

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: Sunday worship: Blessing of the Animals, 10:30AM
October 13: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM
October 13: Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 7PM
October 14-21: Pastor Trish on vacation
October 16: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM
October 19: Sunday worship: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM. Elder and Seminarian Terri Sadler, guest preacher
October 19: Red Bank Crop Walk, 2PM
October 20: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM
October 21: Brownies Troop meeting in the Education Building, 5PM
October 22-25: Pastor Trish in Michigan at the Room for All conference

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
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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.

Notes from Pastor Trish

In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Trish 212-729-9150 or e-mail at pastortrishmrc@gmail.com. You may also call the Church Office phone at 732-671-1786. Messages are picked up during the week. Pastor Trish’s office hours are Tuesday, 1-3, Wednesday, 2-4, Thursday, 1-3 or by appointment. Weekend and evening times are also available. Her day of Sabbath rest is Monday. She does not answer texts, emails, or phone calls on this day, unless it’s an emergency.

In our prayers

For the healing journey: a neighbor; Irv Beaver; Eric H; Nancy Coffin; Judy Daugherty; Diane Grady; Joy Sheffield; Tom Smigel; Diana S
For God’s support, strength, & comfort: Team June; the family of Dot Bradley on the recent death of her husband, Mike; Donna Arnold; Mercedes’ mother, Fran; Florence Horsman; Linda Grasso; Magdala; Fleming; Linda
For God’s guidance & discernment: Suzanne

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
Spotify: Middletown Reformed Church podcast

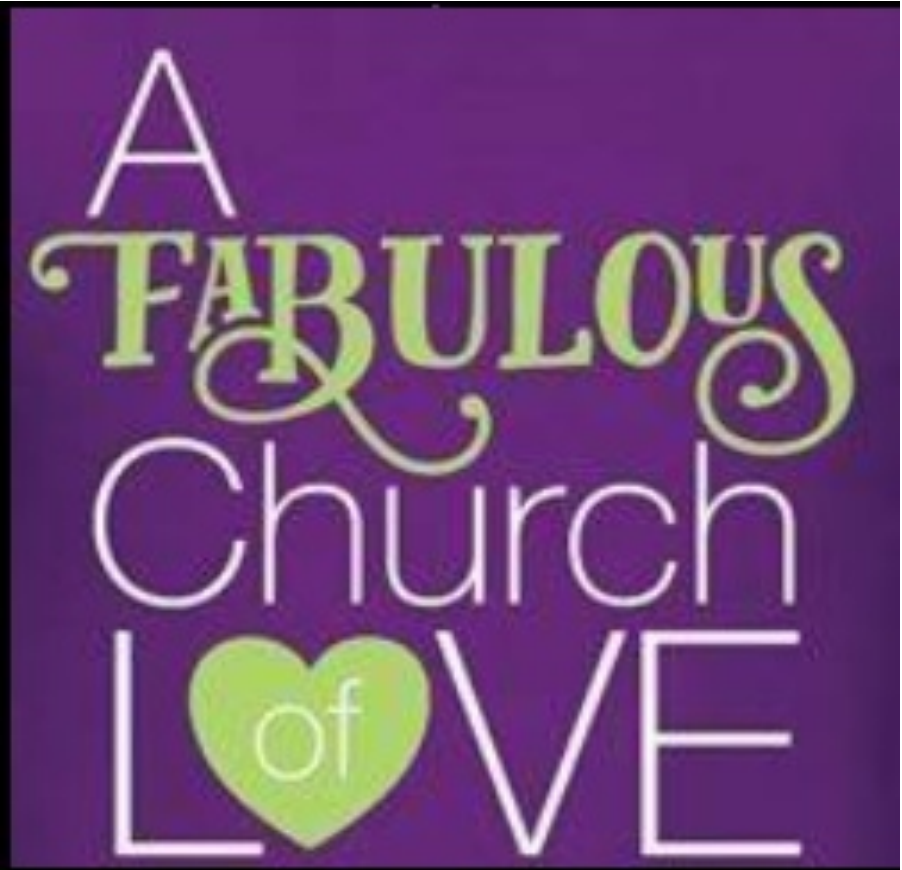


Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

The flowers today are in praise of God’s creation,
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, Lucy, & Cindy Reya.
Our greeters next week will be Lisa Leidecker & 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

Blessing of the Animals Sunday12 October 2025

PreludeMighty to Save

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from unfoldinglight.net)
Leader: What wondrous gifts our Creator has given us!
All: God, we are in awe, and we praise you!
What amazing love Christ has offered us
Christ, we are healed, we are changed, and we thank you!
What blessings and powers the Holy Spirit has given us!
You have given us new life! We turn to you in gratitude, to give you our thanks and praise, to give you our lives!

*Opening hymnAll Creatures of Our God and King (551)

Prayer of confession (from unfoldinglight.net)
God, we confess all that we cling to, all that stands between us and following Jesus. We confess we need your grace; all we have done, all we possess, is not sufficient, but your grace is more than enough. Help us release what we cling to, give freely of all our gifts, and follow you. 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 The Worship Sourcebook)
Hear the good news: God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus. Believe this gospel and go forth to live in peace. **Amen**

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Halle, Halle (768)
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

We listen to God

Scripture readingPsalm 104.1-15, 24-34 (OT 517)
Elder Cindy Reya, liturgist

AnthemLoved

SermonCharlotte’s Web (Not EB White)
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

OffertoryMighty to Save (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 Blessing of the Animals with the Lord’s Prayer
(from unfoldinglight.net)

Leader: God of love and beauty, you have fashioned every creature with your hands.
All: You look upon every creature with your eyes.
You hold every creature in your heart.
So we pray for the creatures you have given us.
We give thanks for animals that give us companionship.
We give thanks for animals that help and serve.
We ask your blessing for animals we love.
We pray for good health and a happy life for them.
May their presence comfort us,
their loyalty reassure us.
May the playfulness of puppies and the songs of birds remind us always of your grace.
May all their differences of fur and feather, great and small, remind us that you love us all.
In our care for them may we reflect your care for us.
God of all living, in all our different voices, with barks and yips and purrs and chirps, and with silence, too, we praise you, we ask your blessing, and we trust your grace. Amen

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 hymnAll Things Bright and Beautiful (20)

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

