

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: 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
August 2: Sunday worship: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30 AM. After worship, come to the Education Building for the 21st Annual Lt. Dennis W Zilinski, II Youth Group Memorial Scholarship BBQ & Picnic

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
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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

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



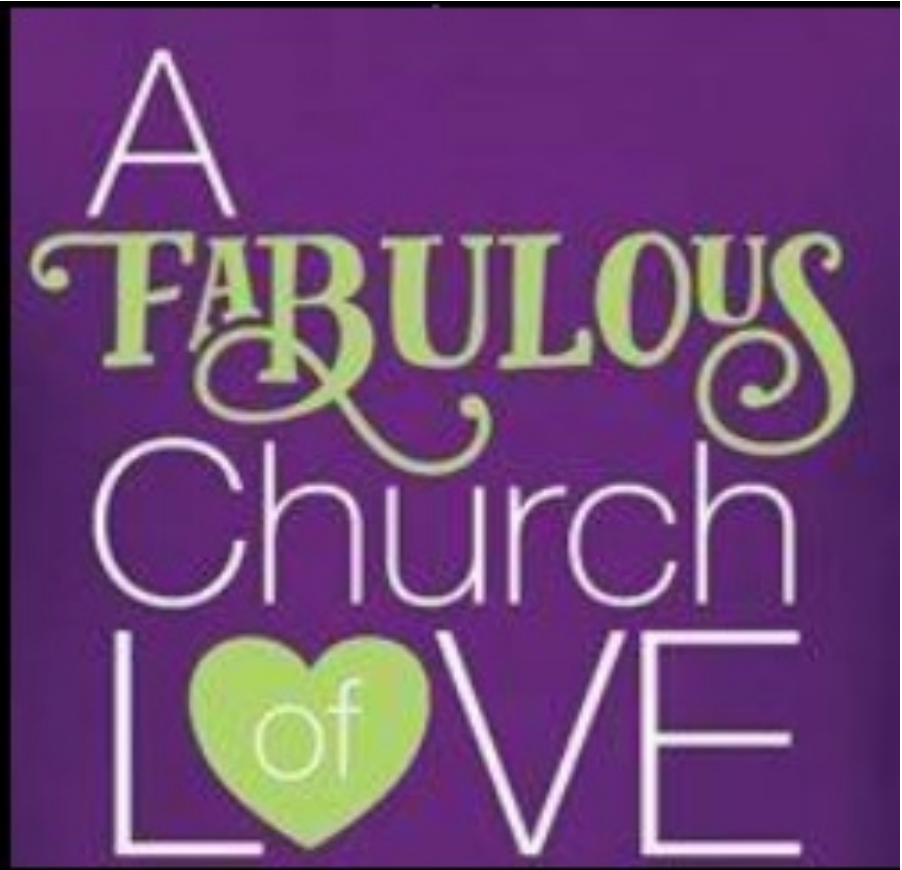
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

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 Dolores Hofmann & Jamie Zeller.
Our greeters next week are Pam Ehrlich & Dara Steele.

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 after Pentecost 12 July 2026

We approach God

Prelude I Can't Thank You Enough

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from Worship Ways)
Elder Jamie Zeller, liturgist

Leader: Creator God, may this be a day of hope,
All: of expectation, of relishing each moment as a gift from you.
Redeemer Jesus, may this be a day of freedom,
of breaking free, of putting down the burdens that still hinder us.
Comforter Spirit, may this be a day of peace,
of wholeness, of knowing that our lives are in your hands. May this be a day of joy, of blessing, of living in your world as a child of God.

*Opening hymn All Creatures of Our God and King
(551, v 1-3, 5)

Prayer of confession (adapted from unfoldinglight.net)
All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have separated ourselves from you, that we have not been mindful of your presence, trusted your guidance, or lived in your Spirit; and in our isolation we have lived hurtfully. We are sorry, and we repent. Forgive our sin, heal our hearts, and restore us in your grace. 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)
Beloved, rest in the assurance that the Holy One receives and responds to our prayers and offers the promise of renewed life. Through Christ, we are forgiven. Amen

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia



We listen to God

Scripture reading Psalm 145 (OT page 544)
Matthew 6.25-34 (NT page 5)

Anthem You Have Been There

Sermon Thanks for the World That Is Happening Again
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Paying attention to God (Mary Oliver, On Thy Wondrous Works I Will Meditate Psalm 145, #6, #8)
I would be good—oh, I would be upright and good. To what purpose? To be shining not sinful, not wringing out of the hours petulance, heaviness, ashes. To what purpose? Hope of heaven? Not that. But to enter the other kingdom: grace, and imagination, and the multiple sympathies: to be as a leaf, a rose, a dolphin, a wave rising slowly then briskly out of the darkness to touch the limpid air, to be God's mind's servant, loving with the body's sweet mouth—its kisses, its words—everything. Every morning I want to kneel down on the golden cloth of the sand and say some kind of musical thanks for the world that is happening again—another day—from the shawl of wind coming out of the west to the firm green flesh of the melon lately sliced open and eaten, its chill and ample body flavored with mercy. I want to be worthy—of what? Glory? Yes, unimaginable glory. O Lord of melons, of mercy, though I am not ready, nor worthy, I am climbing toward you.

Invitation to the offering

Offertory I Can't Thank You Enough (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

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 How Great Thou Art (553)

*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.*

