

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: Sunday worship: Transfiguration Sunday, 10:30AM
Today: Youth Group meeting in the Lower Auditorium, 12:30PM
February 16: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM
February 17: Girl Scouts meeting in the Education Building, 5PM
February 18: Lent begins — Ash Wednesday worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and the imposition of ashes, 7PM
February 19: No Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal
February 21: Breaking Bread with Your Family's Favorite Meal in the Education Building, 5:30PM RSVP to Pastor Trish
February 22: Sunday worship: First Sunday in Lent, 10:30AM
February 22: Handbell Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 12PM
February 22: Confirmation class after coffee hour, 12PM
February 23: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM
February 24: Soup & Scripture with Pastor Trish in the Education Building, 12:30PM RSVP to Pastor Trish

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: Diana V; 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



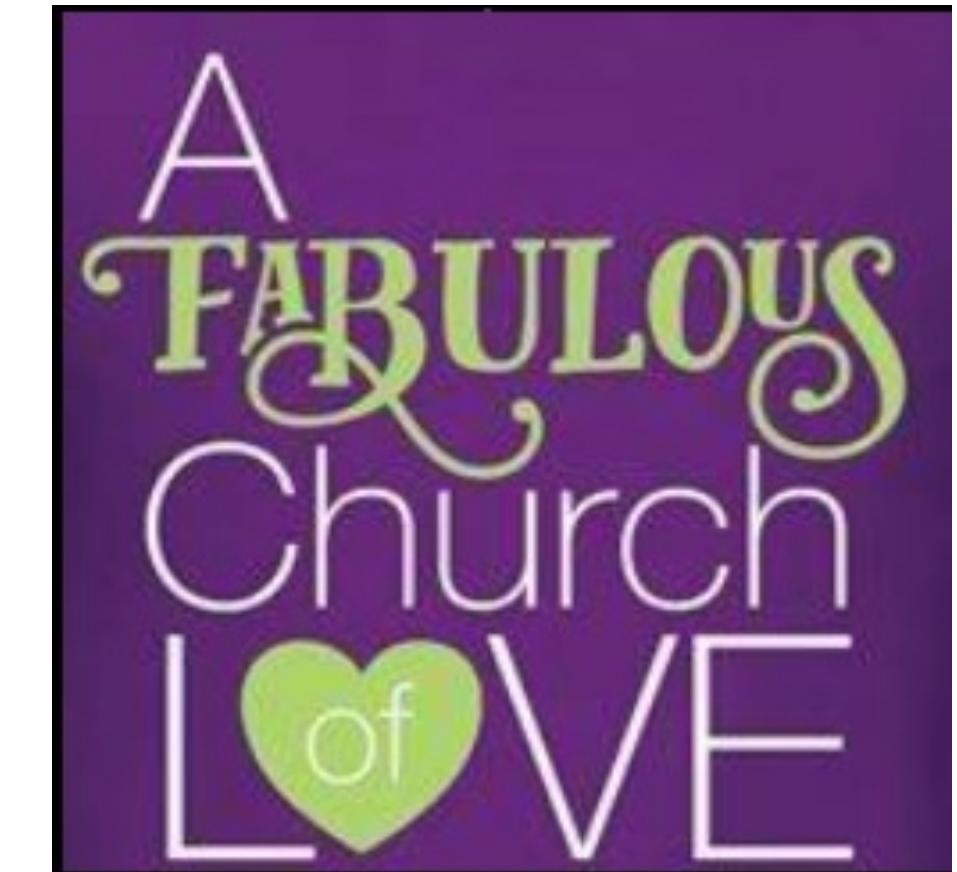
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

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 & Dara Steele. Our greeters next week are Dolores Hofmann & Kim Larson.

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

Transfiguration Sunday

15 February 2026

Prelude

Stories On Stories

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship

(from *unfoldingleight.net*)

Deacon Dara Steele, liturgist

Leader: God of love, in the light of the sunrise,

All: we behold your glory.

In the light of that stars at night,

we behold your mystery.

In the light in each other's eyes,

we behold your presence.

In the light of Christ,

we behold your love.

Light of God, shine upon us.

Light of Christ, shine within us. Holy Spirit, radiate your goodness through us. Amen

*Opening hymn

Christ, Be Our Light (908)

Prayer of confession

(from *unfoldingleight.net*)

God of light, let the dawn of your mercy rise upon all that is unseen in the nighttime of our hearts, that we may see ourselves in the light of your love. What is shadowed by guilt or shame, enlighten with your grace. What is hidden in gloom bring into your light. By the light of Christ, the Sun of Mercy, may your grace shine in our hearts. 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*)

Hear the good news: Whether we hear a voice from the heavens or a still small voice in our hearts, listen carefully for the love of God. Believe and accept God's love and live in God's freedom.

All: We believe! 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 reading

Matthew 17.1-9 (NT page 16)

Anthem

The God You Are

Sermon

When God Says, 'Listen'

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

Stories On Stories (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 Baptism

Vivien Thornton O'Brien

Born: 04/19/2025

Parents: Mannis O'Brien and Mary Pavlu

Godparents: Katie Moy and Liam O'Brien

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

(946)

*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.

