

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Seventh Sunday of Easter with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

May 18: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

May 19: Girl Scouts meeting in the Education Building, 5PM

May 21: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

May 24: Sunday worship: Pentecost Sunday, 10:30AM. You are invited to wear red to worship to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

May 25: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

May 26: Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM

May 28: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium 6PM

May 31: Sunday worship: Trinity Sunday, 10:30AM

June 1: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

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

For God's support, strength, & comfort: Cheryl & Charlie A; John & Patti Wilson; 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

Facebook: Middletown Reformed Church

YouTube: MRC: A Fabulous Church of Love

Instagram: middletownreformednj

Spotify: Middletown Reformed Church podcast



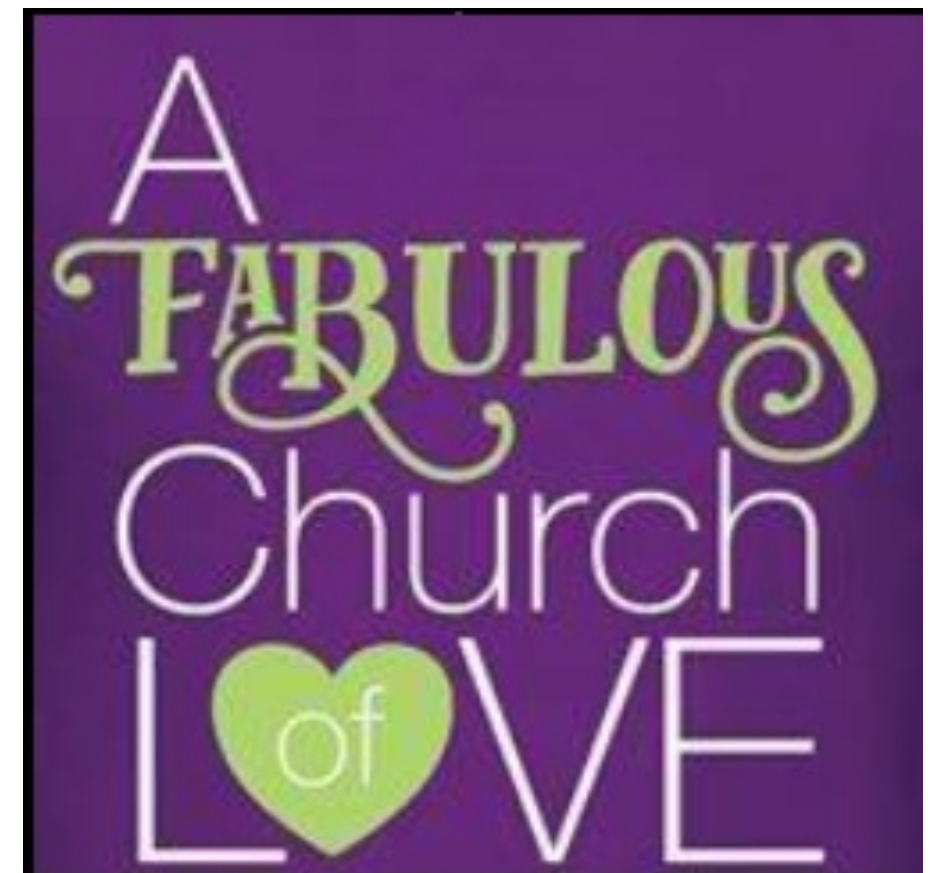
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

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 Kim Larson & Brenner Larson.
Our greeters next week are Dianne Asay & Pam Ehrlich.

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter

17 May 2026

We approach God

Prelude *Tomorrow*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages *He's Not Here* New Jericho Choir

Call to worship (from *Worship Ways*)

Leader: Watch and listen for the wonders of our God.

All: Our God is among us.

Watch and listen for the goodness of our God.

Our God moves among us.

Watch and listen, for God is here.

Our God dwells among us. Blessed be our God!

*Opening hymn *Christ, Be Our Light* (908)

Prayer of confession (adapted from *Worship Ways*)

All: God, the encourager, God, the compassionate, God, the merciful, holy, blessed: Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep. Lift us into your presence. Change us, move us, forgive us, mold us for the better; so that, at the sound of your voice, at the call of our name, we will never be the same. 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*)

Liturgist: Hear these words of comfort: To all who turn from sin, to all who turn to God in hope, this is God's word of grace: We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved. This gift we have from God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia



We listen to God

Scripture reading Philippians 2.1-11 (NT page 174)
Brenner Larson, liturgist

Anthem *Believer's Prayer* Joyful Noise Adult Choir

Sermon *Like-Minded* Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory *Tomorrow* (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

(All are welcome to the table of the Lord. Communion bread is free of gluten, dairy, soy, and eggs and the cup is grape juice).

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 *Let Justice Flow* (295)

*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.*

