

Calendar of events

**Saturdays:** Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM  
**Today:** Sunday worship: Fourth Sunday of Advent — Love with the Children’s Christmas Pageant, The Drowsy Shepherds written by Nancy Coffin. After worship, a Christmas party and brunch with Santa and his elves in the Education Building  
**December 22:** New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM  
**December 24:** Christmas Eve Family Friendly Traditional Candlelight worship, 6:30PM  
**December 25:** Marry Christmas!  
**December 27:** Eldridge-Fallon Open House Christmas Party, 4PM on Address: 40 Melrose Terrace, Middletown  
**December 28:** Sunday worship: First Sunday after Christmas with a carol sing, 10:30AM  
**December 31:** NO Adult Education

Consistory

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>
Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary	Julie Hertzog
Dolores Hofmann	Kim Larson, Clerk
Lisa Leidecker, Vice President	Dara Steele
Cindy Reya, Treasurer	
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President	

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](mailto: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:** Raymond O; Stephanie; Bob Bark; Henry Thorpe; a neighbor; Nancy Coffin; Diane Grady; Joy Sheffield; Tom Smigel; Diana S  
**For God’s support, strength, & comfort:** Terry Raynor & family as they grieve the loss of her brother, Chet; the Hertzog family; Michelle; Corey; 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

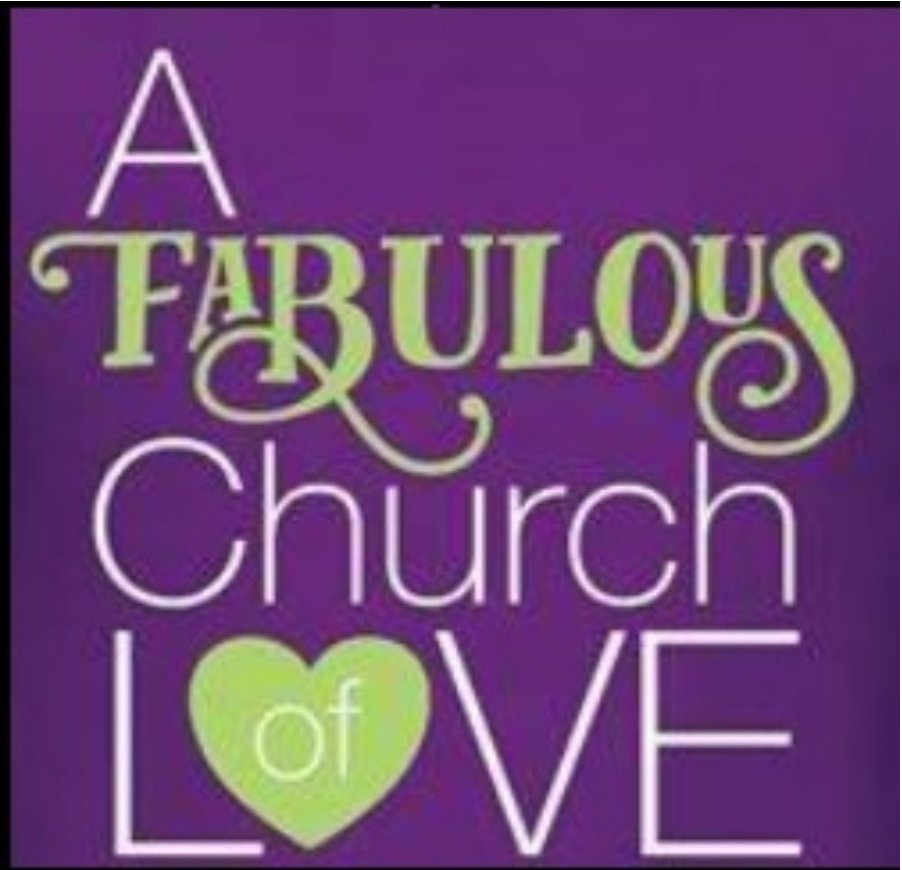
**Website:** [www.mrchurch.us](http://www.mrchurch.us)  
**Facebook:** Middletown Reformed Church  
**YouTube:** MRC: A Fabulous Church of Love  
**Instagram:** middletownreformednj  
**Spotify:** Middletown Reformed Church podcast



Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to [www.mrchurch.us/give](http://www.mrchurch.us/give)  
The flowers today are in loving memory of Christine Dillaman from Angela Hank & Lisa VanSavage  
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 & Cindy Reya.  
Our greeters next week are Julie Hertzog & Dolores Hofmann.

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). **So far we have received \$1,366.60 in assessments/dues.** 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 treasurer 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent21 December 2025

PreludeMake Room

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Lighting of the Advent Candle — Love  
(from Worship Ways), Children & Worship Team, liturgists

Today we light the Candle of Love. Over the past few weeks, we have sparked the light of hope, peace, and joy. Now, we come to love, which binds all of these together. Each strand is braided gently into an image of God who protects, encourages, and endures. We cannot look upon the face of God, but we can experience this love every time we experience hope, peace, and joy. We are not above suffering, but God promises, even in the midst of despair, love will pour down upon us. Just as we await the birth of our savior in the manger, God waits on us, watches over us, and sends us out into the world to do as Jesus did – to care for our neighbors, to give freely to those in need, to call out tyranny, to face down injustice – knowing that God is with us. We are loved. We are love. **Amen**

\*Opening hymnO Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
(61, v 7, 1)

Prayer of confession (adapted from The Worship Sourcebook)  
**Merciful God, we confess that we don’t know how to prepare for Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of the season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, who became what we are to make us what he is we pray. 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)  
The grace of God streams into our lives, drawing us from the shadows into the light, and reconnecting us again with our neighbors. May the mercy of our Creator help us rediscover the Spirit of Love in our midst. Believe this gospel and go forth to live in Christ’s love.

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 John 1.1-18 (NT page 79)

PageantThe Drowsy Shepherds Children & Youth  
Written by Nancy Coffin

We respond to God  
Invitation to the offering

OffertoryMake Room (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 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 hymnAngels, from the Realms Of Glory (81)

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

+ Our restroom is located downstairs through the entryway next to the filing cabinets

