

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: 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
August 30: Sunday worship: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM, Angela Hank, preacher
September 6: Sunday worship: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30AM
September 9: Bayshore Lunch Program, 9:45AM
September 12: Woman’s Club of Middletown meeting in the Education Building, 11AM

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; 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

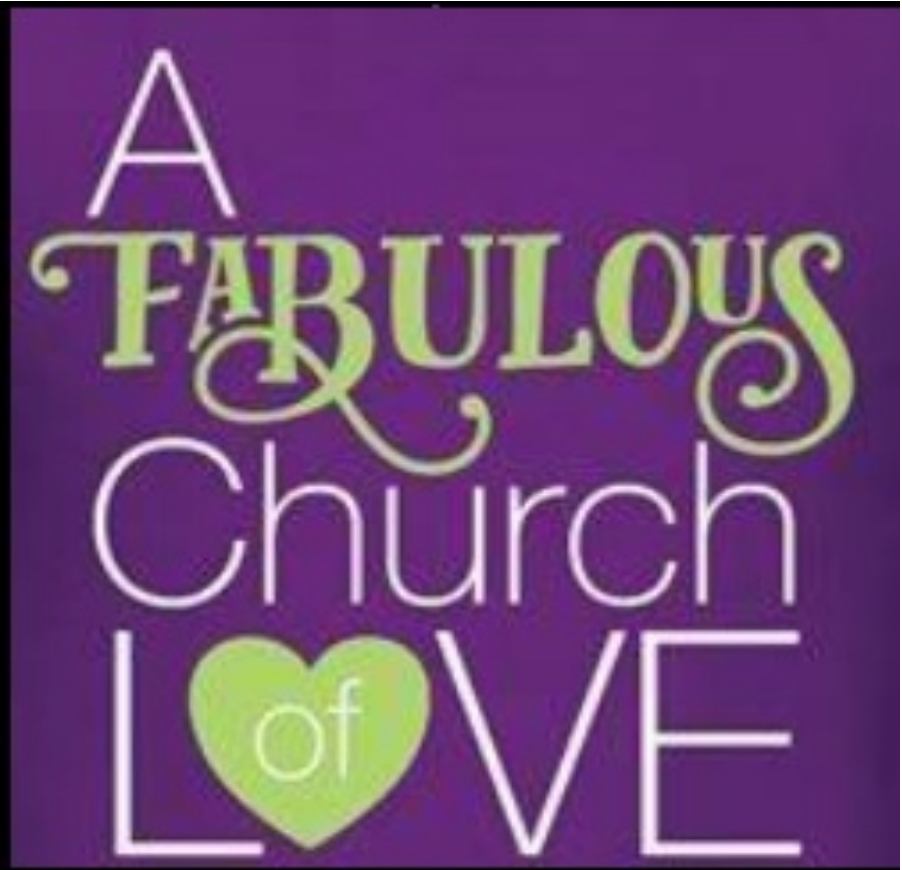


Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

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 Dianne Asay & Dara Steele.
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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 16 August 2026

We approach God

Prelude Eternally Loved

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from unfoldinglight.net)
Deacon Dara Steele, liturgist

Leader: God of Love, we have come by many arduous roads to this day in this place.
All: You have accompanied us. We have needed you.
And you have provided, sometimes in ways we did not see.
Still we are in your house, members of your family.
Still we are loved. So we praise you. We thank you. We worship you.

*Opening hymn Will You Come and Follow Me (742, v 1-4)

Prayer of confession (from unfoldinglight.net)
God of love, help us to see ourselves honestly, to see each moment we intend love, and each moment we intend otherwise. Trusting, by the grace of Christ, that you intend only love, we offer ourselves to you: receive us, forgive us, heal us, and perfect your love in us. 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 The Worship Sourcebook)
In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free. Receive the forgiving love of God and be free.
Thanks be to God.

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia

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

We listen to God
Centering Scripture Proverbs 4.5-9 (OT page 550)

Anthem Come To Jesus

Sermon What Will the Spirit Teach Us Today? Part 2
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God
Affirmation of Faith (adapted from A Wee Worship Book)
Leader: Because you made the world, and intended it to be a good place, and called its people your children; because, when things seemed at their worst, you came in Christ to bring out the best in us; so, gracious God, we gladly say:
All: Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, truth is stronger than lies.

Invitation to the offering

Offertory Eternally Loved (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
(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 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (730)

*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.

