JUST LOVE LIBERATES

middle church

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 8, 2026 • 11:45 AM • CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION • JJGC CONCERT

• GATHERING •

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

HYMN Woke Up This Morning (Trad.)

Woke up this morning with my mind
Stayed on freedom
Woke up this morning with my mind
Stayed on freedom
Woke up this morning with my mind
Stayed on freedom
Hallelu, Hallelu, Halleluia

2) Walkin' and talkin' with my mind
3) Ain't no harm to keep your mind

- Walk
- Talk
- Pray

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Amanda Hambrick

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
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.

SERMONIC HYMN Ella's Song (Bernice Johnson Reagon)
Congregation

We who believe in freedom cannot rest
We who believe in freedom cannot rest
Until it comes.

• REFLECTING •

SCRIPTURE Revelation 22:1-5 Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis & Congregation

[1] Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the
throne of God and of the Lamb [2] through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the
river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves
of the tree are for the healing of the nations. [3] Nothing accursed will be found there any more.
But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and God's servants will worship God; [4] they
will see God's face, and God's name will be on their foreheads. [5] And there will be no more
night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign
forever and ever.

SERMON Heal Souls AND Heal the World Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis & Congregation

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

POWER THIS MOVEMENT Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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

OFFERTORY I Love the Lord (Richard Smallwood)
Congregation

I love the Lord, who heard my cry
And pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise
I'll hasten to, God's throne.
I'll hasten to God's throne

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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 Rev. Macky Alston

HYMN Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn me Around (Trad.)

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round
Turn me 'round, turn me 'round
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round
I'm gonna keep on walking,
Keep on talking
Marchin' up to freedom land.

2) Ain't gonna let racism

3) Ain't gonna let injustice
4) Ain't gonna let division

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION

Director of Music and Choirs • John Del Cueto
Musicians in Worship • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Piano)

October 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

We are praying for all our Middle family every day.
Please pray with us this week for these people:

The late Gene Smith's family, Sandy Hardwick-Pettis and Shirley Pettis, Javier Burgos Badilla, Neice Osha, Cody Concepcion, Alden Deleanides, Joanie HF Zosike, Kat Tenezaca, Katrina Monzon & Sheyla Bultrón Echevarria, Amanda Enck, Donna and Elizabeth Johnson, Eddie Russo, Gene Smith, Sandy Hardwick-Pettis, Tina Cernero's sister Renee, Ralph Robertson & family, the Slazer family, Laci Beckett, Arthur Beckett, Daniel Bracken, Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward, Claudia Slacik & Susan Davis, Steve, Briana, Cody, Luke and Faye, Hannah & Lane Serota

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

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

Please click here to submit your responses electronically.

Question 1: When you consider your spiritual life: What is one thing (program, event, etc.) Middle can add, do more of, or do better?

Question 2: What feedback do you have about our role in the public square?

Question 3: Given budget constraints, what can we do less of, not do at all, or do more efficiently?

Question 4: You are the hands, feet and heartbeat of God. What do you want to do here?

a.) Volunteer (how)

b.) Be an ambassador/recruiter (how)

c.) Fund our ministry (how)

d.) Other (be specific, please)

Question 5: As the Board considers what is feasible on the 112-2nd Avenue lot, what do you hope we will do (Select all that apply)

a.) Additional space for worship and/or the arts (what kind of art?) _____
b.) Space for families, children and youth
c.) Space for justice and organizing
d.) Affordable housing
e.) Other (be specific)

Welcome to Middle Church

We are glad you're here today! If you are visiting for the first time, we invite you to head to middlechurch.org/welcome to learn more about Middle and to get connected. We hope you'll come back often to be with us!

Middle Church is a Welcoming, Artistic, Inclusive, and Bold Expression of Just Love. Period.

To learn more about the history of this community, and the ways you can get more deeply connected, visit us at 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.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS YOU CAN POWER MIDDLE CHURCH

Back by Popular Demand! 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: bit.ly/4su4wHr 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.

It's not too early to purchase a piece of jewelry made from the shards of our Tiffany Stained Glass Windows, rescued from the fire. Please visit bit.ly/4zypzge to get yours today before we sell out.

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! 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*

MAKE A DONATION TO MIDDLE CHURCH

Charitable Giving will require a search by EIN 90-0458939 Congregational Collegiate Collective in order to select Middle Church. Congregational Collegiate Collective 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.

Our new legal name is Middle Ministry, LLC, as a wholly owned subsidiary, but we are authorized to do business and be known as Middle Church. All donations should be written to Middle Church.

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

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

- Visit middlechurch.org/donate
- Venmo @MiddleChurch

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

DONATE BY PHONE

To make a donation to Middle Church, scan this QR code.

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MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister, Public Theology and Partnerships
Rev. Macky Alston, Executive Minister, Stewardship and Congregational Life
Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins, Executive Minister, Hybrid Church
Rev. Amanda Hambrick, Minister for Justice and Intergenerational 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	

THE MIDDLE CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Middle Church is a multicultural, multiethnic, intergenerational movement of Spirit and justice, powered by fierce, revolutionary Love, with room for all. Following in the Way of Jesus' radical love, and inspired by the prophets, Middle Church is called by God to do a bold new thing on the earth. We aim to heal souls and the world by dismantling racist, classist, sexist, ethnocentrist, ableist, cisheterosexist and other systems of oppression.

Because our God is still speaking in many languages, we work in interreligious partnerships to uproot injustice, eradicate poverty, care for the brokenhearted, nurture our planet, and build the Reign of God on earth. This activism is fueled by our faith; our faith is expressed in art; our art is an active prayer connecting us with the Holy Spirit. Middle Church affirms the transformative power of moral imagination, reclaiming and reframing Christianity inside our walls, on the street, and in virtual spaces around the globe.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

Middle Church is part of Collegiate Church, which is the oldest continuous Protestant Church in North America, dating back to 1628. Historically part of the Reformed Church in America, Middle Church is now affiliated with the United Church of Christ. For more information about the UCC please visit ucc.org.

You can sign up for Happenings–the weekly newsletter of the New York Conference Association of the UCC here. bit.ly/4cH3nHl.

Middle Events Calendar

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
10:00 AM Bible in the Middle
10:00 AM Just Love Family Programming
10:00 AM Voter Reform Group
11:45 AM Worship Celebration
Join us for worship and a Congregational Conversation
12:00 PM Just Love Kids
12:45 PM Chat & Chew – Online
1:00 PM Community Social Hour: Continued Congregational Conversations – Studio on 3
3:00 PM **Celebrating 40 Years of the Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir**
New New Yorkers Community Dinner
See Rev. Amanda for details.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
6:30 PM Acting Class – Hybrid
7:00 PM Queer Theology Series – Online

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
7:00 PM East Village Group – AA
7:30 PM Cancer Support Group – Online
8:30 PM East Village Group – AA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
8:00 AM Pray to Rise – Online
6:00 PM Sound Healing Sanctuary – Hybrid
7:30 PM Queer Black Men – Online
8:00 PM My Soul is a Witness – Online

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
1:00 PM New Adventures – Online
6:30 PM Creative Writing – Online
7:00 PM Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir – Hybrid

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
9:30 AM Butterfly Outreach Ministry
10:00 AM Bible in the Middle
10:00 AM Just Love Family Programming
11:45 AM Worship Celebration
12:00 PM Just Love Kids
12:45 PM Chat & Chew – Hybrid
1:00 PM Butterfly Outreach Ministry
1:00 PM Community Social Hour
1:15 PM Village Chorus for Children & Youth
2:00 PM Lay Leader Orientation – Hybrid

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, visit middlechurch.org/events or scan this QR code.

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 QR code to find our rates and inquiry form here:

Rev. Dr. Jacqui's Bible Study:
My Soul is a Witness. What do our Holy Texts say about taking care of ourselves—body, mind and soul? This study will be a journey toward the self-love we need to love our neighbors well. Open to the public. Register here.