

**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.*



*December 28, 2014*



**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.

### **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.

### **Hearing Assistance**

We have hearing reinforcement units that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

### **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.

**First Sunday after Christmas Day**

December 28, 2014

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Chestnut Family Singers  
*Selected Carols*

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson  
The grace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Glory* Pablo Sosa

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #49  
*Once in David's Royal City*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O Holy One, despite your coming, we are so often preoccupied with our own ambitions or fears. We neglect righteousness and praise of you, our God, who are near. Have mercy on us and lead us by your Spirit in the way of Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *refrain of #23*  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo;**  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

*from Our Song of Hope*

Our only hope is Jesus Christ.  
After we refused to live in the image of God,  
He was born of the virgin Mary,  
sharing our genes and instincts,  
entering our culture, speaking our language,  
fulfilling the law of our God.  
Being united to Christ's humanity,  
we know ourselves when we rest in Him.

\* PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Look Up and Wonder* John L. Bell

Look up and wonder at the stars  
Which Fascinate creation.  
Are these not fit to fill God's heart  
With gladness and elation?  
Yet God forsakes the boundless skies  
For earth and incarnation.

Look round at worldly wealth and skill,  
At intellect and labor.  
Are these not fit to handsel heav'n  
And guarantee God's favor?  
Yet God forsakes what we pursue  
To meet the humblest neighbor.

Look down on makeshift dwelling place  
For animal or stranger.  
Is this not fit to distance God  
From trouble, dirt, and danger?  
Yet God forsakes a better home  
To hallow mess and manger.

Christ must be cradled, not in stars  
Or fame or worldly treasure;  
Instead God chooses those whose hearts  
Hold things that none can measure.  
In justice, kindness, love and peace  
Christ finds his place and pleasure.

\*handsel: inaugurate

FIRST LESSON Chris Fernandes  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** *Isaiah 61:10, 11 (pg 809)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 2:21-38 (pg 78)*

SERMON *Righteousness and Praise*

\*HYMN *Joy to the World* #40

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter*

\*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 #22  
*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*

POSTLUDE Naphtali Rothrock

+ + +

### 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 FRC & UPC who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

*R. Ned Landon, Fran Zentmire, Jean Collins,  
Jean Bowman*

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.

### Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

A flower calendar is posted on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the sanctuary wherein you can choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. Please inform the church office of your wishes. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for two bouquets. You may send your check payable

to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

**Christmas and Epiphany Church School**  
**Today:** Regular church school grades K-8.

### Faith Bookshop

The season continues in the Bookshop with related books and gifts.

### Post Service Refreshments

Everyone is invited to have refreshments in Assembly Hall right after worship. We are always looking for volunteers to bring in treats of any kind. It can be cookies, cheese and crackers, fruit, or anything you want. Please contact our Taart Baas, Karen Gonda, via email at gonda6@aol.com or at 607-725-4521, to indicate the dates you are available. Please also see our announcement for Christmas Eve Refreshments.

### Forum

After worship most Sundays at 11:15am in Poling Chapel, suggestions for programs are welcome from any committee or member; simply contact Amy Brule 785-8201, Peggy King 370-1885, Olivia Mancuso 381-8860, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

**January 4:** Green Market – Amy Brule introducing speaker Leesa Perazzo

**January 11:** Unity Dinner

### Here We Go A' Caroling - Today

Those of every age are invited to join us for a good cheer frolic. After worship and refreshments we'll carpool and carol to those in need of "good tidings this Christmas and a happy New Year!" There will be treats along the way and the option of a complementary lunch following the outing.

### Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

**Today:** Mike Lamkin, piano

**January 4:** Nat Phipps, Pete Toigo, and Tom D'Andrea

**January 11:** 'Azzaam Hameed

### **Youth Activities**

Youth group will meet every Sunday at 5pm for dinner, discussion, games, etc. All youth in grades 6 – 12 are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Stacey.

**Today:** No meeting, enjoy the holiday break!

**January 4:** No meeting, enjoy the holiday break!

**January 11:** Regular meeting at 5

### **The Link - Saturday, 5pm Worship Service**

This is a family-friendly opportunity to worship through contemporary music and casual liturgy. All people are welcome, but we especially invite families with Sunday sports activities, those who work Sunday mornings, and anyone who is seeking a supportive Christian community in a modern worship setting. Contact Stacey with any questions about this new service.

### **Senior Pastors Open House**

Join Dr. Levering on Friday, January 2 from 4 – 9pm, 923 Northumberland Drive.

### **Epiphany Party**

This year our annual celebration of Christ's manifestation to Magi--the festive culmination of Christmas--will be held on Saturday, Jan. 3, 5-8 PM at the Hjelmar's home: 9 Homestead Rd., Glenville. Everyone is invited! We'll share snacks and sweets, sip on tasty drinks, sing a few carols, recall the sacred story, and process with the Magi. The hale and hearty, all bundled up, will go outside to share in the house blessing, followed by prayers around the blaze of a bonfire. All attending should bring a favorite beverage and an appetizer or desert to share. Also, bring slippers to wear and plan on leaving shoes/boots at the door. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall. Contact Daniel Carlson if you have any questions. Follow that Star!

### **Offering Envelopes**

2015 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the church office. If you did not sign up for envelopes on your pledge card, we have extra envelopes available for anyone who would like some.

### **Horizons Bible Study**

Starting January 6, we will be doing a 6 week study of the first half of the book of Psalms (Psalms 1-72) using a study guide that will be available from the office for \$9 each. Anyone interested is welcome to join us Tuesdays at 10am. **Note:** We will **NOT** be meeting Dec. 23 or 30, we resume Jan. 6.

### **Special Celebration – Unity Dinner**

Yearly on the second Sunday in January we will set aside time to celebrate the legacy of UPC. On **January 11, 2015, we will celebrate with the first special luncheon.** You are all invited! The dinner will take place at Water's Edge Lighthouse Restaurant with Hors d'oeuvres served at 11:15 AM and the Buffet Luncheon served at noon. Cost: Baskets will be available on the dinner tables for donations. **RSVP: For Luncheon Reservations by Signing-up in Assembly Hall by Tuesday, January 5, 2015.**

### **The Chrismon Tree**

After the service, please stop in the Dirck Romeyn Room to view the Chrismon tree which has been donated by Carolyn Jones-Assisi and Carol Welch in memory of Alice and Russell V Jones, Carolyn's parents, and Robert V. Shepherd and Anne Shepherd Wemple, Carol's parents and Susan Shepherd, Carol's sister. The Chrismon ornaments are white and gold. You will see crosses, palms, fish, the hand of God among other symbols of Christianity.

### **Hamilton Hill Arts Center**

On January 15, the Hamilton Hill Arts Center will be holding a banquet with the theme, "Dr. King's Vision of a Beloved Community." Their Legacy Award is being given to our very own Bill Levering for the work the FRC has done in engaging the Schenectady community. The banquet will be held at Mallozzi's Restaurant, with reception at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:30pm. If you are interested in attending please call Laura Lee Linder by January 7 at 882-6866.

### **Narthex Display Cases**

“And a little child shall lead them.” Take a moment to view the Narthex display cases this Christmas season. Nancy Teichner’s arrangement of the beautifully hand carved ARI Kuolt wooden figures of the David Coons Van Voast Memorial Crèche may be seen along with other special Christmas items.

### **Stitch Group**

Our church stitch group meets every Thursday at 10am in Poling Conference room. All are welcome! For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153.

### **What's Your Story?**

Everyone has significant life stories to share and doing so with the context of a small group committed to gently holding such stories in the light of God’s love enables us to come to better know and appreciate others and ourselves! The 7pm session will meet on January 12 and the 10am session will meet on January 19 in the Dirck Romeyn room. All are welcome.

### **Aging in a Changing Landscape**

On Thursday, January 15, 6:30-7:45 PM, Laurie Bacheldor, Manger of Schenectady County Elder Care, will outline major health and aging system changes being rolled out by both the Federal and State levels, as well provide information on local services and programs. Discussion will follow on how to stay active and remain in our homes/apartments as long as possible. This presentation, sponsored by our church's Stephen Ministry, is open to all members of the congregations and others who wish to consider this topic; no sign-up required.

### **Group VII**

On Friday, January 16 we will meet at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Visit with the Covenanters. Co-hostesses: Linda Witkowski and Ronnie Bartholic. Any questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679.

### **Tuesday Ladies**

Tuesday Ladies will have their winter salad supper on January 20, 6pm at Connie Young’s house, 1400 Keyes Ave. All women are welcome! Regular meetings are every third Tuesday at 7:30pm at Connie Young’s home. All ladies are welcome to join us. Please call Connie, 393-7061 with any questions.

### **Flash Fiction Writers Group**

A Flash Fiction critique group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Walton Conference Room. Flash Fiction is a COMPLETE story, fiction or nonfiction, written in 1,000 words or less. For more info and signups, contact James Gonda at jamesgonda63@yahoo.com or the church office.

### **Prospective Member Class**

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Dr. Levering will be leading a membership orientation meeting that includes a tour of the church and a chat about who we are. It lasts 90 minutes and is held in the church office at 3pm on the first Sundays of October through February. Our next class is January 4.

### **Fellowship Luncheon**

Friday Fellowship Luncheon will not meet in December. Our next luncheon will be Friday, January 16, with hostesses Peg Miller and Sally Bestgen. Fellowship Luncheon is a pot-luck event open to all. Please contact Amy Brule, 785-8201; or Sally Bestgen, 346-0304, with any questions or suggestions. Most importantly, it is a time of Fellowship, so do join us. Enjoy this Christmas season! A sign-up sheet will be available in Assembly Hall.

### **Daily Devotional Books**

Group V has their Devotional books available again this year. There are copies available in the book shop. These books can be used over year after year. The quotes come from religious and non-religious sources. If you any questions, contact Maria G. Todd, 372-9522, who will also have books. The cost is \$7 each or 3 for \$20.

### **Church Directory Photos**

Ralph Rosenthal will continue to take pictures for our next church directory every Sunday after worship in the Heritage room (off the Dirck Romeyn Room). No appointment necessary.

### **Church History for Sale**

*Three Centuries: The History of the First Reformed Church of Schenectady* is for sale in the Faith Bookshop and is a great gift idea. Share the story of our congregation; its place in the founding and formation of Schenectady, Consistory, Ministers, six houses of worship, Covenant, issues, solutions, and how we have kept our “inheritance” in order.

### **Prayer Shawl Knit Group**

We will not be meeting in December, but we will resume on Thursday, January 22 at 9:30am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic.

### **Kinderwyck**

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. The church staff will contact you to schedule the Sundays you are willing and available to serve.

### **Furniture and House Items Needed**

Construction has finished on the mission apartment on the third floor and we need your help to furnish it! We are looking for donations of furniture, kitchen utensils, dishware and linens. If you have items for donation please call Lyn Gordon (370-4324) or see her at the front desk after church to make arrangements.

### **Group V**

Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 5 at 11:30am in the Dirck Romeyn room. Any questions, contact Barbara Piper, 399-3620.

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Dave Hjelmar, Claire Huges	William Martin, Joan Lindsay
<b>Greeters</b>		The Doolittle's
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Adam Mason, Mary Jewett, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Arthur Casey, Thomas Lindsay, Joseph Lovell, Keith Muse	Thomas Lindsay, Mary Jewett, George Davidson, Gay Doolittle, James Gonda, Joyce Griggs, Peggy King, Robert Dickson
<b>Reader</b>	Chris Fernandes	Marilyn Leach
<b>Refreshments</b>	Sally Bestgen, Liz Mastrianni	Diane Lewis, Sue Zeltmann
<b>Ushers</b>	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd, Carol Troost	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin, George Davidson, Philip Youarno

**Sunday, December 28**

- 9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 9:00 am ..... Kirk Singers rehearsal
- 10:00 am ..... Worship
- 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5
- 11:15 am ..... Christmas Caroling Frolic
- 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers
- 11:15 am ..... Orff Rehearsal
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

**Monday, December 29**

- 9:00 am ..... Men's News Group
- 6:15 pm..... Yoga
- 7:00 pm..... Klokken Tower Ringers

**Tuesday, December 30**

- 10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer

**Wednesday, December 31**

**Thursday, January 1**

**Office Closed**

**Friday, January 2**

- 4:00 pm..... Senior Pastor's Open House

**Saturday, January 3**

- 5:00 pm..... Link Service
- 5:00 pm..... Epiphany Party

**Sunday, January 4**

- 9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am ..... Worship
- 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5
- 11:15 am ..... Forum
- 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers