

**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 8, 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.

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Kaelan Hansson, organ
10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN #376
Love Devine, All Loves Excelling

OUR NEED FOR GOD

Strong and loving God, we admit that we have strayed from noble ways like lost sheep. Too often we have only followed the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone selfless loving acts; and we have done selfish shortsighted things. Lord, have mercy upon us. Restore us to a whole and holy life, we pray. Amen.

Kyrie Chancel Choir
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria in excelsis Deo Chancel Choir
Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;

thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*) p.15
The Nicene Creed (Traditional)

Credo Chancel Choir

*PASSING THE PEACE

FIRST LESSON Jim Miller
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Exodus 20:1-17 (page 66)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 3:14-21 (page 93)*

SERMON Angry Jesus

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sanctus/Benedictus*

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest

*DOXOLOGY

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.

*HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* #420

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

POSTLUDE

Kaelan Hansson, organ

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:

*Daniel Thuener, Roy Stratton, Len Garver,
John Hillers*

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please 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.

Music Notes

Today's choral music is the *Mass in G Major* by Franz Schubert. We are grateful for our musicians:

Bass: Don Lester

Cello: Cathie-Jo Brun, Peg Reich

Organ: Kaelan Hansson

Viola: Karl Brosch, Edith Kliman

Violin I: Chris Cropsey, Virginia Travers, Bob Brannon

Violin II: Carol Blom, Ann K. Seidman, Jayne McCann, Abby Norton-Levering

Organ: Kaelan Hansson

Conductor: Corine Salon

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!

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: Ryan Lambert "Stewardship & Remembrances: Charitable Legacy Planning"
March 15: Rev Carlson: Update on Daniel's Thesis Proposal

March 22: Youth Mission Trip – Whitesburg, Kentucky Rev. Stacey Midge

March 29: Covenanters wrap up - Claudette Martin, Hannah Busman and Kendra & Kelsey Kleinwolterink

First Futures Building Campaign

Are you wondering about the First Futures Campaign? Do you have questions or thoughts about our worship experience together? Get answers to your questions and offer your thoughts to one of the planning committees each Sunday in the Dirk Romeyn Room, immediately following the service. This Sunday Dan Ipsen, Chair of the Connecting with God Committee, will be present to listen and learn.

Also please take a few minutes to complete a First Futures Campaign Questionnaire. There are two ways to fill out the questionnaire:

~Get a hard copy at Coffee Hour

~Answer an email you will be getting soon.

We are looking forward to the exciting and thoughtful responses that you all will provide.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Azzaam Hameed, piano

March 15: Peg Delaney, piano

March 22: Tim Olsen, piano

March 29: Mike Lamkin, piano

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: Games & Food along with talking a bit about other religions, what they believe - and what *we* believe!

March 15: Regular Meeting

Church School

Lent is here. The kids will tell you "It's those purple weeks when we get ready for Easter". It is the perfect time for us to try something a little different in church school! For each of the six Sundays in Lent our children will participate in a community service project (or other meaningful project) during the regular church school time. Activities range from making blankets to a writer's workshop! (See our list at the bottom of the stairs.) Our projects will help us give and grow in Christ like ways – not only for six weeks but hopefully overflowing into lifetimes. Feel free to stop in Room 20 any Sunday and lend a hand.

Johnson Library

The devotionals on the display table contain thoughts and prayers of some of our members about this season of the church year.

OVERDUE BOOKS: According to a tried and true maxim, the longer a book is missing beyond the four-week borrowing limit, the more lost it gets. Look in your cars and houses for borrowed overdue books and return them to the library ASAP. Thanks!

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.

Post-Service Refreshments, Please!

All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt. — Charles M. Schulz

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

Chancel Memorial Flowers for Easter

Each Easter, members of Chancel Guild adorn our sanctuary with beautiful 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 Risseeuw, 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.

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 10 am and 7pm session will meet March 9. All are welcome.

First Futures Campaign

The First Futures Campaign Steering Committee has selected the architectural firm of Mesick, Cohen, Wilson and Baker of Albany to provide services to the planning phase of the upcoming building campaign. This firm has an extensive background in historic preservation and architectural services to churches, most notably to Albany's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. You can get more details at www.mwcb-arch.com.

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.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We will meet on Thursday, **March 19** at 9:30am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic. Please note change of date. Any questions, contact Ronnie at 393-7679.

Group VII

On Friday, March 20, we will meet at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: One Great Hour of Sharing; Speaker: Nancy Davidson Co-hostesses: Co-hostesses: Amy Brule, Gay Doolittle, Mary Jewett

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.

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.

The Wheeler Concert

Friday, March 13, 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!

Chancel Guild's Spring Business Meeting

Sunday March 15th in Dykstra Chapel after worship.

“Anybody can become angry — that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose, and in the right way — that is not within everybody's power and is not easy.” — Aristotle

“Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret.” — Ambrose Bierce

“The best fighter is never angry.” — Lao Tzu

“It is wise to direct your anger towards problems -- not people; to focus your energies on answers - - not excuses.”
— William Arthur Ward

“I want to say somewhere: I've tried to be forgiving. And yet. There were times in my life, whole years, when anger got the better of me. Ugliness turned me inside out. There was a certain satisfaction in bitterness. I courted it. It was standing outside, and I invited it in.” — Nicole Krauss, *The History of Love*

“Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.” — Mark Twain

“Usually when people are sad, they don't do anything. They just cry over their condition. But when they get angry, they bring about a change.” — Malcolm X

“Anger is stupid, and stupidity will kill you more surely than your opponent's blade.” — Patricia Briggs, *Dragon Bones*

“How much more grievous are the consequences of anger than the causes of it.” — Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

“If you spend your time hoping someone will suffer the consequences for what they did to your heart, then you're allowing them to hurt you a second time in your mind.” — Shannon L. Alder

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, Holy Communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.

Programs

For this year's journey towards Easter 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 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?

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. Led by Norma Brown.

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!

Exploring Prayer

Learn and share about our experience of God. Led by Rev. Annie Riley, Pastor of the State Street Presbyterian Church

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 Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Vickie Horan, Claire Hughes	Kim and Tom Burgoyne
Greeters	Eleanor Rowland, Karen Giuzio	James & Karen Gonda
Flower Delivery	Jane Falconer & Gini McDermott	Kay Opdyke, Carol Welch
Faith Bookshop	Ginny Laumeister	Nancy Wainwright
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joyce Griggs, Robert Dickson, Barbara Walton, Cathy Lewis, Eleanor Rowland, Gay Doolittle, John Bestgen, Joe Lovell	James Gonda, Peggy King, Art Casey, Barbara Walton, Gene Zeltmann, Linda Witkowski, Richard Rose, Bill Brooks
Reader	Jim Miller	Chris Fernandez
Refreshments	Nancy Martin	Gay Doolittle & Joan Crandall
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne(head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Michael Jablon	Bill Clock(head usher),Cathy & Robert Allen, Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright

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

Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
10:00 am Morning Prayer
6:30 pm Standing Committees
7:30 pm Consistory

Wednesday, March 11

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

Thursday, March 12

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

Friday, March 13

7:30 pm Handbell Choir Concert

Saturday, March 14

8:00 am Mens Breakfast

Sunday, March 15

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