

## Calendar of events

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

**Today:** Sunday worship: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM

**July 4:** Happy 250th Birthday to the United States of America

**July 5:** Sunday worship: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

**July 12:** Sunday worship: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM

**July 12:** America 250 Revolutionary War Era Landmarks and Cemetery Tour on church property, 11:30AM

**July 19:** Sunday worship: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30AM

**July 26:** Sunday worship: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM

## 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](mailto: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:** Brian Hegel; Eric Holderbaum; Joy Sheffield; Donovan Mikula; Jim D'Amico; Barbara Mannix; Tom Baldino; Jamie Zeller; Bob Bark; Diane Grady

**For God's support, strength, & comfort:** the Thorpe family; Cheryl & Charlie A; John & Patti Wilson; the Hertzog family; Mercedes' mother, Fran; Florence Horsman; Magdala; Fleming; Linda Goltz

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](http://www.mrchurch.us)

**Facebook:** Middletown Reformed Church

**YouTube:** MRC: A Fabulous Church of Love

**Instagram:** middletownreformednj

**Spotify:** Middletown Reformed Church podcast



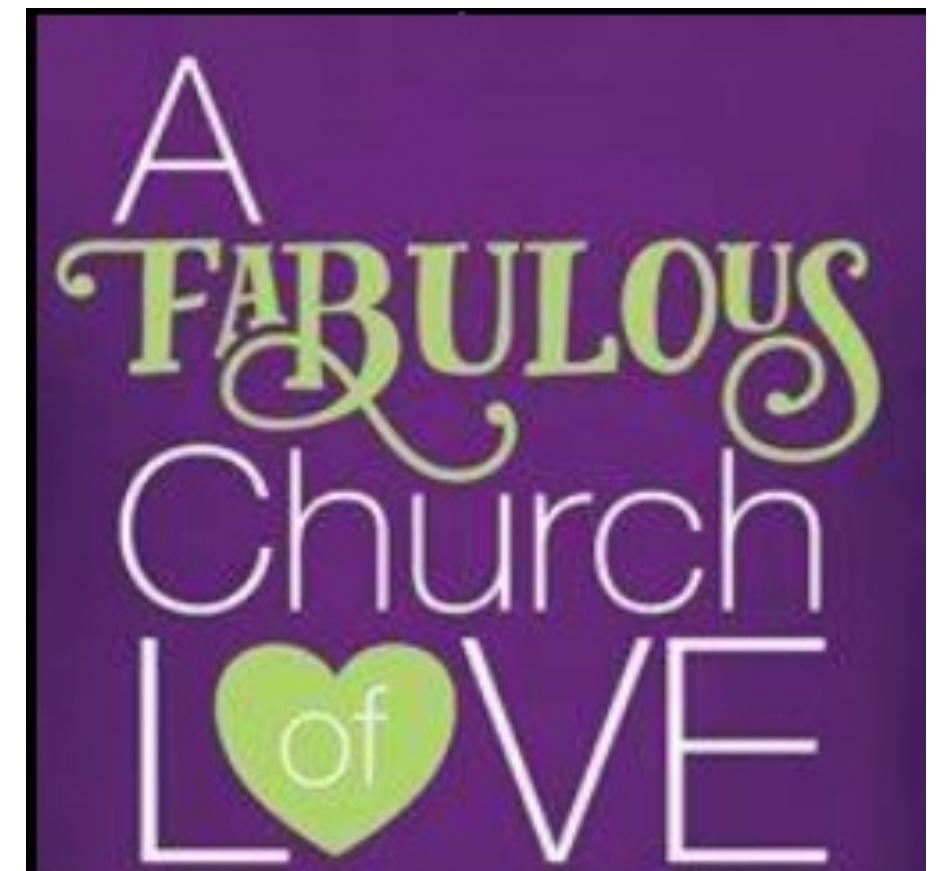
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to [www.mrchurch.us/give](http://www.mrchurch.us/give)

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 Dianne Asay & Beverly Bova Scarano.  
Our greeters next week are Dianne Asay & 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

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

28 June 2026

## We approach God

Prelude

*Hope on the Horizon*

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship (from *Worship Ways*, inspired by Psalm 13)

Elder Beverly Bova Scarano, liturgist

Leader: We gather as a people to worship the Holy One who considers our cries and responds to our conditions.

**All: We gather even when wearied by the world**

**because we trust in God's steadfast love.**

Our souls may ask, "How long, Holy One?" Yet our hearts rejoice in your saving acts.

**We gather even when shaken and sorrowful because we hope in God's steadfast love.**

We gather to sing to the Holy One who has been generous with us.

**Our worship and our work testifies to the goodness of the God who prevails. Let us worship the God of Life!**

\*Opening hymn *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* (238)

Prayer of confession (from *unfoldinglight.net*)

**All: Gentle, loving God, we confess that without knowing, we have tried to live apart from you, by our own judgment rather than by your grace. We are sorry, and we repent of our sin. By the grace of your Spirit within us, return us to you, forgive us, and restore in us the mind of Christ. 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

Hear the good news: Because of Christ's love, you are forgiven. Because of God's mercy, you are free. Go and live in gratitude for the grace that has been given to you.

Amen

## Law of Love/Faithful living

### \*Celtic Alleluia



## We listen to God

Scripture reading Colossians 3.12-17 (NT page 178)

Anthem

*Made To Praise*

Sermon

*The Four Things That Matter Most*

Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD

## We respond to God

Affirmation of faith (from *unfoldinglight.net*)

**We live in you, God, maker of all things. You continually create the universe moment by moment, and you give us life and breath. We follow Christ, your love embodied in humanity. He gathered a community and taught them, telling parables of grace; he performed prophetic acts of justice and healing; in love he gave his life; and in grace you raised him to new life. He lives among us still by the mystery of his Spirit in us, so that we ourselves may be parables of his love. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, your life in us, in which we are one, the Church, the Body of Christ. By your Spirit we trust in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection and the mystery of eternal life. Mindful of your presence and your grace, we devote ourselves to lives of gratitude and trust, love and justice, in the name of Christ, for the sake of the healing of the world. Amen**

## Invitation to the offering

Offertory

*Hope on the Horizon* (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

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*  
(325)

\*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.

