



middle notes

The Newsletter of Middle Collegiate Church

JULY / AUGUST 2015

[Watch live on middlechurch.org](http://middlechurch.org)

Celebration! Worship
at 11:15 AM

JULY 5

Alisa Joyce, preacher
Summer Choir
Communion

JULY 12

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Summer Choir
MCJJ Gospel Choir

JULY 19

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Summer Choir

JULY 26

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Summer Choir
MCJJ Gospel Choir

AUGUST 2

Jacqui Lewis, preacher
Summer Choir
Communion

AUGUST 9

Adriene Thorne, preacher
Summer Choir

AUGUST 16

Adriene Thorne, preacher
Summer Choir

AUGUST 23

Alisa Joyce, preacher
Summer Choir

AUGUST 30

Jim Kast-Keat, preacher
Summer Choir

[Art & Soul Worship is on
hiatus for the summer](#)

Love Wins



When Brian Silva, Executive Director of Marriage Equality USA, called to ask if I would co-host the New York celebration of the Supreme Court ruling on marriage, tears rolled down my cheeks. This moment was for me a celebration and a prophecy.

Our nation celebrated the incredible decades-long collaboration between queer communities and straight allies toward marriage equality. We have fought this fight together. Been to Albany. Marched down Fifth Avenue every Pride Sunday singing gospel music until hoarse. Performed weddings in our sanctuaries. I am the queerest straight Black woman I know, and to stand and cheer before a sea of New Yorkers

and a nation watching was one of the defining moments of my ministry. Love is love, we know, and the right to join hearts in marriage is a civil one that we believe God blesses. My feet ache from marching on Pride Sunday. Oh, happy day!

Our joy, though, lays alongside our #PropheticGrief. We all know that racism is an evil specter haunting our nation. The shooting deaths of nine souls praying in Charleston reveals the urgent nature of this truth: until #BlackLivesMatter we are not finished with the work of justice. It is time to turn our love-power toward dismantling systemic and personal racism.

And so it was that we began our celebration on June 26 outside the historic Stonewall Inn by naming the nine slain by racism. Declaring intersectionality and solidarity. A determination, for example, to restore what the Supreme Court gutted from the Voting Rights Act. Responding in concerted outrage to the burning of Black churches. We are in these fights together, joined by our belief in this prophecy: One day a multi-vocal band of humanity will sing, "We are free at last! Glory to God!!" Because we know that in the end love will win.

*I love you,
Jacqui*



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

A Summer of Fun and Learning

Writing Workshop: The Human Fact

Tuesdays, July 7 and 14 • 7:00–9:00 PM • Conference Room

Aspiring fiction writers and poets—claim the writer you are. Led by author/educator Chuck Wachtel. All are welcome.

Creative Writing Workshop

Thursdays • 6:30–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

A supportive, creative, and fun environment where ideas move from head to paper. Led by Middle member Harold Slazer.

Middle Church Summer Choir—Join Us!

Sundays in July, August, and September • 9:30–11:00 AM

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sing with the Middle Church Choir? Here is your opportunity! All are welcome to join the Summer Choir. Attend the rehearsal in the 3rd Floor Studio on any Sunday at 9:30 AM, and then sing at the 11:15 AM worship celebration that same day. No auditions are necessary.

Food Justice: Butterfly and Food Pantry

Butterfly feeds our hungry neighbors in the local parks every Sunday following the morning worship celebration. Our Food Pantry client base continues to grow every second and fourth Sunday. Contact Alisa at ajoyce@middlechurch.org if you are interested in helping or getting help.

The Ark Small Group Worship

Sundays • 11:30 AM–12:30 PM

Grades K–6 share a special time of worship and explore the Bible.

Reading the Bible from the Middle

Sundays • 1:15–2:30 PM

Join the preacher of the day as we explore the sermon and scripture from the morning worship celebration, discovering the ways these themes connect in our lives and in our world.

New Member Orientation

Sunday, July 12 • 9:30–10:30 AM

Part 1: Welcome and Connect — Information and conversation for those who joined the Middle Movement this month.

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, July 12 • 11:15 AM

Middle is not Middle without the dedicated folk who show up to staff our ministries. If you have greeted in the sanctuary, taught a class, sung in a choir, served in the food pantry, folded a bulletin, served a meal, taught Sunday school, led worship, or generally done something for someone else here at Middle, please plan to be with us. We look forward to thanking you for all you do!

Adult Ed: Middle Writers Reading

Sunday, July 12 • 1:30–2:30 PM • Sanctuary

Middle Elder, Kevin Scott Hall, and Middle member, Kate Walter, join us to talk about their spiritual journeys and read selections from their memoirs. Kevin Scott Hall's *A Quarter Inch from My Heart* and Kate Walter's *Looking for a Kiss: A Chronicle of Downtown Heartbreak and Healing* will be available for purchase.

Care Sunday

Sunday, July 12 • 2:30–4:30 PM

Sign up for a 30-minute conversation with a member of the clergy care team. To reserve your spot, sign up after worship or contact Adriene at athorne@middlechurch.org.

Something for Seniors (60s and over)

Sunday, July 19 • 12:30–2:30 PM

Immediately following the worship celebration, join Adriene Thorne and Chris Nufer, from the Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry, for a program geared especially for Middle seniors who are 60+ years young. Fun games, conversation, special food, and prizes for participants. Come and hear what Chris and the Weill Cornell Medical Center has to offer our community.

Third Sundays Being Groups

Sunday, July 19 (Third Sundays) • 1:15–2:30 PM

- **Erasing Racism** — Middle's positive multiracial community goes deeper, using art to spark the conversation about racism.
- **Middle Business Network** — Business professionals meet to discuss faith, ethics, and the corporate workplace.
- **Mothers & Spirituality** — Deepen connection and grow spiritually by focusing on parenting and its intersection with faith.
- **Praying Dangerously** — Join this group as they discuss the poem *Praying Dangerously* and pray for one another.

Pub Theology

Tuesday, July 21 • 7:00–8:30 PM • Jimmy's No. 43, 43 E. 7th St.

Gather for good drinks and talk about God, life, and everything in between. RSVP to Jim at jimkastkeat@middlechurch.org.



Dear Middle Family—

The Consistory and I are so thankful to you! Thanks to you, we made our offering goal of \$525,000—you raised \$535,287.11 this year with your generosity! You powered worship, care, justice, and education ministries. You stretched and you did it!

The new program year starts right now. This year, our goal is \$555,000, reflecting our ongoing commitment to partner with the Collegiate Church in our ministry. We must make up the difference so we can keep on keeping on. Thank you for building Middle Church into your weekly budget.

—Jacqui and the Middle Church Consistory

Opportunities to Play

- **Amazing Grace The Musical with Jacqui and Consistory** – Tuesday, July 21 at 7:00 PM – We have a special group rate to see this Broadway musical. To RSVP and reserve your ticket, contact Ellen at ematlach@middlechurch.org by July 12.
- **The Cloisters with Adriene** – Sunday, July 26 after worship – Join Adriene for a guided tour of The Cloisters museum and gardens. Payment required by July 12. Leave your cash or check in the main office marked “ATTN: Cloisters.” Cost: \$20 adults; \$12 children in grades 1–12. For information and to RSVP, contact Adriene at athorne@middlechurch.org.
- **Bowling with Alisa** – Monday, August 3, 7:00–9:00 PM at Frames (550 Ninth Avenue at 40th Street) – \$20 will cover lane and shoe rental. Bring extra for food and/or beverages. To RSVP, contact Alisa at ajoyce@middlechurch.org
- **“Art as Activism” with Jim** – Saturday, August 8 – Students entering grades 7–12 are invited to join Jim to explore “Art as Activism,” a new graphic art exhibit at the New York Historical Society. For more information or to RSVP, contact Jim at jimkastkeat@middlechurch.org.
- **Coney Island Sand Castle Competition and Beach Day with Adriene and Alisa** – Saturday, August 15 – Pack a picnic and your sand castle toys and join our Middle community for a day at Coney Island—hot dogs, sand, and sun. Bring your lunch and something to share. For information and to RSVP, contact Alisa at ajoyce@middlechurch.org.

Middle in the World

Jacqui Lewis published “A Note from Charleston” in the *Sojourners* blog after she and a group of faith leaders delivered 5,000 prayers to a family of Mother Emanuel Church. • Our prayers for Charleston and the accompanying twitter hashtag #PropheticGrief was tweeted more than 4,600 times on Sunday, June 21. • Deacon Graham Bridgeman’s eloquent words about his faith were featured on the Refinery29 home page: “This Young Trans Man Will Celebrate Gay Pride—At Church.” • TheAdvocate.com featured Jacqui Lewis’ op-ed, “God Loves His (or Her) Trans Children.” • Melissa Harris-Perry spoke with Jacqui Lewis the week-end after the Charleston massacre. • Jim Kast-Keat’s 30 Seconds of Less podcast was featured in *The Huffington Post*.

July/August

Check middlechurch.org for full details of all events.

★ Indicates on hiatus in August!

Sunday Mornings

- **Butterfly Meal Preparation** – 9:00 & 10:00 AM • Social Hall
- **Wee Care** (under age 4) – 9:30 AM–2:30 PM • 3rd Floor Wee Care
- **JUL 12 – New Member Orientation Part 1** – 9:30–10:30 AM
- **Summer Choir Rehearsal** – 9:30–11:00 AM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **Celebration! Sunday Morning Worship** – 11:15 AM–12:30 PM

Sunday Afternoons

- **The Ark Small Group Worship** (Grades K–6) – 11:30–12:30 PM • 3rd Floor Studio ★
- **Chat & Chew** – 12:30 PM • Social Hall
- **Butterfly Meal Distribution** – 12:30 PM • Meet at Social Hall
- **Adult Ed: Reading the Bible from the Middle** – 1:15–2:30 PM
- **Village Chorus for Children and Youth** – on hiatus for the summer
- **Middle Community Chorus Rehearsal** – on hiatus for the summer
- **JUL 12, 26 – Food Pantry Distribution** – 1:30–3:00 PM
- **JUL 12 – Adult Ed: Middle Writers Reading** – 1:30–2:30 PM
- **JUL 12 – Care Sunday** – 2:30–4:30 PM
- **JUL 19 – Third Sunday Being Groups** – 1:15–2:30 PM ★
- **JUL 19 – Something for Seniors** – 12:30–2:30 PM
- **JUL 26 – The Cloisters with Adriene** – offsite after worship

Sunday Evenings

- **Art & Soul Sunday Evening Worship** – on hiatus for the summer
- **AA/Big Book Meeting** – 7:00–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio

Weekdays This Month

Mondays

- **NA/Village Spiritual Workshop** – 6:30–7:30 PM • 4th Floor Classroom
- **JUL 20 – JustArts Day Camp** – 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
- **AUG 3 – Bowling with Alisa** – 7:00–9:00 PM • Frames, 550 Ninth Ave.

Tuesdays

- **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 • 3rd Floor Studio
- **JUL 7, 14 – Writing Workshop with Chuck Wachtel** – 7:00–9:00 PM
- **JUL 21 – JustArts Day Camp** – 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
- **JUL 21 – Pub Theology** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Jimmy’s No. 43, 43 E. 7th St.
- **JUL 21 – Amazing Grace The Musical** – 7:00 PM • must RSVP

Wednesdays

- **JUL 22 – JustArts Day Camp** – 8:30 AM–4:30 PM

Thursdays

- **Creative Writing** – 6:30–8:00 PM • 4th Floor Studio ★
- **MCJJ Gospel Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00–8:30 PM • Community Room ★
- **AI-Anon** – 7:30–9:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **JUL 23 – JustArts Day Camp** – 8:30 AM–4:30 PM

Fridays

- **NA/It’s About Change** – 6:30–8:00 PM • 3rd Floor Studio
- **AA/Young and Wise Group** – 7:00–8:00 PM • Community Room
- **NA/Finally Found a Home** – 8:30–9:30 PM • 4th Floor Studio
- **JUL 24 – JustArts Day Camp** – 8:30 AM–4:30 PM

Saturdays

- **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 • 3rd Floor Studio
- **AUG 8 – “Art as Activism” with Jim** (Grades 7–12) – must RSVP
- **AUG 15 – Coney Island with Alisa and Adriene** – must RSVP



Middle Collegiate Church

50 East 7th Street • New York, NY 10003

The Middle Project Freedom School
presents

JustArts DAY CAMP

Monday, July 20–Friday, July 24
8:30 AM–4:30 PM

**Explore art and justice around themes
of identity, nature, and mindfulness.**

- For children and youth entering grades K–12
- Field trips to parks and partner organizations in the East Village
- FREE day camp—donations accepted.
- **8:30 AM–4:30 PM** — Early drop-off at 7:30 AM and late pick-up by 5:30 AM for \$50.

**Contact Jim at 212-477-0666 ext 320
or jimkastkeat@middlechurch.org**

Register at bitly.com/JustArts



Middle Collegiate Church

welcoming • artistic • inclusive • bold

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

SANCTUARY 112 Second Avenue (bet. 6th St. & 7th St.)
OFFICE 50 East 7th Street (bet. First Ave. & Second Ave.)
New York, NY 10003
TELEPHONE 212-477-0666
CARE LINE 917-439-9268
WEBSITE middlechurch.org
EMAIL middleinfo@middlechurch.org
FOLLOW US! facebook.com/MiddleCollegiateChurch
vimeo.com/middlechurch
twitter.com/middlechurch

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 **917-439-9268** 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.