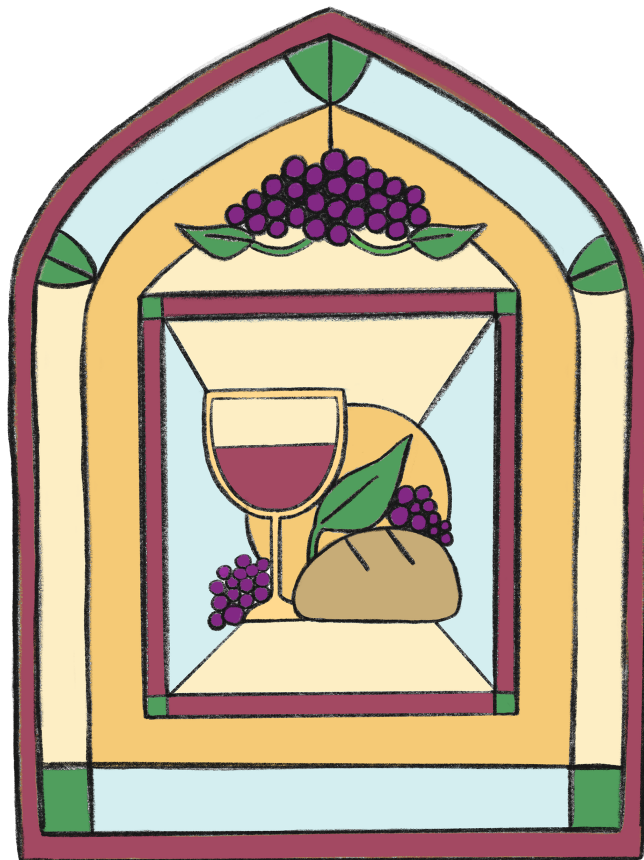




WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 4, 2026
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"Breathe.... I know this place. This is holy ground.

I am rooted. I am home.

Take me where it's safe. God, prepare a place."

- Black Liturgies, Cole Arthur Riley. P. 30.

Order of Worship
World Communion Sunday
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming the Hour

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

Welcome

Val Cunningham

The Community Gathers

Prelude

Going Home

arr. Joseph M. Martin

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 84

Joan Holland

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

**People: My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.**

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my Sovereign and my God.

**People: Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.**

Leader: Happy are those whose strength is in you,

People: in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Leader: As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

**People: They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.**

Leader: O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Israel!

**People: Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.**

Leader: For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

**People: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.**

Leader: For the LORD God is a sun and shield
who bestows favor and honor.

People: No good thing does the LORD withhold

**from those who walk uprightly.
O LORD of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

***Opening Hymn 285** *How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely* MERLE'S TUNE

Invocation Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

Musical Response 281 *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Paul Baloché
(see insert)

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 Psalm 84:1-7 Joan Holland

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. (NRSVUE)

¡Cuán hermosas son tus moradas, Señor de los Ejércitos! Anhelo con el alma los atrios del Señor; casi agonizo por estar en ellos. Con el corazón, con todo el cuerpo, canto alegre al Dios vivo. Señor de los Ejércitos, Rey mío y Dios mío, aun el gorrión halla casa cerca de tus altares; también la golondrina hace allí su nido, para poner sus polluelos. Dichosos los que habitan en tu Templo y sin cesar te alaban. Dichoso el que tiene en ti su fortaleza, que de corazón camina por tus sendas. Cuando pasa por el valle de las Lágrimas lo convierte en región de manantiales; también las lluvias tempranas cubren de bendiciones el valle. Según avanzan los peregrinos, cobran más fuerzas, hasta que contemplan a Dios en Sión. (NVI)

Special Music *Softly and Tenderly* arr. Tammy Waldrop
Gary Springer, baritone

Sermon "Coming Home" Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

Musical Response 34 *Glory to God* GLORY TO GOD

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

James Lackey

Responsive Hymn 719

*Come, Sing a
Song of Harvest*

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

Communion Hymn 387

*Bread of the World
in Mercy Broken*

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

Invitation to the Table

John Nation

Prayer over the Elements

John Nation

Words of Institution

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

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

John Nation

***Invitation Hymn 718**

*Come, Ye Thankful
People, Come*

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

***Benediction**

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

Postlude

When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

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.

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

OCTOBER 4 DEACON
Clayton Cunningham

OCTOBER 4 ELDER
John Nation

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Special Music: *Softly and Tenderly*, arr. Tammy Waldrop. ©2008 Triune Music.

Postlude: *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder*, arr. Mark Hayes. ©2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

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

We welcome Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes as guest preacher today.

She is a native Dallasite, a graduate of Bryan Adams High School and Texas Christian University where she received her B.S. in Secondary Education. Deborah taught school for a few years at L.G. Pinkston High School in West Dallas. After completing her Masters of Divinity degree at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Deborah worked part time with the YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter and Court Advocacy program while serving the small rural congregation of First Christian Church in Waynesboro, TN. She served Saguaro Christian Church in Tucson as both Associate Minister, then Senior Minister for a total of 15 years, followed by 16 years of service at East Dallas Christian Church. She then became MHCC's Minister of Church Life from October 2022 to December 2024.

North Texas Area Women's Ministries General Gathering, Oct. 10, 10:00 a.m.

Join us at First Christian Church, 1203 N. Fulton St., Denton. Lunch at noon is \$12. RSVP to: Debbie Clay at debbraclay@yahoo.com. Program title: Human Trafficking Engagement.

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:

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

Worship Team - October 5, 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, Johnny Mercer, James Lackey

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

Mary Ludwick's sisters, Diana Costello and Alice Collins; Robin Copeland's brother Wade Keller; 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

Sympathy to:



Let's celebrate with joy:

- 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
- Texas faith-based non-profits serving immigrants and refugees

Please pray for our nation and world:

- **Being inclusive, pursuing justice, embracing diversity**
- For our city, state, and nation, prayerful engagement & participation in our democratic process
- 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 OCTOBER 4, 2026

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

Monday

October 5

- 7:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting, online

Tuesday

October 6

- 9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
- 11:30 a.m. First Tuesday Ladies Who Lunch, Papusas Dona Lola, 2512 E. Belt Line, Carrollton
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Thursday

October 8

- 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

October 10

- 10:00 a.m. North Texas Area Women's Ministries General Gathering, FCC Denton

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11

- 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
- 12:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Committee, conference room

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

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

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www.midwayhills.org · 214-352-4841

