

**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.



March 1, 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.

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Naphtali Rothrock

Meditation from "Thais" Jules Massenet

Meditation on "Showalter" Ben Logan

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross
arr. Robert Hebble

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *O Love How Deep* John Yarrington

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #343

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Beginning with prayerful silence...

***Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,
Kyrie eleison,***

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*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.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Liesel Caroline Tobin

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES

Amanda and Richard Tobin

PRAYER AND BAPTISMAL COVENANT

BLESSING AND WELCOME

Welcome our brother in Christ.

**Joyfully we receive you. Join us to give
witness in the world to the good news, for
we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord

Vicki Hancock Wright

Olivia Mancuso, soloist

When the first sunrise awoke all creation,
God smiled and declared, "This is good."

Sun bringing brightness,
light spilling from heaven,
God's love touching all that it could.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord,
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Feel God's love shining in us,
around us and through us.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

When you see someone who
seems sad and lonely,
and needing a friend just like you,
God gives you guidance
to light up the darkness;
God's love touching others through you.

FIRST LESSON Jonathan Terino

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.

Amen. *Genesis 17:1-7 (pg 13)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 8:31-38 (pg 44)*

SERMON *Giving Up*

*HYMN #85

What Wondrous Love Is This

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Purge Me, O Lord

Thomas Tallis

Purge me, O Lord, from all my sin,
save thou me by faith from ill,
that I may rest and dwell in thee,
upon thy holy blessed hill:
and that done, grant that with true heart
I may without hypocrisy
affirm the truth, detract no one,
but do all things with equity.

*DOXOLOGY

#592

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All are invited. We hold the elements until all are served.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

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

#344

Christ of the Upward Way

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

POSTLUDE *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*
Sicilian Mariners

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:

Mark Opdyke, James Sholtz, Carl Settle, Sally Wemple, Peter Ipsen

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.

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: 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"

March 15: Rev Carlson "Thesis Talk and Engagement"

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

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

March 8: Tim Olsen, piano

March 15: Peg Delaney, piano

First Forum Today

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. 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.

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: Gathering for ALL youth, whether or not you attended the mission trip. Food, games, discussion.

March 8: Interfaith service in Albany (youth should be at church at 4pm to drive to the service)

March 15: Regular Meeting

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

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!

Chancel Memorial Flowers

Each Easter, members of Chancel Guild adorn our church with beautiful Easter flowers. Your family can contribute to remember a loved one or honor a loved one. Please send your suggested donation of \$20 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309 **and** contact the church office with the name of the person the flowers are in honor or memory of. Even if you have donated in previous years, please place an order for 2015 by Monday March 30

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.

New Member Class TODAY

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 the month.

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.

Annual Report

Copies of the UPC final 2014 annual report can be picked up in the office or the Narthex.

Faith Bookshop

New in the Bookshop: mealtime prayer cubes with a different grace on each side. Large and easy to read, they make a nice addition to a family table during Lent, or anytime. Smaller, help-me-be-a-good-friend prayer cubes are also available.

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 as we worship during the third Sunday of Lent.

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.

The Wheeler Concert

Friday, March 13th, is the return visit of the Wheeler Concert Handbell Choir. This group of high school students always amazes us with their talent and program! Please join us at 7pm for this special program that is certain to please you!

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We will meet on Thursday, March 26 at 9:30am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic. Please note change of date. Any questions, contact Ronnie at 393-7679.

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	William Martin, Joan Lindsay	Vickie Horan, Claire Hughes
Greeters	Walt and Ann Robb	Ellie Rowland and Karen Giuzio
Flower Delivery	Eric Evans, Nancy Swan	Fred Daniels and Jane Falconer
Faith Bookshop		
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Rob Dickson, James Gonda, Darwin Brudos, Don Leach, Mary Jewett, Eric Evans, Marilyn Leach, Tom Lindsay	Joyce Griggs, Robert Dickson, Cathy Lewis, Ellie Rowland, Gay Doolittle, George Davidson, John Bestgen, Joe Lovell,
Reader	Jonathan Terino	Jim Miller
Refreshments	Ann Hicks and Ann Bish	
Ushers	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Linda Malgieri, Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Michael Jablon

2015 Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays, Through 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 Historical Concerns Committee and guest speakers.

- 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, NYS
Historian
- Mar 18 Activities of FRC Members during
the War; Speaker Frank Wicks
- 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, 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
- 12:00 pm Justice Action Counsel/Assembly
- 3:00 pm New Member Class
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vesper

Monday, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

- 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 11:30 am Support and Care
- 1:20 pm Worship Planning

Wednesday, March 4

- 9:30 am Kerygma
- 1:00 pm Thursday Bells
- 6:00 pm Lenten Dinners
- 7:00 pm Lenten Program
- 8:00 pm Lenten Evening Worship

Thursday, March 5

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

Friday, March 6

Saturday, March 7

Sunday, March 8

- 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

“There isn’t much I wouldn’t do for you. The stupider, the better.” — Richelle Mead, *Last Sacrifice*

Seven Deadly Sins
Wealth without work, Pleasure without conscience, Science without humanity, Knowledge without character, Politics without principle, Commerce without morality, Worship without sacrifice.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

“Dreams do come true, if only we wish hard enough. You can have anything in life if you will sacrifice everything else for it.” — J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

“I guess that’s just part of loving people: You have to give things up. Sometimes you even have to give them up.” — Lauren Oliver, *Delirium*

“The really important kind of freedom involves attention, and awareness, and discipline, and effort, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them, over and over, in myriad petty little unsexy ways, every day.” — David Foster Wallace

“Sacrifice is a part of life. It's supposed to be. It's not something to regret. It's something to aspire to.” — Mitch Albom, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

“As my sufferings mounted I soon realized that there were two ways in which I could respond to my situation -- either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force. I decided to follow the latter course.” — Martin Luther King Jr.

“It's not hard to decide what you want your life to be about. What's hard, she said, is figuring out what you're willing to give up in order to do the things you really care about.” — Shauna Niequist, *Bittersweet: Thoughts on Change, Grace, and Learning the Hard Way*

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

“The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.” — Gaylord Nelson