

Calendar of events

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

Today: 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, 5:30PM

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

September 17: Adult Education in Coventry House: I've Been Meaning to Ask . . . by sanctifiedart.org, 10AM & 7PM

September 18: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

September 21: Sunday worship: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 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

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

For God's support, strength, & comfort: for the family of Dot Bradley on the recent death of her husband, Mike; Donna Arnold; Mercedes' mother Fran; Florence Horsman; Linda Grasso; Magdala; Fleming; Linda

For God's guidance: Community Church of Keyport; Suzanne

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](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 gratitude for the grace of God upon the anniversary of my ordination to the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Love, September 8, 2013 — from Pastor Trish

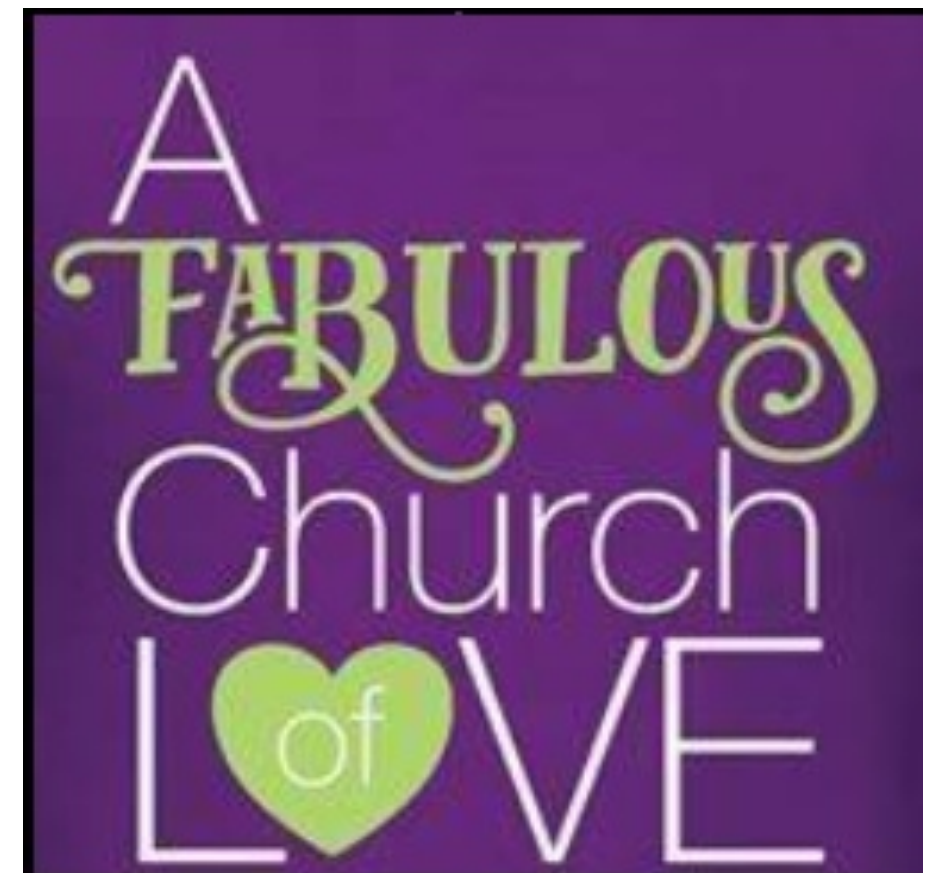
If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, contact Dolores Hofmann at 732.671.9308. The cost is \$25.

Our greeters today are Lisa Leidecker & Dara Steele.

Our greeters next week will be Dianne Asay & Dolores Hofmann.

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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 07 September 2025

Prelude *Faithful Still*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from *unfoldinglight.net*)
Elder Lisa Leidecker, liturgist

Leader: Creator God, divine artist, you fashion the universe with skill and beauty.

All: We praise you!

Jesus the builder has shaped our hearts with loving hands and a steady eye.

We thank you!

Holy Spirit, breath of new creation, you continually fashion us anew.

We worship you. We open our hearts to you. We surrender ourselves to your shaping hands. Amen

*Opening hymn *How Lovely Is Your Dwelling* (507)

Prayer of confession (adapted from *Worship Ways*)

We pray in the assurance that your mercy, O God, is available and near to us. And, we also pray in hope that your mercy will release us from inaction and apathy so that we may be your instruments of redemption and restoration in the world. Forgive us, perhaps most of all, for simply seeking your mercy for the ills of the world rather than your miraculous power to rise in us to overcome them. Grant us grace to pray boldly with our words and our actions in your name. 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 *Worship Ways*)

Beloved, God's mercy is available and so is God's creative power at work in us. Receive the grace of God to be used to support what needs repair and restoration. A new world that reflects the realm of God is possible through us. Amen

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

We listen to God

Scripture reading Genesis 1:1—2:4a (OT page 1)

Anthem *The Lord Will Provide*

Sermon *And God Saw That It Was Good*
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 *Faithful Still* (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 *For the Beauty of the Earth* (19)

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*