Calendar of events

Saturdays: *Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM*
Today*: Sunday worship: Reign of Christ, 10:30AM*
Today*: Bayshore Ministerium Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4PM*
November 23*: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 4PM*
November 25*: Adult Education in Coventry House,* ***10AM only***
November 26*: Happy Thanksgiving! No Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal*
November 28*: Decorating of the sanctuary for Christmas, 11:30AM*
November 29*: Sunday worship: First Sunday of Advent — Hope, 10:30AM*
November 29*: Trimming of the Church Family Christmas Tree during coffee hour*
November 30*: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 4PM*
December 2*: Adult Education in Coventry House (10AM) and on Zoom (6PM)*

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: Kathy Miles; John Coffin; Tara Nesci; Chris Coll; Dale Snyder; Jane E; Eric Holderbaum; Dolores Hofmann; Barbara Mannix; Tom Baldino; Bob Bark; Diane Grady
For God's support, strength, & comfort: the Swanson family; the Thorpe family; the Hertzog family; Mercedes' mother, Fran; Florence Horsman; Joy Sheffield; 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://tithely.app.link/middletown-reformed-church*

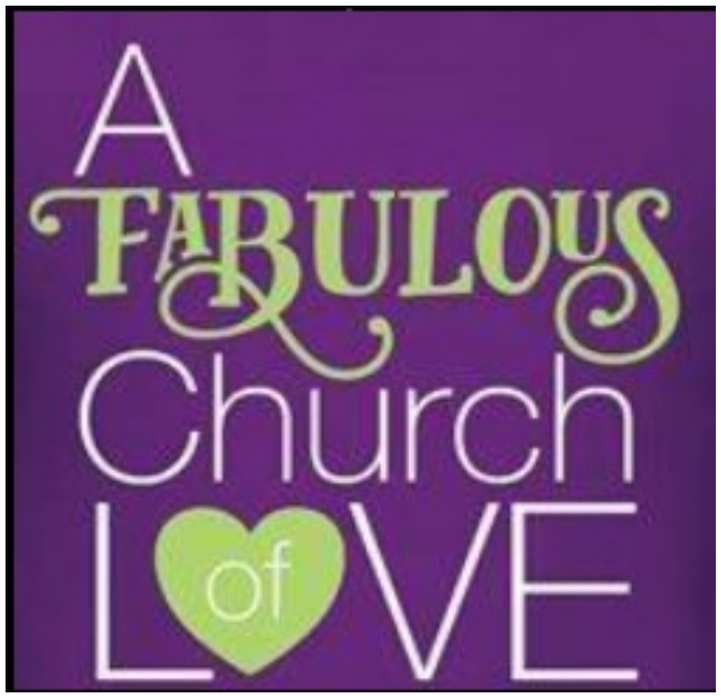
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

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 & Dolores Hofmann.
Our greeters next week are Dara Steele & 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.

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

Reign of Christ Sunday **22 November 2026**

We approach God

Prelude *The Jesus Way*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from *unfoldinglight.net*)
Dominick Caddle, liturgist

Leader: From the Spirit who was, the Rock who is, and the Strong One yet to come, grace and peace to you!
All: To the Love that reigns over us, the love that walks beside us and the love that guides us from within, be praise and thanksgiving!
We come before God with humble joy, that we may learn to obey the Sovereign of Love, the Ruler of mercy.
Alleluia! Let us worship God.

***Opening hymn** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (601)

Prayer of confession (from *unfoldinglight.net*)
All: Gentle God, we confess that we have not allowed you to rule our lives. We have strained against your grace, and sought our own ways, and obeyed impulses not of your Spirit. Forgive us, and return us, so that your grace may rule in our lives. Sovereign God, your will be done. 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*)
Community of faith, let us receive God's grace to strive boldly for justice, pursue God's peace, and live in righteousness. Let us live the promise of new life collectively as we witness to God's goodness and mercy in hope of a new era of abundance and flourishing for all. Amen

Law of Love/Faithful living Colin Russo, liturgist

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

We listen to God

Scripture reading Isaiah 2:1-4 (OT page 591)
Brenner Larson, liturgist
Matthew 25.31-46 (NT page 25)
Olivia Hertzog, liturgist

Anthem *Voice Of A Savior*

Sermon *How the Reign Comes*
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, preacher

We respond to God

Affirmation of Faith (from *The Belhar Confession*)
We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Invitation to the offering

Offertory *The Jesus Way* (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** *O God of Every Nation* (282)

***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.