

Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30AM

**September 9:** Bayshore Lunch Program, 9:45AM

**September 10:** Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

**September 12:** Woman’s Club of Middletown meeting in the Education Building, 11AM

**September 13:** Sunday worship: Rally Day, 10:30AM with a brunch to follow worship in the Education Building

**September 14:** Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 6:30PM

**September 15:** Girl Scout meeting in the Education Building, 5PM

**September 17:** Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

**September 20:** Sunday worship: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 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:** Dale Snyder; 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](http://www.mrchurch.us)  
**Facebook:** Middletown Reformed Church  
**YouTube:** MRC: A Fabulous Church of Love  
**Instagram:** middletownreformednj  
**Spotify:** Middletown Reformed Church podcast

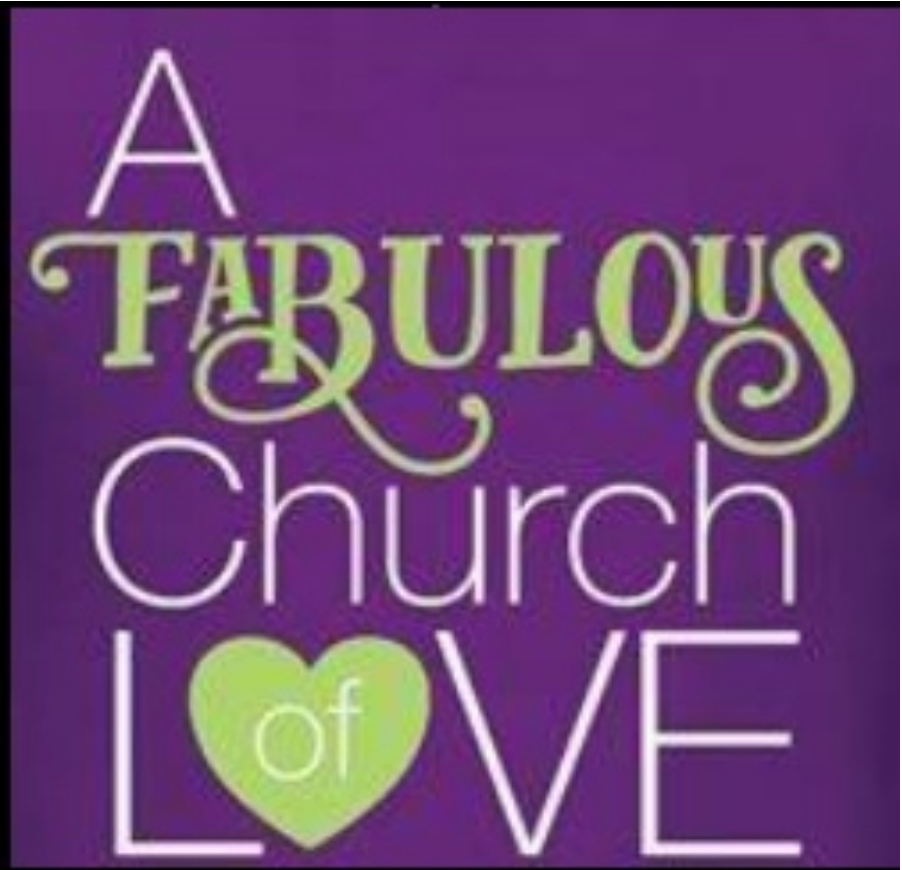


Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to [www.mrchurch.us/give](http://www.mrchurch.us/give)

The flowers today are 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 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

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 06 September 2026

We approach God

Prelude Wayside

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (adapted from unfoldinglight.net)  
Elder Jamie Zeller, liturgist

Leader: Loving God, you welcome us into the home of your heart.  
*All: We gladly enter your house, together with all your Beloved.*  
We find shelter in your love, and we feast upon your Word  
*May we always know our true food and rest to be in you.*

Bless us, that as we gather with one another, with all who follow Christ, we may be inspired and strengthened to offer your hospitality to others in your name.  
*Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, transform us by your grace. Amen*

\*Opening hymn All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (534)

Prayer of confession (adapted from Worship Ways)  
*Redeemer and Guide, we travel with you because you never leave us. Yet, sometimes we drift from the path of life you give us. Rather than holding fast to what is good, we compromise with evil. Rather than persevering in prayer, we dwell in anger and rage. Rather than sharing our blessings and pursuing hospitality, we hoard the resources you have given us to share. Help us to live in love and harmony with one another. Empower us to pursue peace for all and overcome evil with good, compassion, and hope in your name. 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, wherever we go becomes holy ground because the Holy One goes with us. Be firm in hope that God will meet us wherever we seek strength, encouragement, and the will to live in righteousness, justice, and peace. By the grace of the Holy One, all these things are possible in us and through us. *Amen*

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 Ephesians 5.15-20 (NT 172)

Anthem Any More

Sermon Chasing Wisdom  
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, preacher

We respond to God  
Invitation to the offering

Offertory Wayside (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 The Earth, with All That Dwell Therein (499)

\*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.

