

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Second Sunday after Epiphany with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

January 19: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

January 20: Girl Scouts Troop meeting in the Education Building, 5PM

January 21: Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM

January 22: NO Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal

January 24: Outreach meeting in the Education Building, 1PM

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

Elders

Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary

Dolores Hofmann

Lisa Leidecker, Vice President

Cindy Reya, Treasurer

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President

Deacons

Julie Hertzog

Kim Larson, Clerk

Dara Steele

In our prayers

For the healing journey: Sherrill; Stephanie; Bob Bark; Henry Thorpe; a neighbor; Nancy Coffin; Diane Grady; Tom Smigel; Diana S

For God's support, strength, & comfort: 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

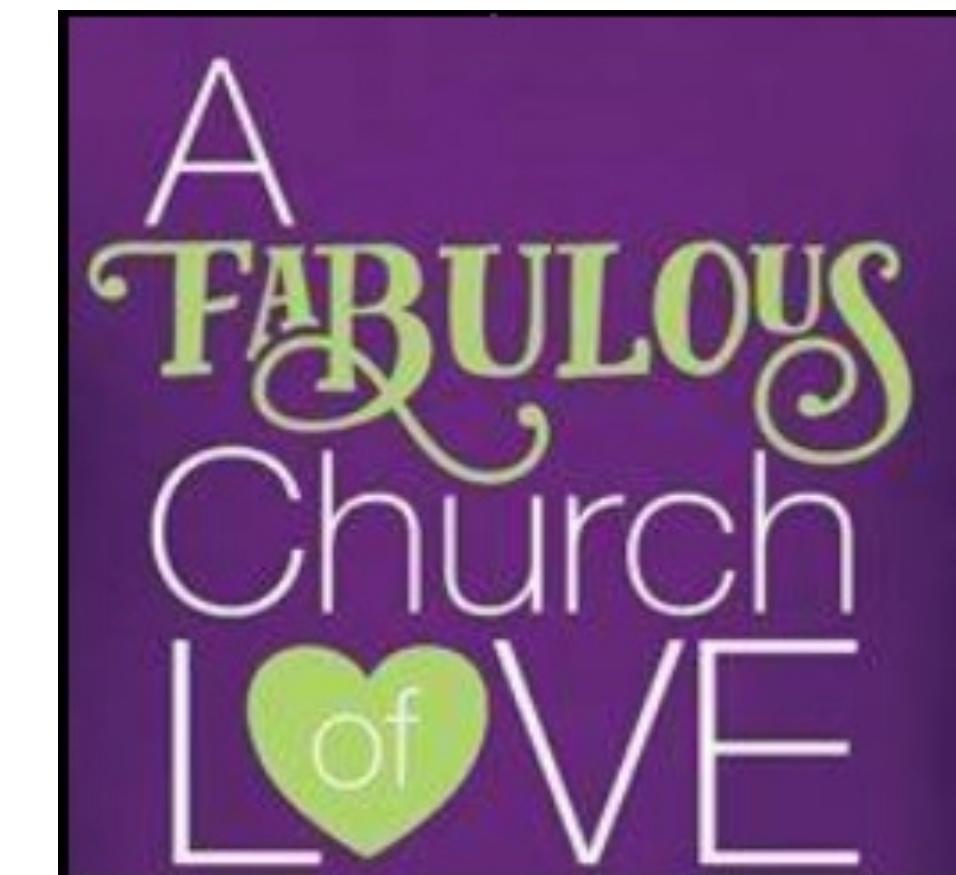
If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, contact Dolores Hofmann at 732.671.9308. The cost is \$25.

Our greeters today are Julie Hertzog & Kim Larson.

Our greeters next week are Dianne Asay & Dolores Hofmann.

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

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.

Middletown Reformed Church

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

Second Sunday after Epiphany

18 January 2026

Prelude

Adonai

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

A message for all ages

Call to worship

(adapted from *Worship Ways*)

Deacon Julie Hertzog, liturgist

Leader: We may feel arid, dry from pain and injustices.

All: And yet, God is still hydrating our spirits.

We may be wandering, feeling as if we have no direction.

And yet, God is guiding us.

We may be fearful, wondering what comes next.

And yet, God is surrounding us with peace.

We may journey spiritually arid, aimless, and anxious.

But the Spirit of Strength will never leave our side.

This is our hope. This is the promise from God. Amen

*Opening hymn Jesus, The Light Of The World (100)

Prayer of confession (adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*)

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you did not disdain the company of sinners but welcomed them with love. Look upon us in mercy, we pray. Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo; free us from a past we cannot change; heal what we can no longer fix. Grace our lives with your love and turn the regrets of our past into the joys of new life we you. 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 (adapted from *Worship Ways*)

Thus says the God who created us and formed us in God's image: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." This is the good news!

I belong to God and I am forgiven!

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

Isaiah 56.3-8 (OT page 645)

John 2.13-25 (NT page 81)

Anthem

Peace Joyful Noise Adult Choir

Sermon

Not in My Father's House!

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

Adonai (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

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

As With Gladness Men Of Old
(105, v 1-4)

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able

The baptismal font is filled with water every Sunday to remind us of the sign and seal of God's love for us in our baptism.

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

