



OCTOBER 25, 2026 • 11:30 AM • CONFERENCE SUNDAY

• **GATHERING** •

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come Ye (Nina Simone)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, Adriene Hurd,
Lutin Tanner, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Soloist Noël Wippler

Rabbi Emily Cohen
Rev. Amanda Hambrick
Rabbi Andy Kahn
Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis
Amadou Ly
Dr. Rami Nashashibi
Japneet Singh
Durga Sreenivasan
Rabbi Abby Stein
Sunita Viswanath

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

HYMN

Let My People Go / Go Down, Moses

(Trad AfAm Spiritual)

When Israel was in Egypt's land,
Let my people go,
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,
Let my people go.

[Refrain]
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
Tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.

The Lord told Moses what to do,
Let my people go,
To lead the Hebrew children through,
Let my people go. [Refrain]:

Lord, help us all from bondage flee,
Let my people go,
And let us all in You be free,
Let my people go. [Refrain]

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.

• REFLECTING •

ANTHEM

Ringling Them Bells

(Junior Garr, Marsha Morrison, Keith Bazari)
Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 19.2 b, 15-18

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

A reading from the book of Leviticus.
You shall be holy,
for I am holy,
says the Lord your God.
You shall ensure justice
for your neighbour,
without regard
to status
or wealth.
You shall not speak falsehood
against your neighbour.
You shall not profit
from endangering
the life
of your neighbour.
You shall not hold hatred
in your heart
against your neighbour.
You shall challenge
your neighbour's wrong-doing,
for if you fail to do so,
you bear the guilt

of that wrong-doing
yourself.
You shall not
take revenge,
or bear a grudge,
against any of your people.
And you shall love your neighbour
as yourself.
This is the word of the Lord.

SERMON

What's Love Got to Do With it?

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis
Edna Benitez

• RESPONDING •

INVITATION TO REFLECT

POWER THIS MOVEMENT

Rev. Macky Alston

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

OFFERTORY

Jericho Praise

(Ivan Christopher)

Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, Soloist Ivan Anderson

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

DOXOLOGY

(Black Doxology)

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

Edna Benitez

HYMN

We Shall Overcome

(Trad. AfAm Freedom Song/Tituss Burgess)

Lead Madge Dietrich

We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe,
We shall overcome, some day.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis



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

Musicians in Worship • Dionne McClain-Freeney (Piano), Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir (JJGC)

September 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:

Amanda Enck, the memory of JJ's mom, Helen Jones, Donna and Elizabeth Johnson, Eddie Russo, Gene Smith, Sandy Hardwick-Pettis, Tina Cernero's sister Renee, the family of Nolan Wells, the family of Ralph Robertson, the Slazer family, Laci Beckett, Arthur Beckett, Daniel Bracken, Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward, Jean Renard Ward, Claudia Slazik, Steve, Briana, Cody, Luke and Faye, Hannah & Lane Serota, Lisa Rogers, the family of Lynn Harris, Paul & Nancie Carlson, Ryan Chapin and the birth of Laurence, Jennifer and Jamison, Mary Jo Brightley, Michele Rafferty, Billy Wallace and Caylin Capra-Thomas, and for all of those whom Melvin Cunningham holds in his heart.

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, 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!

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 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 ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT 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.

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](https://www.venmo.com/@MiddleChurch)

To mail contributions to Middle Church, please address them 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, Community Minister for Justice & Organizing
Making it Happen: Middle Church Staff, and YOU!

MAILING	Middle Church 50 E 7 th 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 th 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	

DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

Middle Church is part of New York's Reformed Association of the United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination. For more information about the UCC please visit ucc.org.

You can sign up for Happenings—the weekly newsletter—to stay abreast of what the New York Conference Association is doing. If you have signed up for Happenings, the eblast from the New York Conference, and you aren't receiving it, please check your spam folders. If you would like to sign up to receive Happenings every Wednesday, visit bit.ly/4cH3nHl.



**middle
church**

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Middle Events Calendar

FREEDOM RISING CONFERENCE | OCT 23-25

www.freedomrisingconference.com

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 10:00 AM [Bible in the Middle](#)
- 10:00 AM [Just Love Family Programming](#)
- 10:00 AM [Voter Reform Group](#)
- 11:30 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, OCTOBER 26

- 6:30 PM [Acting Class – Hybrid](#)
- 7:00 PM [Queer Connections – Online](#)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

- 6:00 PM [Creative Writing – Salmagundi Club](#)
- 7:00 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)
- 7:30 PM [Middle Reads: The Black Madonna by Christena Cleveland – Online](#)
- 8:30 PM [East Village Group – AA](#)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

- 8:00 AM [Pray to Rise – Online](#)
- 6:00 PM [Sound Healing Sanctuary – Hybrid](#)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 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 [Community Social Hour](#)
- 1:00 PM [Butterfly Distribution](#)
- 1:15 PM [Village Chorus for Children & Youth](#)

JOIN US ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

- 1:00 PM Congregational Conversation
- 3:00 PM [Celebrating 40 Years of the Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir!](#)

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:



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