

Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost worship, 10:30AM

**Today:** Confirmation Class after coffee hour

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

**September 29:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**October 1:** Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM & 7PM

**October 2:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

**October 5:** Sunday worship: World Communion Sunday with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30AM. After worship, we will have our First Sunday brunch in the Education Building

**October 6:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**October 8:** Bayshore Lunch Program volunteer opportunity, 9:45AM

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](mailto: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. She does not answer texts, emails, or phone calls on this day, unless it’s an emergency.

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](http://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, or go to [www.mrchurch.us/give](http://www.mrchurch.us/give)

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 Lisa Leidecker & Cindy Reya.  
Our greeters next week will be Dolores Hofmann & 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

Middletown Reformed Church

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 28 September 2025

Prelude Wayside

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

Call to worship (from unfoldinglight.net)  
Emma Hertzog, liturgist

All: Loving God, Voice of Life, you call to us. You appear to us in many ways—in burning bushes and subtle hints. By your Spirit in us, open our eyes to notice. Open our ears to hear. Open our hearts to follow and obey. Amen

\*Opening hymn As the Deer (503)

Prayer of confession (adapted from unfoldinglight.net)  
God of all people, we confess we have separated ourselves. We have divided the Body of Christ. In our fear, heal us. For our “othering” of those not like us, forgive us. Receive our repentance, not in words alone but in reconciliation with our companions in Christ. Make us One, O loving God, make us one. 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 (from Worship Ways)  
God’s mercy endures and renews. The world envisioned by the Holy One is available when we believe it, commit to it, and pursue it with all our being. Receive God’s grace to do a new thing, in word and in deed, so that the world may know the love of God, the hope of God, and the promise of God through what we say, how we live, what we do, and the fruit we produce. 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 Exodus 2.23-25; 3.1-15; 4.10-17  
(OT page 46)  
Elder Lisa Leidecker, liturgist

Anthem God Is Not Against Me

Sermon Stay Curious Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God  
Affirmation of Faith (The Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A #90)  
Q. What is the rising-to-life of the new self?  
A. Wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a love and delight to live according to the will of God by doing every kind of good work.

Invitation to the offering

Offertory Wayside (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

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 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer (43)

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

