Can You See It?

Dear Middle Family:

Friends, our nation needs a course correction so we can fully and finally realize our dream of liberty and justice for all. So we can live and flourish in God’s Dream. There are lots of ways to talk about this, but the earliest followers of Jesus called it Love.

Though faith, hope, and love were all incredible gifts, they declared that love was the greatest. They said it was impossible to love an unseen God and hate a neighbor right in front of them. They asserted that God is love and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them. And that there is no fear in love; perfect love casts out fear.

America has a fear problem. We fear that those whom we do not understand are fundamentally different than we are, and, therefore, threaten our way of life. We fear that well-being is a zero-sum game in which the sharing of power puts our survival at risk. These fears must be dismantled with light. This hatred must be driven out with love. These lies must be dispelled with the truth.

The truth is our vulnerability, is our strength. Our yearning for connection is what makes us uniquely human. There are more than enough resources for each of us to not only survive but to thrive. We are inextricably connected one to the other, and connection is the power we have to heal ourselves and our world.

We know this truth as well: We stand on the shoulders of people who have struggled, failed, and forged new wisdom; people who have been tested by disappointment and disaster; and what they have left us is confidence. We know how to help our neighbors in need, to save each other in times of trial. We know how to stand up for those who are left behind, to protest and march and lobby until laws and structures are changed.

And so as we turn our faces toward February, toward African American History Month and the celebration of the Lunar New Year; as we turn our hearts toward a day set aside to celebrate love, let us love like revolutionaries.

Revolutionary love sees each human being as a beautiful creation, capable of amazing acts of kindness and justice, designed to partner with God to complete God’s dream. Revolutionary love understands political upheaval as birthing pains, as the universe pushes the creation toward Shalom. Revolutionary love is empathic; it binds us together. It means when a child is hungry in Haiti or Hell’s Kitchen, my stomach growls.

Our staff and Consistory have been listening to you, trying to see what you see for our future. And this is the vision statement we created to guide us in these next years:

Middle Collegiate Church Vision Statement

Middle Collegiate Church is a multicultural, multiethnic, intergenerational movement of Spirit and justice, powered by 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 the soul and the world by dismantling racist, classist, sexist, and homophobic 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, 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. We affirm the transformative power of moral imagination, reclaiming and reframing Christianity inside our walls, on the street, and in virtual spaces around the globe.

Can you see it? If we can see it, we can do it. In Revolutionary Love, Jacqui
A Rock in a Weary Land: A Concert Celebrating African-American Spirituals

Sunday, February 4 • 2:30–3:45 pm • Sanctuary

Join the Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, the Middle Church Choir, and the In-the-Middle Choir as we begin Black History Month with music that roots us in our faith, nourishes our soul, and calls us to act. $20 suggested admission. Reserve at http://bit.ly/Spirituals-MC

Middle Literary Magazine Needs You!

Submit your writing and/or art to our 7th annual Literary Magazine! The theme will be “Complete the Dream: Finish and Start.” Poetry, fiction, essay, art, photos, children’s work—even a video clip—are all welcome! Send your submissions to editor Carol Wierzbicki at litmag@middlechurch.org by February 4.

New Member Orientation

Sundays, February 11, 18 • 10:50–11:40 AM • Conference Rm

Whether you worship at 9:30 or 11:45, join Jacqui and Rob for a special two-part New Member Orientation between the two morning worship celebrations. New members will be welcomed at both worship celebrations on February 18. For more info and to RSVP, contact Rob at rstephens@middlechurch.org. Stay tuned for a new date for a special New Member Mini-Reteat!

New Adventures

Thursday, February 15 • 2:00–3:30 pm • 4th Floor Studio

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! For information or to RSVP, contact Rob at rstephens@middlechurch.org.

Youth Movie Night: Black Panther

Thursday, February 15 • 5:30–10:15 pm

Middle school and high school students are invited to see Black Panther in theaters on opening night! (Midwinter Recess begins the next day.) Tickets are limited, so participants are encouraged to turn in payment plus completed parent/guardian permission slip to guarantee their spot. $10 covers reserved movie ticket and dinner at Middle Church before we head to the theater. For more information or to RSVP, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.
Donate now—visit bit.ly/power-love. For your convenience, consider creating a recurring weekly donation.

Partnership Update
Together, we are building a movement toward God’s dream for a healed, whole, and just world. We have an offering goal of $625,000 for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. As of this writing, you have given $304,716.36—48.75% of our goal at 58% of the program year—and we have pledges for 7% more.

Just Faith: A Lenten Bible Study of Mark


Bible in the Middle: Lenten Small Groups

Join small group discussions on readings from the Bible and selections from the writings of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the launch of the Poor People’s Campaign in 1968. Various groups will meet throughout the church building. For more info and to RSVP, contact Rob at rstephens@middlechurch.org.

Revolutionary Love: Complete the Dream

• Just Faith: A Lenten Bible Study of Mark – FEB 21, 28 – 7:00–8:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• Annual Spiritual Retreat: Transformation From the Inside Out – FEB 23–25 – 8:00–9:00 PM • Sanctuary
• Shul of NY Shabbat Services – FEB 2, 16 – 6:30–8:30 PM • Social Hall
• NA/It’s About Change – 6:30–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
• NA/Finally Found a Home – 8:00–9:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Sundays
• Wee Care (under age 4) – 8:30 AM–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor Nursery
• Family Room (Grades K–5) – 8:30–9:30 AM • 3rd Floor Studio
• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP – 9:30–10:45 AM • Sanctuary
• BRUNCH in the Middle – 10:50–11:40 AM • Social Hall
• 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 Floor Classroom
• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • Sanctuary
• Lenten “Sacred Presence” Bible Study (Adult Ed) – FEB 18, 25 – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• Family Room (Grades K–5) – 1:00–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
• Village Chorus for Children & Youth (Ages 6–17) – 1:15–2:30 PM
• Moms in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Parlor
• Dads in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Conference Room
• Young Adults Small Group – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal – FEB 11 – 1:15–1:45 PM • Parlor
• A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND: A Concert Celebrating African American Spirituals – FEB 4 – 2:30–3:45 PM • Sanctuary
• AA/Big Book Meeting – 4:00–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• Just Faith: A Lenten Bible Study of Mark – FEB 28 – 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Floor Classroom
• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP – FEB 18, 25 – 10:50–11:40 AM • Sanctuary
• Lenten “Sacred Presence” Bible Study – FEB 18, 25 – 10:50–11:40 AM • Room 200
• Family Room (Grades K–5) – 10:50–11:40 AM • 3rd Floor Studio
• YOUTH in the Middle (Gr. 6–12) – 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Floor Classroom
• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • Sanctuary
• Lenten “Sacred Presence” Bible Study (Adult Ed) – FEB 18, 25 – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
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• Moms in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Parlor
• Dads in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Conference Room
• Young Adults Small Group – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal – FEB 11 – 1:15–1:45 PM • Parlor
• A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND: A Concert Celebrating African American Spirituals – FEB 4 – 2:30–3:45 PM • Sanctuary
• AA/Big Book Meeting – 4:00–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

• JMEN Event – 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Floor Studio
• Just Faith: A Lenten Bible Study of Mark – FEB 21, 28 – 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Floor Classroom
• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • Sanctuary
• Lenten “Sacred Presence” Bible Study (Adult Ed) – FEB 18, 25 – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• Family Room (Grades K–5) – 10:50–11:40 AM • 3rd Floor Studio
• Village Chorus for Children & Youth (Ages 6–17) – 1:15–2:30 PM
• Moms in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Parlor
• Dads in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Conference Room
• Young Adults Small Group – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal – FEB 11 – 1:15–1:45 PM • Parlor

• A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND: A Concert Celebrating African American Spirituals – FEB 4 – 2:30–3:45 PM • Sanctuary
• AA/Big Book Meeting – 4:00–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

• Just Faith: A Lenten Bible Study of Mark – FEB 21, 28 – 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Floor Classroom
• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • Sanctuary
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• Village Chorus for Children & Youth (Ages 6–17) – 1:15–2:30 PM
• Moms in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Parlor
• Dads in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Conference Room
• Young Adults Small Group – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal – FEB 11 – 1:15–1:45 PM • Parlor
• A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND: A Concert Celebrating African American Spirituals – FEB 4 – 2:30–3:45 PM • Sanctuary

• Just Faith: A Lenten Bible Study of Mark – FEB 21, 28 – 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Floor Classroom
• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • Sanctuary
• Lenten “Sacred Presence” Bible Study (Adult Ed) – FEB 18, 25 – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

• Just Faith: A Lenten Bible Study of Mark – FEB 21, 28 – 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Floor Classroom
• CELEBRATION! WORSHIP – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • Sanctuary
• Lenten “Sacred Presence” Bible Study (Adult Ed) – FEB 18, 25 – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• Family Room (Grades K–5) – 10:50–11:40 AM • 3rd Floor Studio
• Village Chorus for Children & Youth (Ages 6–17) – 1:15–2:30 PM
• Moms in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Parlor
• Dads in the Middle – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • Conference Room
• Young Adults Small Group – FEB 4 – 1:15–2:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
• In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal – FEB 11 – 1:15–1:45 PM • Parlor
• A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND: A Concert Celebrating African American Spirituals – FEB 4 – 2:30–3:45 PM • Sanctuary
• AA/Big Book Meeting – 4:00–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

• Momentum Meal – Lunch 11:30 AM–1:00 PM / Dinner 5:30–6:30 PM • Social Hall
• Acting Class – 6:30–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
• In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal – FEB 12 – 6:00–9:00 PM • Sanctuary
• NA/Village Spiritual Workshop — 6:30–7:30 PM • 4th Floor Classroom
• Meditation on the Lower East Side — 7:00–8:30 PM • Parlor

The Church Office will be closed February 19 for Presidents’ Day.

February
Middle Collegiate Church
welcoming • artistic • inclusive • bold
Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D., Senior Minister

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OFFICE 50 East 7th Street (bet. First Ave. & Second Ave.)
New York, NY 10003

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Middle Collegiate Church is a multicultural, multiethnic, intergenerational movement of Spirit and justice, powered by 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 the soul and the world by dismantling racist, classist, sexist, and homophobic systems of oppression.

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Care Line In case of pastoral emergency, please leave a message at our Pastoral Care line, 212-477-0666, ext. 318. Your call is confidential.
In case of medical emergency, please call 911.