

Calendar of events

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

**Today:** 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  
**September 4:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6:30PM  
**September 7:** Sunday worship: Thirteenth Sunday after pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30AM  
**September 8:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:45PM  
**September 8:** Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 7PM  
**September 11:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6:30PM  
**September 14:** Sunday worship: Rally Day, 10:30 AM. After worship, come to the Education Building for a Sunday brunch

Consistory

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>
Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary	Julie Hertzog
Dolores Hofmann	Kim Larson, Alternate Clerk
Lisa Leidecker, Vice President	Dara Steele
Cindy Reya, Co-Treasurer	Taralynn VanBrunt, Clerk
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President	

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:** 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; Linda  
**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](http://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 in loving memory of Cindy’s mom, Charlotte from Cindy and Lloyd  
  
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 Kim Larson & Taralynn VanBrunt.  
Our greeters next week will be Cindy Reya & Dara Steele.

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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 17 August 2025

We approach God

Prelude The Lord Will Provide

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from unfoldinglight.net)  
Deacon Taralynn Van Brunt, liturgist

Leader: Holy One, you are present for us.

All: We come to be present for you.

You create us and sustain us.

Each of us is your miracle.

By your Spirit help us be true to the miracle you have created.

Shape us, guide us, and fill us with your grace.

Alleluia!

\*Opening hymn Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (330)

Prayer of confession

God of grace, you call us to have faith, to follow the way of love, and yet, we often fail you. You alone know how often we have missed the mark: in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your gentleness. Disturb us from our routines of indifference, our places of pride, our spaces of fear, and extend your grace to us once more. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, 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)

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free. Receive the forgiving love of God and be free.

Thanks be to God.

Law of Love/Faithful living

\*Celtic Alleluia



We listen to God

Scripture reading Matthew 11.28-30 (NT page 10)  
Ephesians 4.1-6 (NT page 171)

Anthem Testify

Sermon The Strength of Gentleness  
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

Invitation to the offering

Offertory The Lord Will Provide (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 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 Spirit, Spirit Of Gentleness (238)

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.