

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Fifth Sunday in Lent, 10:30AM

March 23: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 5:30PM

March 24: Soup & Scripture with Pastor Trish in the Education Building, 12:30PM Please let Pastor Trish know if you are attending

March 24: Middletown Lions Club meeting in the Education Building, 6PM

March 26: Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

March 28: Garden Group Work Day, 10AM

March 28: Rise Against Hunger Youth Group event with CCK at St. John's United Methodist Church in Keyport, 2-5PM

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

March 29: Sunday worship: Palm Sunday, 10:30AM with a brunch after worship in the Education Building Easter flower orders are due

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

Consistory

Elders

Dianne Asay, Financial Secretary, Alt Clerk
Dolores Hofmann
Beverly Bova Scarano, Vice President
Jamie Zeller
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, President

Deacons

Pam Ehrlich
Kim Larson, Clerk
Dara Steele
Abbey Thorpe

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: Adrienne B; David E; Barbara Mannix; Tom Baldino; Jamie Zeller; Diana V; Sherrill; Stephanie; Bob Bark; Henry Thorpe; Diane Grady; Tom Smigel

For God's support, strength, & comfort: the family of Linda Grasso (Cindy & Lloyd); the Hertzog family; Donna Arnold; Mercedes' mother, Fran; Florence Horsman; 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; and all those serving overseas now in the Middle East

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 honor of the baptism of Nora June Bowen from the congregation of MRC

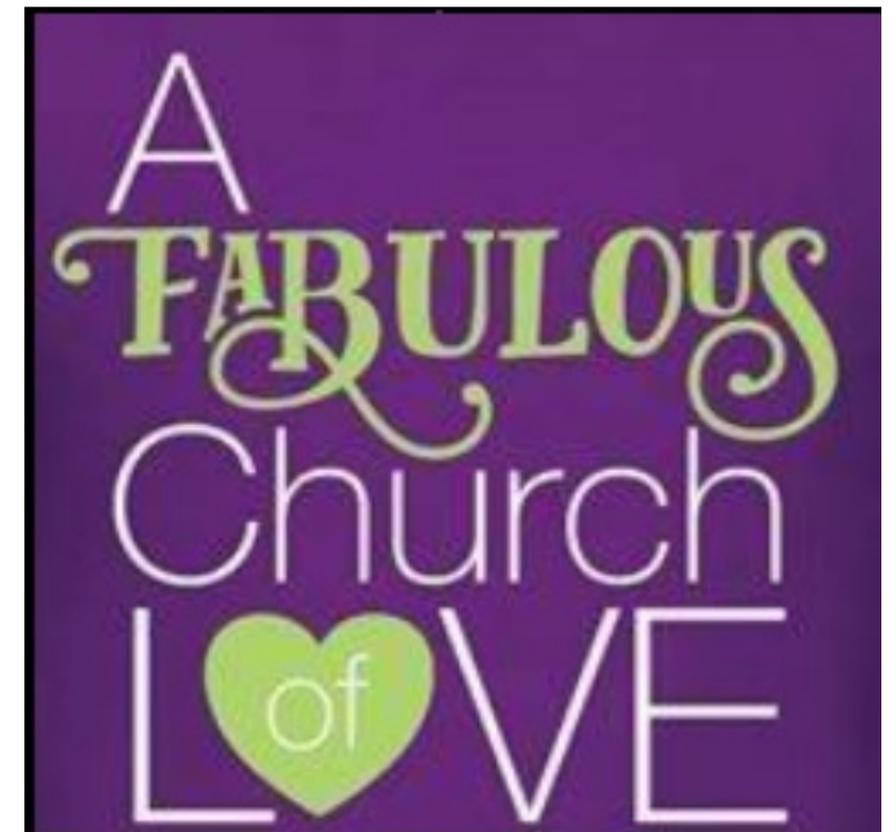
If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, contact Dolores Hofmann at 732.671.9308. The cost is \$25.

Our greeters today are Kim Larson & Jamie Zeller.

Our greeters next week are Dolores Hofmann & Abbey Thorpe.

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: Recount a time when you received mercy. How did it feel?

Fifth Sunday in Lent

22 March 2026

We approach God

Prelude

Thank God I'm Not Alone

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship *Unwritten Agreement* Lissie Bowen, liturgist
(A poem by Rev. Sarah Speed in *TMSG*, A Sanctified Art)

***Opening hymn** *Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty*
(538)

Prayer of confession (adapted from *unfoldinglight.net*)

God, we confess that we cling to the things of this world; our hands are too full to receive your grace. Help us let go of all but you, to lose our life, to receive your life. Help us to live and rise with Christ, who is our Beloved, our promise, our courage. 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 *Worship Ways*)

Liturgist: Beloved, Jesus reminds us that those who serve him will have the assurance of his presence with them.

Trust that you are forgiven, that new life rises, and that Jesus abides with you. Amen

Law of Love/Faithful living

***Glory Be to the Father**

Henry W Greatorex

Glo-ry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly

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

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

We listen to God

Scripture reading

John 18.28-40 (NT page 98)

Anthem

Your Love Defends Me

Sermon

The Question That Haunts the World

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

Offertory

Thank God I'm Not Alone (reprise)

***Doxology**

From all that dwell below the skies; Let faith and hope with love arise. Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung; Through every land, by every tongue! Amen

The Sacrament of Baptism

Nora June Bowen

Born: June 28, 2025

Parents: Elisabeth & Jordan Bowen

Godparents: Emma Bowen & Joshua Bowen

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** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (351)

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

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.*

