

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

July 8: Bayshore Lunch Program, 9:45AM

July 12: Sunday worship: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM

July 12: America 250 Revolutionary War Era Landmarks and Cemetery Tour on church property, 11:30AM

July 17: Summer Days backyard party at Coventry House, 7-9PM

July 19: Sunday worship: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

July 26: Sunday worship: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 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. 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: Brian Hegel; Eric Holderbaum; Joy Sheffield; Donovan Mikula; Jim D'Amico; Barbara Mannix; Tom Baldino; Jamie Zeller; Bob Bark; Diane Grady

For God's support, strength, & comfort: the Thorpe family; Cheryl & Charlie A; John & Patti Wilson; the Hertzog family; Mercedes' mother, Fran; Florence Horsman; Magdala; Fleming; Linda Goltz

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



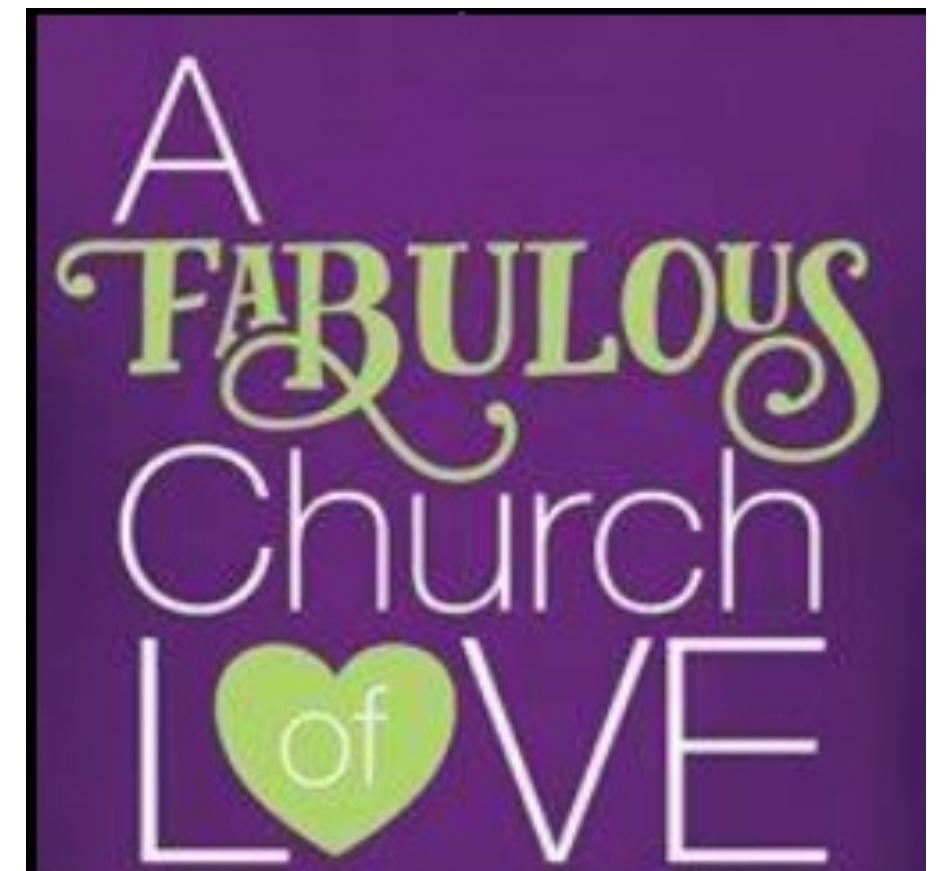
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

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 Dianne Asay & Kim Larson.
Our greeters next week are Dolores Hofmann & 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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

05 July 2026

We approach God

Prelude

Even If

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship

(from *unfoldinglight.net*)
Brenner Larson, liturgist

Leader: Eternal God, whose breath is the universe, whose Word is the world—

All: amazed, we praise you.

Creating God, who with delight and play, with wisdom and beauty fashions every creature—

in love, we thank you.

Loving God, you weave us into the great web of life, which is our shared home, our common body, our one belonging.

Grateful, we worship you.

*Opening hymn

Morning Has Broken (insert)

Prayer of confession

(adapted from *unfoldinglight.net*)

All: Gracious God, you have established your

Covenant with us, promising to be our God and calling us to be your people. Calm our anxious hearts and order our scattered lives by writing your Word on our hearts. Instill your ways in us, and restore in us the grace of your Covenant, so that we might worthily worship you by serving you, now and always, in the power of your Holy Spirit. 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

God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you. Take hold of this forgiveness and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus.

All: Amen

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia



We listen to God

Scripture reading

Genesis 1.31 – 2.3 (OT page 2)
Exodus 20.8-11 (OT page 62)

Anthem

Reason I Sing

Sermon

Your One Wild & Precious Life
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Paying attention to God

(*The Summer Day*, Mary Oliver)

Who made the world? Who made the swan, and the black bear? Who made the grasshopper? This grasshopper, I mean—the one who has flung herself out of the grass, the one who is eating sugar out of my hand, who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes. Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face. Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away. I don't know exactly what a prayer is. I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass, how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields, which is what I have been doing all day. Tell me, what else should I have done? Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon? Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

Even If (Reprise)

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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

For the Beauty of the Earth (19)

*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.

