

Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM

**July 19:** Bingo Fun at the Community Church of Keyport, 3PM. \$25 per person, or \$175 for a table of eight. 50/50 raffle, fun prizes, BYOB (beer & wine). To reserve your spot, email Terri Sadler at [tzgone2oz@aol.com](mailto:tzgone2oz@aol.com)

**July 20:** Sunday worship: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30AM

**July 27:** Sunday worship: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM

**August 3:** Sunday worship: Eighth Sunday after worship with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30AM. After worship, we will have our annual Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Youth Group Memorial Scholarship Picnic & BBQ

**August 4-12:** Pastor Trish on vacation

**August 18-22:** Save the Date! We are combining with the United Methodist Church of Red Bank for a VBS program from 9:30-11:30AM Monday through Thursday and a Friday evening campfire celebration. We would love to see some MRC adult representation and assistance, if available. Julie Hertzog is the point of contact for this joint event.

Consistory

**Elders**  
Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary  
Dolores Hofmann  
Lisa Leidecker, Vice President  
Cindy Reya, Co-Treasurer  
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President

**Deacons**  
Julie Hertzog  
Kim Larson, Alternate Clerk  
Dara Steele  
Taralynn VanBrunt, Clerk

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.

In our prayers

**For the healing journey:** John Coffin; Diane Grady; Judy Daugherty; Beverly Scarano; Tom Smigel  
**For God’s support, strength, & comfort:** Mercedes’ mother Fran; Florence Horsman; the Hertzog family; Pam Donohue as she grieves the loss of her husband, Steve; Linda Grasso; Linda G; Magdala; Fleming  
**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

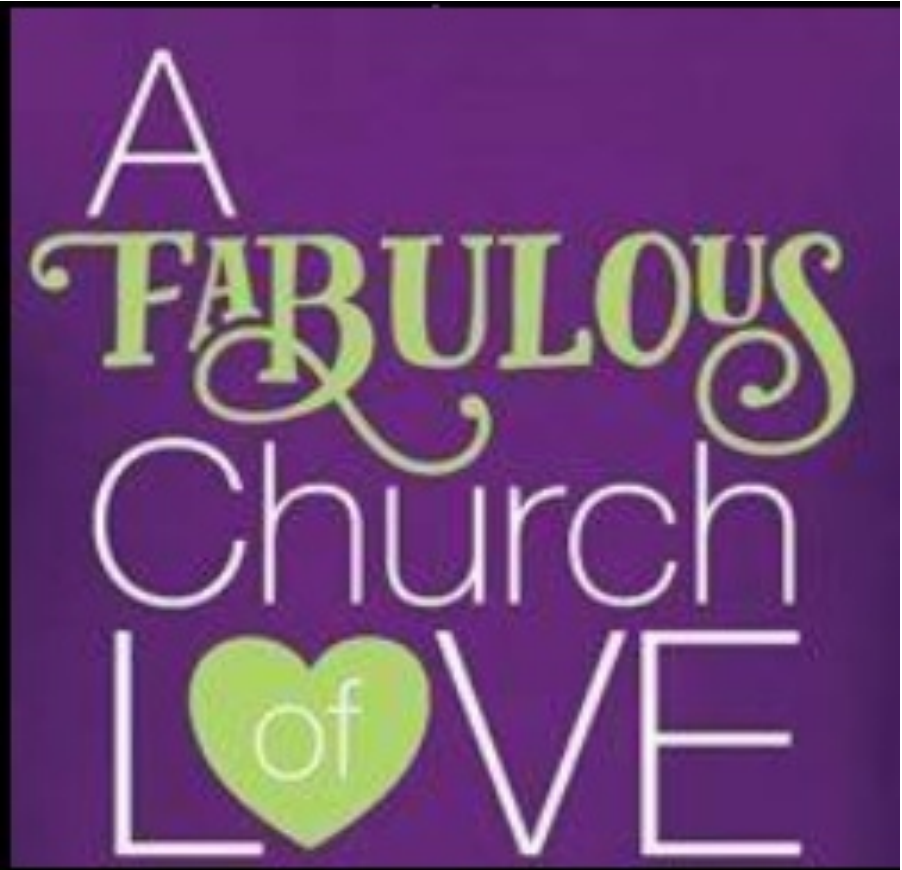


Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities.  
The flowers today are from the Flower Fund  
If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, contact Dolores Hofmann at 732.671.9308. The cost is \$25.

Our greeters today are Lisa Leidecker & Cindy Reya.  
Our greeters next week will be Kim Larson & Taralynn VanBrunt.

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  
Julie Hertzog, Coordinator for Children & Youth

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost13 July 2025

We approach God

PreludeSonata for Violin - I-AdagioHandel

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship(from Worship Ways)  
Elder Cindy Reya, liturgist

Leader: Creator God, may this be a day of hope,  
All: of expectation, of relishing each moment as a gift from you.

Redeemer Jesus, may this be a day of freedom,  
of breaking free, of putting down the burdens that still hinder us.

Comforter Spirit, may this be a day of peace,  
of wholeness, of knowing that our lives are in your hands. May this be a day of joy, of blessing, of living in your world as a child of God.

\*Opening hymnO Day of Peace(487)

Prayer of confession(adapted from Worship Ways)  
Jesus, lover of our souls, you tell us “my peace I give to you,” but we set that peace aside to live with drama and chaos. We are drawn to highly emotional situations instead of the peace that only comes from you. When we cannot sense your holy tranquility surrounding us, open our souls to your warm and calming presence. May we embrace your peace and scatter serenity into our world. 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)  
Leader: Friends, take comfort. None of us get this right all the time. But this is the good news: we believe in a God who gives us a chance to start again. We are forgiven. May we respond to this grace with grateful hearts attuned to the pursuit of justice, mercy, and peace for all.  
All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Law of love/Faithful living

\*Celtic Alleluia



We listen to God

Scripture readingJohn 14.25-27 (NT page 95)

AnthemSonata for Violin - II-AllegroHandel

SermonPracticing PeaceRev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Affirmation of Faith(from The Belhar Confession)  
There we reject any doctrine which professes that this spiritual unity is truly being maintained in the bond of peace while believers of the same confession are in effect alienated from one another for the sake of diversity and in despair of reconciliation; and we believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker . . .

Invitation to the offering

OffertorySonata for Violin - III-LargoHandel

\*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 hymnIn Christ There Is No East Or West(268)

\*Benediction

PostludeSonata for Violin - IV-AllegroHandel

\*Please stand as you are able.

A special thanks to our guest violinist, Andrew Olenik