



middle notes

The Newsletter of Middle Collegiate Church

OCTOBER 2017

Celebration! Worship
Sundays at 9:30 AM
and 11:45 AM

Watch live at 11:45 AM on
middlechurch.org or Facebook

OCTOBER 1

World Communion Sunday

"A Place at the Table"

John 6.51-58

Michael Piazza, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir
Communion

OCTOBER 8

"Something Old,

Something New"

Exodus 20.1-17

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Middle Church Choir
Baptisms (11:45)

OCTOBER 15

"Fight with God—

She Can Take It!"

Exodus 32.1-14

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Jerriese Johnson
Gospel Choir
Brønshøj Church Girl's Choir
Welcome Members (9:30)
Ordain Consistory (11:45)

OCTOBER 22

Children's Sabbath

"Love and Justice for
Every Child"

Matthew 19.13-14

Derrick Harkins, preacher
Artists from Mosaic
Village Chorus for Children
and Youth

OCTOBER 29

RE-FORMATION SUNDAY

"Revolutionary Love"

Matthew 22.34-40

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Middle Church Choir
Jerriese Johnson
Gospel Choir

Blessing of the Animals

OCTOBER 8 at 3:30 PM

Once again, Middle Church
will give a blessing to the
pets that are such a gift to
us. Bring our furry and scaly
friends to the church steps.
Rev. Michael Piazza will offer
a prayer for your pet.

Mes de la Herencia Hispana

Shaping the Bright Future of America

One of the hallmarks of Middle Church's life of faith is our commitment to celebrate the unique particularity of every human being. This is why we'll honor the unique contributions and the rich heritage of Hispanic and Latinx Americans in the United States during National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month on October 8 and 15 in worship.

Hispanic Heritage Month, whose roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile, and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is October 12.

Many Spanish-speaking countries and communities don't celebrate Columbus Day due to the enslavement and mass murders of thousands of native and indigenous groups Columbus encountered on his voyages. Instead they celebrate Día de la Raza (Day of the Race), recognizing the people, traditions, and cultures that were wiped out because of colonization.

Many Hispanic Americans trace their roots to the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas—including the Arawaks (Puerto Rico), the Aztecs (Mexico), the Incas (South America), the Maya (Central America), and the Tainos (in Cuba, Puerto Rico and other places). Some trace their roots to the Spanish explorers. Other Latinos trace their roots to the Africans who were brought as slaves to the New World.

Today, 18% of the total U.S. population—57.5 million people—are of Hispanic or Latino origin. This represents a significant increase from 2000, which registered the Hispanic population at 35.3 million or 13% of the total U.S. population. And 3.4 million of those people live in Puerto Rico, which was decimated by a storm named Maria.

In February 1898, after centuries of Spanish colonial rule, Puerto Rico had just become an independent part of Spain, complete with a Constitution and voting rights. At war with Spain, American forces landed in Puerto Rico in July,

and U.S. General Nelson Miles issued a manifesto promising to protect the life, liberty, and happiness of Puerto Ricans, and their property. The Spanish-American War ended only a month later, yet the Americans did not keep their promises. When Spain ceded Puerto Rico to the U.S. in the Treaty of Paris of 1898, the U.S. ignored the new, democratically-elected local parliament of Puerto Rico in favor of creating its own colonial system.

With the westward expansion of the 19th century, the U.S. established "incorporated territories" that could and did become formal American states—such as the Colorado Territory. But in 1901, a series of legal opinions known as the Insular Cases argued that Puerto Rico and other territories ceded by Spain were full of "alien races" who couldn't understand "Anglo-Saxon principles." Therefore, the Constitution did not apply to them, and Puerto Rico became an "unincorporated territory" with no path forward to statehood. Alien races!

Puerto Ricans became U.S. citizens in 1917 under the Jones-Shafroth Act, conveniently allowing the U.S. to deploy them as troops during World War I. The federal government believed that white people weren't suited to fight in tropical climates because they didn't have immunity to the diseases found there. Instead, the U.S. sent Puerto Rican "immunes," as they were called, to defend the Panama Canal.

Although they were now U.S. citizens, Puerto Ricans could not vote for president or elect voting senators or representatives to the U.S. Congress. Since 1901, Puerto Ricans have only been able to elect a nonvoting "resident commissioner of Puerto Rico" to the U.S. House of Representatives. Like the United States' other territories, Puerto Ricans have no representation in Congress. And unlike Washington, D.C., which gained the right to vote for president with the 23rd Amendment in 1961, Puerto Ricans and the American citizens in other U.S. territories can't vote in presidential elections.

Continued on next page



Mes de la Herencia Hispana *continued*

Just a few months before Hurricane Maria, Puerto Ricans actually voted in favor of a referendum for statehood. But unfortunately, it doesn't matter how many Puerto Ricans vote for it. The only people who can incorporate the islands into a state are the voting members of Congress.

As we celebrate Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month, we will work assiduously to help our global family recover from hurricanes and earthquakes. Please visit our website for information. And we will continue to work to end the systemic racism seeks to dishonor the voices and gifts of our Hispanic/Latinx family. America's bright future depends on us all!

I love you,
Jacqui

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis is Senior Minister at Middle Collegiate Church.

Moms in the Middle / Dads in the Middle

Sunday, October 1 • 1:15–2:30 PM

Now Mom and Dad each have a group to deepen connection and grow spiritually by focusing on the parenting journey and its intersection with faith. Spend time every month sharing your story, building community, and growing in faith. For info and to RSVP, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.

Jam Session

Wednesday, October 4 • 7:00–8:30 PM • Social Hall

Let's play together and share your music. Bring your uke, banjo, guitar, anything unplugged with strings. All levels welcome! For info or to RSVP, contact Tami at tpetty@middlechurch.org.

Just Faith Bible Study: Hebrews

Wednesdays, beginning October 4 • 7:00–8:30 PM • Parlor

Come learn, pray, and question with Associate Minister Rob Stephens to discover what fresh truths the ancient Book of Hebrews might hold for us today in our lives, work, families and faith journeys. RSVP to Rob at rstephens@middlechurch.org.

New Member Orientation

Sunday, October 8 • 1:15–3:00 PM

Do you want to connect with other people at Middle? Join us for lunch as we share our stories and learn more about the history, theology, and vision of Middle Church, and ways you can volunteer and deepen your connection with the community. For info and to RSVP, contact Rachel at rhippert@middlechurch.org.

Family Potluck

Wednesdays, October 11 • 6:00–8:00 PM • Social Hall

Join your Middle family for this quarterly Wednesday night potluck gathering. We'll have a big pot of vegetable soup to share, and families are invited to bring a side item to add to the meal. We'll discuss programs for children and youth at Middle and hear from parents/guardians about their hopes and ideas for this school year. Young people can join the conversation with their grown-ups or engage some of the activity stations in the same space. RSVP to Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.



Faith in Action

On September 9, Middle congregants and staff took Revolutionary Love to the streets, standing up to #defendDACA. We were a part of the protest outside of the Trump International Hotel and Tower near Central Park.

Move Your Prayers

Wednesdays, October 11 and 25 • 7:00–8:30 PM

Nurture your body, mind, and spirit at a yoga class for all levels followed by a session of Praying Dangerously. Move Your Prayers (formerly Soul Care) will meet twice per month. **Please bring a yoga mat.** RSVP to Christina at cflaming@middlechurch.org.

Money Talks

Sunday, October 15 • 1:15–2:30 PM

Whether you're struggling to pay monthly bills, worried if you've saved enough for college or retirement, or simply want to learn about financial management, this class is for you! Led by Elder Veronica Carrera, the material will be accessible and useful regardless of one's financial situation. RSVP to Rob at rstephens@middlechurch.org.

New Adventures

Thursday, October 19 • 2:00–3:30 PM • Parlor

New Adventures is for Middle members who have had their share of adventures already, and are ready to discover what's next. Whether you're retired, semi-retired, between jobs, or just have Thursday afternoons free and want to share time with new friends, this group is for you! Join Associate Minister Rob Stephens for an afternoon tea and snacks. For info or to RSVP, contact Rob at rstephens@middlechurch.org.

Middle Mixer: New York Botanical Garden

Saturday, October 21 • 2:00–5:00 PM • Meet at NYBG

Enjoy a day with our Middle Church family at the renowned New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in the Bronx. Middle member Curtiss Gibson will lead our group tour of the record-breaking Chihuly exhibition as well as autumn highlights of the gardens. All ages are welcome at this event! For more info, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org. **For a \$10 ticket (regularly \$23), you must reserve by October 18 at <http://bit.ly/MCCBot>.**



Image:
Dale Chihuly,
Sapphire Star
(detail), 2010,
92 x 93 x 92 in.,
The New York
Botanical Garden,
installed 2017
© Chihuly Studio.

Halloween Screening: *Nosferatu*

Tuesday, October 31 • 7:00-8:30 pm • Sanctuary

Join your middle family for a special Halloween screening of the silent film, *Nosferatu*, accompanied by organist Alessandro Pittorino. The 1922 German Expressionist horror film is an unauthorized retelling of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and is considered a masterpiece of early cinema. A native of Australia, Pittorino is a recent Master of Music graduate from The Juilliard School, and was heralded by *The Australian* as "a self-confessed showman who loves to engage with his audience." A freewill donation will be collected after the screening.



The Butterfly Meal Needs You!

Sundays • 9:30 AM, 11:45 AM, and 1:00 PM

Every Sunday, from Easter through November, a team of dedicated volunteers gather to make bag lunches. After worship, team members venture to local parks to distribute the lunch bags to anyone who is hungry. **We need volunteers for each task and committed team leaders to guide the volunteers.** To join the team, contact Cheryl Cochran at ccochran@middlechurch.org.

Calling All Ushers, Greeters, and Ambassadors!

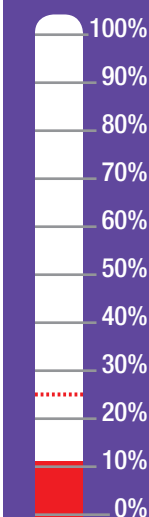
You know that first impressions matter! We need even more ushers and greeters to serve our two Sunday morning worship celebrations. **We also need Welcoming Ambassadors to sit at the entrance to the social hall on Sunday mornings during Brunch and welcome visitors and congregants.** If you like meeting people and don't mind sitting for a hour, this is a great way to serve at Middle Church. If you would like to become an usher, greeter, or welcoming ambassador at Middle Church, or for more information, contact Christina at cfleming@middlechurch.org.

Stewardship Update

YOU are #RevolutionaryLove in action. Together, we are building a movement toward God's dream for a healed, whole, and just world. It is a new program year with a new offering goal of \$625,000 for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. **As of this printing, you have given \$73,815.24 since July 1. We are 11.81% on our way to our goal at 25% of the program year.** We can do it! For convenience, consider a recurring donation.

Mail your donation in the envelope provided or **donate now—visit bit.ly/power-love.**

**GOAL FY 2017:
\$625,000**



October

Check middlechurch.org for full details of all events.

Sundays

- **Wee Care** (under age 4) – 8:30 AM–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor Wee Care
- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal** – OCT 1 – 9:00–9:25 AM • Sanctuary
- **Family Room** (Grades K–5) – 8:30–9:30 AM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** – 9:30–10:45 AM • Sanctuary
- **Butterfly Meal Prep 1** – 9:30–10:30 AM • Social Hall
- **BRUNCH in the Middle/Join the Movement** – 10:50–11:40 AM
- **BIBLE in the Middle** (Adult Education) – 10:50–11:40 AM • Parlor
- **KIDS in the Middle** – 10:50–11:40 AM • Grades K–2 – 3rd Floor Studio / Grades 3–5 – 4th Floor Studio
- **YOUTH in the Middle** (Gr. 6–12) – 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Fl. Classroom
- **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • Sanctuary
- **Butterfly Meal Prep 2** – 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • Social Hall
- **Butterfly Meal Distribution** – 1:00 PM • Meet at Social Hall
- **Join the Movement Café** – 1:00–1:30 PM • Social Hall
- **Family Room** (Grades K–5) – 1:00–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **Middle Project Young Adult Leadership Lab** – OCT 15 – 1:00 PM
- **Moms in the Middle** – OCT 1 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Parlor
- **Dads in the Middle** – OCT 1 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Conference Room
- **New Member Orientation** – OCT 8 – 1:15–3:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **Money Talks** – OCT 15 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Community Room
- **Village Chorus for Children & Youth** (Ages 6–17) – 1:15–2:30 PM
- **Blessing of the Animals** – OCT 8 – 3:30–4:00 PM • Sanctuary steps
- **AA/Big Book Meeting** – 4:00–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Monday

Church Office closed for Indigenous Peoples Day on October 9.

- **Momentum Meal** – 5:30–6:00 PM • Social Hall
- **Acting Class** – 6:30–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio

Tuesdays

- **Film Screening: *Nosferatu*** – OCT 31 – 7:00–8:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **AA/Step Meeting** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **AA/Artist in Recovery** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **AI-Anon** – 7:30–9:00 PM • Community Room
- **AA/Closed Discussion** – 8:30–9:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Wednesdays

- **New Adventures** – OCT 19 – 2:00–3:30 PM • Parlor
- **Just Faith Bible Study** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Parlor
- **Jam Session** – OCT 4 – 7:00–8:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **Move Your Prayers** – OCT 11, 25 – 7:00–8:30 PM • Community Room
- **NA/Our Whole Lives Ahead of Us** – 7:30–8:45 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Thursdays

- **Family Potluck** – OCT 11 – 6:00–8:00 PM • Social Hall
- **Creative Writing** – 6:30–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **JJ Gospel Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Community Room
- **Meditation on the LES** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Parlor
- **AI-Anon** – 7:30–9:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio

Fridays

- **NA/It's About Change** – 6:30–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **AA/Young and Wise Group** – 8:00–9:00 PM • Community Room
- **NA/Finally Found a Home** – 8:30–9:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Saturdays

- **Middle Project Young Adult Leadership Lab** – OCT 14 – 10:00 AM
- **Middle Mixer: New York Botanical Garden** – OCT 21 • Offsite
- **NA/Meat and Potatoes** – 6:30–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Classroom
- **AA/Beginners** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **AA/Open Discussion** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **AA/Closed Discussion** – 8:30–9:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio



Middle Collegiate Church

50 East 7th Street • New York, NY 10003



New Worship Celebration Times!
9:30 AM & 11:45 AM

**Same worship.
Different times.
You choose.**

Many thanks to all for helping to make our change to two worship celebrations a success.

If you can't be with us in person, watch live at 11:45 AM on Facebook or middlechurch.org



Middle Collegiate Church

welcoming • artistic • inclusive • bold

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D., *Senior Minister*

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youtube.com/MiddleNYC

Middle Collegiate Church is a celebrating, culturally diverse, inclusive, and growing community of faith where all persons are welcomed just as they are as they come through the door. Rooted in Christian tradition as the oldest continuous Protestant Church in North America, Middle Church is called by God to boldly do a new thing on the earth.

As a teaching congregation that celebrates the arts, our ministries include rich and meaningful worship, care, and education that nurture the mind, body, and spirit, social action which embraces the global community, and participation in interfaith dialogue for the purpose of justice and reconciliation.

Care Line For pastoral care emergencies, call **212-477-0666 EXT 318** to leave your urgent message in the Pastoral Care Mailbox. A Middle Church pastor will return your call as soon as she or he is able. Only Middle pastors have access to the Pastoral Care Mailbox. All messages are treated confidentially.