

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM.

July 1 - August 30: Middletown Arts Center Summer Camp, 9AM - 3:30PM.

Today: Sunday worship: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM.

July 8-14: Pastor Trish on vacation. Please contact Grace Modla for pastoral care emergencies.

July 10: Bayshore Lunch Program volunteer opportunity, 9:45AM.

July 14: Sunday worship: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM. Grace Modla, preacher. Deacons' Offering will be received in worship.

Notes from Pastor Trish

In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Trish at 212.729.9150 or e-mail at pastortrishmrc@gmail.com. You can also call the Church Office phone at 732.671.1786. Messages are picked up during the week. Pastor Trish's office hours are Tuesday, 1-3, Wednesday, 2-4, Thursday, 1-3 or by appointment. Weekend and evening times are also available. Her day of rest is Monday.

Do you, or someone you know, need help with buying groceries? Pastor Trish has ShopRite gift cards for anyone in need. Please direct any inquiries to Pastor and let's do our part to help those in need.

Consistory

Elders

Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary
Angela Hank
Peter Larson, Clerk
Lisa Leidecker, Vice President
Dan Pannebaker
Cindy Reya, Co-treasurer
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President

Deacons

Pamela Ehrlich, Co-treasurer
Julie Hertzog
Taralynn Van Brunt, Alternate Clerk
James Zeller

In our prayers

For the healing journey: Dianne Asay; Diane Grady; Aris Moles; Donna R; Mercedes' mother Fran; James S; Nancy Spayd; Steve Stalgaitis

For God's support, strength, & comfort: the family of Janet Colmorgen on the passing of her sister, Trudy; the Eldridge/Fallon family on the passing of Laurie; Erin; Linda Grasso; Harper; Cherie Pannebaker Herrman on the passing of her husband, Brian; Florence Horsman on the passing of her husband, Norris; Meredith; Jinny Millward; Linda Millward; Patty Pannebaker; Valerie; Marion Zilinski

For God's guidance: Community Church of Keyport; Matthew J

Please continue to remember all those who have served our country, especially those who are serving: David Celeste & Joseph Petrone, United States Air Force; Michael Howlett & Lloyd Petrone, United States Marine Corps; Matthew Zilinski, United States Army

Social media

Website: www.mrchurch.us

Facebook: Middletown Reformed Church

YouTube: MRC: A Fabulous Church of Love

Instagram: [middletownreformednj](https://www.instagram.com/middletownreformednj)

Spotify: Middletown Reformed Church podcast



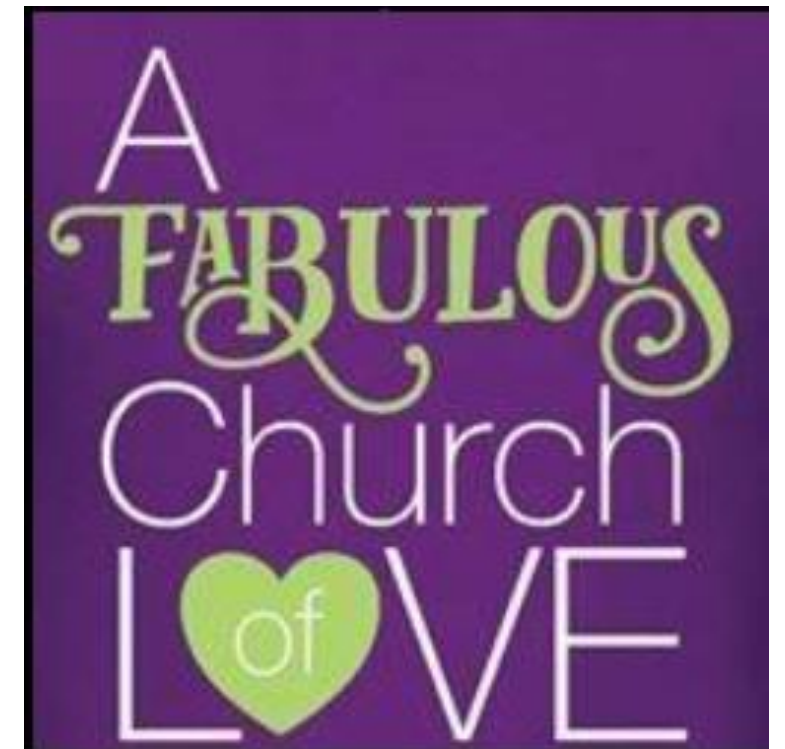
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities.

The flowers today are given by the Flower Fund. If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, contact Dolores Hofmann at 732.671.9308. The cost is \$25.

Our greeters today are Pamela Ehrlich & Julie Hertzog. Our greeters next week will be Lisa Leidecker & Cindy Reya.

Our 2024 RCA Annual Denominational Assessment of \$112 per member is due. The total amount for the year is \$6,580.00, which the church pays on a quarterly basis. This assessment supports the work of our Classis, Regional Synod, and 1/2 of the General Synod. The per capita dues of \$7 for the United Church of Christ is also due. **Total amount for both RCA and UCC is \$119 per member.** If you wish to contribute toward the assessment/dues, please mark your check in the memo section "Denominational assessment/ Dues." You are welcome to request information at any time from the treasurers regarding the current fiscal status of the church.

Middletown Reformed Church



A welcoming & affirming congregation

Middletown Reformed Church

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, *Pastor*

Thomas Martucci, *Director of Music*

Dan Pannebaker, *Worship Leader*

Julie Hertzog, *Coordinator for Children & Youth*

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

7 July 2024

We approach God

Prelude *Needs*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship

(adapted from unfoldinglight.net)

Deacon Julie Hertzog, liturgist

Liturgist: Gracious God, you are here today. You are not far off. You are here. In this place. This moment. This breath. We come to be present for you, you who are infinitely present for us. Open our hearts to you. Grant us a listening faith, a trusting and seeking and receiving faith. By your Spirit, open us to your grace as we worship you. Amen

*Opening hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other
(#318, v1, 3, 4)

Prayer of confession

(adapted from unfoldinglight.net)

All: God, we confess that our hearts have been closed to you. We have judged one another, and so we have not been able to hear your truth. We have been absorbed in our expectations instead of your grace, and so we have not witnessed your miracles. We have not loved our neighbors and so we have not received love. Holy One, have mercy. Forgive us, heal us, and create us anew. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, who became what we are to make us what he is. Amen

Assurance of God's grace

(adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*)

Liturgist: Christ is our peace; those who are divided he has made one. He has broken down the barriers of separation by his resurrection and has built us up into one body, with God. He is the promise of reconciliation, so let us live as reconciled people.

All: Amen

Law of love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia



We listen to God

Scripture reading

Matthew 14.13-21 (NT page 14)

Anthem

By the Spirit

Sermon

Listening for the Soul Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Affirmation of faith

(from unfoldinglight.net)

All: We trust in God, Creator of all things, who is pure compassion, who loves us unconditionally, who is present with us in good times and bad, who is our salvation. We trust in Christ, the embodiment of God's love, the love and healer of our souls, who saves us, forgiving our failures, washing away our betrayals, who teaches us life's deepest things: how to pray, how to love, how to be gentle with each other. We trust in the Holy Spirit, God's power flowing in us, that comforts the faithful, empowers us to love as we have been loved, and joins us together as the Body of Christ. We believe we are sent in that Spirit to heal, to forgive, to do justice, to radiate the love of God, in the name of Christ. Amen

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

I Will Rise

(#468)

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise
God, above ye heavenly host. Praise Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The prayers of the people with the Lord's Prayer

You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in any version or language you wish.

Ever-loving and holy God, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

*Closing hymn

God Be with You Till We Meet Again (#944, v1-3)

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*