Calendar of events

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

Today*: Sunday worship: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM. Deacons' offering will be collected in worship*
August 11-12*: Pastor Trish on vacation*
August 17*: Sunday worship: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM*
August 18-22*: We are combining with the United Methodist Church of Red Bank for a VBS program from 9:30-11:30AM Monday through Thursday and a Friday evening campfire celebration. We would love to see some MRC adult representation and assistance, if available. Julie Hertzog is the point of contact for this joint event.*
August 24*: Sunday worship: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM*
August 29*: End of summer backyard party at Coventry House, 7-9PM*
August 31*: Sunday worship: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM*

Consistory

Elders
Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary
Dolores Hofmann
Lisa Leidecker, Vice President
Cindy Reya, Co-Treasurer
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President

Deacons
Julie Hertzog
Kim Larson, Alternate Clerk
Dara Steele
Taralynn VanBrunt, Clerk

Middletown Reformed Church Vision Statement

(Adopted by the Consistory 9 May 2016)
Middletown Reformed Church is a welcoming and affirming congregation, where the inclusive grace of God is the guiding principle for all our ministries. We are people of faith committed to boldly proclaiming and intentionally living out God's command to do justice, share love, show mercy, and walk humbly with our God in our local and global communities. We are a church on the side of love for all God's people – providing for those who are in need, advocating for all oppressed peoples, and caring for our earth – we love because God first loved us.

In our prayers

For the healing journey: Linda Goltz; Nancy Coffin; Judy Daugherty; Diane Grady; Tom Smigel; Diana S
For God's support, strength, & comfort: the Somma family; Mercedes' mother Fran; Florence Horsman; the Hertzog family; Pam Donohue as she grieves the loss of her husband, Steve; Linda Grasso; Magdala; Fleming
For God's guidance: Community Church of Keyport

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

Social media

Website: *www.mrchurch.us*
Facebook: *Middletown Reformed Church*
YouTube: *MRC: A Fabulous Church of Love*
Instagram: *middletownreformednj*
Spotify: *Middletown Reformed Church podcast*

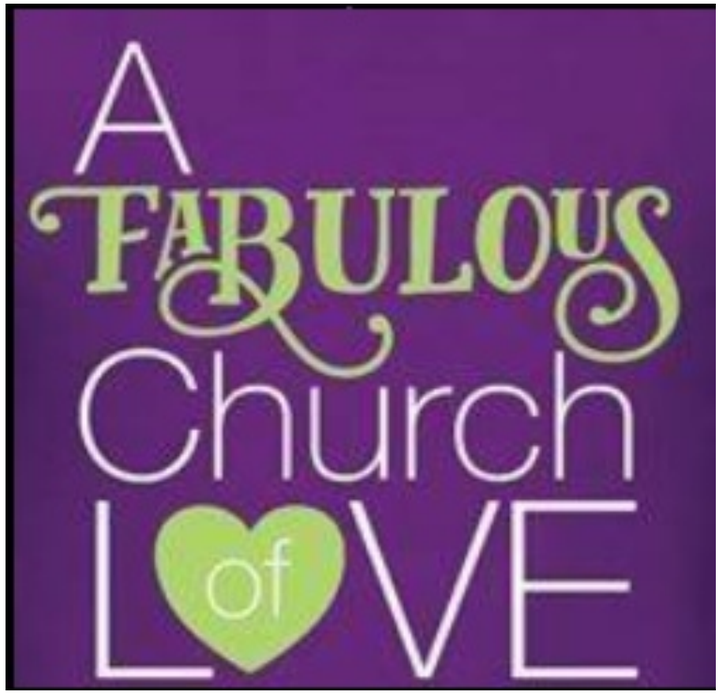
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities.

The flowers today are from 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 Dianne Asay & Julie Hertzog.
Our greeters next week will be Kim Larson & Taralynn VanBrunt.

Our 2025 RCA Annual Denominational Assessment of $107.10 per member is due. The total amount for the year is $5,569.55, which the church pays on a quarterly basis ($1,392.39). This assessment supports the work of our Classis, Regional Synod, and 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 $114.10 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
Julie Hertzog, Coordinator for Children & Youth

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost **10 August 2025**

We approach God

Prelude *Thanks and Praise*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (adapted from unfoldinglight.net)
Deacon Julie Hertzog, liturgist

Leader: Eternal God, provider of every good thing, we praise you.
All: We are in awe; this is our worship.
Loving Christ, your grace is overflowing.
We are grateful; this is our worship.
Holy Spirit, you empower us to do justice and join the work of love.
We are ready; this is our worship.
It is your good pleasure to give us the whole Realm.
How can we serve you, but in joy and love and faithfulness?

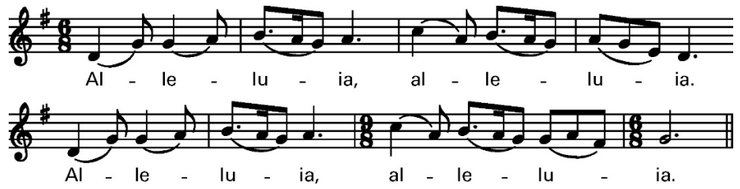
***Opening hymn** *Be Thou My Vision* (859)

Prayer of confession
God of mercy, setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts, and clinging to nothing that would separate us from you, we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer. Send now your Holy Spirit upon us, conforming us into the shape of Jesus Christ our Lord, who became what we are to make us what he is. Amen

Kyrie eleison
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of God's grace
(adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*)
Hear these comforting words: Trust in God's promises that your sins are forgiven and begin anew your life with God and all people in the name of Jesus Christ. ***Amen***

Law of Love/Faithful living

***Celtic Alleluia**

We listen to God

Scripture reading Lamentations 3.19-24 (OT page 723)
1 Corinthians 16.13-14 (NT page 156)

Anthem *My God Can*

Sermon *Great Is Your Faithfulness*
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

Listening for God
A silent time to reflect on the word you received from God in worship

We respond to God

Affirmation of Faith (*The Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A #21*)
Q. What is true faith?
A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

Invitation to the offering

Offertory *Thanks and Praise* (Reprise)

***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

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** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (348)

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*