

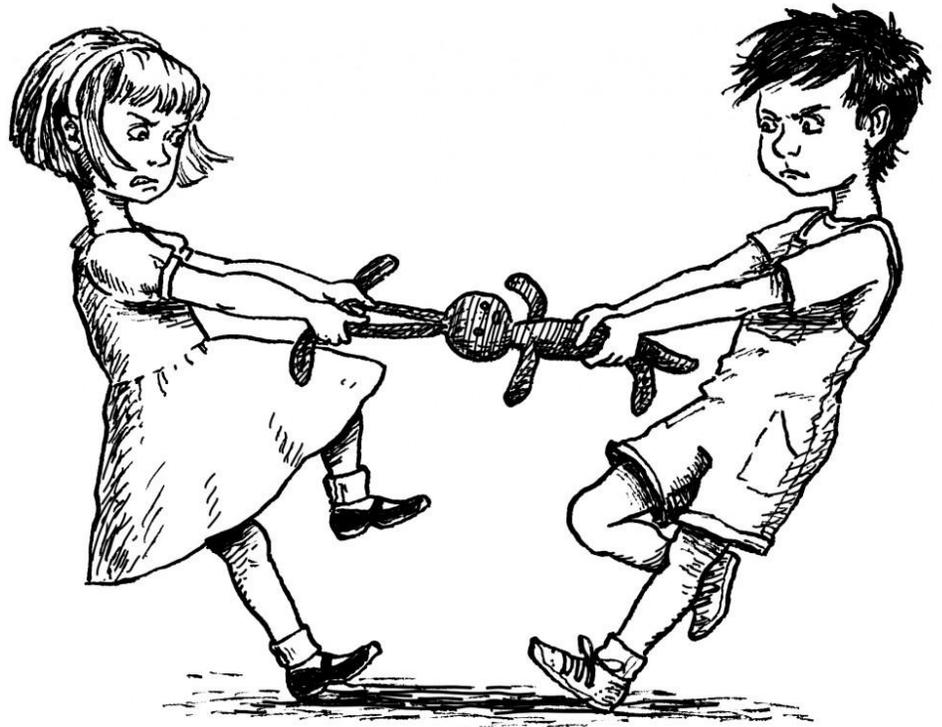
**The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962**

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.

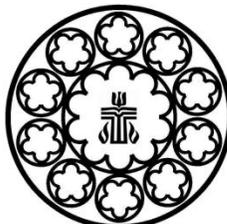
Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly 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.



*The Easter Joy changes us
Not to fight over chocolate
But to share the Bread of Life*

April 12, 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. Stop by a welcome table at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

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.

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 at 11:15am 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 a cookie in downstairs Friendship Hall before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. Visitors are welcome to join in.

Service Online

A recording of each of our worship services is at 1stReformed.com one or two days following the service.

Lost and Found

We have a lost and found basket in the Narthex (at the front entrance of the church). If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check this basket.

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Naphtali Rothrock

Sonata for Flute and Harpsichord

Leonard Vinci

Andante

Moderato

Aria

Andante Quasi Allegretto (from Symphony)

Joseph Haydn

Andante (from Cello Sonata)

Giacobbe Cervett

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT

Alleluia

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #121

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

*PRAYER (*unison*)

God of new life, we thank you for the hope you have given us through Jesus Christ. Help us to celebrate your Easter triumph with all of our life. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*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

Easter Canticle

John Ness Beck

The same! The same! Jesus Christ!
Yesterday and today and tomorrow,
yesterday to the end of all time!

He was crucified, but he rose victorious;
he rose again in triumph glorious
to sit at the right hand of God the Father.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The same! The same! Jesus Christ!
Yesterday and today and tomorrow,
Christ is King and has banished our sorrow,
Yesterday and today and tomorrow the same!
The same! The same!

FIRST LESSON

Chris Fernandes

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Acts 4:32-35 (pg 122)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *1 John 1:1-4 (pg 238)*

SERMON

Bill Levering

The Embarrassing Economy of the Early Church

*HYMN

#428

We Give Thee but Thine Own

OFFERING

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

April is Jazz Appreciation Month and through the good offices of the Schenectady Musical Union additional musicians are being provided for Vespers in April.

Today: David Gleason, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums plus Steve Lambert, flugelhorn

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

April 26: Scott Bassinson, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums plus Keith Pray, sax

Which of these statements best describes you?

You bring post-service refreshments 1 - 4 times per year, either by yourself or with a partner. You like to bake but your funds are limited. You don't bake anymore but have the means to fund a wannabe baker. You prefer adding treats to our freezer now and then. You enjoy decorating a table. You like to help with set-up or clean-up. You are willing to be a backup helper as needed. A Hospitality Team is forming to meet our post-service refreshments needs in the easiest, least painful, most consistent manner possible. Contact Taart Baas Karen, 607-725-4521, or gonda6@aol.com to be part of the team!

Youth Activities

Youth group will meet every Sunday at 5:00 pm for dinner, discussion, games, etc. All youth in grades 6 – 12 are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Stacey.

Today: Regular Meeting

April 19 – 26: Regular meetings. We will continue our interfaith discussion and prepare for the youth service in May.

First Futures Building Campaign

Fred Daniels will be available in the Dirk Romeyn room to discuss the overall campaign and progress made to date.

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.

Church Directory Photos

Ralph Rosenthal will continue taking pictures for our next church directory every Sunday after worship in the Heritage room (off the Dirck Romeyn Room.) No appointment necessary.

Horizons Bible Study

We will be doing a 6 week study of the first half of the book of Psalms (Psalms 1-72.) Anyone interested is welcome to join us Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Poling Conference room.

Johnson Library

Not just about books! Above the display table and inside the library you will find the following periodicals: The Christian Century, The Presbyterian Outlook, Commonweal, Presbyterians Today, Biblical Archaeology Today and Horizons. To take out an issue, sign your name on the attached card and drop it in the box.

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 7:00 pm session will meet on April 13 in the Dirck Romeyn room. All are welcome.

TMC Spring Concert

The Thursday Musical Club Chorus directed by Julie Panke and accompanied by Elinore Farnum will present its Spring Concert TODAY 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.

Lenten Series Bonus

The book from the archives and historical concerns Lenten Series is for sale in the bookshop at cost, just \$19.75. *An Irresistible Conflict: The empire State in the Civil War*, documents the role NY played in our nation's most enduring conflict. All copies are signed by the author. The congregation has also been invited to attend a reception at Union College on April 14.

Midweek Evening Meal

Beginning Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 pm our informal dinners each week resume in Assembly Hall. Bring whatever you wish to share with others. The worship which follows is optional though 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 (7:00 pm) 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.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

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

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young. We will meet April 21 to talk and be friends. Hope to see you then.

Group VII

On April 23 Group VII will be taking a trip to St. George Greek Orthodox, Church 107 Clinton St. We'll go out for lunch too – location TBA

Fellowship Luncheon ~ April 24

The Singing Eye: Photographs and Poems for Nature by Carol and Jim McCord....Carol with her photography and Jim with his poetry about the beauty of our region will present a program for the **Friday Fellowship Luncheon on April 24 at 11:45 am**. Professor Emeritus from the English Department of Union College, Jim McCord and his wife Carol will present a fascinating program which compliments both of their artistic talents. Carol's photos have appeared in many photo journals. Jim has had a lifelong interest in nature and he too has published much of his poetry. 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.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast group will meet at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 25 in Assembly Hall. Our speaker will be Alvin Magid, PhD. *Emeritus Professor of Political Science University at Albany/SUNY* and now Founder and Executive Director of the Reading is Fun Program. The Program "found" Dr. Magid, and is based at deepening reading readiness in early learners, as a pivotal aspect of positively affecting the inter-related causes of poverty and social disparity. Join us for an informative conversation on this largely volunteer initiative and enjoy a healthy breakfast. Questions? Contact Gene Rowland or Joe Doolittle.

Earth Friendly Frolic ~ April 26

Again this year we'll add our efforts to those of others involved in the Canal Clean Sweep Initiative by maintaining the beauty of the closest shore to our church, of the Mohawk along Riverside Park. We'll share a nutritious lunch of soup and bread at 11:30 am before putting on work gloves, distributing trash bags, and walking to the river. Sign up in Assembly Hall for this Fellowship Committee and Creation Care Commission sponsored inter-generational event held in honor of Earth Day!

Annual CROP Walk

On Sunday, May 3, the annual Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) walk will take place at 12:30 pm, beginning at Emmanuel Friedens Church and winding 5k through Schenectady. The proceeds support hunger-fighting efforts around the world, with 25% going to local food pantries, Community Crisis Network, and Senior Meals. Want to walk? Get a donation form from the Church Office. Non-walkers can simply drop off their donations at the church office. Checks should be made out to "CWS/CROP." Checks eligible for GE Matching should be made out to SICM. Contact Cathy Lewis if you have questions.

New Member Class

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 3:00 pm, usually on the first Sunday of the month. Our next class is May 3.

Group V

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 4 at 11:00 am in the Dirck Romeyn Room.

Stephen Ministry Meeting

Active Stephen Ministers will meet this Thursday, April 16, for a large group continuing education module: Ministering to Those Needing Long Term Care, followed by a time of refreshment, and concluding with small group peer supervision. We are grateful for this compassionate Christian ministry, through which members with requisite gifts are trained, commissioned, and then referred to provide one to one care to those experiencing a significant difficulty or crisis in their lives. For more information, contact one of our Stephen Leaders, Vernetta Thuener (355-2543), Maria Todd (372-9522), or Daniel Carlson (377-2201).

Counting Deacons	Kim and Thomas Burgoyne	Fred Daniels and Dave Hjelmar
Greeters	Sally and Robert Clark	Connie Young
Flower Delivery	John Chequer and Beth Taft, Anne and Walter Robb	Doug and Maria Todd Alison and Walter Yang
Faith Bookshop	Ginny Laumeister	Linda Witkowski
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Mary Jewett, Liz Mastrianni, Arthur Casey, George Davidson, Cathy Lewis, Bill Rochelle, Barbara Walton, Gene Zeltmann	Margaret King, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Liz Mastrianni, Jeanette Davidson, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Ellie Rowland, Maria Todd
Reader	Chris Fernandes	Liz Mastrianni
Refreshments	Ellie Rowland	Kay Korma and Ray Bostick
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

Sunday, April 12

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
10:00 am Worship
10:15 am Church School K-5
11:00 am Refreshments
11:15 am First Forum
11:15 am First Futures
11:15 am Kirk Ringers
2:30 pm TMC Spring Concert
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
5:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, April 13

9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
6:00 pm Yoga
7:00 pm Klokken Ringers
7:00 pm What's Your Story

Tuesday, April 14

10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
10:00 am Morning Prayer
11:30 am Support & Care
1:30 pm Worship Planning
7:00 pm First Futures Meeting
7:30 pm Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

9:30 am Kerygma
1:00 pm Thursday Bells
1:00 pm Archives
6:00 pm Evening Meal
7:00 pm Evening Prayer
7:00 pm Writers Group

Thursday, April 16

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

Sunday, April 17

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 First Forum
11:15 am Kirk Ringers
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
5:00 pm Youth Group

“Friendship marks a life more deeply than love. Love risks degeneration into obsession, friendship is never anything but sharing.”
-Elie Wiesel

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”
-Mother Teresa

“A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog.” -Jack London

“Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others.” -Brian Tracy

“You are forgiven for your happiness and your successes only if you generously consent to share them.” -Albert Camus

“Do you not know that God entrusted you with that money (all above what buys necessities for your families) to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to help the stranger, the widow, the fatherless; and, indeed, as far as it will go, to relieve the wants of all mankind? How can you, how dare you, defraud the Lord, by applying it to any other purpose?” -John Wesley

“The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.” -Martin Luther

“We are settling for a Christianity that revolves around catering to ourselves when the central message of Christianity is actually about abandoning ourselves.” -David Platt,
Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream