

Calendar of events

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

Today: 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 4-7; 11-12: 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: Nancy Coffin; Judy Daugherty; Diane Grady; Tom Smigel; Diana S

For God's support, strength, & comfort: the Somma family; 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

Facebook: Middletown Reformed Church

YouTube: MRC: A Fabulous Church of Love

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

Spotify: Middletown Reformed Church podcast



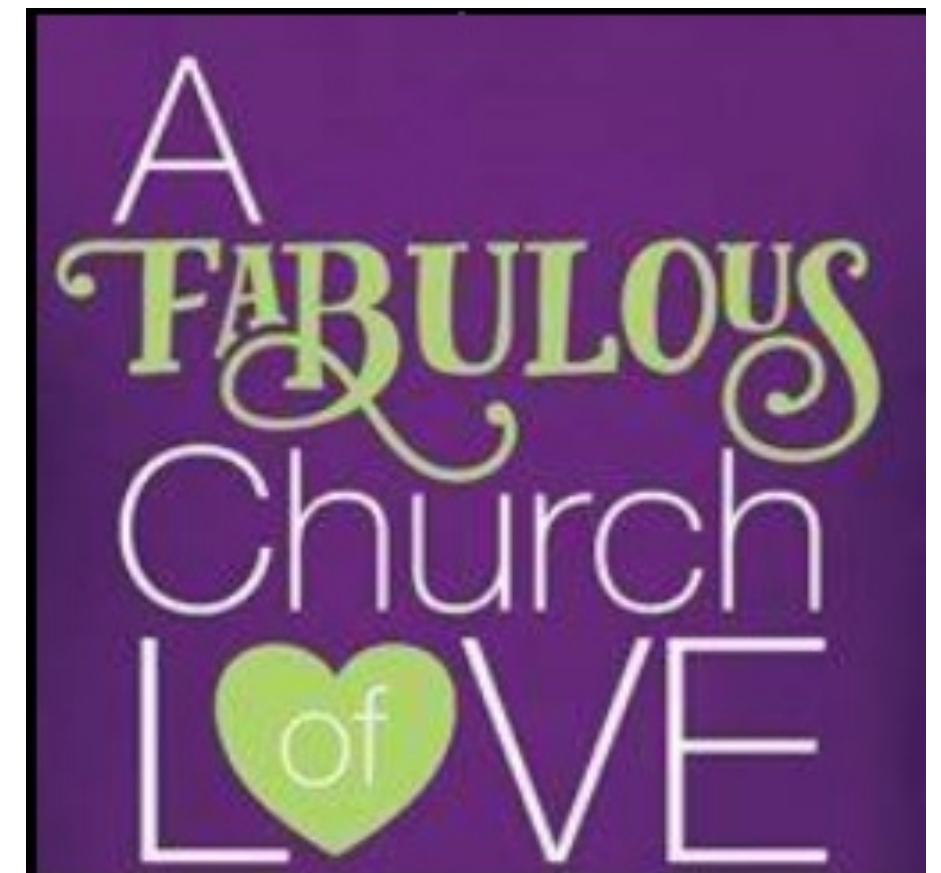
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities.

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 Kim Larson & Taralynn VanBrunt.
Our greeters next week will be Cindy Reya & Dara Steele.

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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

20 July 2025

We approach God

Prelude

The Love of God

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship

(adapted from *Worship Ways*)

Deacon Taralynn VanBrunt, liturgist

Abiding God, we invite you to inhabit our space. We long to renew our minds, restore our souls, and rest our presence before you. Still, we bring the burdens we carry into this gathering. We hold our responsibilities, cares, and concerns. Let us bind ourselves in your love and strength with the community of faithful and curious. We affirm that this time with you and one another equips and fortifies us for the journey and helps us discern the better way. Be glorified in our worship. Be honored by our praise. Be known by your people, O Creator, Teacher, and Friend. Amen

*Opening hymn

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee
(325)

Prayer of confession

All of our life, our light, our joy, comes from you, O God, but sometimes we let our shadow side get the best of us. We ask that you forgive us for every thought, word, and deed that dims your light of love. Give us clean hearts and spirits so we may bear good fruit in your Kin-dom. Protect us from every soul-destroying word and act that may sorrow your Holy Spirit or grieve our fellow human beings. 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*)

The One who is holy and righteous makes us holy and righteous. We are participants, heirs, and co-creators of new life found in the redemptive love of Jesus Christ and in the realm of the Holy One which has no end. In this, grace abounds and liberates us to new mornings, new mercies, and new life. **Amen**

Law of love/Faithful living

*Celtic Alleluia



We listen to God

Scripture reading

Romans 8.18-25 (NT page 138)

Anthem

Voice of a Savior

Sermon

How Long, O Lord? - Soon
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

The Love of God (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

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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

Day By Day (437)

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*