

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Baptism of the Lord, 10:30AM. Dan Pannebaker, preacher.

January 13: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM.

January 13: Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 7PM.

January 15: Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM & 7PM.

Study: Who Was Jesus and Who Did He Become? Tracing the impact of Jesus on cultural, political, social, and economic history.

January 16: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6:30PM.

January 19: Handbell Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium.

January 19: New Member classes in the Education Building, 9AM.

January 19: Sunday worship: Second Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30AM.

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

This notice serves as an official Call to Meeting for the Annual Congregational Meeting of Middletown Reformed Church to be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 after worship.

The following people have been nominated by the congregation of Middletown Reformed Church to serve on Consistory beginning March 2025. The single slate was approved by the Consistory on December 9, 2024, for the vote of the congregation on January 26, 2025.

To the Office of Deacon: Nicole Caddle & Kim Larson

In our prayers

For the healing journey: Chris Coll; Mercedes' mother Fran; Aris Moles; James S; Tom Smigel; Nancy Spayd; Steve Stalgaitis; Nicole Stavola

For God's support, strength, & comfort: Erin; Linda Grasso; Harper; Jinny Millward; Linda Millward; Carol Murphy; Patty Pannebaker; Dave Raynor; 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

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 Dolores & Bob Hofmann in honor of their son Steven's 60th birthday.

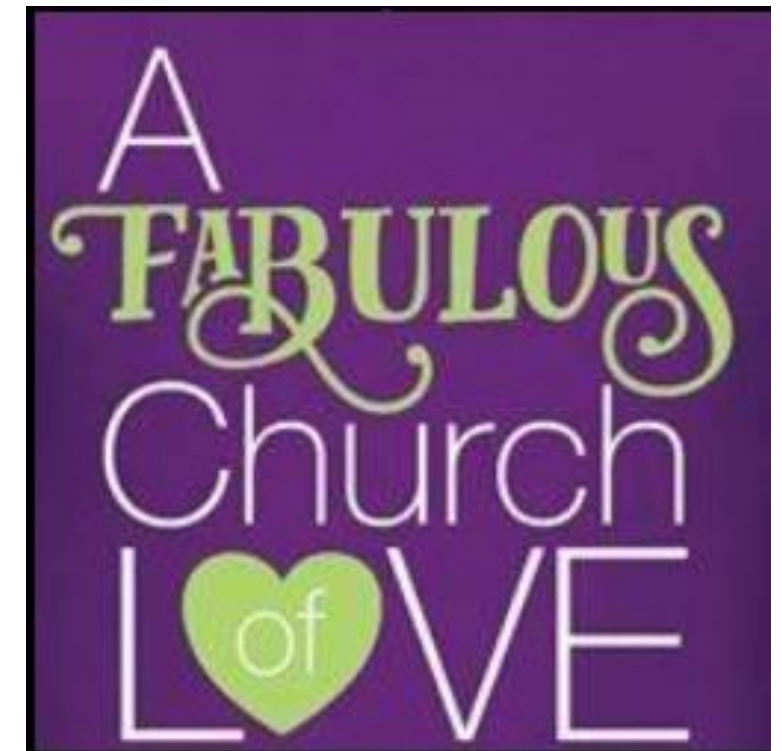
If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, contact Dolores Hofmann at 732.671.9308. The cost is \$25.

Our greeters today are Lisa Leidecker & Cindy Reya.

Our greeters next week will be Angela Hank & Taralynn Van Brunt.

Our 2025 RCA Annual Denominational Assessment of \$107.10 per member is due. The total amount for the year is \$5,569.55, which the church pays on a quarterly basis (\$1,392.39). This assessment supports the work of our Classis, Regional Synod, and 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 \$114.10 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*

Baptism of the Lord 12 January 2025

We approach God

Prelude *The Well*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to Worship (adapted from unfoldinglight.net, based on Isaiah 43.1-4; Luke 3.22) Olivia Hertzog, liturgist
Liturgist: Thus says God, who created you: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”

All: Creator God, we greet you!

Liturgist: “You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.”

All: Christ, Love of God, we thank you!

Liturgist: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you”

All: Holy Spirit, be with us now and always!

Liturgist: Alleluia!

All: May we be your Beloved, in whom you are well pleased. Alleluia!

***Opening hymn**

As With Gladness Men of Old (105, v 1-4)

Prayer of confession (adapted from Jill J Duffield)

All: Merciful God, there is nothing we can say or do that you do not already know about us. We hold back that which we think we ought not acknowledge about ourselves as if we could keep secrets from the One who created and redeemed us. Today, we pour out our heart to you in the sure and certain promise of your mercy and your will to transform. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Forgive and free us so that we can sing your praise. 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*)

Liturgist: The God who counts our days knows us intimately, loves us abundantly, and abides with us relentlessly. Receive the brand-new mercies of this day. Hold the love of God closely, firmly, and freely. Transformation, grace, and new life is assured this day.

Law of love/Faithful living

***Halle, Halle** (768)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

We listen to God

Scripture reading Luke 3:1-22 (NT page 52)

Anthem *New Creation*

Sermon *Hear the Good News*
Elder Dan Pannebaker, preacher

Affirmation of faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A #66

Liturgist: What are sacraments?

All: Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them God might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and seal that promise. And this is God’s gospel promise: to grant us forgiveness of sins and eternal life by grace because of Christ’s one sacrifice accomplished on the cross.

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory *Happy Is the One* (712)

***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**

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (104)

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*