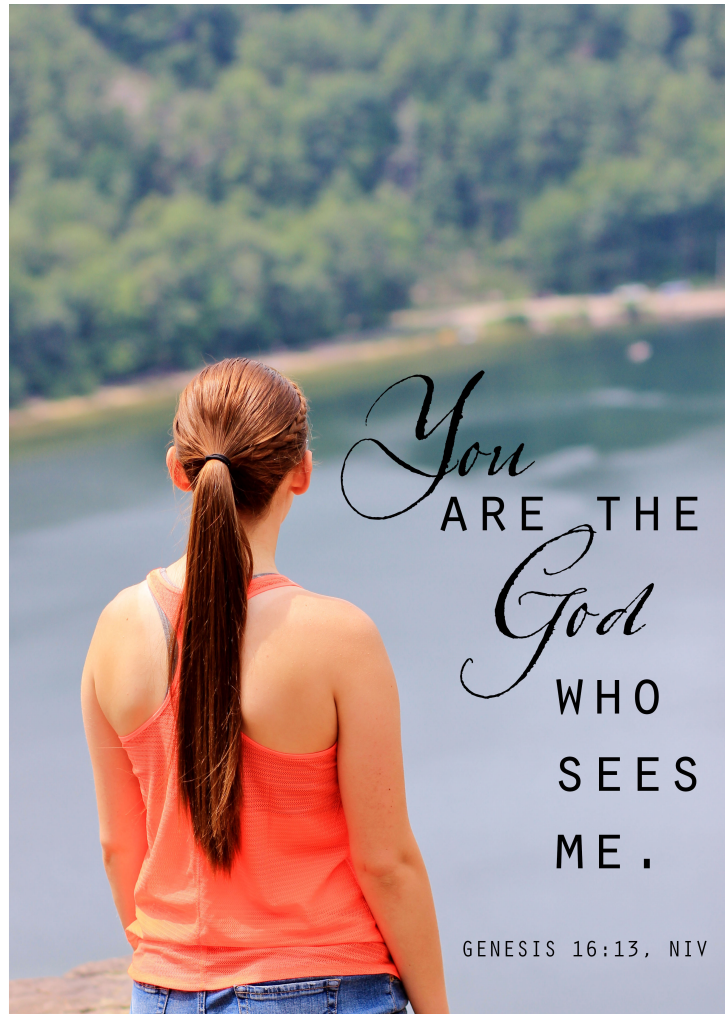




September 27, 2026
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"Her work meant something because it reflected the working of God who created her. She bore God's image, and she recognized the image of God in those around her." Karen Gonzalez, *The God Who Sees*.

Order of Worship

Eighteenth 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

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

arr. Phillip Keveren

*Call to Worship

Val Cunningham

Leader: When we are lost, lonely, or running from our pain, our God does not look away.

People: The Lord searches us, finds us in the wilderness, and calls us by name.

Leader: When we feel unseen, forgotten, or mistreated by the world, the eyes of divine mercy turn toward us.

People: Let us lift our eyes and praise the One who knows our sorrows and hears our cries.

Leader: He is El-Roi—the God who sees me.

People: Come, let us worship the living God!

*Opening Hymn 24

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Lizette Acosta

Musical Response 281

Creator, Spirit, Hear Us Sing

TALLIS' CANON

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 16:1-16

Val Cunningham

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave whose name was Hagar, and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. He went in to Hagar, and she conceived, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt

harshly with her, and she ran away from her. The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her." The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude." And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Now you have conceived and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael, for the Lord has given heed to your affliction. He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him, and he shall live at odds with all his kin." So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi," for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael. (NRSVUE)

Saray, la esposa de Abram, no le había dado hijos. Pero como tenía una esclava egipcia llamada Agar, Saray dijo a Abram: —El Señor me ha hecho estéril. Por lo tanto, ve y acuéstate con mi esclava Agar. Tal vez por medio de ella podré formar una familia. Abram aceptó la propuesta que hizo Saray. Entonces ella tomó a Agar, la esclava egipcia, y se la entregó a Abram como mujer. Esto ocurrió cuando ya hacía diez años que Abram vivía en Canaán. Abram tuvo relaciones sexuales con Agar y ella concibió un hijo. Al darse cuenta Agar de que estaba embarazada, comenzó a mirar con desprecio a su dueña. Entonces Saray dijo a Abram: —¡Tú tienes la culpa de esta injusticia! Yo puse a mi esclava en tus brazos y ahora que se ve embarazada me mira con desprecio. ¡Que el Señor determine quién tiene la culpa, si tú o yo! —Tu esclava está en tus manos —contestó Abram—, haz con ella lo que bien te parezca. Y de tal manera comenzó Saray a maltratar a Agar que esta huyó de su presencia. Pero el ángel del Señor la encontró junto a un manantial en el desierto, el cual está en el camino a la región de Sur, y le preguntó: —Agar, esclava de Saray, ¿de dónde vienes y a dónde vas? —Estoy huyendo de mi dueña Saray —respondió ella. —Vuelve junto a ella y sométete a su autoridad —le dijo el ángel del Señor—. De tal manera multiplicaré tu descendencia que no se podrá contar. »Estás embarazada, darás a luz un hijo y le pondrás por nombre Ismael porque el Señor ha escuchado tu aflicción. Será un hombre indómito como asno salvaje. Luchará contra todos y todos lucharán contra él; y habitará frente a todos sus hermanos». Como el Señor le había hablado, Agar le puso por nombre «El Dios que me ve», pues se decía: «Ahora he visto al que me ve». Por eso también el pozo que está entre Cades y Béred se conoce con el nombre de «Pozo del Viviente que me ve». Agar dio a Abram un hijo, a quien Abram llamó Ismael. Abram tenía ochenta y seis años cuando nació Ismael. (NVI)

Special Music

His Eye is on the Sparrow

arr. Jack Scharder

Sermon

"I See You"

Rev. Dr. Lizette Acosta

Musical Response 294

*Here We Gather
as God's People*

NETTLETON

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

Carol John

Responsive Hymn 379

*Accept, O God,
the Gifts We Bring*

ELLACOMBE

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Lizette Acosta

Communion Hymn 391

These I Lay Down

LAYING DOWN

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

Prayer over the Elements

Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

Words of Institution

Rev. Dr. Lizette Acosta

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 439**

*God, Dismiss Us
with Your Blessing*

SICILIAN MARINERS

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Lizette Acosta

Postlude

*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.

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 27 ELDER
Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

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

We welcome Rev. Dr. Lizette Acosta as guest preacher today.

She has dedicated her vocation to theological education, pastoral leadership, and the formation of communities that embody faith through justice and love. After sensing a call to ministry, she pursued dual bachelor's degrees in Philosophy and Religion, followed by a Master of Divinity, and later earned a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies. She is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Throughout her ministry, Lizette has served as a pastor, professor, mentor, chaplain, and educational leader, accompanying students and congregations as they integrate theological reflection with faithful practice. Her scholarship and teaching are rooted in biblical interpretation and the transformative potential of Christian witness, with particular attention to Latinx contexts and the flourishing of diverse communities. Whether in the classroom, the church, or the broader community, Lizette's work is guided by a commitment to intellectual rigor, compassionate leadership, and the conviction that love is the church's most compelling witness.

Stay for the Congregational Meeting today after worship.

Let's celebrate LaVerne Johnson's birthday after worship today.

Grab something to eat and enjoy time with LaVerne!

First Tuesday Ladies Who Lunch meets October 6 at 11:30 a.m.

Join us at Papusas Dona Lola, 2512 E. Belt Line, corner of Webb Chapel, in Carrollton.

Adult Sunday School Class News.

We are discussing John Pavlovitz's writings about a Christian response to current U.S. events. Mary will email the exact column each week. Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Mark your calendar:

Congregational Meeting - September 27, 12:15 p.m.

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

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

Finance Committee - October 8, 7:00 p.m.

Mission & Outreach Committee - October 11, 12:00 p.m.

Board Meeting - October 18, 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

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:

Dan Gaylord—surgery, Friday, Sept. 11; Jayne Sparrer has been hospitalized with additional complications

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

Mary Ludwick's sister, Diana Costello; James Lackey's sister Jessica; Robin Copeland's brother Wade Keller; Jack van Wunnik; Rev. Robert Schomp; Joan Hammons

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
LaVerne Johnson		
Mary Ludwick's sister, Alice Collins—hospitalized		

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
- 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 due to 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 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27

- 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. Congregational meeting, sanctuary
- 12:30 p.m. Elder's Meeting, conference room

Tuesday

September 29

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

Thursday

October 1

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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4

- 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

Prelude: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*, arr. Phillip Keveren. ©2011 Hal Leonard Co.

Special Music: *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, arr. Jack Scharder. ©2013 Hope Publishing Co.

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