

## Activities for this week

*Let's go birding! Take a pad of paper and pencil (and some binoculars if you can), and write down the birds you see or hear in a nearby park, forest, or wetland. Then bring the list home and look up how far the migrators have traveled!*

*Conversation Starter: How do you want your body to be treated when you die? Have you ever experienced someone close to you dying? What was it like?*

*Using a bird migration tracker app, learn how many birds are passing over your area every night this week. Share a prayer for their safety, and reflect on the amazing journeys happening all around us.*

*Watch the five-minute short film, "Nightsongs" (find it by searching "SALT Nightsongs").*

*Make some bird-inspired snacks this week, like "birdseed" trail mix (nuts, seeds, and dried fruit) or cookies shaped like nests with eggs.*

## Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Fifth Sunday in Lent with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 10:30AM.

**April 7:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM.

**April 8:** Final Soup & Scripture in the Education Building with Pastor Trish, 12:30PM. Please RSVP to Pastor Trish for this event.

**April 9:** Bayshore Lunch Program volunteer opportunity, 9:45AM.

**April 10:** Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6:30PM.

**April 12:** Woman's Club of Middletown meeting in the Education Building, 11:30AM.

**April 13:** Sunday worship: Palm Sunday with New Members Joining, 10:30AM. Sunday brunch to follow worship in the Education Building. A free-will offering will be collected to support the ministries of the church.

## Consistory

### Elders

Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary  
Lisa Leidecker, Vice President  
Dan Pannebaker, Alternate Clerk  
Cindy Reya, Treasurer  
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President

### Deacons

Julie Hertzog  
Kim Larson  
Dara Steele  
Taralynn VanBrunt, Clerk

## In our prayers

**For the healing journey:** Chris Coll; Mercedes' mother Fran; Aris Moles; Maggie O'Brien; James S; Beverly Scarano; Tom Smigel; Nancy Spayd; Nicole; Steve Stalgaitis

**For God's support, strength, & comfort:** Angela Hank & Lisa VanSavage as they grieve the loss of Christine; Dan Pannebaker & his family as they grieve the loss of Patty Pannebaker; Linda Grasso; Harper; Jinny Millward; Linda Millward; Britt & Terry Raynor as they grieve the loss of David 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 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 Dan Pannebaker & Dara Steele.

Our greeters next week will be Kim Larson & 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



salt<sup>+</sup>  
saltproject.org

**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*

Fifth Sunday in Lent

6 April 2025

### We approach God

Prelude

*Been So Good*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

Call to worship

(from *Worship Ways*)  
Dara Steele, liturgist

Leader: Family of God, we gather as who we are, and we bring what we have.

**All: Let us encounter the new thing God is doing among us.**

Leader: We bring joy and sorrow, hope and despair, resources and need, certainty and questions.

**All: Let us engage the new thing God is doing among us.**

Leader: In this space, we meet the One who parts seas, creates paths, and changes circumstances.

**All: Let us encourage the new thing God is doing among us.**

**\*Opening hymn**

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (876)

Prayer of confession

(from *Worship Ways*)

**Holy Jesus, you call us to follow you. We want to respond, but our attention flutters. One day we are steady disciples and another day we are distracted by the clamors of the world or by our own needs. Forgive our wavering commitment and make us more reliable disciples. May we each day respond when you beckon, becoming ever more faithful. 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 the good news: Because of Christ's love, you are forgiven.

**All: Because of Christ's love, we are forgiven.**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Law of love/Faithful living

**\*Glory be to the Father**

Henry W Greatorex

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly

Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

**We listen to God**

Scripture reading

Luke 18.31-19.10 (NT page 71)

Anthem

*King of Kings*

Sermon

*Sight & Salvation*

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

**We respond to God**

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

*Been So Good* (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**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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**

*For the Fruit of All Creation* (396)

**\*Benediction**

Postlude

*\*Please stand as you are able.*