

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30AM

September 22: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

September 23: Middletown Arts Center Day Off of School in the Education Building, 9AM-3:30PM

September 23: Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM

September 24: Adult Education in Coventry House: I’ve Been Meaning to Ask . . . by sanctifiedart.org, 10AM & 7PM

September 25: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

September 28: Sunday worship: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost worship, 10:30AM

September 28: Confirmation Class after coffee hour

September 29: Middletown Arts Center fall program begins in the Education Building, 4-6PM

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.

Notes from Pastor Trish

In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Trish 212-729-9150 or e-mail at pastortrishmrc@gmail.com. You may also call the Church Office phone at 732-671-1786. Messages are picked up during the week. Pastor Trish’s office hours are Tuesday, 1-3, Wednesday, 2-4, Thursday, 1-3 or by appointment. Weekend and evening times are also available. Her day of Sabbath rest is Monday.

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: 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 & discernment: 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, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

The flowers today are given by Dara & Donna with love —
Happy birthday, Mom (Lee)

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 & Dara Steele.
Our greeters next week will be Lisa Leidecker & Cindy Reya.

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

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 21 September 2025

Prelude Tomorrow

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

Call to worship (adapted from Worship Ways)
Deacon Dara Steele, liturgist

Leader: We come to celebrate God’s blessings to us.
All: Surely God is in this place!
We come to open ourselves to God’s guidance and love.
Surely God is in this place!
We come to see more clearly God’s presence in our lives.
Surely God is in this place!
We come to see God in this community of seekers.
Surely God is in this place!
We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.
Surely God is in this place! Let us worship!

*Opening hymn Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (615)

Prayer of confession (adapted from Faith and Worship)
Forgive us, Holy and gracious God, when we are struggling with life, searching for answers in vain, relying on our own strength and failing again. Remind us that you are the strength upon whom we can call, the power to endure, the hope we seek. Forgive us, merciful Savior, when we forget these promises. Help us hear your voice above the clamor of this world, recognize the difference, and follow only you. 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, a new life is possible. The Holy One has planted compassion within our hearts. We need only allow ourselves to come alive to the hope and joy that transformation promises us. Receive the grace of God to be all that God will empower us to be. **Amen**

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Halle, Halle (768)
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

We listen to God
Scripture reading Genesis 27.1-4, 15-23; 28.10-17 (OT pages 21, 23)

Anthem The Reason We Sing

Sermon Waking Up to God Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD
Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars. BBT

We respond to God
Affirmation of Faith
We give our hearts to God, Creator of all that is, who holds all things in God’s heart, whose faithful compassion is infinite. We follow Jesus, our brother, our teacher and our friend, who embodies God’s love, who taught and healed and gathered a community of compassion for the world. For his love he was crucified, and on the cross he shared the pain of all humanity. But in love God raised him from the dead, and he lives among us still, accompanying us within divine grace and redeeming even our darkest suffering. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, God’s love in us, in whose grace we weep for the world, serve the hurting, and live as signs of God’s mercy. We live as One, the Body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness, the mystery of Resurrection, and the gift of eternal life. We devote our lives to bearing the heart of God, that we may make this wounded world more gentle and hopeful, in the Name of Christ. Amen

Invitation to the offering

Offertory Tomorrow (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

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 Abide with Me (466, v 1-4)

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

