

**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.



The journey to God is not a straight line.

January 4, 2015



First Reformed Church
8 North Church Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 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 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 after Christmas Day

January 4, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE *Prelude of Suite No. 2* JS Bach
Olivia Cox, cello

10:00 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Down to Earth* Personent Hodie

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #53
What Child Is This

*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 *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!

*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 *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*
John Ferguson

Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.

Word almighty, we revere you,
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
Crucified for our salvation,

Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that speaks God's tender love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling.

Word of truth, to all truth lead us,
Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

James Quinn, SJ

FIRST LESSON Marilyn Leach
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Isaiah 60:1-6 (pg 690)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12 (pg 2)*

SERMON *Moving Towards God*

*HYMN #68
What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Vocalise* Sergei Rachmaninov

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

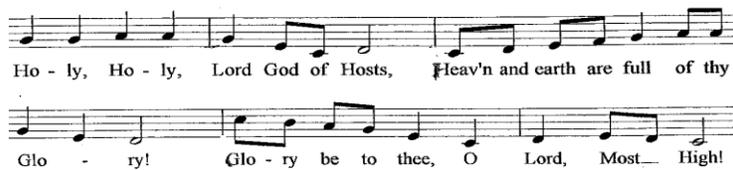
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*) Carl Steubing



COMMUNION

Come down the center aisle starting from all the FRONT pews. Return by way of the side aisles. The servers will bring the elements to any who choose to remain seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 #543 (*vss. 1-3*)
Abide with Me

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Threefold Amen Dale Wood

POSTLUDE Olivia Cox

+ + +

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Lillian Roe

December 31, 2014

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:

Frederick Arnds, Walter Betka, James Caufield, Maude Dunlap, Helen Gallagher, Charlotte King, Albert Lawrence, and Barbara Stroebel

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 Note: The Response of Praise is from the Taizé community, Jacques Bethier ©Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Onelicense.net License #A-700700.

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.

Today: Green Market – Amy Brule introducing speaker Leesa Perazzo

January 11: Unity Dinner

January 18: Martin Luther King Sunday – Joe Doolittle to introduce speaker Marsha Mortimore from Duryee AME Zion Church - “Schenectady African-American Connections Past and Prologue

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Nat Phipps, Pete Toigo, and Tom D’Andrea

January 11: ‘Azzaam Hameed

January 18: Delaneys & D’Andrea

Faith Bookshop

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

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 11 - Regular meeting, followed by mission trip meeting for those senior high students participating.

January 18 & 25 - Regular meeting

Post-Service Refreshments, Please!

Everyone is invited to have refreshments in Assembly Hall right after worship. With your help we can we enjoy treats after Sunday service and connect with strangers and friends. Would you please consider being part of the vital ministry of hospitality? Sign up or contact Karen the Taart Baas, 607-725-4521, gonda6@aol.com, to bring snacks of any variety. Thank you!

Fellowship Luncheon

Fellowship Luncheon will be on Friday, January 16th. Our hostesses are Peg Miller (Mrs. James) and Sally Bestgen. Our speaker will be Rachael Wallace from the new company in town, **Quirky!** Quirky makes invention accessible by bringing real people's product ideas to life. Rachel will be bringing with her a variety of products that Quirky has developed. Please let's give a warm welcome to this new company in town. Come find out what makes them "Quirky".

Just bring a dish to share, sit back and enjoy.

Remember, Fellowship Luncheon is open to both men and women. Please sign up, either by phone (346 0304) or in Assembly Hall.

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.

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.

Prospective Member Class

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Dr. Levering will be leading a membership 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.

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 pots and pans, cooking utensils, table ware, flatware, glassware, and a desk, comfortable chair and bistro table and chairs. If you have items for donation please call Lyn Gordon (370-4324) or see her at the front desk after church to make arrangements.

Winterfest Jan 31 for Adults AND Youth

Signup soon! See First Things for details.

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 \$10 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.

Midweek Meal and Worship

With Rev. Carlson away much of January, working intensely on his thesis proposal, these weekly events will resume in February.

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.

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.

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.

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 at Barbara Piper's home.** All are welcome.

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.

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 congregation and others who wish to consider this topic; no sign-up required.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Group V

There was a misprint in last week's bulletin. Group V will not be meeting in January.

Men's Breakfast

There will be two opportunities to enjoy "Breakfast Out" in January. On Saturday, January 10, we have been invited to attend the Men's Breakfast program at Woestina Reformed Church, located at 1397 Main Street (Route 5S) in Rotterdam Junction. They meet at 8:00 AM and serve a full breakfast menu (all you can eat) for \$5.00. The speaker on January 10 will be John Van Wingerden; John lived through WWII in the Netherlands, and he will talk about his experiences there. Please reply to the following email address if you decide to attend: BillPinkney@ptconnect.net.

Our program at FRC will be held on Saturday, January 24 at 8:00 AM, when the speaker will be Mike Saccocio of the Schenectady City Mission. Mike's topic will be: Collaboration to Secure the Welfare of the City: an Update on the Transformational Schenectady Bridges Partnership. Light Breakfast served. Questions/Feedback Gene Rowland (Rowland.gene2@gmail.com) or Joe Doolittle (aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com)

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	William Martin, Joan Lindsay	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Claire Huges
Greeters	Gay and Joe Doolittle	Norma and Dale Brown
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	Kip and Joanne Arnold, Dale and Norma Brown
Faith Bookshop	Virginia Laumeister	Nancy Wainwright
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Preacher	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Thomas Lindsay, George Davidson, Gay Doolittle, James Gonda, Joyce Griggs, Peggy King, Robert Dickson	James Gonda, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Joe Lovell, Tomas Lindsay, Liz Mastrianni, John Bestgen, Linda Witkowski, Christine Davis
Reader	Marilyn Leach	Gay Doolittle
Refreshments	Diane Lewis, Sue Zeltmann	Need Volunteers!
Ushers	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin, George Davidson, Philip Yourno	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeff Cox, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Joan Lindsay

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
- 3:00 pm New Member Class
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, January 5

- 9:00 am Men's News Group
- 6:15 pm Yoga

Tuesday, January 6

- 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 11:30 am Support and Care/Poling
- 1:30 pm Worship Planning
- 7:00 pm UPC Session

Wednesday, January 7

Thursday, January 8

- 7:30 am Breakfast Bible Brunch
- 10:00 am Stitch Group
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, January 9

Saturday, January 10

- 5:00 pm Link Service

Sunday, January 11

- 9:00 am Chancel Choir/Choir Room
- 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal/Poling Chapel
- 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
- 5:00 pm JH & SH Youth Group

“I never made one of my discoveries through the process of rational thinking” — Albert Einstein

“There's nothing better when something comes and hits you and you think 'YES!'” — J.K. Rowling

“The thing about changing the world... Once you do it, the world's all different.” — Joss Whedon, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The Long Way Home*

“He glanced back at the wall. How like a mirror, too, her face. Impossible; for how many people did you know who reflected your own light to you? People were more often--he searched for a simile, found one in his work--torches, blazing away until they whiffed out. How rarely did other people's faces take of you and throw back to you your own expression, your own innermost trembling thought?” — Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

“He did not want to play. He wanted to meet in the real world the unsubstantial image which his soul so constantly beheld. He did not know where to seek it or how, but a premonition which led him on told him that this image would, without any overt act of his, encounter him. They would meet quietly as if they had known each other and had made their tryst, perhaps at one of the gates or in some more secret place. They would be alone, surrounded by darkness and silence: and in that moment of supreme tenderness he would be transfigured. He would fade into something impalpable under her eyes and then in a moment he would be transfigured. Weakness and timidity and inexperience would fall from him in that magic moment.” — James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

“Any great art work ... revives and readapts time and space, and the measure of its success is the extent to which it makes you an inhabitant of that world - the extent to which it invites you in and lets you breathe its strange, special air.” — Leonard Bernstein

“The magic of the street is the mingling of the errand and the epiphany.” — Rebecca Solnit, *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*