

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: Sunday worship: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost with the Baptism of Vivien Thornton O’Brien, 10:30 AM. After worship, come to the Education Building for the 21st Annual Lt. Dennis W Zilinski, II Youth Group Memorial Scholarship BBQ
August 9: Sunday worship: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 AM Deacons’ offering collected on this Sunday
August 12: Bayshore Lunch Program, 9:45AM
August 16: Sunday worship: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30AM
August 21 - 31: Pastor Trish on vacation
August 23: Sunday worship: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM, Denise Gaeta, preacher
August 25: Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM
August 29: Eldridge-Fallon End of Summer Backyard Party, 3PM @ 40 Melrose Terrace, Middletown

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: Mike Somma; Jane E; 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 Kim Larson & Beverly Bova Scarano.

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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 02 August 2026

We approach God

Prelude I’ve Witnessed It

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from unfoldinglight.net)
Elder Dolores Hofmann, liturgist

Leader: Holy Mystery, you hold this world in your hands.
All: The people, the places, are all in your heart.
We are your beloved, and we give you thanks.
The wholeness you wish for us you wish for all people.
We open our hearts to you as we worship.
Fill us with your love, that we may spread your love, in the name and the Spirit of Christ. Amen

*Opening hymn When Peace Like A River (451)

Prayer of confession (from unfoldinglight.net)
Leader: God of grace, we confess we are in need of healing.
All: Immerse us in your grace.
We are in need of forgiveness.
Immerse us in your grace.
We are in need of the faith to heal and to bless.
Immerse us in your grace.
Heal our hearts, forgive our sin, and empower us to live the fullness of your love, in the spirit of Christ, 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)
Blessed of God, receive God’s transformative and liberating grace. Be made new in Christ, and make a new way in mending broken relationships and forging new ones. Let the love of God be your guide and assurance that the One who is gracious and merciful, is good to all, and abundant in compassion remains near to you.

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

We listen to God

Scripture reading 2 Kings 5.1-14 (OT page 311)

Anthem I Got You

Sermon The God of Possibilities Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory I’ve Witnessed It (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 Baptism

Vivien Thornton O’Brien
Born: 04/19/2025
Parents: Mannis O’Brien and Mary Pavlu
Godparents: Katie Moy and Liam O’Brien

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 Amazing Grace (691, v4 a cappella)

*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.

