

JUST LOVE LIBERATES



middle church
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

MARCH 8, 2026 • 11:45 AM • WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH • LENT

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

HYMN

[God of the Women](#)

(Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

Ensemble

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

George & Parron Edwards-Stimola

Reparations Task Force

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. Natalie Renee Perkins

LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins

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. Natalie Renee Perkins

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

Trust Him

(Dorothy Norwood)

JJGC

SCRIPTURE

John 4

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

Now when the Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that he was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again to Galilee. 4 He had to pass through Samar'ia. 5 So he came to a city of Samar'ia, called Sy'char, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 There came a woman of Samar'ia to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samar'ia?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" 13 Jesus said to her, "Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

SERMON

If the Church Loved Women Like Jesus Does

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

Danita Branam

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

OFFERTORY

Would You Harbor Me

(Ysaye M. Barnwell)

JJGC

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

DOXOLOGY

From all that dwell below the skies

(Trad.)



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Let faith and hope with love arise.
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

DEDICATION PRAYER

Danita Branam

HYMN

[Step by Step the Longest March](#)

(Waldemar Hille and
Pete Seeger, Irish Tune)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

SACRED MESS

New conversation with Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Dear ones,

So many of you write to me about the real places of your lives. Questions about faith, family, justice, love, grief, calling, doubt, hope, and how to stay human in a complicated world. I carry those stories with deep care.

I wanted to create a gentle, intentional space for that sharing.

This Sacred Mess is an open invitation. If there is something in your life that feels tender, tangled, unresolved, or simply human, you are welcome to share it with me. I will respond with reflection, presence, and blessing.

Think of it as a kind of pastoral Dear Abby for the sacred, messy parts of being alive.

Anything you share will be held in confidence. When I respond publicly, all identifying details will be removed so your story remains anonymous and protected.

You may send your questions or situations by DM on Instagram or by email at jlewis@middlechurech.org. Please put Sacred Mess in the subject line.

You are not alone in what you are carrying.

With love,
Jacqui



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PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto

Middle Church Band • Dionne McClain-Freeney (piano), Booker King (bass), Jonathon Peretz (drums), Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir (JJGC)



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, Troy Pinkney, for those facing health challenges, for those facing housing challenges, and for the 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.



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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 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

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



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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
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PHONE (212) 477-0667



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Middle Events Calendar

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](#)

MONDAY, MARCH 9

- 6:00 PM [Deportation Defense Training](#)
6:30 PM [Acting Class – Hybrid](#)

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- 8:00 AM [Pray to Rise – Online](#)
6:00 PM [Watered with Tears: A Lenten Study of Scripture and Song – Online](#)
7:30 PM [Queer Black Men – Online](#)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 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 15

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

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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HYMN

“God of the Women”

(Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

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HYMN

“Step by Step the Longest March”

(Waldemar Hille and Pete Seeger, Irish Tune)

Step by step the longest march
Can be won, can be won
Many stones can form an arch
Singly none, singly none
And by union what we will
Can be accomplished still
Drops of water turn a mill
Singly none singly none

Step by step the longest march
Can be won, can be won
Many stones can form an arch
Singly none, singly none
And by union what we will
Can be accomplished still
Drops of water turn a mill
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