

## Calendar of events

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

**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](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:** 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; 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: 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.

# 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

Ash Wednesday

18 February 2026

### We approach God

Prelude

Goodness of God

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship

(adapted from *unfoldinglight.net*)

Liturgist: Beloved in Christ, we come at the invitation of the Gentle One.

**All: And we are loved, and received with joy.**

Liturgist: We come, hurting and in need.

**All: And we are healed.**

Liturgist: We come, dust and ashes.

**All: And we are filled with the Breath of Life. God of grace, receive us, bless us, and renew in us the gift of life. Amen**

\*Opening hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
(175)

### Prayer of confession

(from *unfoldinglight.net*)

**Gentle God, you created us in love and for love. We are the pure light of your love, given flesh. Your Spirit is our life; your breath is our breath. Your love shines in us, the image of Christ, and we are all being transformed into this image, from one degree of glory to another. But we deny your light and obscure your image. Help us to see all that impedes your perfect love in us, and to remove it, so that we may truly shine with your light. In this Lenten season, help us to see, to repent, and to be perfected in love, in the grace of Jesus Christ. 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*)

Liturgist: Beloved, the Holy One is at work with you.

Receive the gift of grace and mercy given without condemnation so that you may be free to love, to live, and to be as crafted through the Breath of Life.

### Scripture reading

Luke 14.15-24 (NT page 67)

*The good news is . . . all are invited*

### Moment of silence to reflect on the Scripture reading

### Anthem

For Love of You Joyful Noise Adult Choir

### Reflection

Let Go of the Ordinary

Rev. Brian Blount, PhD in *Tell Me Something Good*

### Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

All are welcome to the table of the Lord

### Silent prayers of the people

Question for reflection: How are you responding to God's invitation this Lent?

\*Closing hymn *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (140)

### Imposition of ashes

After you receive your ashes, you are invited to sit in the sanctuary to pray or you may leave in silence

\*Please stand as you are able.

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

