

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM.

September 23: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM.

September 24: Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM.

September 25: Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM and 7PM. Study: Who Was Jesus and Who Did He Become? Tracing the impact of Jesus on cultural, political, social, and economic history.

September 26: NO Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal.

September 28: Middletown Day at Croydon Hall, 1-6PM.

September 29: Handbell Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 9:30AM.

September 29: Sunday worship: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM.

September 30: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM.

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.

Consistory

Elders

Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary
Angela Hank
Peter Larson, Clerk
Lisa Leidecker, Vice President
Dan Pannebaker
Cindy Reya, Co-treasurer
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President

Deacons

Pamela Ehrlich, Co-treasurer
Julie Hertzog
Taralynn VanBrunt, Alternate Clerk
Jamie Zeller

In our prayers

For the healing journey: Chris Coll; Diane Grady; James Madden; Mercedes' mother Fran; Aris Moles; Wills P; Donna R; James S; Tom Smigel; Nancy Spayd; Steve Stalgaitis; Nicole Stavola

For God's support, strength, & comfort: Erin; Pastor Lou LaFazia and his wife, Karen; Linda Grasso; Harper; Jinny Millward; Linda Millward; Patty Pannebaker; Valerie

For God's guidance: Community Church of Keyport; Matthew J

Please continue to remember all those who have served our country, especially those who are serving: David Celeste & Joseph Petrone, United States Air Force; Michael Howlett & Lloyd Petrone, United States Marine Corps; Matthew Zilinski, United States Army

Social media

Website: www.mrchurch.us

Facebook: Middletown Reformed Church

YouTube: MRC: A Fabulous Church of Love

Instagram: [middletownreformednj](https://www.instagram.com/middletownreformednj)

Spotify: Middletown Reformed Church podcast



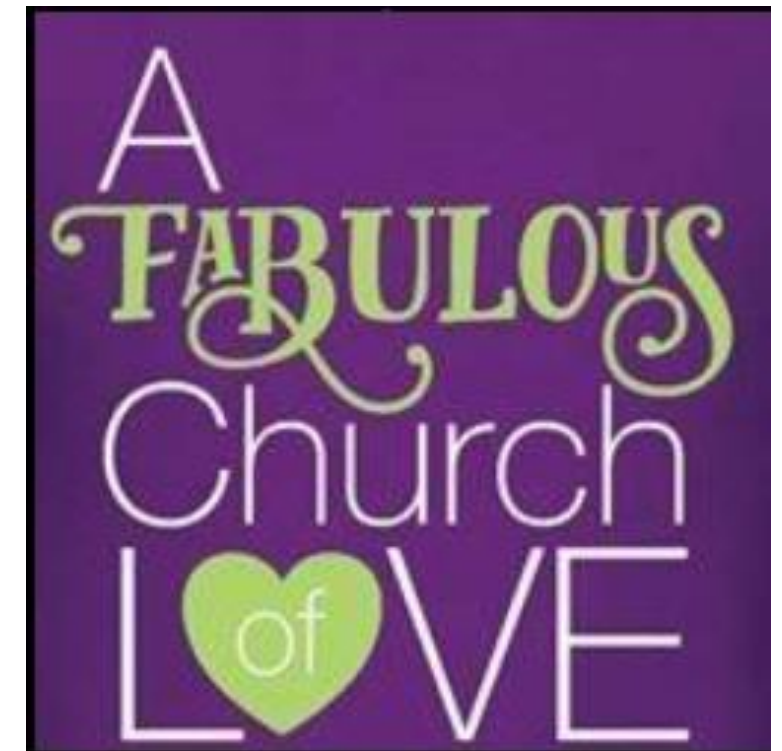
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities.

The flowers today are given by 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 Cindy Reya & Jamie Zeller.
Our greeters next week will be Pamela Ehrlich & Taralynn Van Brunt.

Our 2024 RCA Annual Denominational Assessment of \$112 per member is due. The total amount for the year is \$6,580.00, which the church pays on a quarterly basis. This assessment supports the work of our Classis, Regional Synod, and ½ of the General Synod. The per capita dues of \$7 for the United Church of Christ is also due. **Total amount for both RCA and UCC is \$119 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 treasurers 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*
Dan Pannebaker, *Worship Leader*
Julie Hertzog, *Coordinator for Children & Youth*

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
22 September 2024

We approach God

Prelude *Jesus You Are*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from unfoldinglight.net)

Elder Lisa Leidecker, liturgist

Liturgist: Creator God, we praise you

All: Risen Christ, we greet you!

Liturgist: Holy Spirit, we are one body by your grace.

All: Blessed are those whose delight is in the Word of God. They are like trees planted by streams of water, who bear fruit in season, and whose leaves do not wither.

Liturgist: Grant us the gift of gentleness born of wisdom.

All: God, we draw near to you, who draw near to us. We root ourselves in you. We worship you.

***Opening hymn** *For the Beauty of the Earth* (19)

Prayer of confession (from *Worship Ways*)

All: Holy Love, we confess that too often we become fixated with our position in the world. We love the exercise of our own power and exert it over others rather than for the benefit of the common good and your kingdom. Transform our hearts to crave you as the source of our power and love the only good and fulfilling demonstration of it. Make us your instruments of peace, joy, and hope in the world and agents of new 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 (from *Worship Ways*)

Liturgist: Hear these hopeful words, you who are image bearers of the divine: Grace and mercy follow you in anticipation of your repentance. Turn toward the ways of justice and righteousness. Let Wisdom guide you and Holy Love use you for the glory of God and the blessing of our neighbors in humanity and in creation.

Law of love/Faithful living

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

***Halle, Halle**

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

We listen to God

Scripture reading

Genesis 37.3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50.15- 21

(OT page 31, 44)

Deacon Jamie Zeller, liturgist

Anthem

The God You Are

Sermon *I Am So Jealous!* Elder Angela Hank, preacher

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory *The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear* (594)

***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

The 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**

Christ, We Climb with You the Mountain (131)

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*