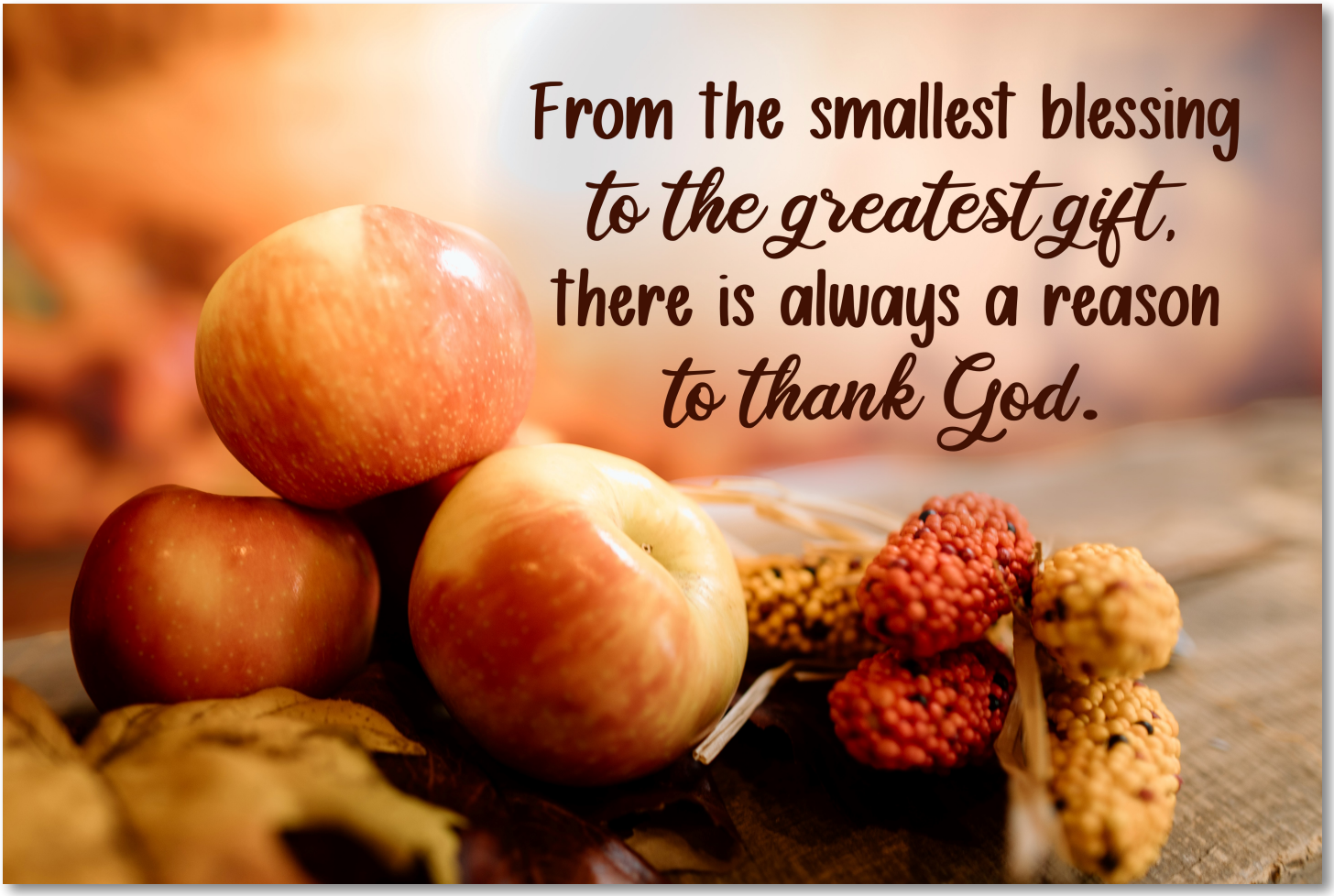
MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
be inclusive. do justice. honor diversity.



November 22, 2026

11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"What God wills, will happen; thou canst not hurry it, thou canst not alter it; therefore wait; and be patient." - Mark Twain (Quotestats.com)

Order of Worship
Twenty-sixth 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 *We Gather Together* arr. Mark Hayes

***Call to Worship** John Nation

Leader: We come together in the presence of the King, who gathers the nations and looks upon us with mercy.

People: We come, for God gathers us here with a community of faith, where the hungry are served first and the thirsty drink life's water.

Leader: Christ is present in the least of these—in the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned.

People: We come, for God welcomes us into a home of grace, where the broken are embraced and love is lived out in action.

Leader: Come, let us worship the King and serve Him by opening our hearts and hands to the world.

All: Open our eyes, O Lord, to see You, and let our worship spill forth into compassionate service. Amen.

***Opening Hymn 717** *Let All Things Now Living* ASH GROVE

Invocation Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Musical Response 286 *This Is the Day* THE LORD'S DAY

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 Matthew 25:31-46 John Nation

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me

clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life." (NRSVUE)

»Cuando el Hijo del hombre venga en su gloria, con todos sus ángeles, se sentará en su trono glorioso. Todas las naciones se reunirán delante de él, y él separará a unos de otros, como separa el pastor las ovejas de las cabras. Pondrá las ovejas a su derecha, y las cabras a su izquierda. »Entonces dirá el Rey a los que estén a su derecha: "Vengan ustedes, a quienes mi Padre ha bendecido; reciban su herencia, el reino preparado para ustedes desde la creación del mundo. Porque tuve hambre y ustedes me dieron de comer; tuve sed y me dieron de beber; fui forastero y me dieron alojamiento; necesité ropa y me vistieron; estuve enfermo y me atendieron; estuve en la cárcel y me visitaron". Y le contestarán los justos: "Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento y te alimentamos o sediento y te dimos de beber? ¿Cuándo te vimos como forastero y te dimos alojamiento o necesitado de ropa y te vestimos? ¿Cuándo te vimos enfermo o en la cárcel y te visitamos?". El Rey les responderá: "Les aseguro que todo lo que hicieron por uno de mis hermanos, aun por el más pequeño, lo hicieron por mí". »Luego dirá a los que estén a su izquierda: "Apártense de mí, malditos, al fuego eterno preparado para el diablo y sus ángeles. Porque tuve hambre y ustedes no me dieron nada de comer; tuve sed y no me dieron nada de beber; fui forastero y no me dieron alojamiento; necesité ropa y no me vistieron; estuve enfermo y en la cárcel, y no me atendieron". Ellos también contestarán: "Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento o sediento, o como forastero, o necesitado de ropa, enfermo o en la cárcel y no te ayudamos?". Él responderá: "Les aseguro que todo lo que no hicieron por el más pequeño de mis hermanos, tampoco lo hicieron por mí". »Aquellos irán al castigo eterno y los justos a la vida eterna». (NVI)

Special Music	*Thanksgiving Canon*	arr. Anna Laura Page
Sermon	"Hurry Up and Wait"	Rev. Betsy Stirbens
Musical Response 662	*When the Poor Ones* (English only)	EL CAMINO
Prayers of the People		Carol Hargis-Nation
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 Kathy Leslie

Responsive Hymn 523 *Live in Charity* UBI CARITAS

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace Rev. Betsy Stirbens

During this time, please give your prayer requests to a choir member or Jeff Crouse at the piano. These will be placed on the table prior to communion.

Communion Hymn 654 *Here Am I* HERE AM I

Invitation to the Table Mark Holmgren

Prayer over the Elements Mark Holmgren

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 Mark Holmgren

***Invitation Hymn 665** *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* GERMANY

***Benediction** Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Postlude *Doxology* arr. Glenda Austin

*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

NOVEMBER 22 DEACON
Clayton Cunningham

NOVEMBER 22 ELDER
Mark Holmgren

Prelude: *We Gather Together,* arr. Mark Hayes. ©1993 Van Ness Press.

Special Music: *Thanksgiving Canon,* arr. Anna Laura Page. ©1997 Alfred Publishing Co.

Postlude: *Doxology,* arr. Glenda Austin. ©2023 The Willis Co.

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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 Chaplain at Clements University Hospital. Betsy holds a bachelor's degree in music from Kent State University, where she also obtained a bachelor's in psychology. She earned her master's degree from Brite Divinity School at TCU and completed CPE (clinical pastoral education) training at Parkland Memorial Hospital and UT Southwestern. Ordained and endorsed by the United Church of Christ, she is also trained as an INELDA End-of-Life Doula.

Stay for the All Church Potluck Thanksgiving after worship today!

Alternative Christmas Gift Market is Dec. 6 in community hall.
In person follow-ups are Dec. 13 and 20 in the gathering space. Order online Nov. 27 - Dec. 20 at alternative-christmas.midwayhills.org.

Mike's Kids big bin is in the entry to the church through Dec. 6.
Now is the time to donate to improve the life of a child on the border. This year Mike's Kids is a family affair. The Celiz parents and children are involved in set up, collection, packing up and delivering the bounty of toys, underwear, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more that fill the bin each year.

First Tuesday Ladies Who Lunch is Dec. 1, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Chocolate Angel Cafe & Tea Room, 635 W Campbell Rd, Ste 310, Richardson. Please RSVP to Carol Hargis-Nation.

North Texas Area Disciples Women Christmas Celebration and Brunch
Saturday, December 5 at First Christian Church, 1800 W. Hunt Street, McKinney, TX. Registration at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is $12. Service Project: Toys for Tots. Please bring toys! RSVP by Dec. 1 at 214-908-4721 or debbraclay@yahoo.com.

Be part of worship this Advent and Christmas.
We're looking for individuals, couples, families, and groups who would like to help light the Advent wreath or share other readings during Advent and our Christmas Eve service. You don't need any special experience to participate! We'll provide the readings and instructions ahead of time, so all you need to bring is yourself. Click the link in The Echo to let us know which opportunities interest you.

Mark your calendar:
Elders Meeting - November 29, 12:30 p.m.
Cabinet Meeting - December 3, 7:00 p.m.
Finance Committee - December 10, 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting - December 20, 12:15 p.m.

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:
Lynne Stokes and her daughter Claire; Dan Gaylord, Johnny Mercer, James Lackey

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:
Roy Ludwick's sister, June; Mary Ludwick's sister, 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:
- Clayton Cunningham's new job
- 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**
- 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 NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost — **November 22**

9:45 a.m. Choir practice
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday Book Discussion, room 1
11:00 a.m. Children's Church
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
12:15 p.m. All Church Thanksgiving Potluck, community hall

Monday — **November 23**

8:00 a.m. Chatterbox Academy (until 3:00) nursery, choir room

Tuesday — **November 24**

8:00 a.m. Chatterbox Academy (until 3:00) nursery, choir room
9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
9:00 a.m. Oh My Nosh (until 4:00) kitchen
7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Wednesday — **November 25**

8:00 a.m. Chatterbox Academy (until 3:00) nursery, choir room
8:00 a.m. Oh My Nosh (until 6:00) kitchen

Thanksgiving Day — **November 26**

Church office closed.
7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Friday — **November 27**

8:00 a.m. Chatterbox Academy (until 3:00) nursery, choir room

Saturday — **November 28**

10:00 a.m. Decorating the Sanctuary (until 6:00)

First Sunday of Advent — **November 29**

9:45 a.m. Choir practice
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday Book Discussion, room 1
11:00 a.m. Children's Church
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
12:30 p.m. Elders Meeting

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

