

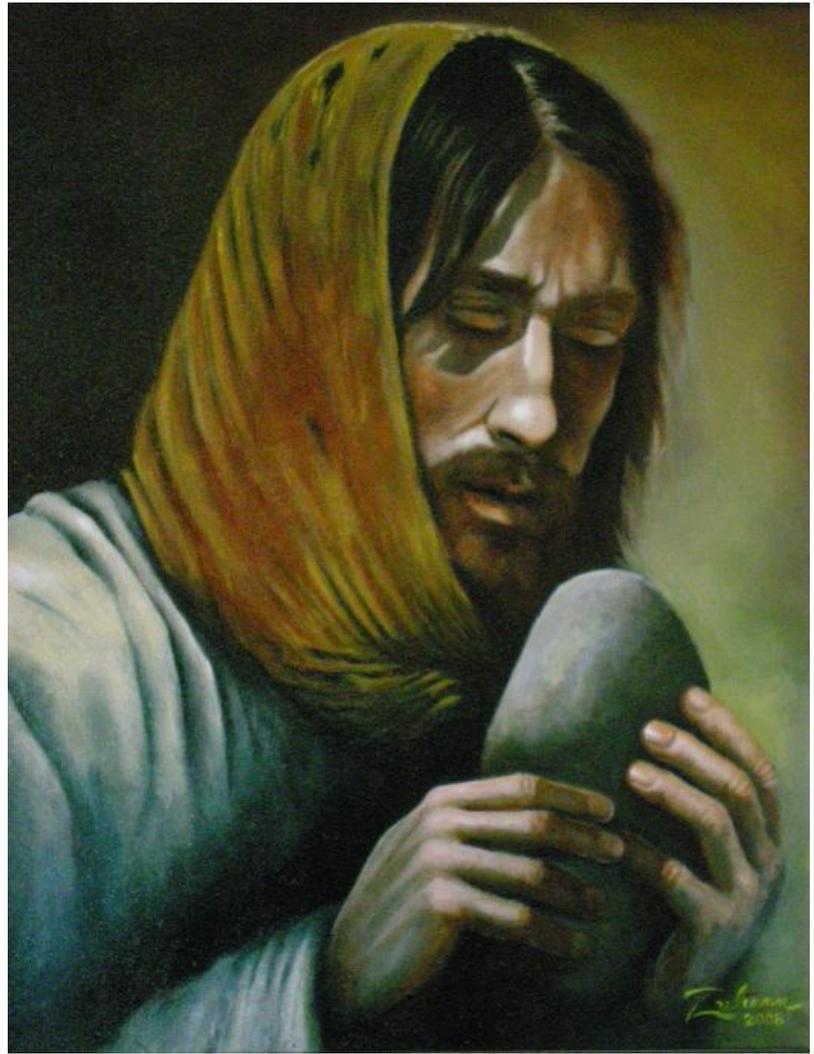
**The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962**

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.



With power comes temptation.

February 22, 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 video and audio 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.

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harpist
10:00 a.m.

+ + + **The Approach to God** + + +

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #275
God of Our Life

*OUR NEED FOR GOD
Beginning with prayerful silence...

Ky - ri - e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Greek Ky - ri - e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e - le - i - son.
English Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)
(from the United Church of Canada)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is
creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word
made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the
Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live**

**with respect in Creation, to love and serve
others, to seek justice and resist evil, to
proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our
judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life
beyond death, God is with us. We are not
alone. Thanks be to God.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Retirement
Arr. Alice Parker; Kate Rose, soloist

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

Were the whole realm of nautre mine,
that were a present far too small,
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts, 1707

FIRST LESSON Marilyn Leach
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Genesis 9:8-17 (pg 7)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 1:9-15 (pg 34)*

SERMON *Angels and Tempters*

*HYMN #80
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *What Wondrous Love Is This*
Johnny Willis, tenor and mandolin
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harpist

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 #81

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harpist

+ + +

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:

Dr. Joseph Burke, Mary Harter, Elle Kampf, Georgeina Kellam, Mary MacKinnon, Marjorie Reid, Marjorie Todd, Robert Traxler

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 check payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Post-Service Refreshments, Please!

"The people who give you their food give you their hearts." - Cesar Chavez Thank you to all who contribute post-service refreshments! We need more volunteers. If you've thought about participating in our hospitality ministry but aren't sure of what's required, check out the guidelines next to the sign-up sheet posted in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call or email Karen the Taart Baas, 607-725-4521, gonda6@aol.com

First 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: Rev Daniel Carlson to introduce Peter Lion, "Attending to Stewardship: Energy Efficiency Actions"

March 1: Gwen Bondi and Nancy Ginsberg from Care Choices will be speaking on Advance Care Planning.

March 8: Peggy King to introduce Ryan Lambert "Stewardship & Remembrances"

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.

February 22: No Regular Meeting.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Peg Delaney Trio

March 1: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass, Tom D'Andrea, drums

March 8: Tim Olsen, piano

Four Chaplains Memorial Service

You are cordially invited to attend the 50th annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service and Brotherhood Award Program on Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 2:30pm in the Samuel S. Stratton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chapel. and his time in Schenectady before his military duties and destiny aboard the Dorchester.

Middle School Class Offered

Sunday Mornings

The Middle School Church School class will be studying the most interesting people in the Bible. Each week a new Bible character will be discussed, highlighting their strengths, weaknesses, and what God accomplished through them. This class is being offered to 5th- 8th graders. If you know anyone in this age group, please encourage them to attend!

Horizons Bible Study

We will be doing a study of the first half of the book of Psalms (Psalms 1-72). Anyone interested is welcome to join us Tuesdays at 10am.

New Kerygma Conversations

All are welcome to this lively and inquisitive study and discussion group each Wednesday 9:30 – 11am, in Poling Conference room. Through May 20, we'll be exploring the second book of the Bible, Exodus and what this has to do with our faith. Questions? Contact Daniel Carlson, group leader.

Stitch Group

Our church PHD* stitch group meets every Thursday at 10am in the Poling Conference room. Come, finish a project and enjoy good company and conversation. All are welcome! For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153.

*Projects Half Done

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We will meet on Thursday, February 18 at 9:30am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic. Please note change of date. Any questions, contact Ronnie at 393-7679.

Intergenerational Game Night

Mark your calendar and join the Fellowship and Youth Education Committees for a night to enjoy each other's company playing board games, puzzles, and cards from 5pm on Saturday, February 28. Plan to bring a favorite game, a drink to share, and either a snack or dessert to share. We'll order pizza so you don't need to cook that night. We're looking forward to it!

First Forum March 1

Gwen Bondi and Nancy Ginsberg from Care Choices (*Ellis Medicine and the Visiting Nurse Service of Northeastern NY*) will be conducting a forum on Advance Care Planning. Advance Care Planning is a process for you to understand possible, future health choices; reflect on these choices in light of the values and goals important to you; discuss your choices with those close to you and the health professionals who care for you; and make a plan for future healthcare situations. *Learn how Advance Care Planning helps your quality of life and how you can take an active role in making your healthcare decisions.* Everyone Welcome! Following the presentation will be an opportunity to fill out advance directive forms in Assembly Hall. Gwen and Nancy will be available for assistance. Lunch will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Group V

On March 2, the guest speaker is Rayn Boncie, CEO & Founder of Things of My Very Own Inc. (TOMVO) a non-profit organization that provides crisis intervention services to children who have been impacted by extensive abuse and/or neglect. Barbara Piper will host at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn room.

Schubert Mass in G

Music in Worship March 8

The Chancel Choir will present Schubert's Mass in G Major with orchestral and organ accompaniment. Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828) wrote this 'second' mass in 1815 in less than a week. Come experience this very popular classical work as we worship during the third Sunday of Lent.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast group will meet at 8:00am on Saturday, March 14 in Assembly Hall. Our speaker will be Claire Hughes, health reporter for the Times Union. She will speak about her observations on the changes ongoing in the health care scene. Come and bring a friend for this inspiring presentation, and enjoy a healthy breakfast.

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.

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.

Ushers Needed!

We still need a few more ushers to fill out our usher groups. It only requires a commitment of once every 6 weeks. It's a great way to serve our church and a wonderful way to meet folks. Please contact Del Pierce in church, by phone 356-0955, or email delpierce@gmail.com. Thanks!

Busman Family Fire Fund

If you are looking to assist the Busman's after their house fire, you can donate to the First National Bank of Scotia (201 Mohawk Av., Scotia 12302) under the name "Busman Family Fire Fund".

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Cynthia and Joseph Gallagher	William Martin, Joan Lindsay
Greeters	Ken and Ruth Roinos	Walt and Ann Robb
Flower Delivery	Liz Mastrianni, Ann Gotwalls	Eric Evans, Nancy Swan
Faith Bookshop	Virginia Laumeister	
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Arthur Casey, Del Pierce, Liz Mastrianni, George Davidson, Richard Rose, Bob Beadle, Roberta Blackmer, Bill Rochelle	Peggy King, James Gonda, Darwin Brudos, Don Leach, Mary Jewett, Eric Evans, Marilyn Leach, Tom Lindsay
Reader	Marilyn Leach	
Refreshments	Fred and Christine Daniels, Connie Young,	Ann Hicks and Ann Bish
Ushers	Art Shultes (head usher), Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Joan Lindsay	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Linda Malgieri, Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal

2015 Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays, February 25 – March 25

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Lenten Programs

8pm ~ Lenten Evening Worship

Dinner

Come share a delicious meal and good conversation at 6pm any Wednesday of Lent.

Lenten Evening Worship

A quiet service at the end of the evening includes songs accompanied by guitar, guided reflection on the day, sharing Holy Communion, prayers, and sharing Christ's peace.

Programs

For this year's journey towards Easter Sunday on the Adult Education and Nurture Committee is sponsoring five different programs, weekly worship services and dinners.

First Reformed Church and the Civil War

Presented by the Archives and History Committee and guest speakers.

- Feb 25 FRC in the 1680's Show & Tell
- Mar 4 Union College & the Civil War;
Speaker President Dr. Stephen C. Ainlay
- Mar 11 The Empire State in the Civil War;
Speaker Robert Weible
- Mar 18 Activities of FRC Members during
the War; Speaker Laura Lee Linder
- Mar 25 The Sermon that called Schenectady
Together at the end of the Civil War;
Speaker Dale Brown

What's Your Story?

Led by Norma Brown 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.

God in the News

A drop-in class reviewing the headlines of the week and discussing our responses. Presented by Dr. Levering.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Kids in grades K-12 are invited to join the FRC Productions team to create and film the story of Jonah. All aspects of video production need to be covered - set design, costumes, lighting, sound, props, music, and of course, acting. No matter what your talent, there is a place for you in this film. We will be meeting on the stage after dinner.

Prayer Shawls Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? Or would you like to learn? Please join us to make a prayer shawl to share with someone in need of prayer, attention and warmth!

Lenten Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers! Can you help? Two or three people are needed to set tables on Wednesday afternoons. Three or four people are needed for clean up after the dinners. We also need people to help prepare food. This can be done at home and at least part of the cost of the food will be reimbursed from the offering. If you can help, please contact Mary Jewett at 355-8059 or jewett.mary@gmail.com.



Sunday, February 22

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
 11:15 am First Futures
 5:00 pm Jazz Vesper

Monday, February 23

9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
 6:15 pm Yoga
 7:00 pm Klokken Ringers
 7:00 pm Creation Care

Tuesday, February 24

10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, February 25

9:30 am Kerygma
 11:00 am First Things Volunteers
 1:00 pm Thursday Bells
 6:00 pm Lenten Dinners
 7:00 pm Lenten Program
 7:00 pm Writers Group
 8:00 pm Lenten Evening Worship

Thursday, February 26

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

Friday, February 27**Saturday, February 28**

5:00 pm Intergenerational Game Night

Sunday, March 1

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
 11:15 am First Futures
 5:00 pm Jazz Vesper
 5:00 pm Youth Group

“A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is... A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“Laws and principles are not for the times when there is no temptation: they are for such moments as this, when body and soul rise in mutiny against their rigour ... If at my convenience I might break them, what would be their worth?”

— Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

“Self-knowledge is better than self-control any day," Raquel said firmly. "And I know myself well enough to know how I act around cookies.”

— Claudia Gray, *Evernight*

“Hard to say what's right when all I wanna do is wrong.” — Prince

“Power was my weakness and my temptation.”
 — J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

“No evil dooms us hopelessly except the evil we love, and desire to continue in, and make no effort to escape from.”

— George Eliot, *Daniel Deronda*

“... the devil doesn't come dressed in a red cape and pointy horns. He comes as everything you've ever wished for ...” — Tucker Max

“The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking spaces.” — Will Rogers

“The greatest temptations are not those that solicit our consent to obvious sin, but those that offer us great evils masking as the greatest goods.” — Thomas Merton, *No Man Is an Island*