



middle notes

The Newsletter of Middle Collegiate Church

JULY/AUGUST 2017

Celebration! Worship
Sundays at 11:15 AM

Watch live on middlechurch.org

SUMMER SERMON SERIES Walking the Talk

In July and August, the Middle Church preachers will open the Bible and their hearts to share practical wisdom to help us to live an ethic of love in our everyday lives at work, at home, and at play. Come in your shorts, bring friends, and Tweet or post your insights on Facebook.

JULY 2

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir
Communion

JULY 9

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir
Jerriese Johnson
Gospel Choir

JULY 16

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir

JULY 23

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir
Jerriese Johnson
Gospel Choir

JULY 30

Rob Stephens, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir

AUGUST 6

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir
Communion

AUGUST 13

Marte Samuelstuen and
Allison Mickelson, preachers
In-the-Middle Choir

AUGUST 20

Lynn Min, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir

AUGUST 27

Christina Fleming, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir

Summer Lovin'



Photos: Peter Calderon and Patrick Mulcahy

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

I write you as we celebrate and recover from Pride Sunday. Oh WOW!! The choirs. Bishop Gene Robinson's sermon. The float design crew. The marshals. The marchers. Though we waited a while to step off, we sure stepped and danced our way down Fifth Avenue!

June is a stunning month, a little like Lent and Advent rolled together.

We celebrate all of the gains since the Stonewall uprising. We name heroes and sheroes. We stand on tough shoulders and we keep stretching toward the sky.

And we mourn. Pulse. The murders of trans women of color. The fact that one can still be fired in 29 states for being married and gay, and in 31 states if you're trans.

We live with both the hope that change has come and the disappointment that there is still such resistance to the God-created beauty of our LGBTQ family. We know their freedom is our freedom, that we are family and we must have each other's backs.

And so it is that though we are proud 365/24/7, June is a time to rock Revolutionary Love in rainbow power. June kicks off a season of Summer Lovin'!

We've got a special sermon series planned for July and August: Walking the Talk. We'll think joyfully and critically about what it means to follow the Way of God and the Christ in these days. What do we do about loving relationships, resources, self-care, and caring for each other? Come in your shorts and bring friends.

August will be a s-l-o-w-e-r time with some beach trips and laughter sprinkled in. I hope you will share your summer reading list with us in social media.

Use social media to capture scenes of summer lovin' Middle Family. From the staff, Consistory and me—blessed, love-filled summer to you and yours.

We love you—
Jacqui



New Member Orientation

Sunday, July 23 • 1:00–3:00 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 Lynn at lmin@middlechurch.org.**

New Member Mini-Retreat

Saturday, July 29 • 10:00–3:00 PM

You've asked for more connections, and we hear you! If you joined Middle Church in 2015, 2016, or 2017, we'd love you to retreat with us here at Middle Church. Created by our staff and consistory, we'll hold a beautiful space to share stories and get connected with each other. Rev. Jacqui, Deacon Natalie, and others will share about our theology and what drives our vision. Together, we'll take a deep drink of fresh Spirit and renew ourselves. More details soon; in the meantime, hold the date!

Soul Care = Yoga + Praying Dangerously

Wednesdays, July 26 and August 30 • 7:00–9:00 PM

Nurture your body, mind, and spirit at a yoga class for all levels with Allison Mickelson, followed by a session of Praying Dangerously led by Christina Fleming. **Please bring a yoga mat. Please RSVP to <http://bit.ly/SoulCareSummer>.**

Usher & Greeter Training for Fall Worships

Sunday, August 20 • 1:30–2:30 PM

Many thanks to all who offer welcome to our Middle congregation and visitors. You know that first impressions matter! We will need even more ushers and greeters as we begin our second Sunday morning worship in September. If you are a current usher or greeter, or if you would like to become an usher at Middle Church, please attend a highly informative usher and greeter training explaining our new plan for two worships. **For more information about becoming an usher or greeter, and to RSVP, contact Lynn at lmin@middlechurch.org.**



The Judicial Friends joined us for worship on Sunday, May 21 and recently shared their thanks in a note from Hon. Deborah A. Dowling:

"The judges and support staff remarked about the genuine welcoming spirit of love and inclusion that was displayed by the church. The different choirs sang with voices like angels, the prayers that were offered, and the welcoming messages of love all resonated with the audience. Please express our sincerest gratitude to the entire church."

Conference 2017 Videos

Hear the wisdom and inspiring words from change agents Van Jones, William Barber, Bill Moyers, Valarie Kaur, Traci Blackmon, Yara Allen, and Jacqui Lewis. Videos from our Revolutionary Love 2017 Conference are now available at <http://revolutionaryloveconference.com/videos/>. We encourage you to share them in your social networks. If you blog, write, or teach using any of these resources, please let us know. We'd like to share your learnings with others. Email Christina at cleming@middlechurch.org with the links to your reflections.

Two Is Better Than One!

Sunday, July 9 • 12:30 PM • Sanctuary

The Middle Church sanctuary has been filled to capacity so many Sundays since November. This is an ongoing issue: how do we make students of all the people—students of Revolutionary Love—if they can't find a seat when they come in the door?

In September, we will begin two worship celebrations. Right now, the proposed times are 9:30 AM and 11:45 AM. We are planning new programming that will take place in the middle—between the two worships—and also thinking of how to use Wednesday nights along with Sundays to connect us and grow our spirits. Join us for a brief congregational conversation on July 9, right after worship to learn more. We'll have information for you and tell you ways you can help make both worships rock.

In-the-Middle Choir Sings All Summer!

Sundays in July and August • 10:00–10:45 AM

You can sing with the In-the-Middle Choir every Sunday in July and August. Simply attend rehearsal in the 3rd Floor Studio and then sing at the 11:15 AM worship celebration the same day. **For more information, contact Tami at tpetty@middlechurch.org**

Healing Racism Task Force

This year we created a Healing Racism Task Force, which met monthly over the past program year to dig deep into the history and reality of race in our world. The group read texts from James Baldwin and Ta-Neshisi Coates, watched films, received trainings, and participated in difficult conversations around white supremacy, privilege, authenticity and identity. Expect more groups to emerge as we continue to address racism in America with Revolutionary Love.



Erica Berger

Rebecca and Ilana celebrate the perfect day!

Love Always Prevails

Rebecca Libed, our Assistant Director of Stewardship, shares about the impact of Middle's LGBTQ equality work on her life and family.

Eighteen years ago, I came out to my mom. She did not take it well and showed me a brochure she received from her church saying that same-sex relationships were a sin. I was lost and alone. Fast forward 18 years, my partner of nine years and I decided to get married. When I told my mom, she threw our save-the-date card on the floor. Some of my family members were supportive, but many were not. I lived in a haze of sadness for almost a year.

But what was different from when I came out of the closet? Now I wasn't alone. I had a loving partner by my side, and I had a community of #RevolutionaryLove at Middle Church. One day in the height of my sadness, the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis asked me a simple question: "How are you?" Little did she expect me to burst into hysterical tears. I told her my story, and her reply is what got me through my 12-month journey: "Believe in the love between Ilana and you. And believe in the love God has for you."

It is that love and support of my Ilana and this community that helped me through an incredibly difficult time. In June, Jacqui officiated as I married my soulmate, Ilana, and my mom was there to bear witness. Many of my family members and loved ones also finally sided with their love for me. And at the end of our wedding weekend, my stepmom-in-law said to my mom, "Wasn't this great, Terry?" My mom responded emphatically, "It wasn't great, it was PERFECT!"

#RevolutionaryLove is protesting out in our streets, but it also transforms the core of our most intimate relationships. My life has experienced real and fundamental change through Middle Church. Love always prevails at the end.

Through your generosity, **we have raised \$580,816.55**—101.02% of our FY2017 goal for June 30, 2017! But our work is not done. Our new fiscal year begins July 1 with an increased goal for June 30, 2018. Please help us create a world where no one individual feels alone and lost. Let our revolution start at home.

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



July/August

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
- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal** – 10:00–10:45 AM • 3rd 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
- **Moms in the Middle** – JUL 9 – 12:45–2:30 PM • Parlor
- **Village Chorus** (Ages 6–14) – on hiatus for the summer
- **New Member Orientation** – JUL 23 – 1:00–3:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **Reading the Bible from the Middle** – 1:30–2:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **Erasing Racism** – on hiatus for the summer
- **Praying Dangerously** – JUL 2 – 1:30–2:30 PM • 4th Floor Classroom
- **Middle at the Beach** – AUG 13 – 1:30 PM – watch website for details
- **Creative Writing Reading** – JUL 23 – 2:00–3:00 PM • Sanctuary
- **Usher and Greeter Training** – AUG 20 – 1:30–2:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **AA/Big Book Meeting** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Mondays

- **Momentum Meals** – 11:00 AM–1:00 PM • Lunch / 4:00–6:00 PM • Dinner / 5:30–6:00 PM • Food Pantry • Social Hall
- **Acting Class** – 6:30–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio • on hiatus in August
- **NA/Village Spiritual Workshop** – 6:30–7:30 PM • 4th Floor Classroom

Tuesdays

Church Office closed on July 4 for Independence Day Holiday

- **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

- **Jam Session** – JUL 5 – 7:00–8:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **Family Picnic** – JUL 12 – 6:00–8:00 PM • Tompkins Square Park
- **Soul Care** – JUL 26, AUG 30 – 7:00–9:00 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 • on hiatus in August
- **JJ Gospel Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Community Room • on hiatus in August
- **AI-Anon** – 7:30–9:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio

Fridays

- **Shul of New York Shabbat** – JUL 7, 21 – 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

- **Young Adults Hike** – JUL 8 – For more information, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org
- **Major League Soccer** – JUL 22 – 1:30 PM • Yankee Stadium
- **New Member Retreat** – JUL 29 – 10:00–3:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **Middle at the Beach** – AUG 5 – watch website for details
- **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 SUMMER MIXERS

Family Picnic

Wednesday, July 12 • 6:00–8:00 PM
• Tompkins Square Park near St. Mark's Place and Avenue A

Families with kids of all ages (birth–high school) are invited to enjoy a potluck picnic together. Bring a dish to share and a picnic blanket. We'll have a "Love Period" tie-dye T-shirt station (only \$5/shirt!), some games, and plenty of popsicles, too. **Please RSVP to Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.**

Major League Soccer

Saturday, July 22 • 1:30 PM •
Yankee Stadium

Enjoy a day of Major League Soccer and our Middle family as New York City Football Club takes on Chicago Fire at Yankee Stadium. All ages are welcome! Discounted tickets available for \$10 per person. **For information, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org. Reserve now! RSVPs needed by July 15 at bit.ly/MiddleSoccer.**

Middle at the Beach!

Saturday, August 5 with Marte and Allison
Sunday, August 13 with Lynn and Rob

Join a Middle Church Beach Party—all are welcome! Watch the website and worship bulletins for details about two different opportunities to go to the beach with your Middle family. **For information, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org or Lynn at lmin@middlechurch.org.**



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.