic

Rev. Amanda Hambrick

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT**COMMUNION**

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins
Rev. Amanda Hambrick
Monique Fortuné

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

Pam Edgar

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

OFFERTORY

Up to the Mountain

(Patty Griffin)

Deborah Berg-McCarthy

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

DOXOLOGY

(Trad.)

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.

DEDICATION PRAYER

Pam Edgar

HYMN["Hold On"](#)

(Richard Smallwood)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hambrick



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PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Piano), Small ensemble

February 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.



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/.

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

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



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

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/kUHfiP3LYUaN5yxP5lGKw2>

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 will require a search by EIN 90-0458939 Congregational Collegiate Collective in order to select 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

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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
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E-MAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org

WEBSITE middlechurch.org

PHONE (212) 477-0667



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Middle Events Calendar

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](#)

MONDAY, MARCH 2

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- 7:00 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)
- 8:00 PM [Book Series: St. Francis – Online](#)
- 8:30 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

- 8:00 AM [Pray to Rise – Online](#)
- 6:00 PM [Watered with Tears: A Lenten Study of Scripture and Song – Online](#)
- 7:00 PM [Ukuleliacs](#)

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- 10:00 AM [Financial Wellness with Lauren Williams – Hybrid](#)
- 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](#)

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.

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



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JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom 174

G D C G Am7 G



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who

Am D G D C G



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,

Am G D7 Em Bm Am



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -

B7 Em Am G D7 G



path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Drawing on numerous scriptural images of Wisdom (Greek: *Sophia*), especially in Proverbs, this text offers an alternative perspective on Trinitarian theology. The Wisdom tradition has played a role in Christian mysticism for centuries, as witnessed by the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1993
 MUSIC: Donna Kasbohm, 1995
 Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press
 Music © 1997 The Pilgrim Press

MADELEINE
 8.7.8.7.8.7

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HYMN

“Hold On”

(Heidi Wilson)

Hold on, hold on
My dear one here comes the dawn.

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