

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Second Sunday in Lent with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

March 2: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

March 3: Soup & Scripture with Pastor Trish in the Education Building, 12:30PM RSVP to Pastor Trish

March 5: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

March 8: Sunday worship: Third Sunday in Lent, 10:30AM. Ordination and installation of new Deacons and Elders

March 8: Confirmation class after coffee hour, 12PM

March 9: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

March 9: Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 6:30PM

March 10: Soup & Scripture with Pastor Trish in the Education Building, 12:30PM RSVP to Pastor Trish

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: Tom Baldino; 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; 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: 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

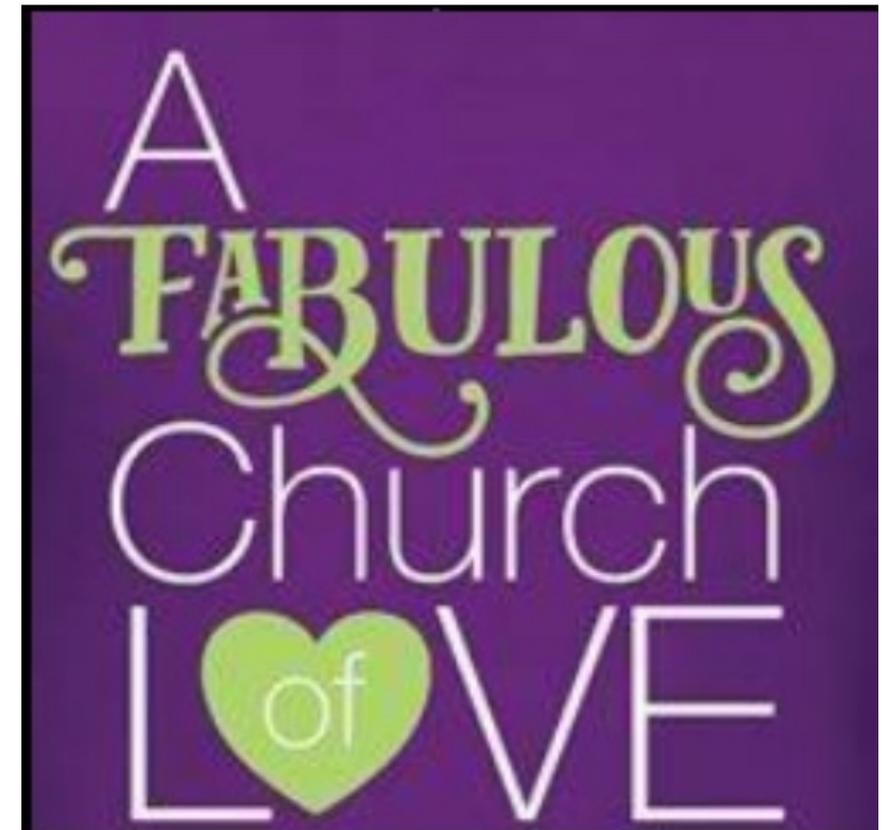
The flowers today are in loving memory of Cindy's mom, Charlotte from Cindy & Lloyd

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 & Cindy Reya.
Our greeters next week are Julie Hertzog & Kim Larson.

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

Lent Theme: **Tell Me Something Good (A Sanctified Art)**

Reflection for the week: Describe an example of
extravagant love

Second Sunday in Lent

01 March 2026

We approach God

Prelude

Out of Hiding

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages

Change My Heart, O God
New Jericho Choir

Call to worship

(from *unfoldinglight.net*)

Elder Lisa Leidecker, liturgist

Liturgist: Spirit of life, light of life, breath of life,

All: breathe new life into us.

Christ of love, Christ of sorrow, Christ of hope,

breathe new life into us.

Wind of God, breath of God, spirit of God,

breathe new life into us. We worship you, open us to

your grace. Raise us to new life in your spirit. Amen

*Opening hymn

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul (424)

Prayer of confession

(from *Lent in Plain Sight*)

Lord Jesus, you hold all things together: Hold us together this day. The places of hurt, the hurts we have perpetrated, the wounds that seem to fester rather than heal, in all our pain, whatever its form, bring wholeness, peace, relief. If we cannot as yet reach across the chasms we have created, then, for now, draw us close to you so that our proximity to you brings us closer to each other until we experience fully the reconciliation won for us on the cross. 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

Liturgist: Hear the good news: Because of Christ's love, you are forgiven.

All: Because of Christ's love, we are forgiven.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Glory Be to the Father

Henry W Greatorex

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly

6 Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

10 shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

We listen to God

Scripture reading

John 11.1-44 (NT page 91)

Anthem

Faithful God

Sermon *Four Days Too Late?*

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

Out of Hiding (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

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 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (876)

*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.*

