

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: Sunday worship: Second Sunday of Advent — Peace with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30AM
December 8: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM
December 8: Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 7PM
December 10: Bayshore Lunch Program volunteer opportunity, 9:45AM
December 10: Adult Education in Coventry House, **7PM only**
December 11: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM
December 13: Meatloaf take-out dinner behind the Education Building, 5:30-6:30PM. All proceeds support the General Fund
December 14: Sunday worship: Third Sunday of Advent — Joy, 10:30AM
December 15: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

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

In our prayers

For the healing journey: Stephanie; Bob Bark; Henry Thorpe; a neighbor; Eric H; Nancy Coffin; Diane Grady; Joy Sheffield; Tom Smigel; Diana S
For God’s support, strength, & comfort: Terry Raynor & family as they grieve the loss of her brother, Chet; the Hertzog family; Michelle; Corey; 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



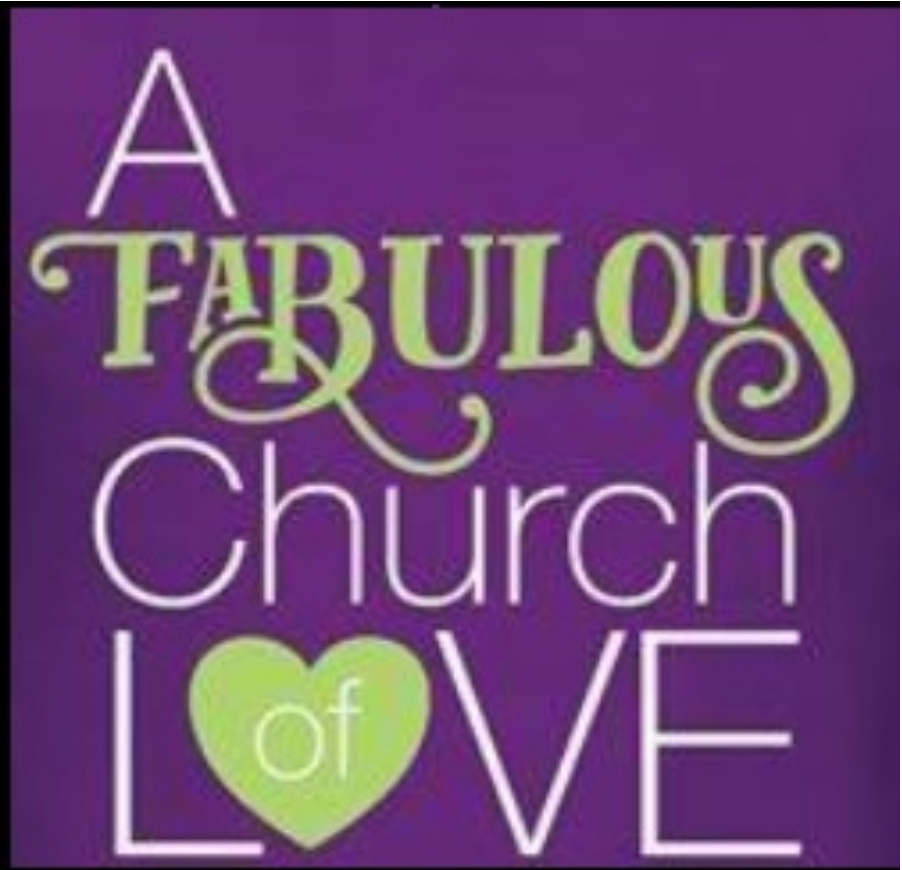
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

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 Dianne Asay & Kim Larson.
Our greeters next week are Dolores Hofmann & 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

Second Sunday of Advent7 December 2025

PreludeHope Has A Name

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

Lighting of the Advent Candle — Peace

(adapted from *Worship Ways*), Lisa Leidecker, liturgist
Today we light the Candle of Peace. There is a hush in our hearts as we wait to feel the peace of God envelop us. We imagine it as delicate as a lily’s petals opening, as a blanket pulled snug beneath our chin, as a breeze shaking the oak’s branches on a sunny morning. We expect peace to come gently, but when has anything worthwhile come without pain? A baby cries in birth as the mother sweats and shakes. Imperfect compromises leave both sides vulnerable. Striving for peace is no different. It is fierce, and loud, and it requires tenacity. Peace is complicated. Peace is a sip of water after the longest night. Peace is the flame within that we must keep lit for the sake of all. Peace is the hush, and it is the clatter. Peace is God’s love, acted out loud. **Amen**

*Opening hymnO Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(61, v 3-4)

Prayer of confession (adapted from *unfoldinglight.net*)
We live amidst violence, but God promises peace. We bear bitterness and judgment toward one another, but God calls us to love. Christ comes among us to lead us to gentleness and compassion. May the Christ child lead us to lives of justice and courage. May the Christ child be born in us, the child of peace. Help us to repent, and to bear the fruits of your love. Come, Holy Child, and transform us by your grace. 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 does not judge based on our insecurities, but on the promise rooted within each of us. Peace is not only a possibility but is the ultimate work of God’s people. In faith, we rise and fall and rise again, knowing that our Redeemer will never stumble or disappoint. **Praise be to God!**

Law of Love/Faithful living

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

We listen to God

Scripture readingEzekiel 37.1-14 (OT page 762)

AnthemJoy Unto the World

SermonRuach Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

OffertoryHope Has A Name (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 hymnLo, How a Rose E’er Blooming (79)

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

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

