



middle notes

The Newsletter of Middle Collegiate Church

MAY 2017

Celebration! Worship
Sundays at 11:15 AM

Watch live on middlechurch.org

MAY 7

PAN-ASIAN

HERITAGE MONTH

"The Gateway God"

John 10.1-10

Chad Tanaka Pack, preacher

Middle Church Choir

Communion

MAY 14

MOTHER'S DAY

"Love Revolution"

Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16

Jacqui Lewis, preacher

Middle Church Choir

Jerriese Johnson

Gospel Choir

MAY 21

VISION SUNDAY

"Standing in the Middle"

Acts 17.22-31

Lynn Min, preacher

Middle Church Choir

Jerriese Johnson

Gospel Choir

Welcoming New Members

MAY 28

MEMORIAL DAY

"An Alternative Reality"

Psalm 47

Christina Fleming, preacher

Middle Church Choir

In-the-Middle Choir

Sing with Middle!

JERRIESE JOHNSON GOSPEL CHOIR

The Gospel Choir has a powerful and dynamic ministry, both inside and outside the church walls. **Contact John at jdelcueto@middlechurch.org**

IN-THE-MIDDLE CHOIR

This choir features singers from the Middle community partnered with section leaders from the Middle Church Choir. Attend rehearsal and sing in worship the same day. **Contact Tami at tpetty@middlechurch.org**

Revolutionary Vision

Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets... Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts? I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness. — ZECHARIAH 8.4-8

Can you see what Zechariah sees? His people have been split in two. Some gag on the dust of rubble left after the destruction of their city; Temple destroyed, Hebrew school demolished, corner market obliterated. The well in the town square is choking on shards of brick. Their hopes are choking, their dreams are smashed, their faith is shattered like the walls of the temple. Relatives were snatched out of their homes and deported to Babylon; they are a persecuted religious minority, living in terror, without their customs and traditions to protect and shelter them.

Fueled by his passion for God, Zechariah sees what they can't yet see. Restoration. Recovery. Renewal. Revival. Revolution. A new relationship with God and with each other. And the result? Old people cherished; no worries about disappearing retirement funds. Children blessed with safe places to play and learn. Teens shoot hoops on the playground and dream of the college they will be able to afford. Young adults enjoy the right to vote, to make a living wage.

Zechariah is writing a revolutionary vision; he can see the result of the relationship God promises: They will be my people and I will be their God.

Can you see it? God's love for all of creation—creatures, earth, water, and humankind—is more than we can ask or imagine. There are signs of that love all around us. Rainbows, butterflies, vegetation pushing through the cracks of city side-

walks. The children on our pulpit, the Butterfly sandwich makers, and the smiling people in the park who receive them.

And there is more evidence that God's love is a force for change. 300 people came to our Revolutionary Love Conference; some 55,000 checked it out online. They came, they tuned in to find the presence, to hear the vision and to help make it happen.

May 21 is our annual Vision Sunday. We will share stories and seek to dream God's dream. It is our call to complete that dream. With love in our hearts, with revolutionary vision—we might not all get there at the same time. But we will get to that promise. We can count on God, who is our faithful partner.

Come dream a big dream.

Love,
Jacqui



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

Revolutionary Love Conference 2017

Three days of challenging presenters and meaningful conversations



Thank you to the 300 participants and your financial gifts that fueled this year's annual conference, Revolutionary Love: Disruptive Ethics to Dismantle Racism, April 28-30.
Top: Conference Attendees rise in solidarity with the #ClimateMarch. Row 2: Van Jones; Jacqui Lewis and Bill Moyers; Brian McLaren. Row 3: Zainab Salbi, Bryan Epps, Joanne Braxton, and Miguel De La Torre; William Barber II; Valarie Kaur. Row 4: Charles Randolph-Wright, Aunjanue Ellis, Rabbi Stephanie Kolin, Genesis Be, and Jacqui Lewis; Conference participants enjoy worship. For full bios go to revolutionaryloveconference.com. Photo credit: Beatrice de Gea.



The Butterfly Meal Needs You!

Sundays • 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:30 PM

Every Sunday before worship, 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 for one. **To join the team, contact Cheryl Cochran at ccochran@middlechurch.org.**

Just Faith: A Pentecost Bible Study

Wednesdays, April 19–May 31 • 6:30–8:00 PM • Parlor

The Acts of the Apostles is the genesis story of the Church and the Jesus movement. This is a tale with drama, personality clashes, cliques, political lines and theological debates—a little like communities today! It is also an organizer's handbook for building social movements. Come learn, pray, and question with Rob Stephens to discover what fresh truths the ancient Book of Acts might hold for us. A light supper will be served. **Please RSVP at bit.ly/JustFaithBible or rstephens@middlechurch.org.**

Mom's Day Off

Sunday, May 21 • 1:00–5:00 PM

Are you a mom who needs a day off? Join Moms in the Middle for a special afternoon of fun and relaxation. Childcare for ages 13 and under will be provided at Middle Church. The moms may walk to a neighborhood location for their special activities. **RSVP required. Contact Lynn Min at linmin@middlechurch.org.**

Soul Care = Yoga + Praying Dangerously

Wednesday, May 24 • 7:00–9:00 PM • Community Room

Nurture your spirit, body, and mind with self-care and spiritual practices at an evening of a yoga and praying dangerously. A Yoga class for all levels will be offered in the first hour. After moving together in a form of physical prayer, we will conclude with a session of Praying Dangerously, led by Christina Fleming. **Please bring a yoga mat. Please RSVP to bit.ly/YogaPrayerMay or cfleming@middlechurch.org.**

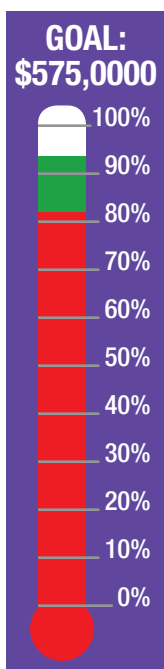
Partnership Update

You are so power-full, Middle Family. The events in this newsletter! YOU made them happen! Please continue to support our programs with your body, soul, and funds!

Our congregational budget reflects God's dream for racial, LGBTQ, and economic justice. We have from now until June 30 to raise the remaining funds to meet our \$575,000 goal. Will you help us complete the dream? At this writing, **we have raised \$471,836—82% of our goal—and we have pledges for 12% more.**

- **Donate now—visit bit.ly/power-love**
- **Make your pledge to Revolutionary Love—visit bit.ly/RevLovePledge**

Your may also send your donation in the envelope provided. Please consider a pledge today.



May

Check middlechurch.org for full details of all events.

Sundays

- **Butterfly Meal Prep** – 9:00 & 10:00 AM • *Social Hall*
- **Wee Care** (under age 4) – 9:30 AM–2:30 PM • *3rd Floor Wee Care*
- **Family Room** (All Ages) – 9:30–11:00 AM • *3rd Floor Studio*
- **The Breakfast Club** (Gr. 7–12) – 10:00–11:00 AM • *Offsite*
- **Family Breakfast** – **MAY 7** – 10:00–11:00 AM • *3rd Floor Studio*
- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal** – **MAY 28** – 10:00–10:45 AM • *4th Floor Studio*
- **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** – 11:15 AM–12:30 PM • *Sanctuary*
- **The Ark** (Gr. K–6) – 11:30–12:30 PM • *3rd Floor • except first Sundays*
- **Chat & Chew** – 12:30 PM • *Social Hall*
- **Butterfly Meal Distribution** – 12:30 PM • *Meet at Social Hall*
- **Family Room** (All Ages) – 12:30–2:30 PM • *3rd Floor Studio*
- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal** – **MAY 21** – 12:30–1:00 PM • *3rd Floor Studio*
- **Village Chorus** (Ages 6–14) – 1:00–2:30 PM • *Community Room*
- **New Member Orientation** – **MAY 14** – 1:00–3:00 PM • *4th Floor*
- **Mom's Day Off** – **MAY 21** – 1:00–5:00 PM • *See Lynn Min*
- **Reading the Bible from the Middle** – 1:30–2:30 PM • *Sanctuary*
- **Erasing Racism** – **MAY 7** – 1:30–2:30 PM • *4th Floor Studio*
- **Praying Dangerously** – **MAY 7** – 1:30–2:30 PM • *4th Floor Classroom*
- **Money Talks** – **MAY 21** – 1:30–2:30 PM • *4th Floor Studio*
- **Middle Players: Love! Love! Love! A Musical** – **MAY 21** – 3:00–4:00 PM • *Sanctuary*
- **AA/Big Book Meeting** – 7:00–8:00 PM • *4th Floor Studio*

Monday Church Office Closed May 29 for Memorial Day

- **Momentum Meals** – 11:00 AM–1:00 PM • *Lunch and Food Pantry / 4:00–6:30 PM • Dinner and Food Pantry • Social Hall*
- **Acting Class** – 6:30–8:00 PM • *3rd Floor Studio*
- **NA/Village Spiritual Workshop** – 6:30–7:30 PM • *4th Floor Classroom*

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

- **Soul Care** – **MAY 24** – 7:00–9:00 PM • *Community Room*
- **Just Faith Bible Study** – 6:30–8:00 PM • *Parlor*
- **Pub Theology** – **MAY 31** – 7:00–8:30 PM • *Jimmy's No. 43, 43 E. 7th*
- **Meditation on the Lower East Side** – 7:00–8:30 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*

Fridays

- **Youth Outing: EscapeRoom** – **MAY 12** – 6:00–10:00 PM • *For details and to RSVP, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org*
- **Shul of NY Shabbat Services** – **MAY 5, 19** – 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

- **NA/Meat and Potatoes** – 6:30–8:00 PM • *4th Floor Classroom*
- **SECOND AVENUE STREET FAIR** – **MAY 6** – 12:00–5:00 PM
- **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

SUNDAY
MAY
21ST
3PM

MIDDLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH
50 EAST 7TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10003
(212)477-0666

THE MIDDLE PLAYERS
INVITE YOU TO A FREE EVENT:

LOVE!
LOVE!
LOVE!
A MUSICAL

Sunday — “Disrupt, Dismantle, and Dream” Literary Magazine 2017 Now Available

The sixth issue of *Sunday*, Middle’s very own literary and arts magazine, is now available for sale. The editors, Carol Wierzbicki and Harold Slazer, thank all the writers and artists who contributed their wonderful work! Also check it out online at <http://www.middlechurch.org/about/news/sunday-a-magazine-of-the-arts-at-middle-collegiate-church>.



Middle Collegiate Church

welcoming • artistic • inclusive • bold

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

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twitter.com/middlechurch
[youtube.com/MiddleNYC](https://www.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.