



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

July 5, 2026  
11 A.M. Worship Service

**Gathering Meditation**

"God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,  
courage to change the things that should be changed,  
and wisdom to distinguish the one from the other."

- Reinhold Niebuhr, 20th-century American theologian

# Order of Worship

## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

### Chiming the Hour

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

### Welcome

Kathy Leslie

## The Community Gathers

### Prelude

*I Love You, Lord*

arr. Mark Hayes

### \*Call to Worship

Sara Leslie

Leader: Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel:

**People: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce.**

Leader: Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you,

**People: And pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.**

Leader: Let us worship the God who calls us to be a blessing wherever we are planted.

**People: We will seek His peace and serve our community with joy.**

### \*Opening Hymn 86

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

### 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

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Sara Leslie

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (NRSVUE)

Así dice el Señor de los Ejércitos, el Dios de Israel, a todos los que envié al exilio de Jerusalén a Babilonia: «Construyan casas y habítenlas; planten huertos y coman de su fruto. Cásense y tengan hijos e hijas. También casen a sus hijos e hijas para que a su vez ellos les den nietos. Multiplíquense allá y no disminuyan. Además, busquen

el bienestar de la ciudad adonde los he deportado y pidan al Señor por ella, porque el bienestar de ustedes depende del bienestar de la ciudad». (NVI)

**Sermon** "Pray for the Place You Didn't Choose" Rev. Betsy Stirbens

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

**Prayers of the People** Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

**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** Val Cunningham

**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 102** *Jesus, the Very  
Thought of Thee* ST. AGNES

**Invitation to the Table** Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

**Prayer over the Elements** Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

**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**

**Invitation to Join** Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

**\*Invitation Hymn 88** *All My Hope on God  
Is Founded* NEANDER

**\*Benediction** Rev. Betsy Stirbens

**Postlude** *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations* arr. Glenda Austin

\*Please rise in either body or spirit.

## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet after worship with the Elder offering the invitation, 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 to MHCC today our guest preacher, Rev. Betsy Stirbens.**

She is Palliative Care Staff Chaplin at Clements University Hospital.

## **First Tuesday Ladies Who Lunch will meet July 7 at 11:30 a.m.**

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

## **All are welcome for General Assembly, July 10-11, in the sanctuary.**

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.

## **Farewell Party for Paul and Laura Mitchell is Sunday, July 26.**

Come help us celebrate Paul and Laura and wish them well, after morning worship.

## **Mark your calendar:**

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.

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

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Midway Hills  
Christian Church:



# JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

## **Please pray for these in our church family:**

Don and Elaine Manworren—Elaine was hospitalized last week; Chris and Jayne Sparrer; Dan Gaylord, Nina Boothe

## **Please pray for our extended church family concerns:**

Jackie Wintle—former member facing serious health concerns; Mary Ludwick's sister, Alice Collins; David Hammons' wife, Joan; Rev. Robert Schomp

## **Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:**

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

## **Sympathy to:**

- ❖ Laura Mitchell and family and friends of her sister, Mercedes Alcazar, who passed away June 20.

## **Let's celebrate with joy:**

- Jayne and Chris Sparrer's wedding anniversary
- Elaine and Don Manworren's wedding anniversary
- 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:**

- **Being inclusive, pursuing justice, embracing diversity**
- Those working for peace in places of conflict and those caught in the cycles of violence
- Justice for the people of Ukraine and others struggling against oppression
- Justice for the Palestinian people
- Those who have limited access to health care and those working to expand access
- Those experiencing discrimination and oppression because of their gender identity, sexual orientation or gender expression
- Those struggling with food insecurity and those working to overcome it
- Those who work to create a larger Welcome Table

# CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 5, 2026

## **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** **July 5**

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- 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

## **Tuesday** **July 7**

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- 9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
- 11:30 a.m. First Tuesday Ladies Who Lunch, Canton Chinese Restaurant, 400 N. Greenville, Richardson
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

## **Thursday** **July 9**

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

## **Friday** **July 10**

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- 4:45 p.m. General Assembly (until 6:30) sanctuary

## **Saturday** **July 11**

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- 9:45 a.m. General Assembly (until 5:00) sanctuary

## **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost** **July 12**

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- 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

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

JULY DEACON  
Clayton Cunningham

JULY 5 ELDER  
Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

Prelude: *I Love You, Lord*, arr. Mark Hayes. ©2010 Alfred Music.

Postlude: *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*, arr. Glenda Austin. ©2025 The Willis Music Co.

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