

## Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Fourth Sunday in Lent with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

**Today:** Pride Committee meeting after coffee hour, 12PM

**March 16:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**March 17:** Soup & Scripture with Pastor Trish in the Education Building, 12:30PM Please let Pastor Trish know if you are attending

**March 17:** Girl Scout meeting in the Education Building, 5PM

**March 19:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

**March 22:** Sunday worship: Fifth Sunday in Lent, 10:30AM

**March 22:** Confirmation Class after coffee hour, 12PM

**March 23:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**March 24:** Soup & Scripture with Pastor Trish in the Education Building, 12:30PM Please let Pastor Trish know if you are attending

**March 24:** Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM

## Consistory

### Elders

Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary, Alt Clerk  
Dolores Hofmann  
Beverly Bova Scarano, Vice President  
Jamie Zeller  
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President

### Deacons

Pam Ehrlich  
Kim Larson, Clerk  
Dara Steele  
Abbey Thorpe

## 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:** Barbara Mannix; Tom Baldino; 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; and all those serving overseas now in the Middle East

## 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



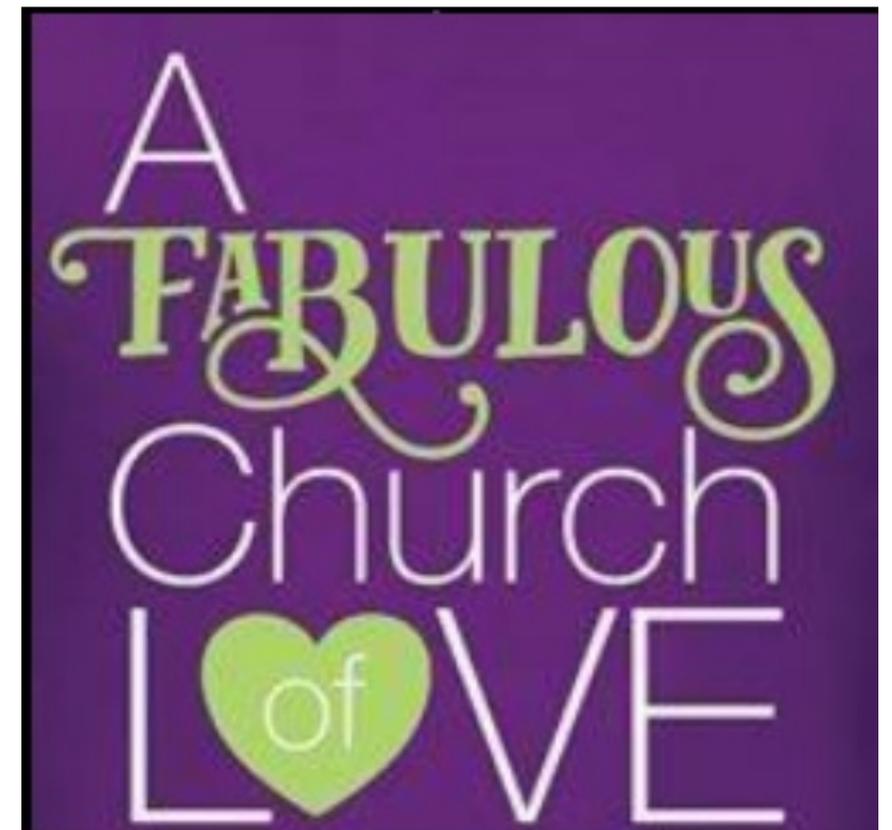
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to [www.mrchurch.us/give](http://www.mrchurch.us/give)

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 Dianne Asay & Dara Steele.  
Our greeters next week are Kim Larson & Jamie Zeller.

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

Lent Theme: **Tell Me Something Good (A Sanctified Art)**

Reflection for the week: *What's one way your church or community can extend radical welcome?*

Fourth Sunday in Lent

15 March 2026

### We approach God

Prelude

Compass

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

Call to worship

(adapted from *Worship Ways*)

Deacon Dara Steele, liturgist

One: Family of God, we gather as who we are, and we bring what we have.

**Many: Let us encounter the new thing God is doing among us.**

We bring joy and sorrow, hope and despair, resources and need, certainty and questions.

**Let us engage the new thing God is doing among us.**

In this space, we meet the One who parts seas, creates paths, and changes circumstances.

**Let us encourage the new thing God is doing among us. Come, let us worship the God of new things and second chances! Amen**

\*Opening hymn

*Gather Us In* (529)

Prayer of confession

(from *unfoldinglight.net*)

**God of love, create in me a clean heart, and put within me a new and holy spirit. Where there is falseness, give me your truth. Where there is denial, give me vision. Where there is fear, kindle your love. Where there is guilt or shame, let me see myself with your eyes of love. I release all the ill I have suffered, and repent of the harm I have done. Forgive me, and create me anew. 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*)

God, our Divine Parent, runs towards us with infinite love and grace. May the mercy we experience transform our minds, hearts, and souls. **Amen**

Law of Love/Faithful living

\*Glory Be to the Father

Henry W Greatorex

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly

Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

We listen to God

Scripture reading

John 18.12-27 (NT page 98)

Anthem

*Shelter In the Rain*

Sermon

*Light & Shadows, Truth & Lies*

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

*Compass* (reprise)

\*Doxology

**From all that dwell below the skies; Let faith and hope with love arise. Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung; Through every land, by every tongue! 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

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (348)

\*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.*

