

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: Sunday worship: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM
August 2: Sunday worship: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost with the Baptism of Vivien Thornton O’Brien, 10:30 AM. After worship, come to the Education Building for the 21st Annual Lt. Dennis W Zilinski, II Youth Group Memorial Scholarship BBQ
August 9: Sunday worship: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 AM Deacons’ offering collected on this Sunday
August 12: Bayshore Lunch Program, 9:45AM
August 16: 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

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: Jen Barradale; Mike Somma; Jane E; Brian Hegel; Eric Holderbaum; Joy Sheffield; Donovan Mikula; Jim D’Amico; 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

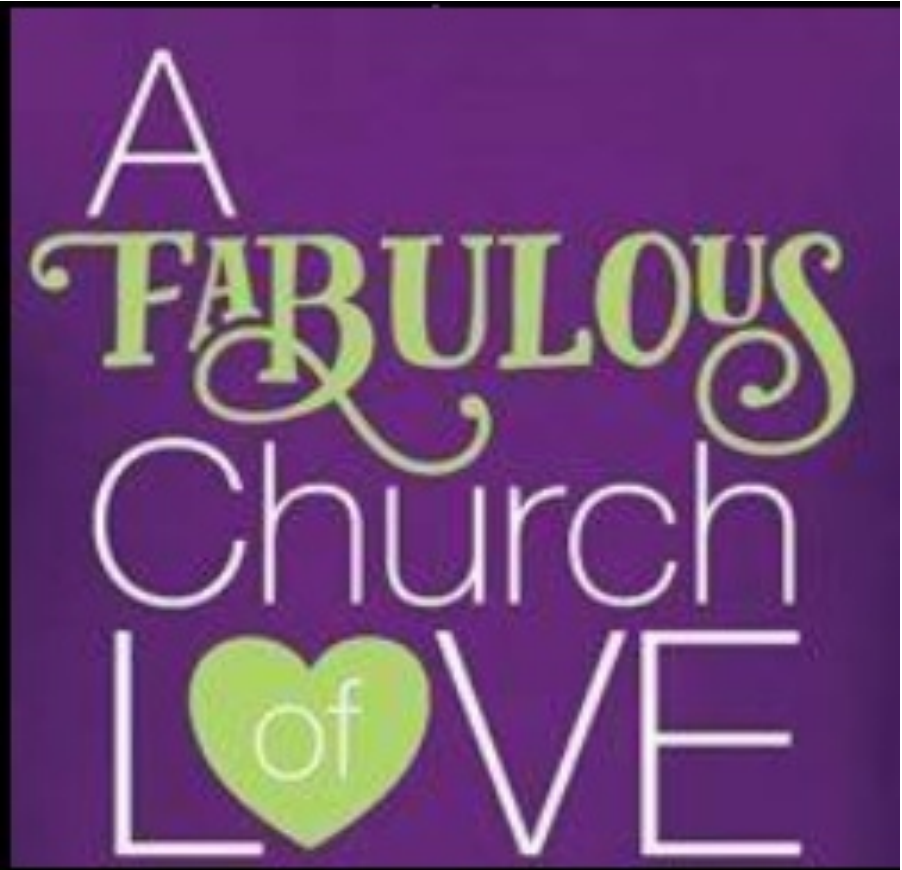


Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

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 Beverly Bova Scarano & Abbey Thorpe.
Our greeters next week 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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 26 July 2026

We approach God

Prelude When We Pray

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (adapted from Worship Ways)
AnnaRose Rotondi, liturgist

Leader: Give thanks to the Holy One. Make God’s deeds known among the peoples.

All: We call upon the name of the Holy One!

Give thanks to the Holy One. Tell of all God’s wonderful works!

We sing praises and remember the wonderful works and miracles!

Give thanks to the Holy One. Glory in God’s holy name!

We seek the Holy One, and our hearts rejoice! Praise the Holy One!

*Opening hymn Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (521)

Prayer of confession (from Worship Ways)

All: Glorious God, may your face shine upon us. Teach us your ways so that we may live in peace, justice, and righteousness. Keep our way steady and directed toward you. Remove the hold of oppression and evil from among your people. Transform our hearts and minds so that we might reflect your goodness and love in the world. 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)
Followers of Jesus, by the power of Love and Spirit, receive the opportunity to redeem and repair every mistake, every passive participation, every deliberate action that has caused harm. Receive God’s forgiveness in order to be released to make things right. Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia



We listen to God

Scripture reading Psalm 150 (OT page 546)

Anthem Sing

Sermon One Big Hallelujah Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Paying attention to God (Mary Oliver, Six Recognitions of the Lord excerpts)

Of course I have always known you are present in the clouds, and the black oak I especially adore, and the wings of birds. But you are present too in the body, listening to the body, teaching it to live, instead of all that touching, with disembodied joy. We do not do this easily. We have lived so long in the heavens of touch, and we maintain our mutability, our physicality, even as we begin to apprehend the other world. Slowly we make our appreciative response. Slowly appreciation swells to astonishment. And we enter the dialogue of our lives that is beyond all understanding or conclusion. It is mystery, It is love of God. It is obedience. Oh, feed me this day, Holy Spirit, with the fragrance of the fields and the freshness of the oceans which you have made, and help me to hear and to hold in all dearness those exacting and wonderful words of our Lord Jesus Christ, saying: *Follow me.*

Invitation to the offering

Offertory When We Pray (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 Lift Every Voice and Sing (44 v 1,3)

*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.

