### **Calendar of events**

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

**Today**: Sunday worship: Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

**Today**: Worship Committee meting after coffee hour

**November 17**: New Jericho Choir rehearsal the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**November 18**: Brownies Troop meeting in the Education Building, 5PM

**November 19**: Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM & 7PM **November 20**: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium. 6PM

**November 22**: Middletown Helps Its Own at New Monmouth Baptist Church. 9AM

**November 23**: Sunday worship: Reign of Christ Sunday, 10:30AM **November 25**: Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education

Building, 6PM

**November 26**: No Adult Education

# 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, 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 <a href="mailto:pastortrishmrc@gmail.com">pastortrishmrc@gmail.com</a>. 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: Bob Bark; Henry Thorpe; a neighbor; Eric H; Nancy Coffin; Diane Grady; Joy Sheffield; Tom Smigel; Diana S For God's support, strength, & comfort: the Hertzog family; Michelle; Corey; Mike; Team June; 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

Spotify: Middletown Reformed Church podcast



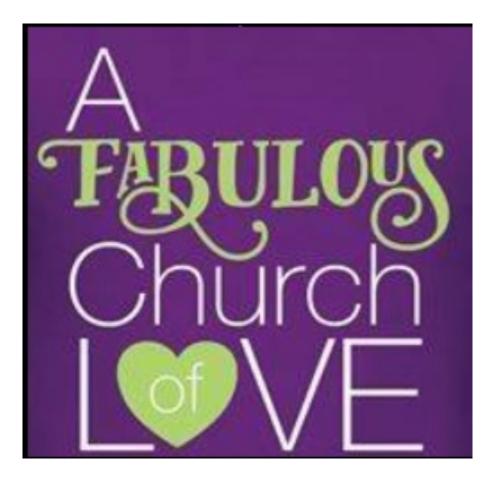
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

The flowers today are 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 Kim Larson & Dara Steele. Our greeters next week are Julie Hertzog & 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). **So far we have received \$1,366.60 in assessments/dues.** 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 treasurer 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

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

**16 November 2025** 

Prelude Rescue

**Votum & greeting** 

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

**Call to worship** (from *unfoldinglight.net*)

Deacon Dara Steele, liturgist

Leader: Holy One, we come into your house with joy. *All: Beloved, we live in your presence with awe.* In the shelter of your temple we find rest. *In the beauty of your presence we find grace.* We seek your blessing, your Word, your fire. *We bless you. We love you. We worship you.* 

\*Opening hymn Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (579)

Prayer of confession (adapted from Faith and Worship)
Loving and holy God, you are the one who leads us
from darkness into light, from anxiety into peace, from
despair into joy. Yet we long to break free, choosing
independence, convinced of our own wisdom,
forgetting your love and grace. Forgive us, draw close
to us, embrace us once again in your loving arms, and
enable us to follow you in worship and grateful
service each day of our lives. 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)
Take heart. God gives new life, even to those who hold
back from giving fully of themselves or who think God
has abandoned them. Let yourselves be restored to God
and each other, knowing that God will provide without
limit. Amen

# Law of Love/Faithful living

\*Halle, Halle
Halle, hallelujah!
Halle, hallelujah!
Halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

## We listen to God

**Scripture reading** Isaiah 9.1-7 (OT page 597)

**Anthem** Love Grows Here Joyful Noise Adult Choir

**Sermon** How the Light Shines Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

# We respond to God

**Affirmation of Faith** (*The Heidelberg Catechism*, Q & A #107) Q. Is it enough then that we do not murder our neighbor in any such way?

A. No. By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly toward them, to protect them from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.

## Invitation to the offering

Offertory Rescue (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 Jesus, the Light of the World (100)

#### \*Benediction

#### Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

+ Our restroom is located downstairs through the entryway next to the filing cabinets