

Calendar of events

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

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

September 21: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 4PM

September 22: Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM

September 23: Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM & 7PM
Study: Your Questions, Answered

September 24: Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

September 27: Sunday worship: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM

September 28: Middletown Arts Center fall classes start, 4PM

September 30: Adult Education in Coventry House, **10AM only**

October 1: Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

October 2-3: Rummage Sale in the Education Building, 9AM-3PM

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: Dale Snyder; Mike Somma; Jane E; Brian Hegel; Eric Holderbaum; Dolores Hofmann; 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
App: <https://tithe.ly/app/link/middletown-reformed-church>



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 & Pam Ehrlich.
Our greeters next week are Abbey Thorpe & 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). The per capita dues of \$7 for the New Jersey Association, UCC is also due. 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.

Total operating expense (08.31.2026): \$115,453.14
Income year to date (08.31.2026): \$114,859.79
Thank you for your generosity!

Middletown Reformed Church



A welcoming & affirming congregation

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, Pastor
Thomas Martucci, Director of Music
Julie Hertzog, Coordinator for Children & Youth

We approach God

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

Call to worship (adapted from *unfoldinglight.net*)
 Leader: Gracious Creator, you shower us with life, anew
 each day.

All: Risen Christ, your love beckons us to become your people.

Leader: Holy Spirit, you call us forth to shine with your light.

***All: We worship as we live, in gratitude and praise!
Amen***

***Opening hymn** *The God of Abraham Praise*
(39, v1-3)

Prayer of confession (adapted from *unfoldinglight.net*)
God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you. We have distrusted your providence and sought life elsewhere when we should have turned to you. We have feared for ourselves and held onto things when we should have shared. Forgive our sin, heal our fear, and wash us clean. Start us anew: remade by your grace, hungry for you alone, and ready to receive and to share your love in the name of Christ and 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 (adapted from *Worship Ways*)
Hear the great news: The Holy One is faithful to forgive
and extends grace and mercy lavishly. Believe this gospel
and go forward to live in peace. **Amen**

Law of Love/Faithful living

***Halle, Halle, Halle** (768)
Halle Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We listen to God

Scripture reading Genesis 12.1-9 (OT 9)

Anthem *Home In The Family Of God*

Sermon *When God Says “Go”*
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, preacher

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory *The Well* (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, 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** *Rejoice, O Pure in Heart* (353)

*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.

