

## Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Third Sunday after Epiphany with the Annual Congregational Meeting, 10:30AM.

**January 27:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:3 PM.

**January 28:** Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM.

**January 29:** 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 30:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6:30PM.

**February 2:** Handbell Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium.

**February 2:** Sunday worship: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM. First Sunday brunch to follow worship in the Education Building. A free-will offering will be collected to support the ministries of the church.

## 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:** Angela Hank & Lisa VanSavage as they grieve the loss of Christine; Erin; Linda Grasso; Harper; Jinny Millward; Linda Millward; Carol Murphy; Patty Pannebaker; Dave Raynor; Valerie

**For God's guidance:** Community Church of Keyport

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](http://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 loving memory of Dolores' mother, Jean.

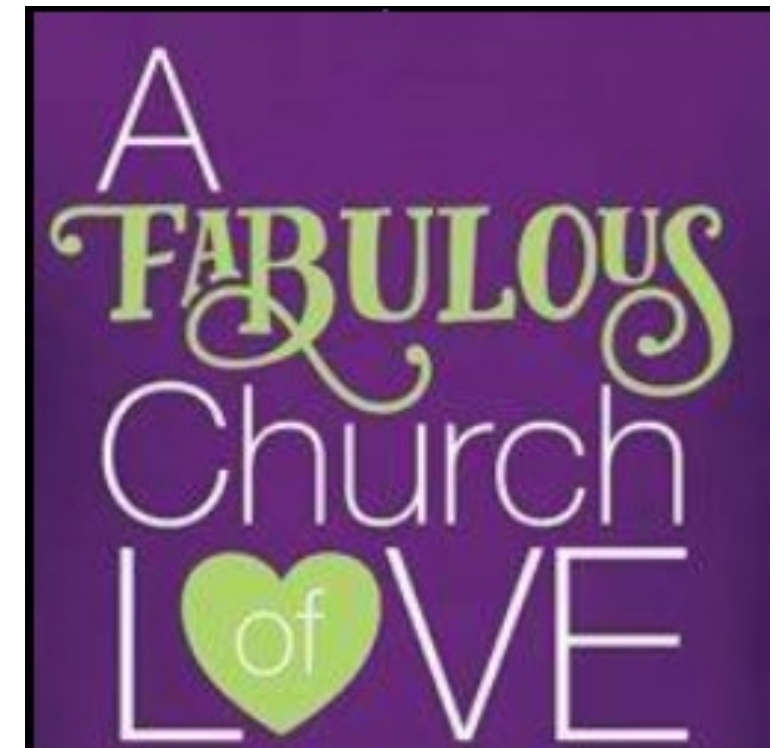
If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, contact Dolores Hofmann at 732.671.9308. The cost is \$25.

Our greeters today are Dianne Asay & Taralynn Van Brunt.

Our greeters next week will be Taralynn Van Brunt & Jamie Zeller.

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*

Third Sunday after Epiphany                      26 January 2025

### We approach God

Prelude    *Home in the Family of God*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship                                      (from *Worship Ways*)

Taralynn Van Brunt, liturgist

Liturgist: The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

**All: We gather to hear God's liberating word of love.**

Liturgist: Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

**All: May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.**

Liturgist: May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

**All: And may it be enacted in our lives!**

\*Opening hymn

*You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*                      (116)

Prayer of confession                                      (from *The Worship Sourcebook*)

**Holy and gracious God, your thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are your ways our ways. You see beyond our faults, our pettiness, our fears, our reluctance to love, and our lack of faith, and you forgive us – you always forgive us, and say, “Do not fear.” Have mercy on us now, renew a right Spirit within us, and may your Spirit of freedom sustain us. 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: Beloved, the call of God, like God's own grace, is new every day. Let us go forward with eyes and ears and hearts open to the work of God in our world, and draw on the courage to create with God a just world for all.

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 5:1-11 (NT page 54)

Sermon                      *The Inner Child's Gift*      Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

**We respond to God**

Invitation to the offering

Offertory                      *O God, Who Gives to Mankind*      (274)

\*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                                      *Here I Am, Lord* (869)

\*Benediction

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

