

Calendar of events

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

*This notice serves as an official Call to Meeting for the Annual Congregational Meeting of Middletown Reformed Church to be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026 after worship.*  
*The following people have been nominated by the congregation to serve on Consistory beginning March 2026. The single slate was approved by the Consistory on December 8, 2025.*  
*To the Office of Deacon: Pam Ehrlich & Abbey Thorpe*  
*To the Office of Elder: Beverly Bova Scarano & Jamie Zeller*

Consistory

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>
Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary	Julie Hertzog
Dolores Hofmann	Kim Larson, Clerk
Lisa Leidecker, Vice President	Dara Steele
Cindy Reya, Treasurer	
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President	

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 Dolores Hofmann & Lisa Leidecker.  
Our greeters next week are Cindy Reya & Dara Steele.

Our 2026 RCA Annual Denominational Assessment of \$140.00 per member is due. The total amount for the year is \$5,992.58, which the church pays on a quarterly basis (\$1,492.15). This assessment supports the work of our Classis and the General Synod. The per capita dues of \$7 for the New Jersey Association, UCC is also due. These dues support the work of the Association. Total amount for both RCA and UCC is \$147.00 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

Epiphany Sunday04 January 2026

PreludeMore Than Enough

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship(from unfoldinglight.net)  
Elder Dolores Hofmann, liturgist

Liturgist: People of faith, look! In our darkness a light shines: the star is love.  
All: Alleluia! In gratitude we follow the star of love.  
The star moves ahead of us, and leads us faithfully.  
Alleluia! In wonder we follow the star of love.  
The star hides itself in each of us: in everyone we meet, in all God’s people.  
Alleluia! In devotion we follow the star of love.  
Alleluia!

\*Opening hymnO Morning Star, O Radiant Sun (472)

Prayer of confession  
(adapted from unfoldinglight.net & Worship Ways)  
God of Love, we confess we do not always follow your star of love; we turn aside; we weary of the journey. Forgive us, O God. Lift us once more into your light of love. Transform the fear that keeps us small into courage that acts with compassion. Renew the weariness that dims our hope into joy that moves us toward peace. Renew your Spirit in us. Be our star and guide us. 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 (adapted from Worship Ways)  
People of God, hear this good news: Look! God’s dwelling is now among us—radiant with mercy, generous with forgiveness, overflowing with new life.  
All: We lift our eyes and see. By grace, we are forgiven. By love, we are made whole. Thanks 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 readingIsaiah 60.1-6 (OT page 649)  
Matthew 2.1-12 (NT page 1)

AnthemThe Plans

SermonHis Star is LoveRev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God  
Affirmation of Faith (from unfoldinglight.net)  
We trust in God, Creator of all that is, whose light guides us and whose grace extends to all people of the world. We follow Jesus, the Christ of God, Light of the world, who is the ruler of our hearts, before whom we bow in adoration and reverence, to whom we offer the gifts of our hands and hearts. Jesus loved people and healed them, and taught the way of true wisdom. Though many would make him king, he was not a ruler of a nation but the Prince of Peace. Earthly kings were threatened by him, and crucified him, but he was raised from the dead, sovereign even over life itself. We live by the Holy Spirit, whose light is a star that guides us, whose grace gives us gifts to offer the world, whose companionship makes us one with peoples of all nations, tribes and traditions. In the power of that Spirit we devote ourselves to love and justice, for the sake of Christ, the sovereign of our hearts.

Invitation to the offering

OffertoryMore Than Enough (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  
(All are welcome to the table of the Lord)

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 hymnLord, Speak to Me that I May Speak (754, v1-4)

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

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

