

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Third Sunday after Epiphany on Zoom, 10:30AM

January 26: CANCELLED DUE TO THE STORM — New Jericho Choir rehearsal

January 27: Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM

January 29: NO Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal

February 1: Sunday worship: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM. Annual congregational meeting to follow worship and Sunday brunch in the Education Building

February 2: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

February 5: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

February 8: Sunday worship: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30AM

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

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: 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

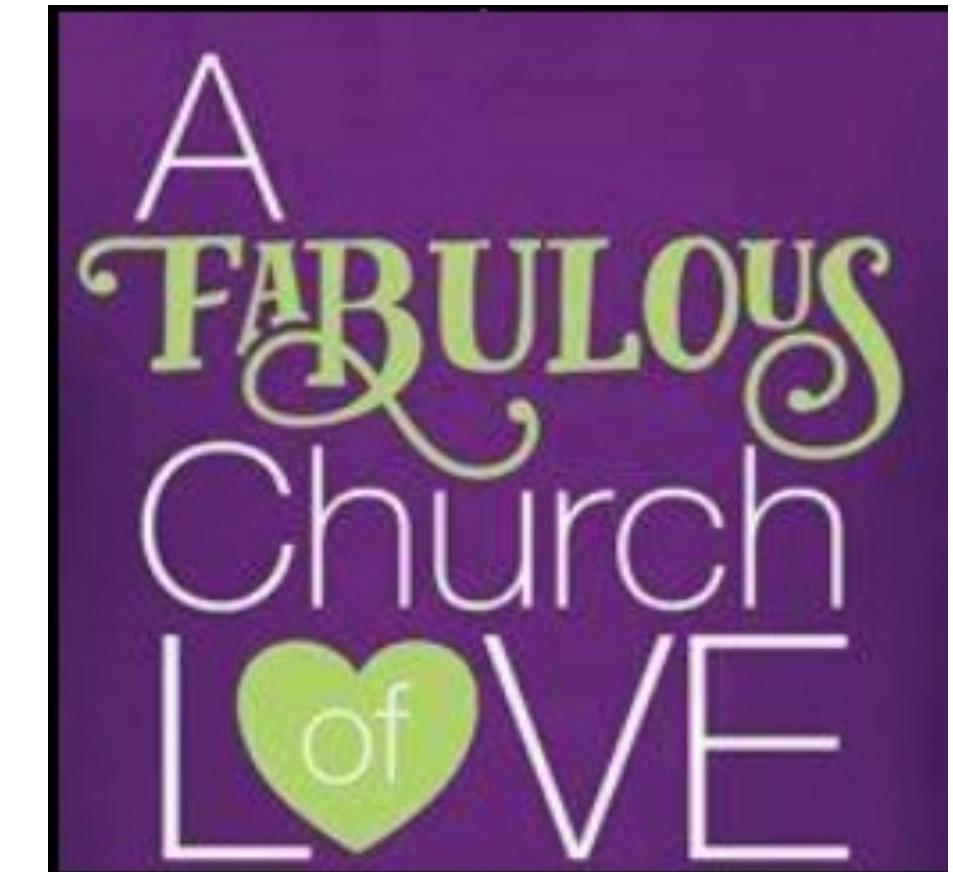
If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, contact Dolores Hofmann at 732.671.9308. The cost is \$25.

Our greeters today are Dianne Asay & Julie Hertzog.

Our greeters next week are Dianne Asay & Lisa Leidecker.

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

Third Sunday after Epiphany

25 January 2026

Prelude

Come Away From Rush And Hurry

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship

(from *unfoldinglight.net*)

Deacon Julie Hertzog or Amelia Caddle, liturgist
Creator God, you are light in our darkness; you are the
morning rising in our night.

All: Your dawning touches our heart. We turn to you.

We awaken.

Christ, light of the world, you call to us.

Your voice stirs in our hearts. Our hopes catch fire.

We want to follow you.

Holy Spirit, you are the rising sun in us that brings us to
new life.

**Alleluia! May we shine with your light. Come, Holy
Spirit, and transform us by your grace.**

*Opening hymn

Arise, Your Light Is Come (102)

Prayer of confession

(from *unfoldinglight.net*)

**Gentle God, into the darkness of our hearts, shine
your light, that we may see, and that all that is not of
life and blessing may be made new. As the dawn
transforms the night, forgive our sin, and make us
new in the power of 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 (adapted from *Worship Ways*)

Hear these words of comfort: Into every place of strain or
sorrow, God's mercy draws near. God's compassion
reaches out. God's grace opens a way forward. In this
promise, receive your freedom. In this grace, begin again.
Amen

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

John 3.1-21 (NT page 81)

Sermon

Brand New Eyes Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

Lead Me, Guide Me (329)

*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**

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 the Deer (503)

*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.

