

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM

Today: Worship Committee meeting after coffee hour

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, 6PM

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, 6PM

September 14: Sunday worship: Rally Day, 10:30 AM. After worship, come to the Education Building for Sunday brunch

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: Nancy Coffin; Judy Daugherty; Diane Grady; Tom Smigel; Diana S

For God’s support, strength, & comfort: the Somma family; Mercedes’ mother Fran; Florence Horsman; 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

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 in loving memory of Jo-Ann’s father, Vincent Heller, from Jo-Ann
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 Cindy Reya & Dara Steele.
Our greeters next week will be Julie Hertzog & Kim Larson.

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

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, Pastor
Thomas Martucci, Director of Music
Julie Hertzog, Coordinator for Children & Youth

We approach God

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Leader: Let us pray — God of the Sabbath, you make this day holy. As we gather in your name, redeem the days when our focus wandered and draw us back to you. Let your wisdom, justice, and compassion guide us. Slow our pace to attend to those things that matter. Open our understanding to the good that needs to be done. Sustain us for the challenges we face, Make your name known among us and through us. We glorify and honor you in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed, in season and out of season. Amen

Prayer of confession (adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*)
Gracious and loving God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. Forgive what we find hard to name and what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, who became what we are to make us what he is. Amen

***Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

Beloved, in Isaiah 58:9, we are assured, “Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, “Here I am.” God’s abiding presence never leaves us; God’s transforming love will empower you to live the just and righteous life. Receive grace for participation and belonging in the kin-dom. God’s mercies are renewed for us.

Law of Love/Faithful living

[illegible]

Scripture reading 2 Peter 1.5-9 (NT page 209)

Anthem *Be Still and Know*

Sermon *Self-Control - What's It Good For?*
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

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

Affirmation of Faith (from *The Belhar Confession*)
We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: that together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity;

Invitation to the offering

Offertory *This Is The Day* (Reprise)

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** *When Peace like a River* (451)

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*

