



middle notes

The Newsletter of Middle Collegiate Church

JULY / AUGUST 2018

Sundays in JULY:
Celebration! Worship
at 9:30 AM & 11:45 AM

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

JULY 1

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Special Music from John Del
Cueto, George Winters, and
Mark Rehnstrom
Communion

JULY 8

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Jerriese Johnson
Gospel Choir

JULY 15

Rob Stephens, preacher
Music from the Jammers

JULY 22

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Gospel Choir Ensemble

JULY 29

Ruby Sales, preacher
Special Music from Madge
Dietrich and Shari Gill
Welcoming New Members

Sundays in AUGUST:
**ONE Summer
Worship Celebration
at 10:30 AM**

Watch live at 10:30 AM on
middlechurch.org or Facebook

AUGUST 5

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir
Communion

AUGUST 12

Marte Samuelstuen and
Children, preachers
In-the-Middle Choir

AUGUST 19

Gloria Moy and
Amo Ngoepe, preachers
In-the-Middle Choir

AUGUST 26

Derrick Harkins, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir

SEPTEMBER 2

Rob Stephens, preacher
In-the-Middle Choir

Summertime, and...

Pride Sunday is like Christmas at Middle Church. We work for LGBTQI justice all year, recalling those who marched, bled, and died to make freedom possible, but on Pride Sunday our worship is WOW, and we dance and sing on Fifth Avenue. We celebrate how we are each awesomely made in God's image, and honor the good people of moral courage who make change happen.

We have seen such progress in our nation in my lifetime, so much momentum toward our ideal just society. Still, even now, families on our southern border are turned away, torn apart, caged like animals, and shipped to centers around the nation. Women still make \$.77 on the dollar compared to men doing the same work. Still, transgender women of color live in danger. Still, Black and Brown lives matter less than White lives. Still, Mother Earth has an upset stomach from the poisons we have fed her. Still, the wealth gap between our nation's top wage earners and our poorest people is so cavernous it is difficult to articulate.

We need movements such as the Women's March, Poor People's Campaign, Black Lives Matter, United We Dream, and the new Caravans to the Borderlands launched by the Harding Center for Spiritual and Social Restoration (Ruby Sales' SpiritHouse Project and Middle Church in partnership). We need institutions of all faiths like Judson Memorial Church, The Shul of New York, Muslim Community Network, Cordoba House, and Park Avenue Christian Church to pull people together, to remind us of the faith that grounds us and the vision that inspires our activism.

We really need a place like Middle Church. We need worship that is Joy! Power! Tears! Revolutionary Love! And more Joy. Our children are learning to be activists and artists; our adults are connecting in more ways to learn, act, pray, and have some fun. Middle Church saves my life, week in and week out. Your hugs at the door, your faithful attention to our work, your feedback, your volunteerism and your giving all make magic happen. You save my life!

The staff and I hope you know how much we

need you. Not how much we think it would be nice if you showed up, but how much we really need your help to do what we do. Our staff is smaller than it has been in the past, and will likely stay that size. This means you, Middle people, are staff. You are the hands, feet, and heartbeat of God. When we send an SOS, we don't mean come if you feel like it; we mean all hands on deck, because there is mission critical work to do. And if you don't do it, we might need to let it go.

How will you use your gifts this year to help heal souls and the world? Summer is a time of slightly slower movement, a time to reflect and make choices. With all that is happening on the national stage and around the world, with the midterm elections barreling down upon us, we need you on our team. Stay tuned to the website and the bulletin for specific ways YOU can make love, everywhere. God knows, it is needed.

In July, we continue offering two worship celebrations—at 9:30 AM and 11:45 AM—with some things in the Middle for us to do. I'll be here in July, and look forward to being with you.

In August, some programs will take a break and, as most churches do, we will downshift to one worship celebration. **On August 5, 12, 19, 26, and September 2, the single worship celebration will begin at 10:30 AM, with classes right after worship for you and your family.** Check calendar in this newsletter for details.

On September 9, we resume two worship celebrations. We are still fine-tuning the schedules, but they will be close to what we have now. Stay tuned for program updates!

Alright, hands, feet, and heartbeat of God. Remember, this is who we are! We can stop the storms. We can change the weather. We can make America fair, just, equitable, safe, and loving, through the power at work within us.

I love you, and happy summer.





Thank you to all the Middle members who got on a bus on Saturday, June 23 to rise up with Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival and gathered in Washington DC with thousands of other activists working for change.

Butterfly Meal Program Needs You!

Sundays: 9:30–10:30 AM • Social Hall

Join us as we prepare bag lunches for distribution to the hungry in a local park. More hands and feet are always needed. Distribution begins after the last worship celebration. For more information, contact Cheryl at cocochran@middlechurch.org.

BIBLE in the Middle in July

Sunday, July 8, 15, 22, 29 • 10:50–11:40 AM • 4th Floor Studio

Join us for a special series in July with Rev. Derrick Harkins (Senior Vice President for Innovation in Public Programs at Union Theological Seminary and Minister-in-Residence at Middle), as we engage key elements of community for the Church using the Book of Acts as the anchor. What does the book of Acts have to teach us about building community today?

Voice Class

Mondays, July 2, 9, 16, 23 • 6:00–7:30 PM • Community Room

Join Tami Petty for a four-week series on voice building and awareness for ages 18 and older. For more information and to RSVP, contact Tami at tpetty@middlechurch.org

Partnership Task Force Launch

Tuesday, July 10 • 6:00–7:30 PM

Join us to learn more about our Partnership Task Force, a team that helps shape Middle Church's stewardship and fundraising strategies. RSVP to Rebecca at rlibed@middlechurch.org

Shakespeare in the Park

Saturday, July 21 • 6:00 AM • Delacorte Theatre, Central Park

Middle's Young Adults invite you to join them for Shakespeare in the Park: *Twelfth Night*. We'll line up real early for free tickets for that night's performance. Each person is eligible to receive two tickets while tickets last. We'll pass the time in line together with card games and snacks until receiving tickets at noon. **We'll return to the Delacorte by 7:30 PM for the 8:00 PM performance.** RSVP to Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.

New Member Orientation

Sundays, July 22, 29 • 10:50–11:40 AM • Conference Rm

Whether you worship at 9:30 or 11:45, join Jacqui and Rob for a two-part New Member Orientation between the celebrations. New members will be welcomed at both worship celebrations on July 22. RSVP to Nathan at njohnson@middlechurch.org.

Middle Writers 7th Annual Summer Reading

Sunday, July 29 • 1:30 PM • Sanctuary

Come and hear the wide variety of stories that the Middle Writers have been working on all year—stay for quick bite of cake and chat with the Writers.

Middle Players Present *Spirited Stories*

Sunday, July 29 • 3:00 PM • Sanctuary

Directed by Harold Slazer, *Spirited Stories* shares thoughtful personal stories written by the Middle Players dealing with God, Spirit, Church, and Love in their lives. Brief discussion follows.

In-the-Middle Choir Sings in August!

Sundays in August • 9:15–10:15 AM • Community Room

You can sing with the In-the-Middle Choir every Sunday in August. Come as you are. Simply attend rehearsal and then sing at the 10:30 AM worship celebration the same day.

Youth Movie Night

Wednesday, August 8 • 6:00–11:30 PM • Meet at Middle

Students entering grades 6–12 are invited to join Marte for a free screening of *Wonder Woman*. We'll meet at Middle, take public transit together to Pier 63, and eat a picnic dinner before the film. Parents can meet us afterward at Pier 63 or at Middle. For more info and to receive a permission slip, contact Marte at msamuelstuen@middlechurch.org.

Staff Sabbaticals in 2018

I am grateful to the Middle Church consistory and our senior minister, Jacqui, for gifting all full-time Middle Church staff who celebrate a seven-year work anniversary with a one-month sabbatical! During the month of May, I was privileged to have four weeks to pray, meditate, write, and engage in the spiritual practice of true sabbath. My soul is so grateful for this nourishing, centering, and profound gift!

I am one of many staff members who will celebrate seven years at Middle this year. Others who will celebrate seven years in 2018: Nathan Johnson, Ministry Specialist; Rebecca Libed, Director of Stewardship; Ellen Matlach, Senior Ministry Manager; and Harold Batista, Media Producer. Choir Director John Del Cueto celebrates 11 years on Middle Church staff this year. We are deeply grateful to the consistory and Jacqui for this priceless gift!

Christina Fleming
Director of Communications

Sundays in July

- **Wee Care** (under age 4) – 8:30 AM–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor Nursery
- **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** – 9:30–10:45 AM • Sanctuary
- **Butterfly Meal Prep** – 9:30–10:30 AM • Social Hall
- **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
- **New Member Orientation – JUL 22, 29** – 10:50–11:40 AM • Conf Rm
- **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** – 11:45 AM–1:00 PM • Sanctuary
- **Family Room** (Grades K–5) – **JUL 1** – 1:00–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor
- **Butterfly Meal Distribution** – 1:00–2:00 PM • Meet in Social Hall
- **Village Chorus for Children & Youth** – Resumes in September
- **Moms in the Middle – JUL 1** – 1:15–2:30 PM • 5th Floor Parlor
- **Dads in the Middle** – Resumes in September
- **Young Adults Small Group – JUL 1** – 1:15–2:30 PM • 4th Floor
- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal – JUL 29** – 1:15–1:45 PM • 5th Floor Parlor
- **Barn Burner Bonanza – JUL 1** – 2:00–3:00 PM • Sanctuary
- **Middle Writers Summer Reading – JUL 29** – 1:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **Middle Players Spiritied Stories – JUL 29** – 3:00 PM • Sanctuary
- **AA/Big Book Meeting** – 4:00–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Check middlechurch.org for full details of all events.

Partners of All Ages

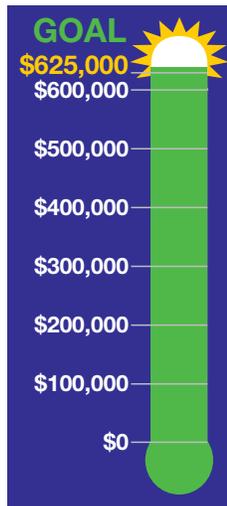
Eight-year-old Dominick Vizioli reads each word of the worship bulletin every Sunday. On Sunday, June 24 Dominick was distraught when he read that we had \$7,936.90 more to raise to meet our offering goal of \$625,000 by the end of our program year on June 30. With great worry, he asked Marte Samuelstuen, “What will happen if we don’t meet our offering goal?”

We are happy to celebrate with Dominick and the congregation that as of June 26, we have raised \$639,000—102.24% of our FY2018 goal for June 30, 2018! Thank you, Middle Church! We are able to do this together because each of you are stakeholders in Revolutionary Love.

Our new fiscal year begins July 1 with an increased offering goal for June 30, 2019 of \$700,000. After the Collegiate Church endowment paid for major capital improvement projects at its churches recently, each Collegiate ministry, as good partners, pledged to fund more of its budget every year, leaning into funding 50% of its budget by 2022. When this was announced, Middle was funding 20% of its ministry through offerings and other revenues. We have increased year by year; for FY2018 we funded 37% of our budget. Our FY2019 offering goal and budgeted revenues will fund 43% of our budget—that is AMAZING!

Please consider creating a recurring gift starting July 1 as your pledge to help us reach our goal for FY2019.

Visit middlechurch.org/donate



Sundays in August

- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal** – 9:15–10:15 AM • Community Room
- **Butterfly Meal Prep** – 9:30–10:30 AM • Social Hall
- **Wee Care** (under age 4) – 10:00 AM–1:00 PM • 3rd Floor Nursery
- **SUMMER CELEBRATION! WORSHIP – 10:30–11:45 AM** • Sanctuary
- **BRUNCH in the Middle** – 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • Social Hall
- **Sermon Talkback** (Adult Ed) – 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **KIDS in the Middle** – 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • Grades K–5 – 3rd Floor Studio
- **YOUTH in the Middle** (Gr. 6–12) – 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • 4th Floor Classroom
- **Moms in the Middle – AUG 5** – 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • 5th Floor Parlor
- **Dads in the Middle** – Resumes in September
- **Young Adults Small Group – AUG 5** – 11:45 AM–12:45 PM • 4th Floor
- **In-the-Middle Choir Rehearsal** – 12:00–12:30 PM • Community Room
- **Butterfly Meal Distribution** – 12:00 PM • Meet in Social Hall
- **Village Chorus for Children & Youth** – Resumes in September
- **AA/Big Book Meeting** – 4:00–5:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Weekdays in July and August

Monday

- **Momentum Meal** – Lunch 11:30 AM–1:00 PM / Dinner 5:30–6:30 PM • Social Hall
- **Voice Class – JUL 2, 9, 16, 23** – 6:00–7:30 PM • Community Room
- **Acting Class – JUL 2, 9, 16, 23** – 6:00–7:30 PM • 3rd Floor Studio • on hiatus in August
- **NA/Village Spiritual Workshop** – 6:30–7:30 PM • 4th Floor Classroom

Tuesday

- **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

Wednesday

Church Office closed on July 4 for Independence Day Holiday

- **Jam Session – JUL 11** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Social Hall • on hiatus in August
- **Middle Mixer: Family Picnic – JUL 18** – 6:00–8:00 PM • Tompkins Square Park
- **Youth Movie Night – AUG 8** – 6:00–11:30 PM • meet at Middle
- **Downtown Meditation** – 6:30–8:30 PM • Community Room

Thursday

- **New Adventures – JUL 19, AUG 16** – 2:00–3:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **Creative Writing** – 6:30–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio • on hiatus in August
- **JJ Gospel Choir Rehearsal – JUL 5, 12, 19** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Community Room • Resumes in September
- **AI-Anon/East Village Topics** – 7:30–8:45 PM • 3rd Floor Studio

Friday

- **Shul of NY Shabbat – AUG 10** – 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

Saturday

- **Shakespeare in the Park – JUL 21** – 6:00 AM • offsite
- **Middle Mixer: Beach Day at the Rockaways – AUG 18** – All Day!
- **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 18 • 6:00–8:00 PM
• Tompkins Square Park near St. Mark's Place and Avenue A

Middle folks and families with kids of all ages are invited to enjoy a potluck picnic. Bring a dish to share and a picnic blanket. We'll bring games, plates/cups/napkins, and plenty of popsicles. Enter at St. Mark's and Avenue A and head to the picnic table area. Please RSVP to Marte to help us plan.

Beach Day at the Rockaways!

Saturday, August 18 • 10:00 AM–7:30 PM

Join Marte for a day at Rockaway Beach. Plan to take the Rockaway ferry together from Wall Street. Bring snacks, water, sunscreen, and a towel. After spending the day on the sand, we'll get dinner together before jumping on the ferry back to Wall Street. Please RSVP to Marte.

Ferry: Meet at 10:00 AM at the Wall Street/Pier 11 entrance. We will arrive at Rockaway Beach at Beach 108th Street around noon. Cost: \$5.50 for roundtrip ferry transportation plus money for snacks and your dinner there.

Major League Soccer

Saturday, September 8 • 3:30 PM • Yankee Stadium

Enjoy a day of Major League Soccer and our Middle family as New York City Football Club takes on DC United at Yankee Stadium. All ages are welcome!

RSVP to Marte and watch the website for more information.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Marte Samuelstuen at msamuelstuen@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 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 inter-religious 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. Founded prior to this nation, Middle Church affirms the transformative power of moral imagination, reclaiming and reframing Christianity inside our walls, on the street, and in virtual spaces around the globe.

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.