



middle notes

The Newsletter of Middle Collegiate Church

SEPTEMBER 2017

Celebration! Worship
Sundays at 11:15 AM

Watch live on middlechurch.org

SEPTEMBER 3

LABOR SUNDAY

“Betraying Love”

Exodus 3.1-15

Rob Stephens, preacher
Union Members from Middle
In-the-Middle Choir
Communion

**Beginning
Sunday,
September 10**
**NEW
TIMES!**

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

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

SEPTEMBER 10
HOMECOMING I

“This Is an Emergency”

Romans 12.9-21

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Middle Church Choir
In-the-Middle Choir

SEPTEMBER 17
HOMECOMING II

“Stay Woke”

Romans 13.8-14

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Middle Church Choir

SEPTEMBER 24
HOMECOMING III

“God’s Economy”

Matthew 20.1-16

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Jerriese Johnson
Gospel Choir

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

Making Room for All

When you read this, I will be on retreat, getting ready to return to Middle on September 10. I have had a difficult time letting go this August. The death of a white woman at the hands of an angry white supremacist seemed to wake up much of the nation to the powerful and ever-present realities of racism in America. I am a little shocked and saddened that this loss of life is what it took, but I am thanking God that more folk are “woke.”

And as they wake up, they need a place to refuel their spirits, a space in which to get theologically grounded; they need a movement to join!

So, I did what I could in August, and our staff did the rest. We are ready for the people who need us; we are ready for you. Ready to partner with you to do bold activism and organizing. Ready to teach the gospel of love in our worship and in our programs. We are ready to do what we can in the movement for love and justice that is at work all across the nation that makes room for all of God’s children. To know they are loved, to see themselves as able to transform our culture, to be engaged in the healing of their souls and the world.

As we continue to reflect on what it means to complete God’s Dream for creation, we will literally make room for all in our sanctuary. We will do this by adding a second Sunday worship celebration, identical to the first. We will make space for those young adults at brunch next door, who will hear our music, might wonder what is happening, and wander in. We will make space for those families who have never been able to find a place where their children can learn that love is love is love. We will make room for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender friends who still face discrimination, even in these days. We’ll make room for interracial couples whose unique love inspires us. We’ll make room for teens who need mentors, for more and more children to sit on the pulpit and meet God, for older people who can’t wait to share their wisdom with us. We’ll make room for wealthy people near Cooper Square and less wealthy people from Alphabet City.

We’ll make room for your friends, colleagues, and loved ones who need what we all get from Middle Church!



What God has given us—a love-out-loud, joyful, honest, justice-working, community-organizing, radically welcoming community—is too good to keep to ourselves. We need to make space for more people to join our movement, in the sanctuary and online. **So we will worship twice—two identical worship celebrations at 9:30 AM and 11:45 AM.**

Here’s how you can help execute this new plan:

1. Plan to attend at 9:30 AM once a month, and bring friends. See what it is like to come early, and go to an educational program between the two worship celebrations. Give us feedback as to what we can do to better invite God’s people to God’s house.

2. Set up an automatic online donation. Your gifts help us to make it happen; this movement requires your financial support.

3. Volunteer to:

- usher or greet at one of the celebrations.
- help with hospitality at brunch in between.
- help with the Butterfly Preparations opposite one of the worship celebrations.
- sit with some of our children while they stay in worship.
- sing with the Gospel Choir or the In-the-Middle Choir.
- take part in our caring ministries by writing cards or praying for our community.

Please plan to attend the 9:30 AM worship sometime in September—and bring your friends. Thank you in advance for helping me and the staff make room for all.

I love you—see you soon!

Jacqui

September 10: Worship at 9:30 AM and 11:45 AM

Beginning September 10, our new times for worship celebrations will be 9:30 AM and 11:45 AM. The celebrations will be identical. In between celebrations there will be children and youth programming, adult education, brunch, and fellowship. Butterfly bag lunch preparations will take place during both worship celebrations, so whether you worship early or later, you can still participate.

Beginning Sunday, September 10 SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 AM-2:30 PM	Wee Care – Age 4 and younger
8:30-9:30 AM	Family Room – Grades K-5
9:00 AM	Social Hall Opens
9:15 AM	Sanctuary Doors Open for 9:30 worship
9:30-10:45 AM	WORSHIP CELEBRATION
9:30-10:30 AM	Butterfly Meal Prep 1 – Making sandwiches for the hungry
10:50-11:40 AM	IN THE MIDDLE Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BRUNCH in the Middle (Chat & Chew)• BIBLE in the Middle – Adult Education• KIDS in the Middle – Education for Grades K-5• YOUTH in the Middle – Program for Grades 6-12
11:30 AM	Sanctuary Doors Open for 11:45 worship
11:45 AM-1:00 PM	WORSHIP CELEBRATION—Livestream!
11:45 AM-12:45 PM	Butterfly Meal Prep 2 – Packing bag lunches for the hungry
1:00-2:30 PM	Family Room
1:00-2:00 PM	Butterfly Meal Distribution – Deliver bag lunches to the hungry in local parks
1:15-2:30 PM	Village Chorus for Children and Youth – <i>Begins in October</i>
1:15-2:30 PM	Adult Education as scheduled

Sunday Programs for Children and Youth

Beginning September 10, kids age 5 and older will participate in the entire worship celebration 9:30 AM or 11:45 AM with their grown-ups! You're invited to attend either identical worship celebration with your family. Wee Care will remain open during both worship celebrations.

Children and youth education programs will occur BETWEEN the two worship celebrations. This way, no matter which worship celebration a family attends, their kids and teens will get to all meet TOGETHER at the same time for education and brunch in the Middle! Also at the same time, education and brunch will be available for adults. **To learn more about these programs, or to volunteer with children and youth events, please contact Marte Samuelstuen at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org, or 212-477-0666 x321.**

Staffing for Vision 2020

We have all been working toward Vision 2020. Our strategic directions are: Connections, community, and care; Congregational partnership and stewardship; and Public theology and online engagement. Our staff is organized to care for you, our 980 members, and to live into the strategic directions. More and more, lay teams, lay leaders, ordained clergy who worship with us, and small groups will help us do our ministry.

On October 1, The Rev. Michael S. Piazza will join the staff of Middle Church as Chief Operating Officer/Executive Minister. You may have seen him preach at Middle on August 20. He will also help lead worship on September 17. Michael is a spiritual visionary, author, and social justice advocate. A native of Georgia, he has pastored churches in Texas, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Florida. He is perhaps best known for his work as Dean and senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope in Texas. *The Advocate* magazine named Michael Piazza one of the most influential people in the gay and lesbian rights movement. Michael, reporting to Senior Minister-in-Charge The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, will supervise his share of the staff, and work closely with Jacqui on strategy and execution of all of our programs and operations. Jacqui will point the ship in a direction and Michael will make sure we get where we are going.



As Senior Minister, the buck stops with Jacqui and the Consistory. Jacqui carries the vision from the Consistory to the staff, who create programs and events that help us meet the goals of Vision 2020. Jacqui is the primary preacher and plans worship celebrations with our music and arts team. She is our Public Theologian, and generates strategies for each of our ministry areas that the staff execute. Jacqui is also the Vice President of the Collegiate Church of New York.

Hi, Middle Family,

It is with a lot of mixed emotions that I resigned from my role as care minister at Middle Church as of August 6. I've been wrestling for a while with my role as mom; and I truly believe I have to grasp the opportunity to instill some deep mommy love to my kids while they're this young. They will only be 6, 4, and 2 NOW. My fear has been that they would grow up and wonder why their mommy was so available to everyone else but them.



I am making a very hard decision that it has to start within me and at my home front. I need to be the mom I feel my children need me to be. I'm going to be working on building my therapy practice more. It'll give me the flexibility to spend more time and be the mom my heart yearns to be. I'll be focusing on getting ordained, with Jacqui's full support and love. I am sad to say goodbye, but confident in God's timing of all of this.

I love Middle and its mission of revolutionary love. I'll be cheering you on wherever I am. I have been changed—for good.

Lynn Min



Faith in Action Middle clergy, staff, and congregants have been a part of many rallies and protests this summer from NY to DC, standing for Health Care for All and in solidarity with Charlottesville. Shown here, Lars Swan, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Rob Stephens, and Renee Boyd advocate for Health Care for All in Washington, DC.

Moms in the Middle

Sunday, September 3 • 1:15–2:30 PM

This group gathers to deepen connection and grow spiritually by focusing on the parenting journey and its intersection with faith. How has being a mom deepened your faith? How has it challenged it? Spend time every month with other mothers sharing your story, building community, and growing in faith. **RSVP to Marte** at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.

Move Your Prayers

Wednesdays, September 13 and 27 • 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 cleming@middlechurch.org.

Money Talks

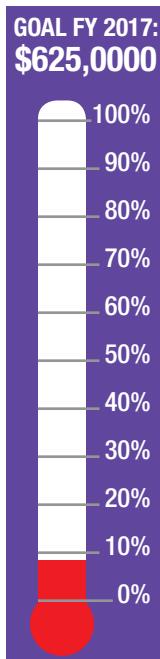
Sunday, September 17 • 1:15–2:30 PM

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! Sessions will focus on personal finances, household budgets, saving, investments, and risk management. 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.

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. **You have given \$52,112.07 since July 1. We are 8.34% on our way to our goal at 17% 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.**



September

Check middlechurch.org for full details of all events.

Sundays — Beginning September 10!

- **Wee Care** (under age 4) – 8:30 AM–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor Wee Care
- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal** – SEP 10 – 9:00–9:25 AM • Community Room
- **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** – 10:50–11:40 AM • Social Hall
- **New to Middle/Join the Movement** – 10:50–11:40 AM • Social Hall
- **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
- **New to Middle/Join the Movement** – 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** – SEP 17 – 1:00–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **Moms in the Middle** – SEP 3 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Parlor
- **Money Talks** – SEP 17 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Community Room
- **Village Chorus for Children & Youth** (Ages 6–17) – Begins in October at 1:15–2:30 PM!
- **AA/Big Book Meeting** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Mondays

Church Office closed for Labor Day holiday on September 4.

- **Momentum Meal** – 5:30–6:00 PM • Social Hall
- **Acting Class** – 6:30–8:00 PM • **Begins SEP 11** • 3rd Floor Studio
- **Middle Consistory Meeting** – 6:30–8:30 PM • **SEP 18** • Conference
- **NA/Village Spiritual Workshop** – 6:30–7:30 PM • 4th Floor Classroom

Tuesdays

- **AA/Step Meeting** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **AA/Artist in Recovery** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **Al-Anon** – 7:30–9:00 PM • Community Room
- **AA/Closed Discussion** – 8:30–9:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Wednesdays

- **Jam Session** – SEP 6 – 7:00–8:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **Move Your Prayers** – SEP 13, 27 – 7:00–8:30 PM • Community Room
- **NA/Our Whole Lives Ahead of Us** – 7:30–8:45 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Thursdays

- **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
- **Al-Anon** – 7:30–9:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio

Fridays

- **Shul of New York Shabbat** – SEP 8, 15 – 6:30–8:30 PM • Social Hall
- **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** – SEP 16 – 10:00 AM–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **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

Beginning Sunday, September 10 — NEW WORSHIP TIMES!



9:30 AM



11:45 AM

Same worship. Different times. You choose.



Middle Collegiate Church

welcoming • artistic • inclusive • bold

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

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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.