



September 6, 2026
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"Love is constantly creating future possibilities for the good of all concerned—even, and especially, when things go wrong. ...Love allows and accommodates everything in human experience, both the good and the bad, nothing else can really do this. Love and water seek not the higher place, but always the lower. - Richard Rohr (2021)

Order of Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

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

Welcome

James Lackey

The Community Gathers

Prelude

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light arr. Valerie A. Floeter

*Call to Worship

Mia Martin

Leader: People of God, wake up! Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

People: The night is far gone; the day is near. Let us lay aside the works of darkness.

Leader: Put on the armor of light! Let us walk honorably as in the daylight, with joyful and ready hearts.

People: Owe no one anything, except to love one another. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Leader: Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

People: So we will make no provision for the flesh. Instead, we put on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Leader: Come, let us worship the God of light and love.

People: Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and walk in His marvelous light today. Amen.

*Opening Hymn 53

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

Invocation

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Musical Response 305

*Lord, Listen to Your
Children Praying*

CHILDREN PRAYING

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

Romans 13:8-14

Mia Martin

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For

salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (NRSVUE)

No tengan deudas pendientes con nadie a no ser la de amarse unos a otros. De hecho, quien ama al prójimo ha cumplido la Ley. Porque los mandamientos que dicen: «No cometas adulterio», «no mates», «no robes», «no codicies», y todos los demás mandamientos, se resumen en este precepto: «Ama a tu prójimo como a ti mismo». El amor no perjudica al prójimo. Así que el amor es el cumplimiento de la Ley. Hagan todo esto estando conscientes del tiempo en que vivimos. Ya es hora de que despierten del sueño, pues nuestra salvación está ahora más cerca que cuando inicialmente creímos. La noche está muy avanzada y ya se acerca el día. Por eso, dejemos a un lado las obras de la oscuridad y pongámonos la armadura de la luz. Vivamos decentemente, como a la luz del día, no en orgías y borracheras, ni en inmoralidad sexual y libertinaje, ni en desacuerdos y envidias. Más bien, revístanse ustedes del Señor Jesucristo y no se preocupen por satisfacer los deseos de la carne. (NVI)

Special Music *The Gift of Love* Hal H. Hopson

Sermon "Awake to the Unfinished"
Work of Love Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Musical Response 594 *Dear Lord, and
Father of Mankind* REST
(verse 1)

Prayers of the People Carol John

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 Tinker Miller

Responsive Hymn 381 *Take My Gifts* TALAVERA TERRACE
(verse 3)

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Communion Hymn 600 *Jesu, Jesu* CHEREPONI

Invitation to the Table Carol John

Prayer over the Elements

Carol John

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

Carol John

***Invitation Hymn 337** *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*

CONVERSE

***Benediction**

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Postlude

Shine, Jesus, Shine

arr. Mark Hayes

*Please rise in either body or spirit.

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 emails for details and more.)

We welcome Rev. Betsy Stirbens as guest preacher today.

She is Palliative Care Staff Chaplin at Clements University Hospital.

All MHCC members are invited to stay for today's Board meeting.

Join us in community hall after morning worship for a Special Called Board meeting on the future of the Midway Hills campus.

"March on the RNC" Training at 4:30 p.m. today.

Join progressive organizations from across DFW in our community hall to learn about needed protest roles, as well as Safety and Legal Observing training, for the upcoming March on the RNC happening on September 10.

CCSW Men's Retreat is Sept. 18-20 in Brownwood, Texas.

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes is a keynote speaker! Register by Sept. 8 to get Early Bird pricing. Use the link provided in The Echo newsletter.

Help us stay connected.

Please review the contact information Midway Hills has for you and your household. Visit <https://midwayhills.churchcenter.com/me>, sign in if prompted, and select Profile & Household. Keeping your email address, phone number, and household information current helps us stay connected with you.

Have you heard about the family internment camps in Texas?

Adult Sunday School is reading and discussing *The Train to Crystal City*, by Joe Jarboe Russell, which describes the motivations of our government and the lives of those impacted by this 1942 era program. Learn about parallels with our present time, and possible responses, both then and now. Join us in Room 1 at 10:00 a.m. Sundays.

Mark your calendar:

Finance Committee - September 10, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting - September 20, 12:15 p.m.

Elders Meeting - September 27, 12:30 p.m.

Cabinet Meeting - October 1, 7:00 p.m.

Mission & Outreach Committee - October 11, 12:00 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
to make a financial
contribution to
Midway Hills
Christian Church:



JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for these in our church family:

LaVerne Johnson; Dan Gaylord—upcoming surgery

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

James Lackey's sister Jessica; Robin Copeland's brother Wade Keller; Jack van Wunnik; Mary Ludwick's sister, Alice Collins—hospitalized; Rev. Robert Schomp; David Hammons' wife, Joan

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

Chris & Jayne Sparrer

Elaine & Don Manworren

Sympathy to:

- ❖ Mary Ludwick and family on the death of her brother, John Croix.
- ❖ Roger Wedell and family on the passing of his nephew, Brett Wedell.
- ❖ Dan Gaylord and family on the passing of his aunt and uncle.

Let's celebrate with joy:

- Laura & Paul Mitchell on relocating to Mexico to be near family
- Having Millie & Frank Martin in services on Sunday
- John O'Neal & Lowery Ferguson on beginning a new life in Mexico
- Our guests/visitors in worship in the sanctuary and online

Please pray for our city and state:

- Those facing the difficulties of losing their employment
- 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**
- U.S. wildfires and Grand Canyon flooding
- Victims of random violence
- The people of Nepal, as they face the tragic loss of life to due flooding in their country, and the difficult tasks to rebuild & restore
- 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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6

- 9:45 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 12:15 p.m. Special Called Board Meeting, community hall

Monday

September 7

Church office closed for Labor Day.

Tuesday

September 8

- Early Bird Registration Deadline for CCSW Men's Retreat 2026
- 9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Thursday

September 10

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

Saturday

September 12

- 6:30 p.m. Primary Purpose Group Birthdays Celebration, community hall

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13

- 9:45 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet after worship with the Elder offering the invitation,
or contact the church office any time.

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

SEPTEMBER DEACON
Clayton Cunningham

SEPTEMBER 6 ELDER
Carol John

Bulletin cover art: Stratz, Wayne; Almon, Margaret; Halstead, Suzanne. Love, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/58120>[retrieved September 2, 2026]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nutmegdesigns/6209236367>.

Prelude: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*, arr. Valerie A. Floeter. ©2017 Augsburg Fortress.

Special Music: *The Gift of Love*, arr. Hal H. Hopson. ©2010 Hope Publishing Company.

Postlude: *Shine Jesus, Shine*, arr. Mark Hayes. ©1998 Word Music.

We record our services live and for social media use. Music reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-711616 and Christian Copyright Solutions license #15197. Hymns (unless noted) from Chalice Hymnal ©1995 Chalice Press. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE) ©2021 National Council of Churches and the Society of Biblical Literature. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations from La Santa Biblia, Nueva Versión Internacional® NVI® Copyright 1999 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Midway Hills Christian Church · 11001 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75229
www.midwayhills.org · 214-352-4841

