

Calendar of events

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

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

Today: 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

April 2: Maundy Thursday worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 7PM

April 3: Good Friday — the sanctuary will be open for quiet prayer and reflection, 9AM - 12PM

April 5: Sunday worship: Easter, the Resurrection of the Lord with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM. The Annual Easter egg hunt on the Great Lawn will follow worship

April 6 - 20: Pastor Trish on vacation

April 6: NO New Jericho Choir rehearsal

April 9: NO Joyful Noise Adult Choir rehearsal

April 11: Woman's Club of Middletown meeting in the Education Building, 11AM

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

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

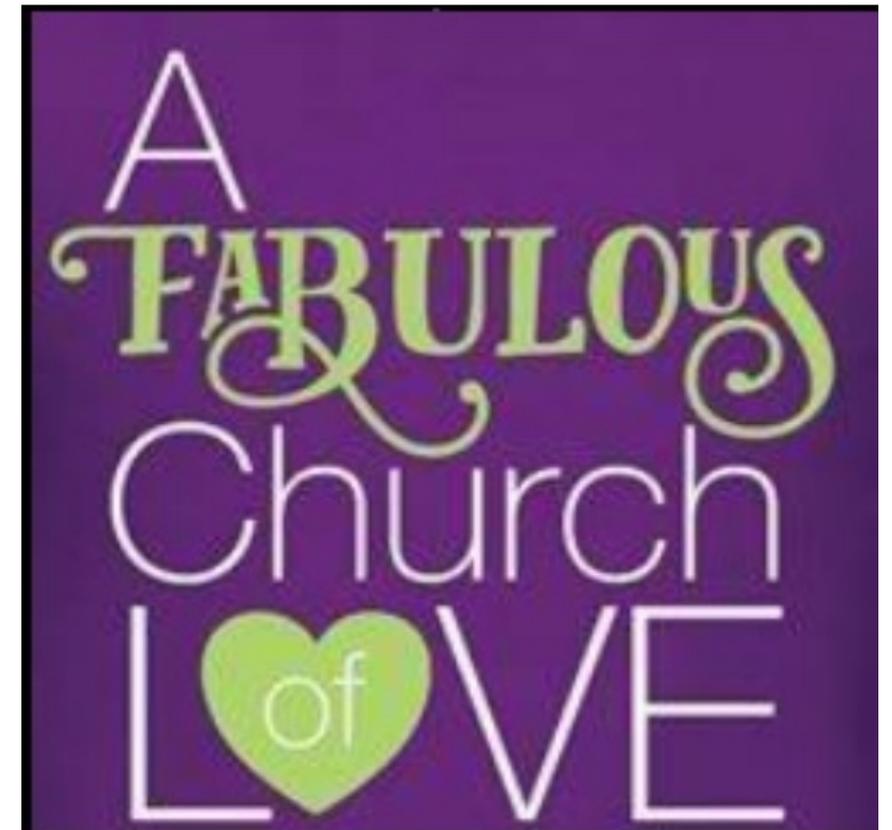
The flowers today are from the Flower Fund
If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, contact Dolores Hofmann at 732.671.9308. The cost is \$25.

Our greeters today are Dolores Hofmann & Abbey Thorpe.

Our greeters next week are Pam Ehrlich & 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

Lent Theme: **Tell Me Something Good (A Sanctified Art)**
Reflection for the week: *How might we emulate Jesus through acts of service and sacrifice?*

Palm Sunday 29 March 2026

We approach God

Prelude *Blessed Are The Ones*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Message for all ages *Hosanna!* New Jericho Choir

Call to worship (from *unfoldinglight.net*)
Deacon Abbey Thorpe, liturgist

Leader: Blessed is the leader who comes in the love of God.

All: Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!
Amid the powers of this world, Christ comes humbly, riding on a donkey.

Christ alone is our savior and our sovereign.

Christ, we thank you. We honor you. We follow you.

God of love and justice, we worship you. God, save us!

*Opening hymn *All Glory, Laud, And Honor* (146)

Prayer of confession (adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*)
God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you did not disdain the company of sinners but welcomed them with love. Look upon us in mercy, we pray. Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo; free us from a past we cannot change; heal what we can no longer fix. Grace our lives with your love and turn the regrets of our past into the joys of new life with you. 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 *Worship Ways*)

Liturgist: Hear and receive the good news. The Prince of Peace has come, with grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Blessed be the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna! Glory be to God! Amen

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 12.12-27 (NT page 92)

Anthem *Hosanna Unto The King* Joyful Noise Adult Choir

Sermon *It Can Wait* Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

We respond to God

Affirmation of Faith (The Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 88)

Q. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

A. Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.

Invitation to the offering

Offertory *Blessed Are The Ones* (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

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 *My Song Is Love Unknown*
(148, v 1, 4-6)

*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.*

