

Calendar of events

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

Today: 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

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 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. 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



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 Kim Larson & Abbey Thorpe.

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

Rally Day 13 September 2026

We approach God

Prelude Welcome Home

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages Rally Day Praise Medley
New Jericho Choir

Call to worship (adapted from Lift Up Your Hearts)
AnnaRose Rotondi, liturgist

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, sun of righteousness, in a world that so often seems cold and heartless, your grace breaks in with warmth and light.
All: How grateful we are, beautiful Jesus, for the privilege of your call to us to reflect this warmth and light as mirrors of your grace. May we reflect this light in worship and when we leave your house, so that many will see it and bring praise to you, the true light of the world. Amen

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

Prayer of confession (adapted from unfoldinglight.net)
Gracious God, we are your beloved, your treasure. But in the clutter of our lives, in the wildernesses of this world, we have gotten lost. Come to us, God. In the darkest parts of our hearts, find us. Find us, forgive us, and bring us home to you. Let us shine again in your presence. 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 (from Worship Ways)
Hear the word of God for this season and all seasons: “Do not be afraid! I will never leave you or forsake you.” Know that our God who began a good work in us is able to complete it. As we open ourselves to the Spirit of God, may we see more fully the wonder of God already at work in us. And so it is. 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 6:5-22; 8:1-12; 9:8-17 (OT 5)

Anthem Be Strong Joyful Noise Choir

Sermon A God Who Remembers
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, preacher

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory Welcome Home (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

Receiving of our light

Blessing of the backpacks 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 Christ, Be Our Light (908)

*Benediction
The Lord bless you and keep you/Make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you/The Lord turn his face toward you, and give you peace. Amen

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.

