



July 19, 2026
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"In the stillness of the quiet, if we listen, we can hear the whisper of the heart
giving strength to weakness, courage to fear, hope to despair."

- Howard Thurman, AZQuotes.com

Order of Worship

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

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

Welcome

Mary Ludwick

The Community Gathers

Prelude

Open the Eyes of My Heart

arr. Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

Gary Springer

Leader: We have faith
in One God, one Source of all life.
One Ground of the whole earth, with all its creatures.

People: And thus we believe

Leader: in the goodness of earth's life,
in the innate worth of all its dependents,
in human partnership in the life of nature.

People: And thus we believe

Leader: that in Christ we have been shown
the special role of the human race
to bear God's likeness
in working and caring for the earth,
in seeking to understand its mysteries and powers,
in gently working with these powers
for the well-being of all children of the earth.

People: And thus we believe

Leader: that God's Spirit will lead us
to sensitive closeness with earth's life,
to that meek, unselfish and compassionate life-style
by which the earth is inherited in peace,
by which its life is transformed
for all creatures to share justly in its bounty.

All: So be it. Amen.

*Opening Hymn 24

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

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

Genesis 28:10-19a

Gary Springer

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel... (NRSVUE)

Jacob partió de Berseba y se encaminó hacia Jarán. Cuando llegó a cierto lugar, se detuvo para pasar la noche porque ya estaba anocheciendo. Tomó una piedra, la usó como almohada y se acostó a dormir en ese lugar. Allí soñó que había una escalinata apoyada en la tierra y cuyo extremo superior llegaba hasta el cielo. Por ella subían y bajaban los ángeles de Dios. En el sueño, el Señor estaba de pie junto a él y le decía: «Yo soy el Señor, el Dios de tu abuelo Abraham y de tu padre Isaac. A ti y a tu descendencia les daré la tierra sobre la que estás acostado. Tu descendencia será tan numerosa como el polvo de la tierra. Te extenderás de norte a sur y de oriente a occidente, y todas las familias de la tierra serán bendecidas por medio de ti y de tu descendencia. Yo estoy contigo. Te protegeré por dondequiera que vayas y te traeré de vuelta a esta tierra. No te abandonaré hasta cumplir con todo lo que te he prometido». Al despertar Jacob de su sueño, pensó: «Sin duda, el Señor está en este lugar y yo no me había dado cuenta». Y con mucho temor, añadió: «¡Qué asombroso es este lugar! ¡Es nada menos que la casa de Dios y la puerta del cielo!». A la mañana siguiente, Jacob se levantó temprano, tomó la piedra que había usado como almohada, la erigió como monumento y derramó aceite sobre ella. En aquel lugar había una ciudad que se llamaba Luz, pero Jacob cambió su nombre por Betel. (NVI)

Anthem

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

arr. Joe Cox

Sermon

"The Wilderness"

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Musical Response

This Is Holy Ground
(see insert)

Christopher Beatty

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

Carol Hargis-Nation

Responsive Hymn 528

Give Thanks

GIVE THANKS

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Communion Hymn 321 *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

BREAD OF LIFE

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 485**

*Diverse in Culture,
Nation, Race*

TALLIS' CANON

***Benediction**

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Postlude

Let There Be Glory and Honor and Praises

arr. Carol Tornquist

*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.

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 19 ELDER
Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

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.

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.

AWAN Conference 2026 Report Back, Saturday, July 25, 3:00 p.m.

Hear from organizers with the DFW Anti-War Committee for a report on lessons from the National Anti-War Action Network conference. Previously on July 26, this event has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 25. Join us in community hall.

Next CAF is August 19.

Make plans to join us in community hall at noon for Christian Adult Fellowship!

Mark your calendar:

Magdalen House Meal Prep - July 18, 10:00 a.m.

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

Elders Meeting - July 26, 12:15 p.m.

Cabinet Meeting - August 6, 7:00 p.m.

Finance Committee - August 13, 7:00 p.m.

Scan this QR code
to make a financial
contribution to
Midway Hills
Christian Church:



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

Prelude: *Open the Eyes of My Heart*, arr. Mark Hayes. ©2006 Alfred Publishing.

Anthem: *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*, arr. Joe Cox. ©1992 Choristers Guild.

Musical Response: *This Is Holy Ground*, words and music: Christopher Beatty. ©1982 Birdwing Music / BMG Songs.

Postlude: *Let There Be Glory and Honor and Praises*, arr. Carol Tornquist. ©2000 Word Music.

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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

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

Mary Ludwick's former co-worker, Carol Roberts—cancer; Mary Ludwick's brother John—hospitalized; 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	Bryen Lackey
Frank and Millie Martin	Jeryl Crawford	Lynne Stokes
Judy Mank		

Sympathy to:

- ❖ Dan Gaylord and family on the passing of his aunt and uncle.
- ❖ 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 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19

- 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. Board Meeting, community hall

Tuesday

July 21

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

Thursday

July 23

- 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

July 25

- 3:00 p.m. AWAN Conference 2026 Report Back (until 5:00) community hall

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26

- 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
- 12:15 p.m. Farewell Party for Paul & Laura Mitchell

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