

Calendar of events

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

Today: Sunday worship: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30AM

September 28: Middletown Arts Center fall classes start, 4PM

September 28: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 4PM

September 30: Adult Education in Coventry House, **10AM only**

October 1: Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

October 2-3: Rummage Sale in the Education Building, 9AM-3PM

October 4: Sunday worship: World Communion Sunday, 10:30AM

October 5: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 4PM

October 7: Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM & 7PM

October 8: Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM

October 9: 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: Dale Snyder; Mike Somma; Jane E; Brian Hegel; Eric Holderbaum; Dolores Hofmann; Joy Sheffield; Barbara Mannix; Tom Baldino; Jamie Zeller; Bob Bark; Diane Grady
For God’s support, strength, & comfort: the Thorpe family; the Hertzog family; Mercedes’ mother, Fran; Florence Horsman; Magdala; Fleming

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
App: <https://tithe.ly/app/link/middletown-reformed-church>



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 Abbey Thorpe & Jamie Zeller.
Our greeters next week are Dolores Hofmann & 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). The per capita dues of \$7 for the New Jersey Association, UCC is also due. 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.

Total operating expense (08.31.2026): \$115,453.14
Income year to date (08.31.2026): \$114,859.79
Thank you for your generosity!

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

18th Sunday after Pentecost 27 September 2026

We approach God

Prelude Come to Me

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

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

Leader: Loving God, Eternal Presence, you surround us with your Being.
All: Faithful One, you enfold us in your love.
Tender One, you dwell within us with healing and beauty.
We thank you. We praise you. We worship you.
We open our hearts to your presence, that we may become more deeply present for you.
Come, Spirit of Love, and transform us by your grace.

*Opening hymn Great Is Thy Faithfulness (348)

Prayer of confession
God of grace, you call us to have faith, to follow the way of love, and yet, we often fail you. You alone know how often we have missed the mark: in wandering from your ways, in neglecting your gifts, in forgetting your gentleness. Unburden us from our routines of indifference, our places of pride, our spaces of fear, and extend your grace to us once more. 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*)
The Holy One meets us with compassion and care even when we do not embody our best or strive for the goodness of God. Let us follow in the path of trust and faithful remembering of what God has done for us and how God has empowered us for transformation and new life. *Amen*

Law of Love/Faithful living

*Halle, Halle, Halle (768)
Halle Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We respond to God
Invitation to the offering

Offertory Been So Good

*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

A Time for Unburdening

Scripture reading John 14.25-27 (NT page 95)

Song The Lone Wild Bird (Honey Whiskey Trio)

Reflection Making My Peace

Hymn You Are Mine (430, chorus only)

Scripture reading Matthew 11.28-30 (NT page 10)

An invitation to unburden (spoken)

Hymn You Are Mine (430, chorus only)

Scripture reading Galatians 6.2 (NT page 168)

An invitation to unburden (spoken)

Hymn You Are Mine (430, chorus only)

Scripture reading Isaiah 43.1-4 (OT page 631)

An invitation to unburden (written)

Ritual of letting go

Hymn You Are Mine (430, chorus only)

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 You Are Mine (430)

Benediction Light of a Clear Blue Morning
(Dolly Parton)

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.

