

Calendar of events

**Saturdays:** Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM  
**Today:** Sunday worship: First Sunday after Christmas with a carol sing, 10:30AM  
**December 31:** NO Adult Education  
**January 1:** Happy New Year!  
**January 4:** Sunday worship: Epiphany Sunday with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Super, 10:30AM  
**January 7:** Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM & 7PM  
**January 8:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM  
**January 10:** Middletown Woman’s Club meeting in the Education Building, 11AM  
**January 11:** Sunday worship: Baptism of Our Lord, 10:30AM  
**January 12:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM  
**January 12:** Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 7PM

Consistory

<b>Elders</b> Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary Dolores Hofmann Lisa Leidecker, Vice President Cindy Reya, Treasurer Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President	<b>Deacons</b> 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](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:** Raymond O; Stephanie; Bob Bark; Henry Thorpe; a neighbor; 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](http://www.mrchurch.us)  
**Facebook:** Middletown Reformed Church  
**YouTube:** MRC: A Fabulous Church of Love  
**Instagram:** middletownreformednj  
**Spotify:** Middletown Reformed Church podcast

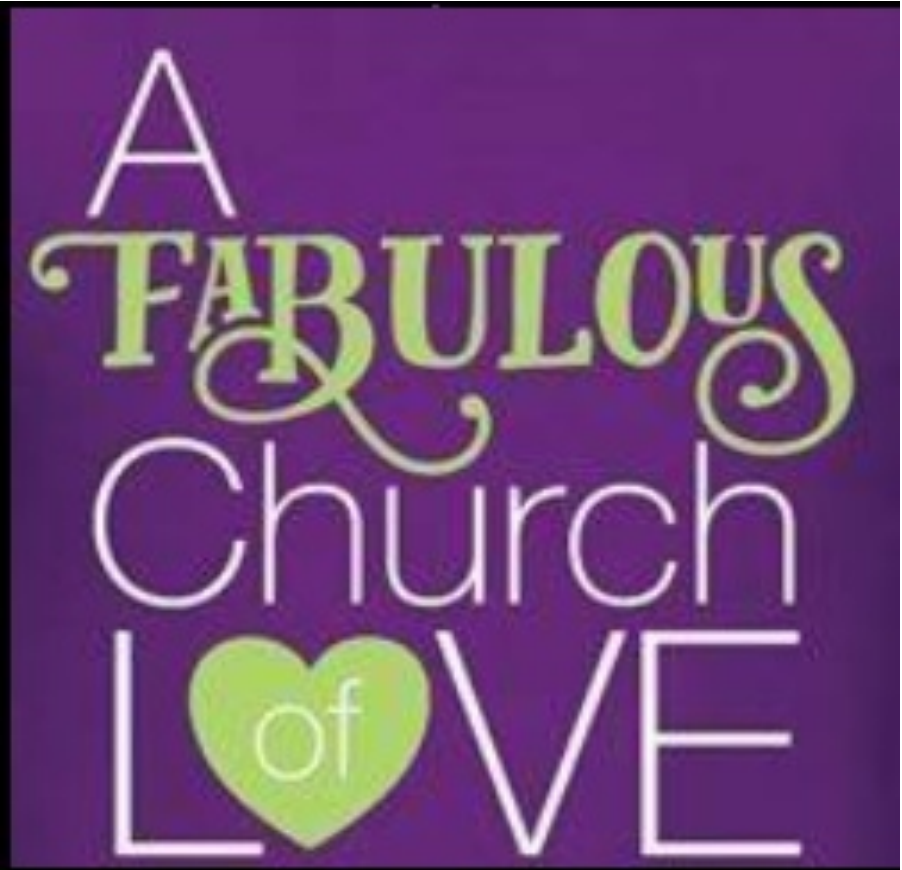


Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to [www.mrchurch.us/give](http://www.mrchurch.us/give)

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 Julie Hertzog & Dolores Hofmann.  
Our greeters next week are Dolores Hofmann & Lisa Leidecker.

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

First Sunday after Christmas28 December 2025

PreludeYour Praise Goes On

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship(adapted from unfoldinglight.net)  
Deacon Julie Hertzog, liturgist

Leader: I bring you good news of great joy, for unto you is born a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

All: Alleluia! Christ, holy child, bearer of the light of heaven among us, we greet you with glad and humble hearts.

Jesus, the pioneer of our faith, who saves us and makes us holy, is not ashamed to call us siblings.

Alleluia! Jesus, our brother and our teacher, we praise you and we open our hearts to you. Living among us, transform us by your Spirit and fill us with your glory. Alleluia!

Carol sing

Prayer of confession(adapted from The Worship Sourcebook)  
O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble of faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas continue to remake our lives that we may witness to your transforming love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, who became what we are to make us what he is we pray. 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)  
Precious and beloved creation of God, you have been made for God’s companionship. The One who will never leave you nor forsake you is faithful to forgive, revive, and empower you. Receive the grace that God gives and the opportunity to live into the person that the Holy One has created you to be and the world needs.

Law of Love/Faithful living

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

We listen to God

Scripture readingLuke 2.8-20 (NT page 50)

AnthemWhen We Behold

SermonNot a Boring Night - One Shepherd Boy’s Story  
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Carol sing

Invitation to the offering

OffertoryYour Praise Goes On(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 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

Carol sing

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

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

