

*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 29, 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.

**Palm Sunday**

March 29, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Naphtali Rothrock

*Suite Gothique*

Leon Boellmann

*I. Introduction – Choral*

*II. Menuet Gothique*

*III. Priere a Notre Dame*

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT

Hal Hopson

*Hosanna in the Highest*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#88

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD

*Beginning with prayerful silence.*

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

*(Lord have mercy)*

\*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna!**

\*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

Kirk Singers

*Lift High the Palms of Praise*

Thornhill and Nix

Lift high the palms of praise! Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Sing out! Prepare the way! Hosanna! Hosanna!

As He slowly rides along, people shout a joyful  
song. Now we add our voices strong, hosanna to  
the King!

Lift high the palms of praise! Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Sing out! Prepare the way! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Let the people now rejoice. All creation find her  
voice. Come and make a joyful noise, hosanna to  
the King!

Open wide the gates of every heart.  
Wave the palms and let the celebration start.  
With our strength, God's glory we proclaim.  
With our might, we praise His holy name!

Lift high the palms of praise! Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Sing out! Prepare the way! Hosanna! Hosanna!

He is David's royal Son. He is heaven's holy One.  
Oh, what wonders He has done, hosanna to the  
King. Hosanna to the King!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy  
Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

George Trimarco  
Isaiah 50:4-9 (*page 681*)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON Mark 11:1-11 (*page 47*)

SERMON

*Seeing*

Bill Levering

HYMN

*The Palms*

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay  
Are strewn this day in festive preparation, Where  
Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away, E'en now the  
throng to welcome Him prepare.

Refrain:

Join all and sing His name declare,  
Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation,  
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!  
Bless Him, who comes to bring us salvation!

Sing and rejoice, O blessed Jerusalem,  
To all the fearful bound sing the emancipation,  
Thro' boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem  
Brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.

[Refrain]

MINUTE FOR MISSION Nancy Davidson  
EASTER OFFERING

*One Great Hour of Sharing - PC (USA)*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Tom D'Andrea, Judy Moore  
and John Norton, percussion

*Hosanna to the King* Craig Courtney

Hosanna to the King of kings,  
hosanna to the Lord of lords,  
Hosanna to the great I AM  
who reigns forever, reigns forevermore.

If you will feed the hungry,  
give water to the thirsty  
and welcome any stranger,  
then you may call Him Lord.

O brother, if you keep silent,  
O sister, if you keep silent,  
O brother if you keep silent,  
the rocks and stones will cry out.

\*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 #91  
*Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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:

*Kenneth Mathes, Frida Kramer, Robert Matz*

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 your 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:** Covenanter Update and Wrap Up - Claudette, Hannah, Kendra & Kelsey

**April 5:** Easter Reception in Friendship Hall

**April 12:** Food Security – Ellis Hospital

**April 19:** Lynne Gilgore- Lunn Cooperative Center

## **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday - 5pm**

**Today:** Mike Lamkin, piano

**April 5, Jazz Appreciation Month:** Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass, Tom D'Andrea/Tim Coakley, drums, Ben O'Shea, trombone

**April 12:** Dave Gleason, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; TD'A/TC, drums; Steve Lambert, flugelhorn

**April 19:** The Peg Delaney Trio plus Jim Corigliano, sax

## **Today - First Futures Building Campaign**

Have you been to our church in the evening recently? It's amazing how many neighborhood and community organizations are using our facility, and it would appear this trend is accelerating. What improvements can be made that will make our church more welcoming?

How can we make it easier to access the building? What steps can be taken to improve "way-finding?" How can the church building better be an asset to our neighborhood and the broader community? If you have thoughts or observations about this, you can share them with Cindy Gallagher, Chair of the Connecting with Community Committee for the First Futures Campaign. Connect with her right after worship today in the Dirk Romeyn room.

## **Post-Service Refreshments, Please!**

Easter Reception...in two weeks! We need your light refreshments or help with set up and clean up to make our Easter reception a success. Please contact Karen the Taart Baas, 607-725-4521 or gonda6@aol.com, to participate. Thank you!

## **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

**April 5:** No Meeting – Happy Easter!

**April 12 – 26:** Regular meetings. We will continue our interfaith discussion and prepare for the youth service in May.

## **Easter Offering - One Great Hour of Sharing Presbyterian Church (USA)**

One of many blessings of our combined congregations and ministry is the donation of the offering for One Great Hour of Sharing to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Although this offering will continue to be directed to PC (USA), this is part of a wider mission supported by Christians around the nation. It all began in 1949 with a radio broadcast where Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction in areas devastated by World War II, and it has developed over the decades into a truly ecumenical effort to share Christ's love to those in need. Through PC (USA), the **Hunger Program** receives 36% of the offering toward work to alleviate hunger and to support ministries that address homelessness and affordable housing. The **Disaster Assistance Program** receives 32% of contributions for disaster response locally, nationally, and throughout the world. **Self-Development of People** receives 32% of donations and partners with groups that assist those oppressed by poverty or social systems to help

## **Easter Flowers Delivery Help**

We need volunteers on Easter Sunday, April 5, to deliver Easter flowers to recently-bereaved and home-bound church members. The flowers, an addressed card for each recipient, and a Sunday bulletin will be available for pick up after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. Please plan now on participating in this ministry of extending a lovely symbol of God's faithfulness!

### **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.

### **Midweek Evening Meal**

Beginning Wednesday, April 15 our informal dinners each Wednesdays at 6pm resume in Assembly Hall. Bring whatever you wish to share with others. The worship which follows is often the destination of diners. Questions regarding either may be directed to Daniel Carlson.

### **Wednesday Evening Worship**

Our contemplative service returns to its usual time (7pm) and location (Poling Chapel) beginning April 15. Everyone is welcome to this briefer, quieter, and reflective gathering at the close of the day. Here we dwell in the mystery and joy of Easter via guitar accompanied songs, guided meditation on Scripture, Communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.

### **Faith Bookshop**

Come in the Bookshop today and survey a table full of wonderful crosses from La Palma, El Salvador. They are wooden, brightly colored and covered with delightful faces. Ready to hang and available in various sizes and prices, they make a nice gift for a friend, child or yourself. Note: The Bookshop will be closed Easter Sunday.

### **Evening Circle**

Evening circle will meet on April 8th at the home of Ellie Rowland, 216 Lois Lane at 7:00. We'll be discussing the book, *Deep, Down, Dark* which some have read and others are reading now. Please come and share the fellowship whether or not you have read this book.

### **TMC Spring Concert ~ April 12**

The Thursday Musical Club Chorus directed by Julie Panke and accompanied by Elinore Farnum will present its Spring Concert on Sunday, April 12 at 2:30 pm in the church Sanctuary. Guest artists are Nat Fossner, oboe, and Petia Kassarova, cello, both of whom have played for our Sunday worship services. Selections by the women's group will include music of Mozart, Vaughan Williams, John Rutter and a medley from *Camelot*. Complimentary tickets are available from Julie Panke or the church office. A reception will follow the concert.

### **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 April 13.

### **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group**

We will be meeting April 16 at 9:30am at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Ronnie at 393-7679 with any questions.

### **FRC Fellowship Luncheon**

Mark your calendars now for Friday, April 17 at 11:45am. Bring a dish to share. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Please sign up in Assembly Hall. Your hosts will be Liz Mastrianni, Frank Ralbovsky, Amy Brule and Wayne Brule. Come for the best meal in town and usher in SPRING with beautiful photos and poetry.

### **Lenten Civil War Series Bonus**

*An Irresistible Conflict: The Empire State in the Civil War* autographed copies are now available at cost \$19.75 in the Faith Bookshop. The congregation has also been invited to attend the opening reception of *Profound & Poignant, Union College Connections to the Civil War Era* on Tuesday, April 14, 5-7pm. This exhibit will be open to the public 10am-6pm daily throughout 2015.

## Holy Week

### Maundy Thursday, April 2 – 7:30pm

A service of darkening on Maundy Thursday in which the Lord's Supper is celebrated; then a series of readings and a darkening sanctuary create a somber and reflective remembrance of the trials of Jesus.

### Good Friday, April 3 – 12pm

At noon in our Sanctuary gospel readers, intercessors, and the Chancel Choir help lead this service amidst the presence of a rugged cross.

### Easter, April 5 – 10am

On Easter Sunday join us for the grand celebration of Easter Joy including the *Hallelujah Chorus*. A reception in Friendship Hall will follow the service.

### **Music for Easter**

Music for Easter Sunday will include a full complement of voices and instruments including brass quartet, timpani. Anthems will be *Now Christ is Risen* by J.S. Bach and *Begin the Song of Glory Now* by Alfred Fedak. As is our tradition we will invite people to join the choir for the *Hallelujah Chorus*. This year we will have a special rehearsal at 9:40 in the Sanctuary for those wish to brush up a bit first.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Our annual on the lawn Easter egg hunt will be held during regular church school. Children in grades K-5 are welcome to hunt eggs while children in grades 6-12 are needed to hide eggs. All will gather in Room 20 after the Children's Message. It may be chili and children will need a jacket. We will return there after the hunt to meet parents.

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Fred Daniels and Dave Hjelm	William Martin and Vickie Horan
<b>Greeters</b>	Jeanette and Don Davidson	Vilhelm and Christine Lund
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Dick Davis, Virginia McDermott	Easter Flower Delivery
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Bill Clock	Roberta Blackmer
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Peggy King, Mary Jewett, Darwin Brudos, Emile Walraven, Linda Witkowski, Birdie Blackmer, Bill Rochelle, Arend Van der Veen,	Caroline Welch, Jeanne Shoulder, Mary Jewett, Robert Dickson, Barbara Walton, Darwin Brudos, Linda Ward, Gene Zeltmann
<b>Reader</b>	George Trimarco	Therese McCarty
<b>Refreshments</b>		Easter Reception
<b>Ushers</b>	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Hendrick and Joanne Arnold, Dick Davis, Adam Kerwin, George Davidson	Art Shultes (head usher), Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Joan Lindsay

## **Sunday, March 29**

9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary  
10:00 am ..... Worship  
10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
11:15 am ..... First Forum  
11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers  
11:15 am ..... First Futures  
5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers  
5:00 pm ..... Youth Group

## **Monday, March 30**

9:00 am ..... Mens Newsgroup  
7:00 pm ..... Klokken Ringers

## **Tuesday, March 31**

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

## **Wednesday, April 1**

9:30 am ..... Kerygma  
1:00 pm ..... Thursday Bells  
7:30 pm ..... Chancel Choir

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2**

7:30 pm ..... Breakfast Bible Bunch  
10:00 am ..... Stitch Group  
7:30 pm ..... Maundy Thursday Tenebrae

## **Good Friday, April 3**

12:00 am ..... Good Friday Service

## **Saturday, April 4**

## **Easter Sunday, April 5**

9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary  
10:00 am ..... Worship  
10:15 am ..... Egg Hunt/Church School K-5  
11:00 am ..... Easter Reception  
11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers  
11:15 am ..... First Futures  
5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers  
5:00 pm ..... Youth Group

“What we do see depends mainly on what we look for. ... In the same field the farmer will notice the crop, the geologists the fossils, botanists the flowers, artists the colouring, sportmen the cover for the game. Though we may all look at the same things, it does not all follow that we should see them.” — John Lubbock, *The Beauties of Nature and the Wonders of the World We Live in*

“I like seeing people when they can't see me.” — Dodie Smith, *I Capture the Castle*

“Almost nothing need be said when you have eyes.” — Tarjei Vesaas, *The Boat in the Evening*

“What use is care? What good is watching for that matter? People are forever watching things. They should be seeing. I see the things I look at. I am a see-er.” — Patrick Rothfuss, *The Wise Man's Fear*

“The relation between what we see and what we know is never settled. Each evening we see the sun set. We know that the earth is turning away from it. Yet the knowledge, the explanation, never quite fits the sight.” — John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*

“Imagine you come upon a house painted brown. What color would you say the house was?”  
“Why brown, of course.” “But what if I came upon it from the other side, and found it to be white?” “That would be absurd. Who would paint a house two colors?” He ignored my question. “You say it's brown, and I say it's white. Who's right?” “We're both right.” “Non,” he said. “We're both wrong. The house isn't brown or white. It's both. You and I only see one side. But that doesn't mean the other side doesn't exist. To not see the whole is to not see the truth.” — Megan Chance, *The Spiritualist*

“One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes.” — Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*