

**The Covenant of Our  
Congregation  
Adopted in 1962**

*We do hereby set forth the principles of the Christian faith as commonly held among us, believing that no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

*It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.*

*Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.*

*Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.*

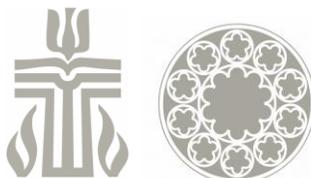


**We sing to Him**

We sing to Him, whose wisdom form'd the ear,  
our songs, let Him who gave us voices, hear;  
we joy in God, who is the Spring of mirth,  
who loves the harmony of Heav'n and Earth;  
our humble sonnets shall that praise rehearse,  
who is the music of the Universe.  
And whilst we sing, we consecrate our art,  
and offer up with ev'ry tongue a heart.

Nathaniel Ingelo

*December 8, 2013*



**First Reformed Church**  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://www.1stReformed.com)

## **Welcome to First Reformed Church**

*We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.*

If you are a first time visitor we hope you feel at home here. Please fill out a little white pew card and place it in the offering plate and join us after the service for coffee and refreshments. The welcome tables at the entrance to the sanctuary and in Assembly Hall have some helpful church information.

### **Non Emergency Number**

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

### **Parking**

You may park in **any** of the lots around the church or the Stockade Inn on Sunday mornings.

### **Need Help?**

Large print bulletins and audio receivers are available to assist you. Please ask an usher. Special bulletins for children are also available. Restrooms are located out the front right doorway of the sanctuary; a baby changing station is in the women's bathroom.

### **Elders in Worship**

Past and current leaders we call 'Elders' walk in together at the beginning of worship and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the mission of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

### **Joining the Congregation**

To become a member of the congregation, there is a one-time orientation, a meeting with the governing board, and a reception in worship. If you are interested in the next orientation please fill out a white pew card.

### **Communion**

Our congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

### **Child Care on Sunday**

Childcare for babies through age four is available from 10am and noon in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

### **Church School**

All children in grades K-8 are welcome to join in our Church School activities by leaving immediately after the Children's Message. Parents can pick up their children after worship on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs.

### **Church School on Communion Sundays**

On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of the month) youth in grades 3-8 remain in the service to participate in Communion while those in grades K-2 are welcome to go upstairs after the Children's Message for music and crafts.

### **Children's Worship Bulletins**

Special bulletins for children, ages 3-6 and 7-12 are available each Sunday. If the ushers are not handing them out, just ask for one.

### **After Worship**

Typically after worship, people stop for a chat and refreshments in Assembly Hall before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. Visitors are welcome to join in.

### **Service Online**

A recording of each of our worship services is at [1stReformed.com](http://1stReformed.com) one or two days following the service.

### **Lost and Found Basket**

We have a lost and found basket in the Narthex at the Union St. entrance of the church. If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check there.

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2013

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE *Domine Deus* Sara Smigen

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father.

*Laudamus Te*

Lisa Backman and Gail Blinckmann

We praise you, we bless you,  
we worship you, we glorify you.

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Scribner

*A candle is lit each week of Advent as a sign  
of our longing for God's light.*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #9  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

God of the future, we confess that we aren't  
ready for the new life you bring. We aren't  
paying attention. We are silent about your  
arrival. We are impatient and selfish. We do  
not listen for hope or healing. Bring your  
light of the world into our hearts we pray.

\*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*

① Dm Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F  
*Latin* Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Luke 2:14

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700

© 1979, Les Presses de Talz  (France), admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

We sing to our Lord a new song;  
We sing in our world a sure Hope:  
Our God loves this world,  
God called it into being,  
God renews it through Jesus Christ,  
God governs it by the Spirit.  
God is the world's true Hope.

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
*Glory to God in the highest.*  
Et in terra Pax hominibus  
*And peace on earth to all of good will.*

FIRST LESSON Chris Fernandes  
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy  
Spirit. **Amen.** *Isaiah 11:1-10 (page 640)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*Romans 15:4-13 (page 163)*

SERMON *While Waiting: Sing* Bill Levering

\*HYMN #3 *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Benefit Concert*  
Sara Bobok

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

Domine Fili unigenite  
*Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son.*  
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus  
*For you alone are Holy, you alone are  
Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ.*

### \*DOXOLOGY #592

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, 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.

### \*RECESSIONAL HYMN #8

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

Cum Sancto Spiritu  
*With the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen*

### POSTLUDE

Susan Hale, organ  
*Concerto in A minor (after Vivaldi)*  
Allegro J.S. Bach

+ + +

## Prayers of the People

Requests for prayer may be noted on a pew card and placed in the offering plate. We pray regularly for those who are ill, those who serve their country, those who hunger, and those who are our enemies. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember with thanksgiving members of this congregation who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

*Ethel Avery, Marguerite Carr, and Sally Hahn*

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please speak with one of our ministers or contact the church office.

## Music Notes

Today's musical selections include seven of the twelve movements from Gloria (RV589) by Baroque composer, Antonio Vivaldi, written around 1713 while he was employed at the Ospedale della Pietà, a Venetian school for orphaned, abandoned, illegitimate, and indigent girls that specialized in musical training. The girls received an excellent education in music offering them a creative outlet in a time when there were few professional opportunities for female musicians. Each of the movements displays a contrast in mood, texture and vocal color.

We thank the UPC Tilton Family for their support of the special music.

### **We are grateful for the time and talent of today's orchestral musicians:**

**Viola I:** Ann-Marie Barker-Schwartz, Christopher L. Cropsey, Ann Seidman, Carol Blom, Virginia Traver, Celia Murray  
**Viola II:** Naphtali Rothrock, Ryan Dickson, Beth Putnam, Arlene Koster  
**Viola:** Karl Brosch, Edith Kliman, Bill Shapiro  
**Cello:** Will Hayes, Cathie-Jo Brun  
**Bass:** Don Lester, Andrew Tysoe  
**Oboe:** Diane Baltazar  
**Organ:** Susan Hale

## Entered Into Eternal Rest

Robert Crandall

December 2, 2013

There will be a Memorial service on Saturday,  
Dec. 14 at 2pm in the Sanctuary.

## Narthex Cases

Please take a moment to view the Narthex display cases for this Christmas season. Nancy Teichner has carefully arranged the David Coons Van Voast Memorial Crèche in the east case and UPC has placed special Christmas items of their congregation in the west case.

## Post Service Refreshments

Everyone is invited to have refreshments in Assembly Hall right after worship. We are always looking for volunteers to bring in food! It can be cookies, cheese and crackers, fruit, or anything you want. Food should be brought around 9:30am. There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall or fill out a white pew card and place it in the offering plate. If any questions, please contact Tani Breitenbach  
1streformedpub@gmail.com or 377-2201.

## Alternative Gift Extravaganza ~ Today

Today from 11am – 3pm. Skip the crowds and do your Christmas shopping here at FRC where your **gift gives twice**. Enjoy a cup of coffee and bowl of soup made by our own youth group. Your lunch purchase will support their mission trip. Mission shares for a variety of excellent causes will be available, and below is a list of the Fair Trade products and locally produced goods that will be here:

- Mayan Hands: woven creations from Guatemala
- Mango Tree Imports: fair trade products from locations worldwide
- South African Group: handmade candles benefiting AIDS/ HIV
- Joan Nicole Prince Home: jewelry and scarves
- Reformed Church World Service: worldwide relief

- Equal Exchange: coffee, tea, and chocolate
- Habitat for Humanity: ice cream sundaes
- Camp Fowler: music, camp items
- Patty's Place: Carol Troost Scarves
- FRC Youth: homemade soup, hotdogs, coffee, hot cocoa
- Capital District YMCA: gift certificates to needy families

## Forum

Held after worship most Sundays at 11:15am in Poling Chapel. Suggestions for programs are welcome from any committee or member; simply contact Joe Doolittle, 384-1700 or Amy Brule, 785-8201.

**Today:** Alternative Gift Fair

**Dec. 15:** Crèche Show and Tell

**Dec. 22:** M&B Christmas Offering: *Things of My Very Own*; Rayn Boncie, CEO/President

## Adult Class: Christmas Bible Talk

Dr. Levering will review the Bible passages about Christmas and give some contextual and linguistic information that will add depth to your season, located in the Poling Conference room.

**Dec. 29:** Here We Go A'wassailing Frolic

## 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Carol Sing ~ Today

In the church sanctuary today, at 3pm, the Thursday Belles will hold their annual community Carol Sing. Please join us on this special afternoon, which will include holiday antlers, blinking noses and joyful voices.

## Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

**Today:** 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

**Dec. 15:** Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

**Dec. 22:** David Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass

**Dec. 29:** David Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

## Faith Bookshop

Lovely handmade angels, advent calendars, timely pop-up books and small, devotional 2014 calendars - all are in the Bookshop today.

### **Junior & Senior High Youth Groups**

ALL youth in grades 6-12, will meet from 5-7pm on Sunday nights unless otherwise noted, all will meet for dinner, fellowship, service, and learning activities.

**Today:** We will be selling soup, hot dogs, coffee, and hot cocoa at the Alternative Gift Fair to support the mission trip. Please be in Assembly Hall at 11am (after the service). For our evening meeting we will have rehearsal for the Living Nativity and Christmas Eve Family Service.

**Dec. 15:** Rehearsal for the Living Nativity and Christmas Eve Family Service.

**Dec. 22:** Living Nativity at 6pm. Everyone performing should be at church by 4:30pm. After the Living Nativity, we will have donuts and cocoa, and then everyone is invited to a fundraising concert for an orphanage in Romania at 7pm.

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Family Service at 5pm. Everyone who is participating in the service should be at church by 4pm.

**Dec. 29:** No youth group meeting.

### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week our Stephen Ministry training class will be considering the subject of *Supervision: A Key to quality Christian Care*. In this presentation they will be learning how to engage in the process of small group peer supervision so that they will be able to offer the highest quality Christian care possible for their care receivers. We give thanks for the continuing enthusiasm of our Stephen Ministry trainees, and ask your continued prayers for them as they prepare for their ministries of compassion.

### **Horizon Bible Study**

On Tuesday mornings from 10 - 11am, in Polling Conference room. For 4 weeks in Advent, which began on Nov. 19, Rev. Ruth Kuo will lead a study on Advent and Christmas Hymns: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, and *People, Look East, Silent Night, Holy Night, O Little Town of Bethlehem*, and others. We will learn their historical, theological, and cultural contexts.

### **The Schenectady/Nijkerk Council**

Invites all interested to this year's Holiday Potluck Supper Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6:30pm in Assembly Hall. Please bring a casserole, salad or dessert to share. Participants of the 2013 Schenectady adult exchange to Nijkerk, the Netherlands, for the celebration of Nijkerk's 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and of the Nijkerk youth summer visit to Schenectady will share their experiences. St. Nicholas (Sinterklaas) will visit later in the evening.

2014 Youth Exchange to Nijkerk - Ten Schenectady youth 16-18 years of age will visit Nijkerk the end of June for a two week stay. Those interested are asked to contact Connie Colangelo at [crcnmc@aol.com](mailto:crcnmc@aol.com) or 374-7355. This exchange is also looking for a chairman.

### **Advent Evening Worship**

Join us for this contemplative service held each Wednesday at 7-7:45pm in Poling Chapel, which includes a gentle guitar prelude, reflective silence, unhurried song, shared prayers, and the Lord's supper. Contact Daniel Carlson with any questions.

### **Group VII**

We will have a Christmas luncheon on Friday, Dec. 13 at 11:30am in Assembly Hall. If any questions, please contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679.

### **Crismon Tree**

Carolyn Jones-Assini and Carol Welch, donors of the Crismon Tree, invite anyone interested in decorating it to come to church on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10am.

### **Poinsettia Delivery ~ Volunteers Needed**

We need help on Sunday, Dec. 15 to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our love to those not able to join us for worship.

### **Blue Christmas**

Sunday Dec. 15 at 3pm. In this service, we will be given a chance to sing and to pray; to honor those persons who no longer sit at our tables, but remain very present in our lives and often mold our holiday traditions; and we will be invited to offer up the pain, the loneliness, the sad and dark memories, and the anxiety and fear to the one whose birth we eagerly await...Jesus Christ. As we reflect on the past, and are comforted in knowing that we are not alone, we move into the holiday season with renewed love, hope, and peace. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **Tuesday Ladies**

We will meet every third Tuesday; the next meeting is Dec. 17 at 7:30pm at Connie Young's home. All ladies are welcome. Please call Connie at 393-7061 if you have any questions or for more information.

### **Daily Devotional Books**

Group V has their Devotional books available again this year. These make great holiday gifts, hostess gifts and just thoughtful gifts for friends and family. There are copies available in the book shop. They can be used year after year. If any questions call Maria G. Todd at 372-9522, who will also have books. Cost \$7 each or 3 for \$20.

### **Dedicated Christmas Flowers**

As we prepare for the Holiday season, remember a loved one by participating in the Christmas Memorial Flowers. Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on Dec. 24. The donation is \$20. Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2013. Please call the church office **no later than Thursday, Dec. 19**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

### **Caroling ~ December 20**

It is UPC's Christmas tradition that we go out caroling to the home-bound. We will gather to have soup and bread at 5:30pm at the church, then get into our cars and deliver our joyful sounds to a few home-bound. All are welcome to join us. If you have special home-bound folks in mind, please speak with Rev. Ruth Kuo at 377-2201.

### **Youth Present Living Nativity and Concert**

The Living Nativity performance will be held on the church lawn on Dec. 22 at 6pm. The Senior High Youth Group will act out the story of Jesus' birth, and then we will gather inside for donuts and hot cocoa to celebrate this Christmas season.

### **Benefit Concert for Transylvania Orphanage**

Join us on Dec. 22 at 7pm (following the Living Nativity) in the sanctuary for a benefit concert supporting the Galospetri orphanage in Transylvania! This concert is being organized by a member of our youth group, Sara Bobok, who has traveled to volunteer at the orphanage. Several of our local and church musicians will be performing. Tickets are available in the church office for \$10 per person, or \$25 for a family. All of the money raised will be used to build a fence around the orphanage. We hope to see you there!

### **Christmas Eve Refreshments**

Volunteers needed! We are in the process of obtaining volunteers for finger food and helpers for set-up and clean-up, that will occur after the 9pm service on Dec. 24. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tani Breitenbach 377-2201 or send an email to 1streformedpub@gmail.com.

### **Cookies After 9pm Christmas Eve Service**

Celebrate the season by meeting up with friends and family after the 9pm service on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Refreshments and refreshing good cheer will greet you all in Friendship Hall.

### **Here We Go A'wassailing**

Join us for a good cheer frolic after worship on the Fourth Day/First Sunday of Christmas, Dec. 29. We travel and carol to those home bound members in need of God's blessing and a happy New Year! Finishing this frolic with a complimentary lunch - and hopefully some real wassail - is an option for those participating.

### **Epiphany Party ~ January 4**

This year our annual celebration of Christ's manifestation to Magi will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4 from 5-8pm at the home of Marey Bailey and Joseph Yovonditte, 125 Benjamin St. Schenectady. Everyone is invited: young and old, strangers and friends. We'll feast together, sing a few carols, recall the sacred story, and process with the *Three Kings*. Then the hale and hearty will bundle up and go outside to share in the house blessing, followed by prayers around the brilliant blaze of a Christmas Tree Bonfire. All attending should bring a favorite appetizer and beverage to share. A signup sheet will be posted in Assembly Hall. Contact Daniel Carlson if you have any questions. Follow that star!

### **Epiphany Cake Baking ~ Volunteers Needed**

The traditional *Gallet* Epiphany cakes for the party will be made in the Friendship Hall kitchen on Thursday, Jan. 2 from 7 – 9pm. If you're interested in helping, call Mary Jewett at 355-8059.

### **Future Pillars ~ Post Holiday Gathering**

Save the Date! Come to the Van Dyke Restaurant on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 6-9pm for fellowship and desserts. All members age 21 to 40ish are invited. Hot appetizers and drinks available but not included. RSVP in Assembly Hall or by calling the church office. Hope to see you there!

### **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group**

We will not meet in December, but will resume on Thursday, Jan. 23, 9:30am at the home of Inge-Lise Pangburn. For questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic

### **Victims of Typhoon Haiyan**

What you can do: Please pray for the people whose lives have been torn apart by this typhoon- for people who have lost loved ones, suffered injury, or sustained damage to their homes or businesses. Pray too for the rescue workers, first responders, and early response coordinators. To support disaster response efforts, donate online at [www.rca.org/haiyan](http://www.rca.org/haiyan) or send a check to Reformed Church in America, Attn: Finance Department, 4500 60th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512. Checks should be designated "Haiyan."

### **Emergency Contact Information**

In times of crisis it can be very helpful to have on hand the name and number of the person to be contacted in case of an emergency. The Support and Care Committee urges such information to be shared with the church office, where it will be accessible to the church staff.

### **Gift Idea**

Is there a copy of *Three Centuries: The History of the First Reformed Church of Schenectady* in your home? A print of Len Tantillo's painting showing our first church building, *Schenectady Town, View from Cowhorn Creek, circa 1690*? They are available at FRC Bookshop at the Dec. 8 Alternative Gift Fair. *Three Centuries* may also be purchased at the church office.

### **Kinderwyk - Childcare**

We need church members who are 18 and over to help our professional staff care for our youngest members during worship. Fill out a white pew card and place it in the offering plate to let us know you would like to be a part of this ministry. Following a required background check, the church office staff will contact you to schedule the Sundays you are willing and available to serve.

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	George Trimarco, Doug Todd	Richard Davis, Victoria McGowan-Horan
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Roberta Blackmer	Bill Clock
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	John and Elizabeth Taft, Phil and Jane Falconer	Chancel Guild
<b>Greeters</b>	Bobok-Fellegi Family	Cox Family
<b>Kinderwyk</b>	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn	Sarah Bachorik, Barbara Walton
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Tom Lindsay, Bill Ward, Gene Zeltmann, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Maria G. Todd	Rob Dickson, Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Roberta Blackmer, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Margaret Schadler
<b>Reader</b>	Chris Fernandes	Rob Dickson
<b>Refreshments</b>	Alternative Gift Fair	Blythe Gieseler, Shannon Karl
<b>Usher</b>	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeff Cox, Adam Kerwin, Richard Davis, Doug Todd	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Crystal Mongillo, Gerry Myers

# Advent and Christmas Celebrations

## Sunday, December 8

### **8:30 AM ..... Breakfast with Saint Nicholas**

No matter your age, join us for a complimentary Dutch breakfast: chocolate sprinkle sandwiches, strong coffee, oatmeal, and speculaas cookies-followed by stories and gifts from Sinterklaas.

### **10 AM.....Vivaldi Gloria in Worship**

An expanded choir and 20-piece orchestra sings this sacred choral work during worship.

### **11 AM - 3 PM .....Alternative Gift Fair**

Skip the crowds and do your Christmas shopping here where your **gift gives twice**. Enjoy a cup of coffee and bowl of soup to support the youth group mission trip. New this year is Carol Troost's scarves that will support Patty's Place.

### **3 PM.....Thursday Belles Community Carol Sing**

Carol singing, bell ringing, holiday antlers blinking noses and joyful voices encouraged.

### **5 PM..... Jazz Vespers with 'Azzaam Hameed**

## Sunday, December 15

### **3 PM.....Blue Christmas Service**

Offer up loneliness, sadness, and fear to the God who walks with us. Take comfort and strength from the company of others and the possibility of renewed hope.

### **5 PM..... Jazz Vespers with the Peg Delany Trio**

## Friday, December 20

### **5:30 PM..... Soup and Caroling**

We will gather for soup and bread, and then deliver our joyful Christmas tidings to our homebound friends.

## Sunday, December 22

### **5 PM..... Christmas Jazz Vespers with Dave Gleason**

### **6 PM..... Living Nativity Display**

The Senior High Youth Group will act out the story of Jesus' birth, and then we will gather inside for donuts and hot cocoa to celebrate this Christmas season.

### **7 PM..... Benefit Youth Concert**

Orchestrated by Sarah Bobok, all proceeds will benefit an orphanage in Romania.

## Tuesday, December 24

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

### **5 PM..... Family Service**

See the story of Jesus' birth lived-out by children and youth to include joyful music and personal testaments from High School students.

### **8:30 PM ..... Music of the Season**

We will present a variety of Christmas music including carols from England, Spain, France, and Italy, as well as two carols for harp and organ.

### **9 PM..... Carols and Candles Service**

Familiar songs sung to include candles with refreshments and refreshing good cheer to follow.

### **11 PM..... Candlelit Service**

Peaceful reflections with carols and communion

## Sunday, December 29

### **11 AM .....A'wassailing Frolic**

We travel and carol to those home bound members in need of God's blessing and a happy New Year. Complimentary lunch - and hopefully some real wassail - is an option following this outing.

First Reformed Church  
Schenectady, New York

**THE CONSISTORY**

Bill Levering, Senior Minister  
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister  
Stacey Midge, Minister of Mission, Outreach, and Youth  
Keith Muse & Mary Jewett, Senior Elders  
Catherine Lewis, Treasurer  
Linnea D'Andrea, Clerk

**ELDERS**

Veronica Bartholic  
Robert Dickson  
Joyce Griggs  
Mary Jewett  
Margaret King  
Keith Muse  
Katherine Trimarco  
William Ward  
Johnny Willis  
Eugene Zeltmann

**DEACONS**

Linnea D'Andrea  
Fred Daniels  
Richard Davis  
Gay Doolittle  
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes  
Bill Martin  
Victoria McGowan-Horan  
William Rochelle  
George Trimarco  
Nancy Wainwright

**COVENANTERS**

Jeremy Bork  
Daniel Bork

**CHURCH STAFF**

Naphtali, Rothrock, Organist  
Julie Panke, Director of Music  
Corine Salon, Artistic Coordinator  
Judy Moore, Director of Klokken Tower Ringers  
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Ministry & Music  
Sarah Bachorik, Director of Kinderwyk  
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator  
Linda Malgieri, Assistant Bookkeeper  
Tani Breitenbach, Office Assistant  
Lyn Gordon, Sunday Receptionist  
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor  
Diana Wahid, Housekeeper  
Tom Mahan, Sexton

**Sunday, December 8**

- 8:00 am .....Breakfast with Sinterklaas
- 10:00 am .....Worship
- 10:15 am .....Church School for K-8
- 11:00 am .....Alternative Gift Fair
- 3:00 pm .....Thursday Belles Carol Sing
- 5:00 pm .....JH&SH Youth Group
- 5:00 pm .....Jazz Vespers

**Monday, December 9**

- 9:00 am .....Mens News Group
- 6:30 pm .....Stephen Ministry Training
- 7:00 pm .....Klokken Tower Ringers

**Tuesday, December 10**

- 10:00 am .....Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am .....Horizons Bible Study
- 6:00 pm .....Archives
- 6:00 pm .....CRTC
- 6:30 pm .....Standing Committees
- 7:30 pm .....Consistory

**Wednesday, December 11**

- 9:30 am .....Kerygma Conversations
- 1:00 pm .....Archives
- 2:00 pm .....Staff Meeting
- 6:00 pm .....Dinner & Faith Discussion
- 7:00 pm .....Midweek Evening Worship

**Thursday, December 12**

- 7:30 am .....Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 10:00 am .....Stitch Group
- 6:45 pm .....Yoga
- 7:30 am .....Chancel Choir

**Friday, December 13**

- 11:30 am .....Group VII

**Saturday, December 14**

- 10:00 am .....Crismon Decorating
- 2:00 pm .....Crandall Memorial Service

**Sunday, December 15**

- 10:00 am .....Worship
- 10:15 am .....Church School for K-8
- 11:00 am .....Forum
- 3:00 pm .....Blue Christmas
- 5:00 pm .....JH&SH Youth Group
- 5:00 pm .....Jazz Vespers

I only sing in the shower. I would join a choir, but I don't think my bathtub can hold that many people. ~Jarod Kintz

If I cannot fly, let me sing. ~ Stephen Sondheim

Words make you think. Music makes you feel. A song makes you feel a thought. ~Yip Harburg

Love, I find, is like singing. ~Zora Neale Hurston

If everyone started off the day singing, just think how happy they'd be. ~Lauren Myracle, Shine

Are you asking me if there is a god?' he said, still in that soft voice. 'All I can say is, I believe there is. I feel him when I sing. He has responded to my prayers countless times. He guides my actions and he dwells in my heart. I know he is there. ~Sharon Shinn, Archangel

You should never be embarrassed by your trouble with living, because it's the ones with the sorest throats who have done the most singing. ~Conor Oberst

Let's sing our way out of this ~Isabel Fraire