



middle notes

The Newsletter of Middle Collegiate Church

JANUARY 2017

Celebration! Worship
Sundays at 11:15 AM

Watch live on middlechurch.org

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day

"I Will Recount"

Jim Kast-Keat, preacher

Isaiah 63.7-9

Middle Church Choir

JANUARY 8

Epiphany

"Beloved"

Jim Kast-Keat, preacher

Matthew 3.13-17

Middle Church Choir

Communion

JANUARY 15

Martin Luther King Sunday

"Ridiculous Hope!"

Jacqui Lewis, preacher

Psalms 40.1-11

Middle Church Choir

Jerriese Johnson

Gospel Choir

New Members Welcomed

SPECIAL WORSHIP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

AT 4:00 PM

*The Reverend
Classis of New York
Reformed Church
in America
Ordination of
Chad Tanaka Pack
to the Office of
Minister of Word
and Sacrament*

JANUARY 22

"The Long Road
to Freedom"

Jacqui Lewis, preacher

Matthew 4.12-33

Middle Church Choir

JANUARY 29

Lunar New Year

Lynn Min, preacher

Micah 6.1-8

Middle Church Choir

Rising Sun

In-the-Middle Choir

Dream Weavers

We all have a playlist of music running in our minds, lyrics just behind our eyes, melody hovering in our ears. We hum the tune, we sing the lyrics and we are transported somewhere to a memory, and the dream of it happening again.

Morgan Park High School, on the south side of Chicago, is a special place tucked away in my memory. At a time when the rest of the city and the nation were exploding with racial tensions, we were a happy bunch of Black, White, Latino and Asian students. We sang in choir, we played instruments in band, we were jocks and bookish and some of us were really cool. We danced in basements lit by black lights—I loved to dance.

We dreamed of a world in which hard-working parents, like ours, could afford to scrim and save and buy a little house, then mortgage it to send their children to college. The children would get good-enough jobs to pay back the loans. Neighborhoods would be, like ours, mixed in terms of race, class, gender/sexuality, and religion, and the tie that bound the people together would be the sense that all the people were amazing, and created in God's image.

Dreaming our dream, we studied hard, sold clothing at the mall or babysat, and danced to songs in the key of our lives. Signed, sealed, delivered—I'm yours. Dream weaver, I believe you can get me through the night; I believe we can reach the morning light.

Forty years later, I dream, still, of this world. And Middle is the stuff of my dreams. Our children growing up before our eyes. Our hands clasped when we pray. Our voices singing that we woke up with our minds stayed on freedom; that we won't let nobody turn us around; that we shall overcome. Our playlist is as diverse as we are, sung in the key of our lives, lifting our dreams of a healed soul and world to the sky.

As we head into a new year, uncertain about what a new administration will mean for us and for the ones we love, I share this poem with you, which inspired Gary Wright's wonderful song, "Dream Weaver."

God, God, God.

From the depths of slumber,

As I ascend the spiral

stairways of wakefulness,

I will whisper:

God! God! God!

Thou art the food, and when I break my fast

Of nightly separation from Thee,

I will taste Thee, and mentally say:

God! God! God!

No matter where I go, the spotlight of my mind

Will ever keep turning on Thee;

And in the battle din of activity,

my silent war-cry will be:

God! God! God!

When boisterous storms of trials shriek,

And when worries howl at me,

I will drown their noises, loudly chanting:

God! God! God!

When my mind weaves dreams

With threads of memories,

On that magic cloth will I emboss:

God! God! God!

Every night, in time of deepest sleep,

When my peace dreams and calls, Joy! Joy! Joy!

My joy comes singing evermore:

God! God! God!

In waking, eating, working, dreaming, sleeping,

Serving, meditating, chanting, divinely loving,

My soul will constantly hum, unheard by any:

God! God! God!

—Paramahansa Yogananda

You and I, Middle Family, are called to complete God's dream for the world. This is why Achebe Powell and Rob Stephens will offer a teach-in about non-violent communication on Martin Luther King Sunday, January 15, 2017. This is why we will ordain Chad Tanaka Pack that same day at 4:00p! This is why we will host Revolutionary Love: Disruptive Ethics to Dismantle Racism, April 28-30, 2017 right here at Middle Church. As we do this work, dream weavers, my simple prayer is God. God. God.

Happy New Year, and love,

Jacqui



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



Peter Calderon



Peter Calderon

Almost two dozen people came to march and lead singing at the #CLOSErikers vigil at our mayor's home, Gracie Mansion. Jacqui brought nearly 4,000 signatures, including 550 faith leaders, from around the country asking Mayor Bill de Blasio to #CLOSErikers. We're grateful to Auburn Seminary's Groundswell Movement who helped circulate the petition and our partners who helped plan the event with us at JustLeadershipUSA, The Greater Allen Cathedral of New York, The First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, NYTS Micah Institute, Auburn Theological Seminary, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.



We celebrate the 10 year anniversary of MiddlePrays with love and thanks for all of the laity on our MiddlePrays team who hold our congregation's prayer requests in their prayers. To volunteer to pray or for more information about this ministry, contact Deacon Malia T. Blake and Minister Lynn Min at middleprays@middlechurch.org.



Peter Calderon

You danced on the altar and filled our souls with music from the Village Chorus for Children and Youth, the Middle Church Choir, the Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, and Mosaic's benefit concerts for our Muslim and LGBT sisters and brothers. You lined up around the block for Christmas Eve worships, engaged in Facebook Live broadcasts, folded thousands of bulletins, mailed newsletters and Christmas ornaments, and wrote hundreds of greeting cards. Thank you for making Christmas at Middle Church like nowhere else. You make it happen.

King Sunday Teach-in

Sunday, January 15 • 1:30-3:00 PM • Sanctuary

For our annual King Sunday Teach-in, Middle Church hosts a workshop on non-violent communication and strategies. Associate Minister Rob Stephens, who served as a field secretary in the North Carolina NAACP and organized with the Rev. Dr. William Barber on the Moral Mondays Movement, will facilitate the training.

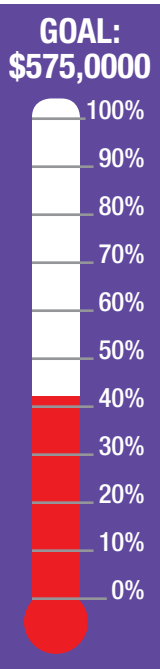
Rob will be joined by Middle member Achebe Powell, who has been an activist since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. She will bring her wisdom to our current social justice movements. An international trainer on the issues of diversity and multicultural development, Achebe has served on the New York State Human Rights Commission, coordinated a New York City Black and Jewish Women's dialogue group, and served on the Multicultural Advisory Committee to the New York City Board of Education. She was a founding member of the Astrea Foundation, a national fund for women's and girls' projects.

Partnership Update

We firmly believe in God's dream for a healed and whole world. The Middle Church budget creates a Movement of Revolutionary Love and includes offerings of \$575,000, which must be raised between now and June 30, 2017, the end of our fiscal year. At this writing, we have already raised \$243,102. Would you help us complete the dream? Donate now. Pledge now.

Ways to Give: As diverse as we are!

- **Online.** Make a weekly recurring gift using a credit or debit card at bit.ly/power-love.
- **During Worship.** Place cash or a check in an offering envelope during worship.
- **Text to Give.** Simply text "[Donation Amount]" to 917-924-4666.
- **Matched Giving Program.** Check if your employer programs match your donation.





Thank you for your generous donations to our Winter Coat & Sock Drive during Advent. Staff and volunteers were on hand to distribute coats, socks, and other warm clothing during Momentum meals, providing a merrier—and warmer—Christmas for many in our community. Your faithful donations of clothing and time made the drive a success.

Mosaic: Benefit for Black Lives Matter

Wednesday, January 18 • 7:00–8:30 PM • Sanctuary

Gather with other dreamers and seekers as we connect with one another to deepen our relationships, nourish our Spirits, and raise money for Black Lives Matter. Soul-stirring music, grounding meditations, and short inspiring talks will be offered. Proceeds from the \$20 suggested admission will support Black Lives Matter in New York City. Through your generosity, Mosaic evenings have raised more than \$3,000 for LGBT homeless youth and the Arab American Association of New York. To register, visit bit.ly/MosaicBLM.

Spiritual Sounds of the East Village

Sunday, January 29 • 5:00–7:00 PM • St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery, Second Avenue at 10th Street

The Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir will represent Middle Church at the annual Spiritual Sounds worship with our local Interfaith partners at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery. Join the radically diverse faith traditions in our neighborhood for a collective celebration and worship.

Middle Literary Magazine Needs You!

Submit your writing and/or art to our 6th annual Literary Magazine! The theme will be "Dismantle, Disrupt, and Dream." 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 5.**

Revolutionary Love: Disruptive Ethics to Dismantle Racism

Friday, April 28–Sunday, April 30 at Middle Church

Now is the time for leaders—ethical leaders—to lead. Leaders who feel called and equipped to make America well, to make America just, to make America safe for all of those who are on the margins. Leaders impassioned to work for a healed and whole nation that is a faithful global neighbor. Join us as we strategize across generations at Revolutionary Love: Disruptive Ethics to Dismantle Racism at Middle Church in NYC, April 28–30, 2017. The Rev. Dr. William Barber is among the confirmed speakers. **To register, visit bit.ly/RevLove2017. Registration is \$399. Use code MCC2017 to get the special Middle-member rate of \$100.**

January

Check middlechurch.org for full details of all events.

Sundays

- **Butterfly Meal Preparation** – on hiatus until Easter
- **Wee Care** (under age 4) – 9:30 AM–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor Wee Care
- **In-the-Middle Choir** – **JAN 29** – 10:00–10:45 AM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **The Breakfast Club** (Gr. 7–12) – 10:00–11:00 AM • 4th Floor Studio • on hiatus JAN 1
- **CELEBRATION! WORSHIP** – 11:15 AM–12:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **The Ark** (Gr. K–6) – 11:30–12:30 PM • 3rd Floor Studio • on hiatus JAN 1
- **Chat & Chew** – 12:30 PM • Social Hall
- **Village Chorus** (Ages 6–14) – 1:00–2:30 PM • Community Room
- **New Member Orientation** – **JAN 8** – 1:00–3:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **Reading the Bible from the Middle** – 1:30–2:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **King Sunday Teach-in** – **JAN 15** – 1:30–3:00 PM • Sanctuary
- **Erasing Racism, Praying Dangerously, Money Talks, Mothers & Spirituality** – Please attend King Sunday Teach-in on JAN 15
- **Ordination of Chad Tanaka Pack** – **JAN 15** – 4:00–5:30 PM • Sanctuary
- **Spiritual Sounds of the East Village** – **JAN 29** – 5:00–7:00 PM • St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery, Second Avenue at 10th Street – FREE!
- **AA/Big Book Meeting** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Mondays

- **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 • resumes JAN 16
 - **NA/Village Spiritual Workshop** – 6:30–7:30 PM • 4th Floor Classroom
 - **Middle Consistory Meeting** – **JAN 23** – 6:30–8:30 PM • Parlor
- Church Office closed January 2–3—Open for 12-step programs.**

Tuesdays

- **Alateen** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Classroom
- **AA/Artists in Recovery** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **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

- **Mosaic** – **JAN 18** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Sanctuary • \$20 donation
- **Pub Theology** – **JAN 25** – 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

Thursdays

- **Debtors Anonymous** – 12:30–1:30 PM • 4th Floor Classroom
- **Creative Writing** – 6:30–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio • resumes JAN 19
- **JJ Gospel Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Community Room
- **AI-Anon** – 7:30–9:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio

Fridays

- **Annual Spiritual Retreat: Complete the Dream** – **JAN 6–8** – 6:00 PM – Offsite – Registered participants should meet at 50 East 7th Street at 6:00 PM. The bus will depart promptly at 6:30 PM. The bus will return to Middle Church on Sunday, January 8 at about 5:00 PM.
- **Shul of NY Shabbat Services** – **JAN 6, 20** – 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
- **AA/Beginners** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **AA/Open Discussion** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **NA/SRA** – 8:00–9:30 PM • 5th Floor Parlor
- **AA/Closed Discussion** – 8:30–9:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio



Middle Collegiate Church

50 East 7th Street • New York, NY 10003

REVOLUTIONARY LOVE



Disruptive Ethics to Dismantle Racism • April 28–30, 2017 at Middle Church
Register at bit.ly/RevLove2017



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.