

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: Sunday worship: Blessing of the Animals, 10:30AM
October 12: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 4PM
October 12: Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 6:30PM
October 14: Bayshore Lunch Program, 9:45AM
October 14: Adult Education in Coventry House, 6PM only
October 15: Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM
October 17: Garden Group work party, 9AM
October 18: Sunday worship: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM Sunday brunch to follow worship in the Education Building
October 18: Red Bank CROP Walk, 2PM
October 19: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 4PM
October 20: Girl Scout meeting in the Education Building, 5PM
October 21: Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM & 6PM
October 22: Joyful Noise 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: Angela Hank; Chris Coll; 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; 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://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 in praise of God's creation
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 Beverly Bova Scarano & Dara Steele.

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

Middletown Reformed Church

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

Blessing of the Animals11 October 2026

We approach God

PreludeHave You Met My Jesus

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship(from unfoldinglight.net)
Elder Jamie Zeller, liturgist

Leader: Eternal God, whose breath is the universe, whose Word is the world—
All: amazed, we praise you.
Creating God, who with delight and play, with wisdom and beauty fashions every creature—
in love, we thank you.
Loving God, you weave us into the great web of life, which is our shared home, our common body, our one belonging.
Grateful, we worship you.

*Opening hymnAll Creatures of Our God and King
(551 or insert, v 1-4)

Prayer of confession(from Worship Ways)
Holy One, we acknowledge that you have modeled a way of being in the world that we struggle to adopt. You invite us to love the neighbor we do not know and the enemy that we do. You encourage us to prioritize the marginalized and center the oppressed even when our own needs overwhelm us. You invite us into your kin-dom, and the cost of discipleship sometimes seems to be more than we can afford. Holy One, we need strength and hope for the journey. Let your surpassing peace enable us to pursue a worthy and pleasing life. 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: Siblings in Christ, the Holy One is near and responds to your prayer. In Christ Jesus, you are forgiven. 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 readingGenesis 2.18-20a (OT 2)
Psalm 104.14-30 (OT 518)

AnthemCome Follow MeJoyful Noise Choir

SermonThe Story of Scootaloo
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, preacher

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

OffertoryHave You Met My Jesus(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

Blessing of the Animals(Steve Garnaas-Holmes)
O Holy One, your Word has been from the beginning, and all things have been created through your Word. You have spoken us into being, the words of your love. We give thanks that you are not a retired creator, but still creating: galaxies still form; life emerges; varieties evolve, all by your grace. All of us, humans and mountains, whales and stars, are one in this mysterious work of Creation. We honor you by singing in this great chorus, dancing in this sacred dance, belonging in this holy Body. By your Spirit heighten our awe; deepen our reverence; tune our harmony with your sacred work. We who are your handiwork, your art, your creating, praise you in our being; we reveal you in our beauty; and we serve you by serving this Creation, that the Body of Christ may be whole, and flourish with abundant life. Amen

*Closing hymnAll Things Bright and Beautiful
(20 or insert)

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.

