

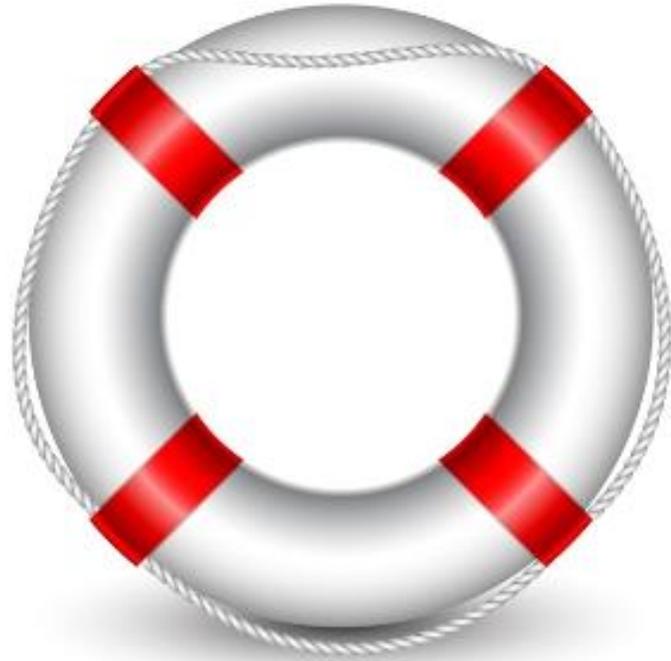
**The Covenant of Our  
Congregation  
Adopted in 1962**

*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.*



Over your head?

*March 15, 2015*



**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 video and audio 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.

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 15, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT

*I Will Always Bless the Lord*  
Scots Gaelic Traditional

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#291

*O God of Earth and Altar*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD

*Beginning with prayerful silence.*

***Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison***  
***(Lord have mercy)***

\*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,  
and was buried; he descended to hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the  
right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of  
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Leo DavidOchal

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES

Justine & Neil Ochal

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

*For God So Loved the World He Made*

English Folk

For God so loved the world he made,  
he gave his own beloved Son;  
all who believe in him will love  
not die, but live for evermore.

God did not send Christ to the world  
that he might then condemn us all,  
but that the world by Christ's own death  
might then be ransomed from the fall.

FIRST LESSON

Jonathan Terino

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** Numbers 21:4-9 (*page 139*)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John 3:14-21 (*page 94*)

SERMON

*Rescued!*

\*HYMN

*Be Thou My Vision*

#339

OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

#592

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

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 *Fount of Mercy*

**Lord, Thou art our fount of mercy,  
Thou the source of love and grace.  
Teach us to respond in worship,  
Bringing songs of loudest praise.  
As we raise our voices, singing,  
Send Thy Spirit winging near;  
From Thy never-failing wellspring,  
Streams of healing, pure and clear.**

**Through the ages Thou hast blessed us,  
By Thy mighty acts of love.  
Christ our savior, now unite us,  
With Thy Father, high above.  
Jesus save us, when like strangers,  
We are wand'ring from our God;  
Come and rescue us from danger,  
By the shedding of your blood.**

**We are sinners, now confessing,  
None deserving Thy concern.  
Yet we dare to seek forgiveness  
As to Thee our faces turn.  
Lead us upward out of darkness  
By Thy brilliant guiding light;  
Make our hearts contrite and flawless,  
Let Thy grace be our delight.**

Gene Rowland

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE J. Jerome Williams  
*A Parting Blessing (Old Irish)*

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

**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:

*Phyllis Demont, Sylvia Ebling, Leroy Jewett, Elenora Schweizer*

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.

**In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of F. David and Elenora Schweizer by Tod Schweizer.

**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:** Update on Daniel's Thesis Proposal - Rev Carlson

**March 22:** Mission Updates - Rev. Stacey Midge

**March 29:** Covenanters wrap up - Claudette, Hannah, Kendra & Kelsey

## **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 Del Pierce, Chair of the Connecting with Creation planning Committee, will be present to listen and talk about what being green might look like over the next 20 years or so.

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:** 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:** Regular Meeting

**March 22:** Mission Shareholders Dinner at 6 pm (youth should arrive at 4 to help set up)

**March 29:** Regular Meeting

## **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 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.

## **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.

## **Chancel Guild's Spring Business Meeting**

Today in Dykstra Chapel after worship.

## **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

## **Annual Report**

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

## **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

## **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](http://www.mwcb-arch.com).

## **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.

## **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.

“To save all we must risk all.” — Friedrich Schiller

“Everybody wants to save the Earth; nobody wants to help Mom do the dishes.” — P.J. O'Rourke

“And it's funny how when somebody saves you, the first thing you want to do is save other people. All other people. Everybody. The kid never knew the man's name. But he never forgot that smile. "Hero" isn't the first word, but it's the first word that comes to mind.” — Chuck Palahniuk, Choke

“It does not take a great supernatural heroine or magical hero to save the world. We all save it every day, and we all destroy it -- in our own small ways -- by every choice we make and every tiniest action resulting from that choice. — Vera Nazarian

“But I was done trying to wake her up, to make her see. To save her. The only person I could save was myself.” — Emme Rollins, Dear Rockstar

“Because I can't save anybody; not as a doctor, not as a son. And because I can't save anybody, I can't save myself.” — Chuck Palahniuk, Choke

“Kind words and tender affections will not save me from this lake of woe and misery, but they may be enough of a buoy to prevent my drowning.” — Richelle E. Goodrich

“Jesus saved you not to remain yourself as who you are but to change yourself for the glory of God.” — Carl Lomer Abia

“Pretty much every day consists of me trying to save the world.” — Lisa Bedrick, Life Stories

“Learn not to consume your opportunities along with your privileges” — Constance Chuks Friday

# 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 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](mailto:jewett.mary@gmail.com).



<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Kim and Tom Burgoyne	Claire Hughes and Doug Todd
<b>Greeters</b>	James & Karen Gonda	Brad and Cathy Lewis
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Mary Jane Fisher, Carol Welch	Kay Opdyke, Cynthia Hamilton
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Nancy Wainwright	Linda Witkowski
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
<b>Processing Elders</b>	James Gonda, Peggy King, Art Casey, Barbara Walton, Gene Zeltmann, Linda Witkowski, Richard Rose, Bill Brooks	Jeanne Shoulder, Christine Daniels, Del Pierce, George Davidson, Jerry Griggs, Keith Muse, Maria Todd, Bob Beadle
<b>Reader</b>	Jonathan Terino	Norma Brown
<b>Refreshments</b>		Gay Doolittle & Joan Crandall
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Clock(head usher),Cathy & Robert Allen, Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd, Carol Troost

### **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
- 11:15 am ..... Chancel Guild Business Meeting
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers
- 5:00 pm ..... Youth Group

### **Monday, March 16**

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

### **Tuesday, March 17**

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

### **Wednesday, March 18**

- 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 19**

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

### **Friday, March 20**

- 10:00 am ..... Group VII

### **Saturday, March 21**

### **Sunday, March 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 Vespers
- 5:00 pm ..... Youth Group