

Calendar of events

Saturdays: Saturday Night Live Open AA meeting in the Education Building, 8PM
Today: Elders meeting in the Education Building, 9:30AM
Today: Sunday worship: World Communion Sunday and Confirmation of Dominick Caddle and Colin Russo, 10:30AM
October 5: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 4PM
October 7: Adult Education in Coventry House, 10AM & 6PM
October 8: Joyful Noise Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 6PM
October 10: Woman’s Club of Middletown meeting in the Education Building, 11AM
October 11: Sunday worship: Blessing of the Animals outside in the Meditation Garden, 10:30AM
October 12: New Jericho Choir rehearsal in the Lower Auditorium, 4PM
October 12: Consistory meeting in the Education Building, 6:30PM
October 14: Bayshore Lunch Program, 9:45AM
October 14: Adult Education in Coventry House, 6PM only

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
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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: Chris Coll; 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://tithely.app.link/middletown-reformed-church>



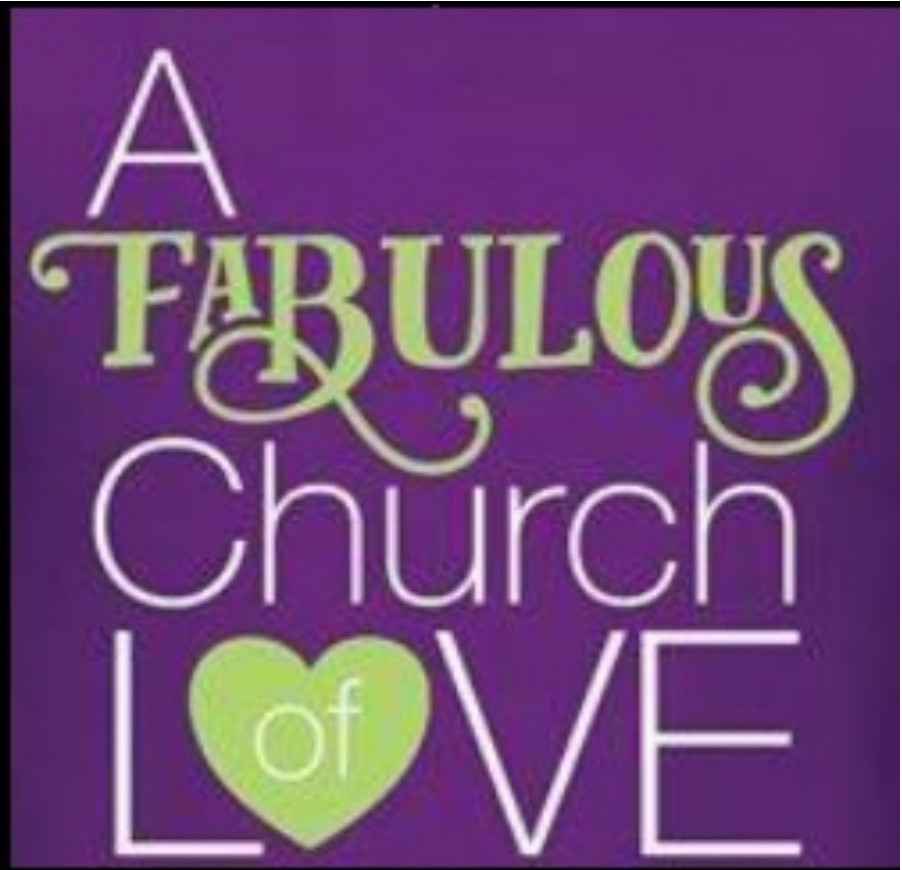
Scan the QR code for a link to our online giving opportunities, or go to www.mrchurch.us/give

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 Dolores Hofmann & Kim Larson.
Our greeters next week are Abbey Thorpe & Jamie Zeller.

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

World Communion Sunday04 October 2026

We approach God

PreludeAny More

Votum & greeting

Passing of the peace

Call to worship(from unfoldinglight.net)
Elder Dolores Hofmann, liturgist

Leader: Holy One, God of powerful love, you have brought us through the Red Sea of all that diminishes us into the wide freedom of your grace.
All: You have brought us into the land of your deep forgiveness.
You have given us outrageous hope.
You surround us with huge love and confident peace.
We thank you. We worship you. We listen for your Word.

Opening songKing Of My Heart

Prayer of confession(from Worship Ways)
Righteous God, you have given us blueprints to follow for living a faithful life. Your commandments are clear and your example considerable. Yet, we often drift away from loving you, loving our neighbor, and loving ourselves. Remind us that the path to flourishing full life is love. Lead us back to that everlasting path so that we might be fruitful and give glory to your name. 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)
Hear the great news: God’s grace meets us at our point of need with compassion, direction, and strength. Receive this grace in order to transform into the people we can be —shining the radiant reflection of the holy image we bear.

Law of Love/Faithful living

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

We listen to God

Scripture readingExodus 14.5-7, 10-29 (OT 56)

AnthemBrave

SermonWalking Between the Waters of Chaos & Death
Rev. Tricia Sheffield, PhD, preacher

We respond to God

Invitation to the offering

OffertoryInstrumental

*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

Confirmation of Dominick Caddle and Colin Russo

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
(All are welcome to the table of the Lord. Communion bread is free of gluten, dairy, and eggs and the cup is grape juice.)

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 songRiver Of Life

Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand in body or in spirit

A special thank you to guest musicians, Sarah Hanvey & Brian Kolins

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.

