

## Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Pentecost Sunday, 10:30AM

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

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

**May 31:** Sunday worship: Trinity Sunday, 10:30AM. Baptism of Leighton Francisco Lee

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

**June 7:** Sunday worship: Pride Sunday, **9:45AM (note earlier worship time)** After worship, we will march in the New Jersey Pride Parade

**June 8:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**June 8:** Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 6:30PM

**June 12:** Prime Time Day Care graduation event in the sanctuary, 6PM

**June 14:** Sunday worship: Children's Sunday, 10:30AM

## 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:** Donovan Mikula; Nancy Coffin; Jim D'Amico; Maureen; Adrienne B; Barbara Mannix; Tom Baldino; Jamie Zeller; 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 G

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



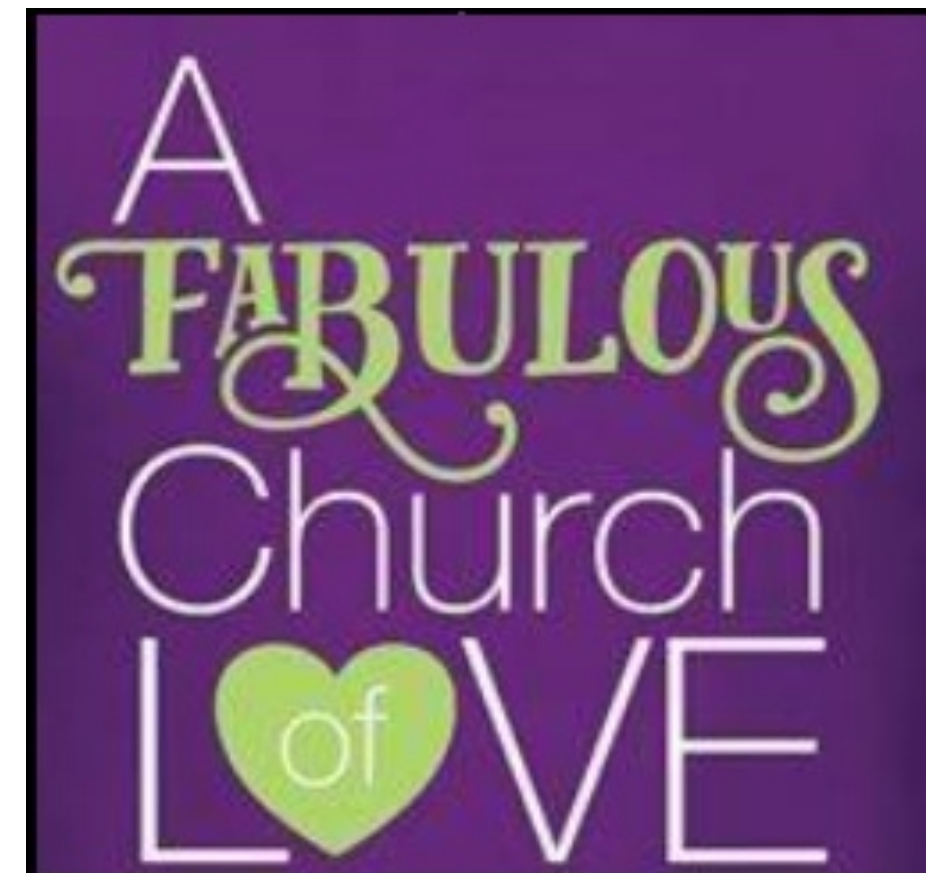
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to [www.mrchurch.us/give](http://www.mrchurch.us/give)

The flowers today are in memory of Frances & Alfred Ralph for their wedding anniversary that was May 22, from Lynn Ralph. 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 & Pam Ehrlich.  
Our greeters next week are Dolores Hofmann & Abbey Thorpe.

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

Pentecost Sunday 24 May 2026

## We approach God

Prelude *Arioso* Bach

## Votum & greeting

## Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from *unfoldinglight.net*)  
Denise Gaeta, liturgist

Leader: Breath of Life, raise us up.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Wind of Grace, carry us always.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Light of God, show us the way.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Spirit of God, make us one.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Flame of Love, send us forth.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come. Alleluia!**

Opening song *Salut D'Amour* Elgar

Prayer of confession (adapted from *Worship Ways*)

**All: Spirit of the Living God, draw us together into the place where your Spirit awaits us. Guide us in your direction so that as we gather, we experience the unity that comes from shared hope and mutual understanding. Fill us with more questions than answers, and forgive us when we refuse to open our minds to visions and dreams of a world transformed in your love and peace and infused with your hope and joy. For your name and glory, we pray for new life in you. 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: Body of Christ, the Spirit is with us as Comforter and Counselor. The Holy One will continue to demonstrate the way and amaze us with deeds of power and grace, strength and mercy, might and compassion. Receive the gift of forgiveness, unity in Christ, and transformation for the world through God's witness, justice, and love.

## Law of Love/Faithful living

### \*Celtic Alleluia



## We listen to God

Scripture reading Acts 2.1-21 (NT page 103)  
Philippians 4.4-9 (NT page 175)

Anthem *Romanze* Reger

Sermon *Holy Mischief is Alive & Well*  
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

## We respond to God

Affirmation of Faith (The Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A #53)

Q. What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

**A. First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God. Second, that the Spirit is given also to me, so that, through true faith, she makes me share in Christ and all his benefits through true faith, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.**

## Invitation to the offering

Offertory *Improvisation*

### \*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**

## 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 song *Go Light Your World*

### \*Benediction

## Postlude

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit*

A very special thank you to guest musician, Andrew Olenik, violin

*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.

