

Calendar of events

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

Today: 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 10: Bayshore Lunch Program volunteer opportunity, 9:45AM

September 11: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

September 13: Woman’s Club of Middletown meeting in the Education Building, 11:30AM

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

September 16: Brownies Troop meeting in the Education Building, 5PM

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

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: Irv Beaver; Eric H; Nancy Coffin; Judy Daugherty; Diane Grady; Tom Smigel; Diana S

For God’s support, strength, & comfort: Donna Arnold; 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 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 Julie Hertzog & Kim Larson.
Our greeters next week will be Lisa Leidecker & 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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 31 August 2025

August is the month of reckoning. Of standing in the field with arms open, open, seeing what you have grown, and what has withered. -- Clarissa Pinkola-Estés

We approach God

Prelude Turn! Turn! Turn!

Votum & greeting

Reading Changing cycles (by Jan Berry)

Passing of the peace

Call to worship Rising (from Celtic Blessings)
Deacon Julie Hertzog, liturgist

Liturgist: I arise today
All: In the strength of the mighty Creator, in the strength of the rising Savior, in the strength of the life-giving Spirit, in the strength of the mighty Three, whose love is One.

Liturgist: I arise today
All: In the strength of the angels and archangels, in the strength of the prophets and apostles, in the strength of the martyrs and saints.

Liturgist: I arise today.
All: In the strength of heaven and earth, in the strength of sun and moon, in the strength of fire and wind. I arise today. In the strength of Christ’s birth and baptism, in the strength of Christ’s death and rising, in the strength of Christ’s judgment to come.

Hymn sing

Prayer of confession (by Rev. Tricia Sheffield)
Holy and merciful God, as the bright light of summer fades to the wistful light of autumn, we move and change with the rhythm of our lives. Help us to let go of what may have been and what was in order to embrace what will be. Forgive us for clinging to former things that weigh us down, that tell us we have failed, that hurt ourselves and others. And help us to move forward in the rhythm of your gracious love that assures us, “I have called you by name; you are mine.” As we go forward into a new season of crisp air and glorious color, remind us that we are to live in the assurance of your forgiveness and strength each and every day. 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
In the name of our friend and Savior Jesus Christ, I declare that you are forgiven!
In the name of our friend and Savior Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God and Amen!

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia



We listen to God

Scripture reading Ephesians 3.7-21 (NT page 170)

Anthem Give Thanks

Sermon More Than We Can Ask or Imagine
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Hymn sing

Invitation to the offering

Offertory Give Thanks (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

Hymn sing

*Benediction And breathe (by Kirrilee Reid)

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*

