



**MIDWAY HILLS
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
be inclusive. do justice. honor diversity.

June 21, 2026
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to Heal the sin-sick soul."
- African-American Spiritual

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

Let us take a quiet moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome

Carol Hargis-Nation

The Community Gathers

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

arr. Michael Larkin

*Call to Worship

Clayton Cunningham

Leader: Today, we gather to remember, to reflect, to celebrate FREEDOM!

Congregation: Freedom is not free. We thank You, O God, today for our freedom in you and remember those for whom freedom was so costly a price to pay.

Leader: We remember those who were enslaved. We recognize that slavery tried to erase the humanity of so many of your people—those who were enslaved and those who brutalized and dehumanized others, not realizing the cost for their own souls. Lord, have mercy!

Congregation: Forgive us, O God. Help us to always treat one another as we want to be treated and to, above all, recognize that we are all created in your image and likeness. We remember today. In your mercy, O God, hear our prayers.

Leader: We reflect on the gift of freedom today and the many ways that the struggle continues. We lament those who are still treated as less than your very own as we recommit to fight for freedom and dignity for all of your people.

Congregation: Help us, O God, to be courageous in fighting for justice and righteousness for all of your people until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream!

Leader: We celebrate today! For freedom has come and will come again. For those in cages at our borders, for those locked up in jail cells away from their families, for those who are caught up in human trafficking, for those living without clean water, for those trapped in the bondage of an opioid addiction—God as we celebrate freedom today, help us to continue the fight for freedom across the global village in every form and in every way.

Congregation: We celebrate FREEDOM today! We celebrate with renewed determination, knowing that our work is not done and our task has not been fully accomplished until all of God's children are truly free from bondage.

ALL: We remember, we reflect, we celebrate this Juneteenth. Thank You, O God, for reminding us that freedom is possible, necessary and a promise from you.

— Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune, COO, National Council of Churches

Invocation

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Musical Response 263 *Surely the Presence of the Lord*

WOLFE

Dismissal for Children's Church

Children ages five through fifth grade may leave with the adult leaders for Children's Worship. They are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

The Community Proclaims God's Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 8:26-39

Clayton Cunningham

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him. (NRSVUE)

Navegaron hasta la región de los gerasenos, que está al otro lado del lago, frente a Galilea. Al desembarcar Jesús, un endemoniado que venía del pueblo salió a su encuentro. Hacía mucho tiempo que este hombre no se vestía; tampoco vivía en una casa, sino en los sepulcros. Cuando vio a Jesús, dio un grito y se arrojó a sus pies. Entonces exclamó con fuerza: —¿Por qué te entrometes, Jesús, Hijo del Dios Altísimo? ¡Te ruego que no me atormentes! Es que Jesús había ordenado al espíritu maligno que saliera del hombre. Se había apoderado de él muchas veces y, aunque le sujetaban los pies y las manos con cadenas y lo mantenían bajo custodia, rompía las cadenas y el demonio lo arrastraba a lugares solitarios. —¿Cómo te llamas? —le preguntó Jesús. —Legión —respondió, ya que habían entrado en él muchos

demonios. Y estos suplicaban a Jesús que no los mandara al abismo. En una colina estaba alimentándose una manada de muchos cerdos. Entonces los demonios rogaron a Jesús que los dejara entrar en ellos. Así que él les dio permiso. Cuando los demonios salieron del hombre, entraron en los cerdos; entonces la manada se precipitó al lago por el despeñadero y se ahogó. Al ver lo sucedido, los que cuidaban los cerdos huyeron y avisaron en el pueblo y por los campos, por lo que la gente salió a ver lo que había pasado. Llegaron adonde estaba Jesús y encontraron, sentado a sus pies, al hombre de quien habían salido los demonios. Cuando lo vieron vestido y en su sano juicio, tuvieron miedo. Los que habían presenciado estas cosas contaron a la gente cómo el endemoniado había sido sanado. Entonces toda la gente de la región de los gerasenos pidió a Jesús que se fuera de allí, porque les había entrado mucho miedo. Así que él subió a la barca para irse. Ahora bien, el hombre de quien habían salido los demonios rogaba que le permitiera acompañarlo, pero Jesús lo despidió y dijo: —Vuelve a tu casa y cuenta todo lo que Dios ha hecho por ti. Así que el hombre se fue y proclamó por todo el pueblo lo mucho que Jesús había hecho por él. (NVI)

Anthem *Amazing Grace - My Chains are Gone!* arr. Jeff Crouse

Sermon "Called Back" Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Musical Response 259 *Spirit of the Living God* LIVING GOD

Prayers of the People Rev. John O'Neal

The Lord's Prayer Congregation

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Giving Frank Martin

Responsive Hymn 379 *Accept, O God
the Gifts We Bring* ELLACOMBE

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Communion Hymn 485 *Diverse in Culture,
Nation, Race* TALLIS' CANON

Invitation to the Table John Nation

Prayer over the Elements John Nation

Words of Institution Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Those who are able are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements and partake by intinction. Those serving will tear a piece of bread. You will dip it in the cup. You may return to your seat via the side aisles. The Table of the Lord is open to all. Christ invites us into communion.

The Community is Sent to Restore God's World

High School Graduates Recognition

Val Cunningham

Invitation to Join

John Nation

***Invitation Hymn 344** *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

ASSAM

***Benediction**

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Postlude

Crown Him with Many Crowns

arr. Philip Keveren

*Please rise in either body or spirit.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet with the ministers after the service in the gathering area, or contact the church office any time.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

"Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus Christ, we welcome you into this expression of God's universal church. We meet you with love, we commit ourselves to your care, and we celebrate your presence in our congregation. Through the power of God's spirit, let us together do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, who strengthens us to serve one another."

BIENVENIDA CONGREGACIONAL

"Reafirmando nuestra propia fe en Jesucristo, les damos la bienvenida a esta expresión de la iglesia universal de Dios. Los recibimos con amor, nos comprometemos a su cuidado y celebramos su presencia en nuestra congregación. Mediante el poder del espíritu de Dios, hagamos juntos justicia, amemos la misericordia y caminemos humildemente con Dios, quien nos fortalece para servirnos unos a otros."

VISION STATEMENT

Midway Hills Christian Church seeks to **be inclusive, do justice and embrace diversity**. We are an Open and Affirming congregation, unified in our love for Jesus Christ and his teachings. We understand biblical shalom as a call to act for justice and to respect God's creation. We cherish the gift of life and support each other in our spiritual journey. Grounded in worship, Bible study, and prayer, we seek to be instruments of God's healing through efforts to eliminate poverty, injustice, hunger and social issues that affect our community locally and globally. We seek to transform our world as we build bridges across all barriers that divide God's people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter and Friday Flash for details and more.)

We welcome Rev. Betsy Stirbens as our guest preacher this morning.
She is Palliative Care Staff Chaplain at Clements University Hospital.

High School Graduates Reception today.

There will be a cake reception after worship to recognize our 2026 high school graduates, Lydia Bare and Zayden Celiz.

Church Workday scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

First Tuesday Ladies Who Lunch will meet July 7 at 11:30.

Join us at Canton Chinese Restaurant, 400 N Greenville, Richardson. It is just south of Apollo Road in China Town.

Join us online in the sanctuary for General Assembly, July 10-11.

Make plans to attend July 10, 4:45-6:30 p.m. and/or Saturday, July 11, 9:45-5:00 p.m. To sign up to attend at MHCC, complete the form in The Echo and also register via the red button in The Echo. Registration is now open and is only \$30 per person.

Mark your calendar:

Elders Meeting - June 28, 12:15 p.m.

Cabinet Meeting - July 2, 7:00 p.m.

Finance Committee - July 9, 7:00 p.m.

General Assembly - July 10, 4:45 p.m.

General Assembly - July 11, 9:45 a.m.

Board Meeting - July 19, 12:15 p.m.

Church Workday - June 27, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

All Church Prayer - Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. on Zoom

Prayer Alcove - Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Adult Book Discussion - Sundays, 10:00 a.m., room 1

Scan this QR code
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Midway Hills
Christian Church:



MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Jeff Crouse
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons
Administrative Assistant

Douglass Anne Cartwright
Bookkeeper

TECH CREW
James Lackey
John Leslie

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE
Kate Lynch

JUNE DEACON
Sara Leslie

JUNE 21 ELDER
John Nation

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for these in our church family:

Johnny Mercer, recuperating well at home following surgery; Chris Sparrer—home from the hospital; Jayne Sparrer; Elaine Manworren—hospitalized; Judy Mank, Don Manworren, Dan Gaylord, Bryen Lackey, Nina Boothe

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

online worshiper Jean McClellan; Jackie Wintle; Dan Gaylord's parents, Linda and Larrie Gaylord; online worshiper Kathy Nida's friend Diane; Laura Mitchell's sister, Mercedes Alcazar; Mary Ludwick's brother, John Croix; Mary Ludwick's sister, Alice Collins; David Hammons' wife, Joan

Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:

Elaine Manworren	Nina Boothe	Jim Gilmore
Frank & Millie Martin	Jeryl Crawford	Gay Gilmore
Lynne Stokes	Judy Mank	James Lackey

Sympathy to:



Let's celebrate with joy:

- Elaine and Don Manworren celebrated their 69th anniversary on June 15. Elaine is in Zale Lipshy Hospital in stable condition. Please send any cards or letters to their home address at 6101 Ohio Dr. Apt. 1407, Plano, TX 75024-2729.
- Our guests/visitors in worship in the sanctuary and online

Please pray for our city and state:

- Muslim community
- Religious freedom legislation
- Legislative sessions
- Texas faith-based non-profits serving immigrants and refugees

Please pray for our nation and world:

- Peace in Ukraine, Palestine, Venezuela, Iran and all places where tyranny threatens human flourishing and the name God is used in vain to justify violence
- Anti trans legislation around the nation
- Disappearance and deportation of immigrant siblings
- Health care and women's reproductive rights
- All who are suffering from climate disasters nationally and worldwide.
- All who need mental health services.
- End gun violence.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 12:00 p.m. High School Graduates Reception, gathering area

Monday

June 22

Church office closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Tuesday

June 23

- 9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Thursday

June 25

- 8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer, on Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Alcove
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Saturday

June 27

- 9:00 a.m. All Church Workday (until 12:00)
- 9:00 a.m. Dallas Cooperative Preschool Car Wash (until 2:00)

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 12:15 p.m. Elders Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. Cosmopolitan Church (until 6:30) sanctuary, gathering area, nursery

Prelude: *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, arr. Michael Larkin. ©2024 Birnamwood Publications.

Anthem: *Amazing Grace - My Chains are Gone!* arr. Jeff Crouse, ©2024.

Postlude: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, arr. Philip Keveren. ©20024 Hal Leonard.

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