



middle notes

The Newsletter of Middle Collegiate Church

NOVEMBER 2017

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

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

NOVEMBER 5

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

"Hope Against Hope"

Hebrews 4.12-13, 12.1-2

Rob Stephens, preacher

Middle Church Choir

Communion

NOVEMBER 12

"Make a Choice, Today"

Joshua 24.1-15

Jacqui Lewis, preacher

Jerriese Johnson

Gospel Choir

NOVEMBER 19

TRANS SUNDAY

"And God Hovered Over
the Face of the Deep:
Transgressing Gender"

Dr. Robyn Henderson-

Espinoza, guest preacher

In-the-Middle Choir

Village Chorus for Children

and Youth

NOVEMBER 26

REIGN OF GOD SUNDAY

"As for the Least of These..."

Matthew 25.31-46

Jacqui Lewis, preacher

Middle Church Choir

Jerriese Johnson

Gospel Choir

Mosaic
A Concert
to Benefit
Puerto Rico

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

2:30-3:30 PM

On the one-year anniversary of the Mosaic concert series, performers will share music and poetry of Puerto Rico, as well as popular Broadway and pop music. \$20 suggested admission. All proceeds will benefit the people of Puerto Rico.

One Year Later...10 More Things to DO

We just got an invitation to re-connect with our friends at Lab Shul in a Primal Scream event. We attended it at Washington Square last year. Before we screamed, we sang, we prayed, we cried, we hugged. The scream bubbled up out of our bodies, our grief, our surprise. It felt good, to let it out, let those feelings rise on the winds, rustle browning leaves, reach the heavens.

More than screaming, what healed me was being together in the beautiful diversity that is Manhattan. Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, people of no faith and people who had lost faith. Students, older people, clergy and lay leaders; a rainbow of ethnic, gender and sexual orientation diversity. One woman held her toddler close to her bosom, like she was a life raft. Maybe our children will save us from these swirling waters.

In the midst of more and more revelations of sexual misconduct by powerful men in the arts and in the media, one such man was elected to the highest office in our land. This shocks me to my core, still. A liar, a cheat, a sexual predator—our president. How desperate must so many have been for a change for this to happen. I feel like we are cast in a horrific reality show, and the premise of the show is: How far can POTUS push the envelope on decency and have our nation's most vulnerable citizens survive?

While I was grieving last year, I posted an article on HuffPost's religion page—"10 Spiritual Responses to the Election." You can still find it there. Brokenhearted, still, and more resolute than ever that we must persistently resist this administration with everything we have; I am calling us once again to ask, what would love demand of us? In these precarious times, what does Revolutionary Love and Resistance look like as an organizing principle? We need answers, and here are 10 NEW things to help us get there:

1. Get with some people you love and hug them, and cry with them, and let them love you back.
2. Make Revolutionary Love a spiritual practice. Antiracism, LGBTQ advocacy, caring

for the poor and marginalized, supporting women's gifts, mentoring children, supporting common sense gun control, and demanding that everyone have enough healthcare and resources to thrive—this is the spiritual practice of Revolutionary Love.



3. Have some honest conversations with your friends and family members who voted for Trump. Ask them about how they see this administration now. Can we recruit some people to a worldview based in love and justice? We need to do that now!
5. Watch news from many perspectives; follow many viewpoints on social media. Let's learn what we need to do on the way to 2018. The political is personal AND spiritual. Jesus was political, never forget.
6. Come to church often, and bring friends. Join a Bible study. Let's learn about Revolutionary Love from the experts.
7. Pray, eat, love, breathe, exercise, sleep, laugh, play, take sabbath. We need to re-create in order to survive.
8. Donate to Middle Church, your one-stop hub for love and justice.
9. Invite your friends into a book and/or movie group. Watch *13th* or *Crash*. Read Ta-Nehisi Coates and Kelly Brown Douglas. Learn. Make strategies. Invite them to join our movement.
10. Attend the Mosaic concert on November 5. Hear some amazing music, and raise money for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

You give me such hope, Middle Family. You are resilient, loving, powerful, generous. You are revolutionary in your faithfulness, you are revolutionary in your love.

I love you madly,
Jacqui

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

Will You Give Clean Water?

Responding to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

The Collegiate Church of New York made an initial donation of \$10,000 to help the people of Puerto Rico with water filtration. As an ongoing effort, the Collegiate Church will match each dollar you give—up to an additional \$15,000—through Sunday, December 3. Your money goes toward water filtration, supplies, infrastructure and power.

This initial donation of the Collegiate Church of New York purchased two water filtration kits for municipalities in Puerto Rico through Oasis Operation. Each kit costs \$4,000. The Collegiate Church of New York also donated \$2,000 to Waves for Water for water filtration in the Virgin Islands. We want more communities in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to have clean water. Will you help? **Donate today: bit.ly/donate-PR**

Check middlechurch.org to read more about our ongoing commitment to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Just Faith Bible Study: Hebrews

Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15 • 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.

Moms in the Middle / Dads in the Middle


Sunday, November 5 • 1:15–2:30 PM

Moms and Dads 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 information and to RSVP, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.

Move Your Prayers

Wednesday, November 8 • 7:00–8:30 PM • Community Room

Nurture your body, mind, and spirit at a yoga class for all levels followed by a session of Praying Dangerously. **Please bring a yoga mat.** RSVP to Christina at cfleming@middlechurch.org.



**Children's
Multicultural
BOOK
FAIR**

**Sunday, November 12
1:30–3:30 PM**

Children (Grades K–8) and their families are invited to join the fun—group readings, design-your-own book bag, raffle prizes, snacks, and book sales featuring the diverse cultures of our city.

For info, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.

New Adventures

Thursday, November 16 • 2:00–3:30 PM • Parlor

Whether you're retired, semi-retired, between jobs, or just have Thursday afternoons free and want to share time with new friends, New Adventures is for you! Join Associate Minister Rob Stephens for an afternoon tea and snacks. For information or to RSVP, contact Rob at rstephens@middlechurch.org.

Young Adults Fall Hike in Beacon, NY

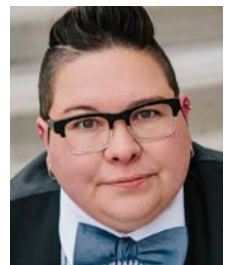
Saturday, November 18 • 9:30 AM–7:00 PM • Meet at Grand Central Terminal at the center clock at 9:30 AM sharp

Get to know other young adults and revel in the changing seasons together. Young adults Toni and Athena will host a shared meal in their home near Beacon and then lead a group hike accommodating all abilities. Bring \$30 for round trip Metro North tickets, snacks, and lunch. RSVP to Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org by Wednesday, November 15.

Transgender Awareness Sunday

Sunday, November 19 • 9:30 AM & 11:45 AM worship

At Middle Church, we celebrate that how we look, whom we love, our gender, and sexuality are unique expressions of the Divine. On November 19, activist-scholar Dr. Robyn Henderson-Espinoza will preach at our worship celebrations. In a sermon and in a class, Dr. Robyn will help us to have holy curiosity about the experiences of transgender and gender nonconforming people through the lenses of faith and liberation. Please plan to come to worship and spend time in adult education learning more about the "T" in our family, and the ways each of us is complex in our gender identity.



Money Talks

Sunday, November 19 • 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.

Bereavement Group

Sundays, beginning December 3 • 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • Parlor

For Advent, Middle will offer a four-week Bereavement Group for those in our community who have experienced the death of a loved one in the past few years. The group will meet weekly and be facilitated by seminarian Amo Ngoepe, a student in Psychology and Religion at Union Theological Seminary, with support by therapists and counselors at Middle Church. The group will be advised by Middle member Lynn Preston, MA, MS, LP, a focusing-oriented relational psychoanalyst, teacher, and supervisor. For more info, contact Rob at rstephens@middlechurch.org.

**Save the Date! New Members Retreat!
Saturday, December 2**

Meet Middle Member Aiyana Stern

I'm Aiyana Stern, and I come to Middle Church as an openly Jewish person. Though I have a synagogue, Beth Simchat Torah, the gay synagogue of New York, where I go on Jewish High Holy Days, Middle is the place I come to every week, where I connect and find a spiritual home.



I first learned about Middle when I took Tony Howell's African dance class at the Jewish Community Center almost 10 years ago. I came to Middle to see Tony perform; I never left, and I became an active member shortly afterward.

I grew up in an activist home, where my father was an immigrant and a labor organizer, and I participated in the civil rights movement, the women's liberation movement, and protests against the Vietnam war. Speaking up about injustice is at the heart of who I am, and I get to express that at Middle.

One of the high points of my experience here was participating in the year-long Healing Racism Task Force, where as a diverse group, we learned to share openly, to trust each other, and to confront privilege, stereotypes, and the pervasive racism in our nation. I am grateful that I was accepted for who I am, and made friendships based on our shared interests.

I have grown watching the example of Jacqui, who constantly models learning and changing in full view of us all, openly expressing her strong passions and feelings. Watching her gives me permission to express myself openly too, a part of me that I value and felt I had to keep hidden.

One of the basic tenets of Judaism is the importance of community, and I've found that value fully embodied here at Middle. I am inspired by being part of this diverse community with dedicated, thoughtful, open people. I know that Middle also gives a home to other people of many faiths and traditions.

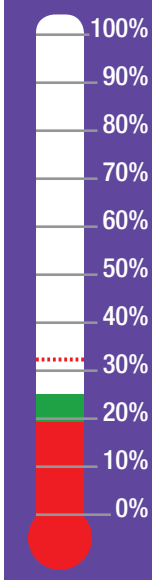
There are many ways to serve and give back at Middle Church. I volunteer on the Middle Prays team; I've been an usher and greeter, contributed to the literary magazine, and recently I've participated in Butterfly, making and distributing sandwiches to hungry people in nearby parks. We also welcome your financial contributions to fund our worship, education and social justice programs.

So I'm inviting you to join the movement that is Middle Church; go to the table in the social hall and sign up. And when the offering bags go by, invest in Middle's amazing ministry. You have an opportunity here to become stronger in all that you are, whoever you are, and whatever faith background you come from.

We have an offering goal of \$625,000 for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. **As of this writing, you have given \$117,402.79—18.78% of our goal at 33% of the program year—and we have pledged for 6% more.**

Donate now—visit bit.ly/power-love. For convenience, consider a recurring donation.

GOAL FY 2017:
\$625,000



November

Check middlechurch.org for full details of all events.

Sundays

- **Wee Care** (under age 4) – 8:30 AM–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor Nursery
- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal** – **NOV 19** – 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 Ed) – 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Floor Studio
- **KIDS in the Middle** – 10:50–11:40 AM • Grades K–5 – 3rd 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
- **Moms in the Middle** – **NOV 5** – 1:15–2:30 PM • Parlor
- **Dads in the Middle** – **NOV 5** – 1:15–2:30 PM • Conference Room
- **Young Adults Small Group** – **NOV 5** – 1:15–2:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal** – **NOV 12** – 1:15–1:45 PM • Parlor
- **Money Talks** – **NOV 19** – 1:15–2:30 PM • Community Room
- **Village Chorus for Children & Youth** (Ages 6–17) – 1:15–2:30 PM
- **Kids' Multicultural Book Fair** – **NOV 12** – 1:30–3:30 PM • Social Hall
- **MOSAIC Benefit Concert** – **NOV 5** – 2:30–3:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **AA/Big Book Meeting** – 4:00–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

- **JJ Gospel Choir Rehearsal** – **NOV 21** – 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

- **Just Faith Bible Study** – **NOV 1, 8, 15** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Parlor
- **Jam Session** – **NOV 1** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **Move Your Prayers** – **NOV 8** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Community Room
- **New Adventures** – **NOV 16** – 2:00–3:30 PM • Parlor
- **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
- **AI-Anon** – 7:30–9:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **Church Office will be closed November 23–24 for Thanksgiving**

Fridays

- **Shul of NY Shabbat Services** – **NOV 3, 17** – 6:30–8:30 PM • Social Hall
- **Youth Bowling Night** – **NOV 3** – 6:00–9:00 PM • Chelsea Piers, Pier 60
- **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

- **Young Adults Fall Hike** – **NOV 18** – 9:30 AM–7:00 PM • Meet at Grand Central Terminal at the center clock at 9:30 AM sharp
- **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

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH 10TH ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Transformation: From the Inside Out

Friday, January 5–Sunday, January 7

Register at <http://bit.ly/MCC-retreat>

Begin your year with a weekend of spiritual practices and renewal. Experience dangerous prayer, optional yoga, lectio divina, and spiritual community. Hear sacred stories from Middle congregants as we root ourselves in God's dreams for our lives and our world.

Registration fee includes round-trip bus transport from Middle Church to Stony Point Center in Rockland County, New York, lodging for two nights, and meals on Saturday and Sunday made from scratch in the Stony Point Kitchens.



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.