

## Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Fifth Sunday of Easter with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

**May 4:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**May 7:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

**May 9:** Color Your World painting event in the Education Building, 9:30AM. Come and paint rocks/murals for our Community Garden

**May 9:** Woman's Club of Middletown meeting in the Education Building, 11AM

**May 10:** Sunday worship: Sixth Sunday of Easter with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

**May 11:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

**May 11:** Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 6:30PM

**May 13:** Bayshore Lunch Program, 9:45AM

**May 14:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 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](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:** Nancy Coffin; Jim D'Amico; Dolores Hofmann; Maureen; Adrienne B; Barbara Mannix; Tom Baldino; Jamie Zeller; Diana Vitollo; Stephanie; Bob Bark; Henry Thorpe; Diane Grady

**For God's support, strength, & comfort:** John & Patti Wilson; the family of Linda Grasso (Cindy & Lloyd); the Hertzog family; Mercedes' mother, Fran; Florence Horsman; Magdala; Fleming; Linda

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



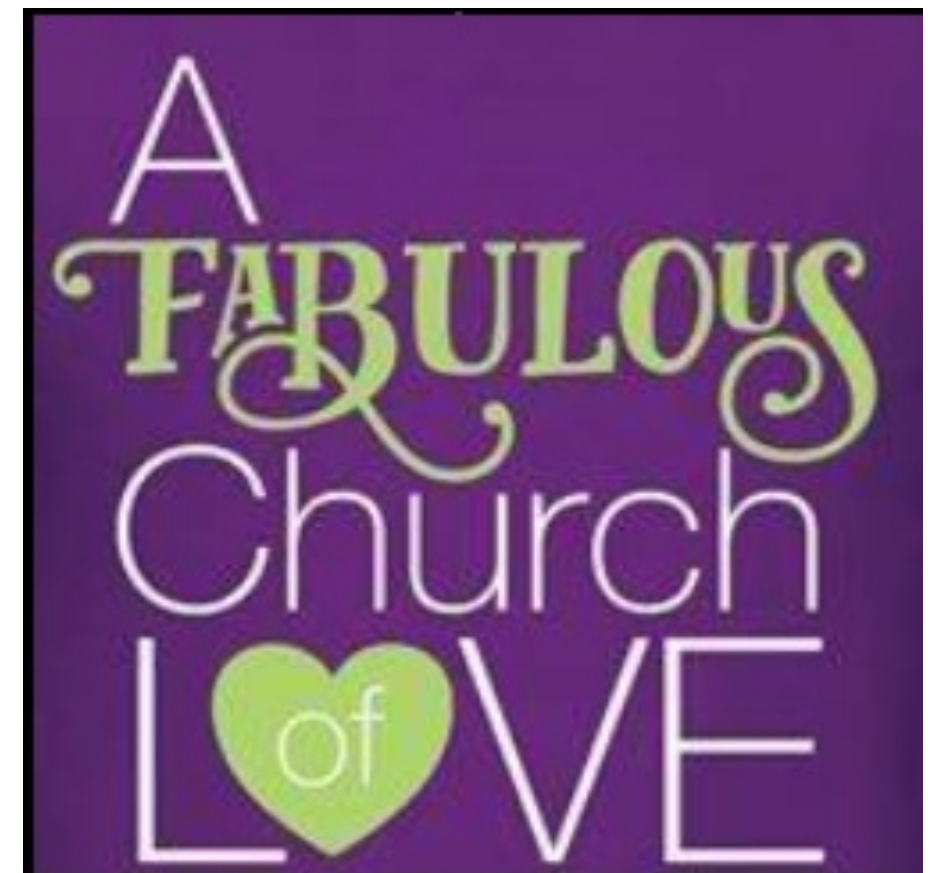
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to [www.mrchurch.us/give](http://www.mrchurch.us/give)

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 Abbey Thorpe & Jamie Zeller.  
Our greeters next week are Pam Ehrlich & Dolores Hofmann.

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

03 May 2026

## We approach God

Prelude

*King Of My Heart*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

Call to worship

(adapted from *unfoldinglight.net*)  
Deacon Abbey Thorpe, liturgist

Leader: God, in you we live and move and have our being.

**All: We are your children, and we praise you.**

You never leave us or forsake us, but Christ comes to us and dwells with us.

**We are your Beloved, and we thank you.**

You are in us, and we are in you, and your Spirit works through us.

**We are your Body, and we worship you.**

\*Opening hymn

*Come, You Thankful People, Come*  
(473)

Prayer of confession

(adapted from *Worship Ways*)

**All: Loving God, in Christ we see the fulfillment of your promise to be with us always. Forgive us when we lose faith in your compassion for each other and all creation. Help us to see the great sacrifice of the Risen Christ as an example of your undying love for us all. Strengthen us to do better and to become better together in our relationship with you and each other. 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*)

Chosen of God, receive the mercy of God, who calls you from despair into hope, from suffering into repair, from hopelessness into resolve. The Holy One journeys with you. Grace is available for you. Know that your prayers are met by the Spirit, and Christ will lead the way to life and love everlasting on earth as in heaven. **Amen**

Law of Love/Faithful living

\*Celtic Alleluia



**We listen to God**

Scripture reading

Acts 17.16-31 (NT page 120)

Anthem

*Any More*

Sermon

*Who's That God?*

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

**We respond to God**

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

*King Of My Heart* (reprise)

\*Doxology

**From all that dwell below the skies; Let faith and hope with love arise. Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung; Through every land, by every tongue! 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

*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.*

