

## Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Fourth Sunday of Easter, 10:30AM

**April 27:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**April 27:** Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 7PM

**April 28:** Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM

**April 30:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

**May 2:** "From Italy with Love" Middletown Lions Club Italian Dinner fundraiser in the Education Building, 5:30PM

**May 3:** Sunday worship: Fifth Sunday of Easter with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

**May 4:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**May 7:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

**May 9:** Paint and Sip (Coffee) event in the Education Building, 9:30AM. Come and paint rocks/murals for our Community Garden

## 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:** Nancy Coffin; Jim D'Amico; Dolores Hofmann; Maureen; Adrienne B; Barbara Mannix; Tom Baldino; Jamie Zeller; Diana Vitollo; Stephanie; Bob Bark; Henry Thorpe; Diane Grady

**For God's support, strength, & comfort:** the family of Linda Grasso (Cindy & Lloyd); the Hertzog family; Mercedes' mother, Fran; Florence Horsman; Magdala; Fleming; Linda

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



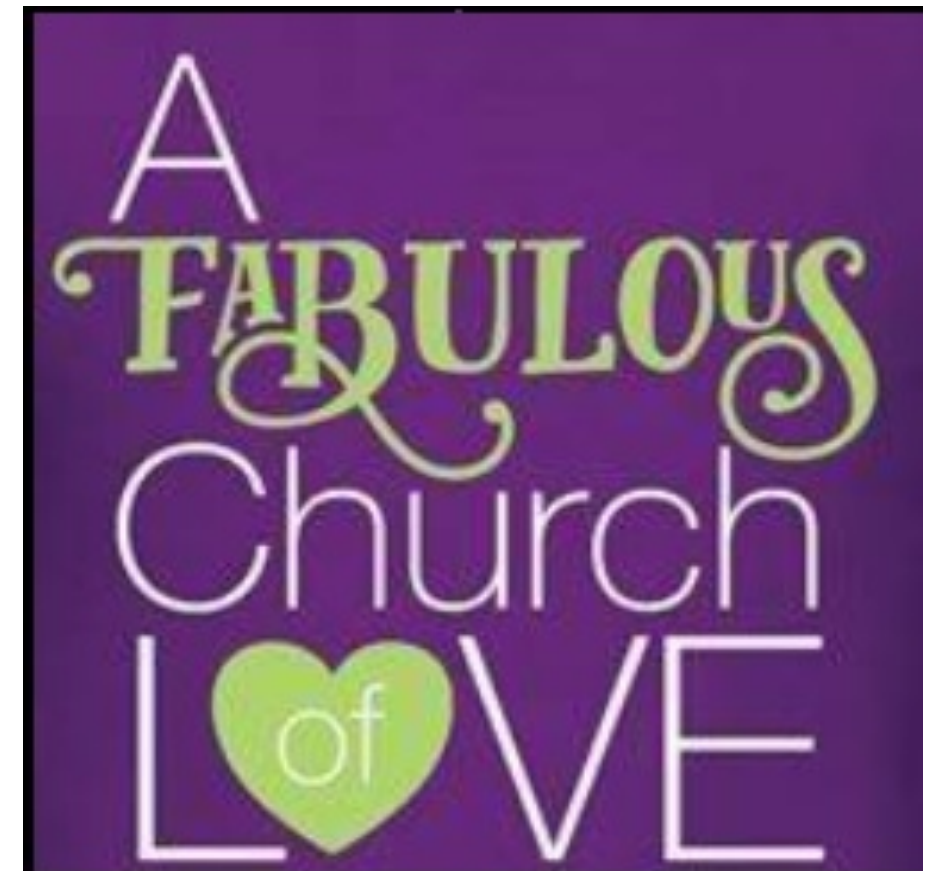
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to [www.mrchurch.us/give](http://www.mrchurch.us/give)

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 Pam Ehrlich & 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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

26 April 2026

## We approach God

Prelude

Wayside

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship

(from *unfoldinglight.net*)

Brenner Larson, liturgist

Leader: From the noise and demands of the world,

**All: we come to be made alive in God,**

to be rooted and built up in Christ,

**to be nourished and held together in the Spirit,**

united in Christ's body, the Church,

**abounding in gratitude and love. Come, let us worship God!**

\*Opening hymn

*Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* (763)

Prayer of confession

(adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*)

**All: Generous and merciful God, you send us the**

**Spirit of courage, but we have been afraid. You send**

**us the Spirit of truth, but we cling to our illusions. You**

**send us the Spirit of healing, but we cannot let go of**

**our hurts. Spirit of forgiveness, come to us again:**

**open our hearts, set our souls on fire with your love;**

**and send us out into the world rejoicing in your**

**power.. 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 the good news: The Spirit of God heals our hearts,  
blessing us with grace as God works to transform our  
world into a realm of peace, joy, and freedom. **Amen**

Law of Love/Faithful living

\*Celtic Alleluia



**We listen to God**

Scripture reading

Acts 16.13-40 (NT page 119)

Anthem

*Come Find Rest* Joyful Noise Adult Choir

Sermon

*For the Sake of Freedom*

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

**We respond to God**

Affirmation of Faith

(*The Heidelberg Catechism*, Q & A #90)

Q. What is the rising-to-life of the new self?

**A. Wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a love  
and delight to live according to the will of God by  
doing every kind of good work.**

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

Wayside (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**

Installation of Deacon Pamela Ehrlich

**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

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing* (936)

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

*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.*

