

## **Poinsettia dedications**

In loving memory of Claire Marie Arnold and Christian & Marie Eigenrauch from Dianne Asay

In loving memory of Robert & Dorothy Eldridge Armour and Edwin Eldridge from Gladys Eldridge

In loving memory of Theresa & John T. Hagan from Gladys Eldridge

In loving memory of William & Mina Goltz from Linda Goltz

In loving memory of loved ones from Dolores and Bob Hofmann

In loving memory of Angelo & Dolly LoSapio and Vincent & Dolores Heller from Vincent and Jo-Ann LoSapio

In loving memory of loved ones from Cindy and Lloyd Reya

In loving memory of the Bova, Scarano, & Ward family members from Beverly and Lynn Scarano

The flower arrangement is given in loving memory of Christine Dillaman from Angela Hank & Lisa Van Savage

Wreaths on all church doors were given by a friend in loving memory of Helen & Phil Raynor and Marge & Bill Potter who always welcomed all into our church, their homes, and their hearts

The Sanctuary tree is given in loving memory of Fred Eldridge & Laurie Eldridge from Gladys Eldridge and family

*A special thanks to our guest musicians: Sarah Hanvey, Brian Kolins, Andrew Olenik, and Ahava Walpola*

## **Consistory**

### **Elders**

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

### **Deacons**

Julie Hertzog  
Kim Larson, Clerk  
Dara Steele

### **Middletown Reformed Church Vision Statement (Adopted by the Consistory May 9, 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.

### **Middletown Reformed Church Resolution (Adopted by the Consistory December 8, 2014 and edited July 2019)**

The Middletown Reformed Church is a welcoming and affirming Congregation dual affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the Reformed Church in America. We joyfully accept all persons into our community of faith who seek a closer relationship with God and who desire to express their devotion to Jesus Christ through the fellowship of the church. We welcome into the full life of our congregation all persons whom God calls to us, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, age, nationality, sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, or mental/physical/emotional ability. We believe that the Church is a family and that all of God's children are part of this family.

***All are welcome here!***

# **Middletown Reformed Church**

## *Christmas Eve Worship*



***A welcoming & affirming congregation***

Middletown Reformed Church

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, *Pastor*  
Thomas Martucci, *Director of Music*

Christmas Eve24 December 2025

We approach God

PreludeHear, King of Angels (organ/trumpet duet)

Votum and greeting

Passing of the peace

A message for all agesCould This Be the Messiah?  
New Jericho Children’s Choir  
God Gave Us Christmas (by Lisa Tawn Bergren)

Call to worship (from The Worship Sourcebook)  
Liturgist: In the darkness, stars shine.  
**All: In the cold of winter, a warmth rises.**  
Liturgist: In the silence, angels approach.  
**All: In the mystery of this night, your people gather, O God.**  
Your Word is made flesh, and we come in humble awe.  
**All: Your grace unfolds among us, and we come to witness, to worship, and to wonder. Alleluia!**

\*Opening hymnO Come, All Ye Faithful (76)

Collect Prayer (from unfoldinglight.net)  
**All: O God, turn out the lights in our busy lives, that in the darkness your stars may shine. Silence the chatter of our minds, that we may hear the angels sing. Bring us to our knees, that we may see the holy child. Make hearts open mangers for your Christ to be born in us. You who are always with us, come to us again; make your Word flesh in us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, who became what we are to make us what he is. Amen**

Law of Love/Faithful living

We listen to God

Scripture readingLuke 2.1-20 (NT page 50)  
Angela Hank, liturgist

AnthemPeace Has ComeJoyful Noise Adult Choir

SermonThe Weary World Rejoices  
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

OffertoryWould It Still Be ChristmasSarah Hanvey

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

(All are welcome to the table of the Lord)

Communion songAdoration (Felix Borowski)  
Andrew Olenik, violin

Lighting of the Christ CandleRev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

Closing hymnsSilent Night/Joy to the World  
printed in the bulletin

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

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

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.  
Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.  
Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.  
He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.