

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: Sunday worship: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, 10:30AM
Today: Handbell Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 12PM
Today: Confirmation Class after coffee hour, 12PM
February 9: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM
February 9: Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 7PM
February 11: Bayshore Lunch Program, 9:45PM
February 12: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM
February 14: Woman's Club of Middletown meeting in the Education Building, 11AM
February 15: Sunday worship: Transfiguration Sunday, 10:30AM
February 15: Youth Group meeting in the Lower Auditorium, 12:30PM
February 16: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM
February 18: Lent begins — Ash Wednesday worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and the imposition of ashes, 7PM

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 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: Diana V; Sherrill; Stephanie; Bob Bark; Henry Thorpe; a neighbor; Nancy Coffin; Diane Grady; Tom Smigel; Diana S
For God's support, strength, & comfort: 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
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

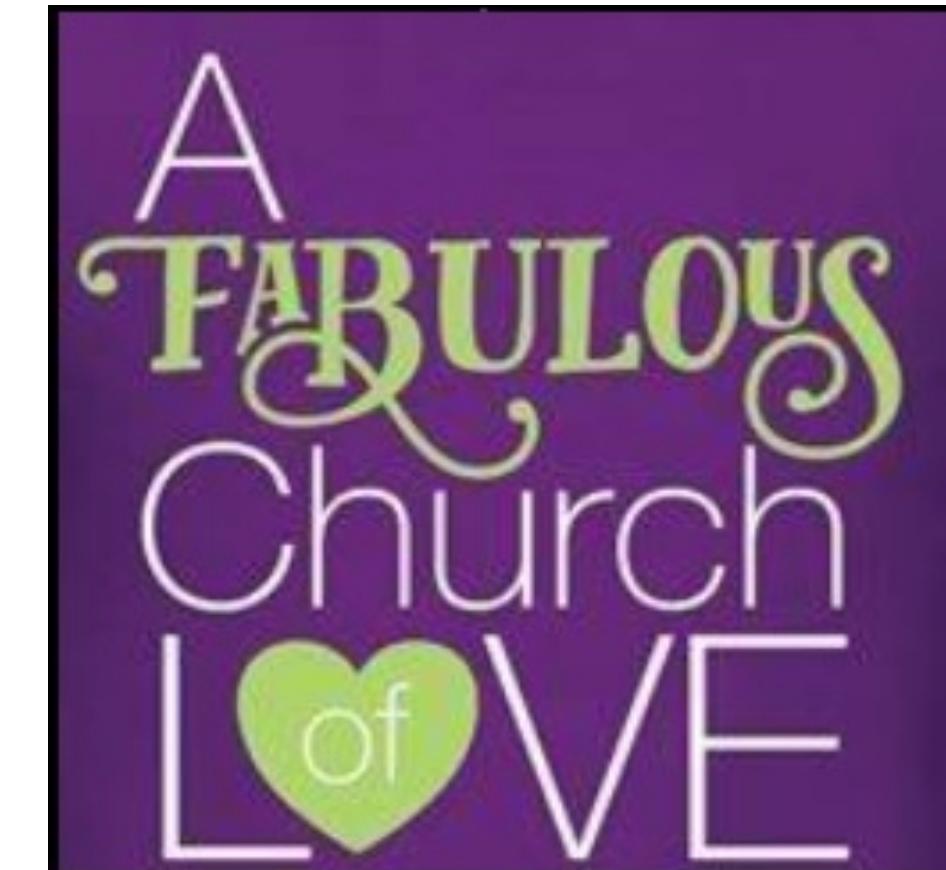
The flowers today are in loving memory of Lee Martin (Mom), from Dara, Donna, and the family

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 Cindy Reya & Dara Steele.

Our 2026 RCA Annual Denominational Assessment of \$140.00 per member is due. The total amount for the year is \$5,992.58, which the church pays on a quarterly basis (\$1,492.15). This assessment supports the work of our Classis and the General Synod. The per capita dues of \$7 for the New Jersey Association, UCC is also due. These dues support the work of the Association. Total amount for both RCA and UCC is **\$147.00 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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

08 February 2026

Prelude

The Lifter

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

Call to worship

(adapted from rev-o-lution.org)

Elder Cindy Reya, liturgist

Leader: God has set before us the way of life,

All: May we grow into the beloved community.

God gave us the commandments to order our lives and orient our hearts,

May we live into God's ways of love and justice.

God sent Jesus, teaching us the fullness of God's love,

May we love our neighbor as ourselves.

God continues to speak to us through the Holy Spirit,

May we choose the way, the truth, and the life of Christ;

May we draw closer to God in this time of worship. Amen

*Opening hymn *God, You Call Us to This Place* (531)

Prayer of confession

(from unfoldinglight.net)

Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God with one another.

Holy God, your light exposes our sin, but bathes us in grace. In the light of your love we see ourselves truly. We hold in your light all in us that is hurting and hurtful, release our judgment of ourselves and one another, and we ask for your healing and forgiveness. 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 rev-o-lution.org)

Hear now the Good News: God forgives us, again and again, and places in our hearts the lessons of love, compassion, and forgiveness, first with ourselves, and then with one another. Tenderly, God grows us into the beloved community, so that we may share the good news in all we do and speak. With grateful hearts, we pray in our Great Teacher's name, Jesus Christ, 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 reading

John 4:46-54 (NT page 83)

Anthem

Peace Joyful Noise Adult Choir

Sermon *Don't Miss the Miracle* Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Affirmation of Faith

(The Belgic Confession)

We know God by two means: First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: God's eternal power and divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20 . . . Second, God makes God's self known to us more clearly by God's holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for God's glory and for our salvation.

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

The Lifter (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

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**

Beautiful Savior
(17, verse 3 a cappella)

***Benediction**

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able

The baptismal font is filled with water every Sunday to remind us of the sign and seal of God's love for us in our baptism.

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

