

**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.*

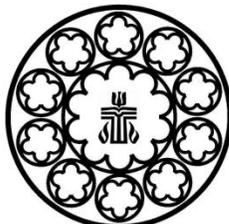
*Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly 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 Supper at Emmaus is a painting by the Italian Baroque master Caravaggio, died 1610, and now in the National Gallery in London

*April 19, 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. 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](http://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.

**Third Sunday of Easter**

April 19, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Felice Giardini (1716-1796)

*Duo No. 3 in C Major*

*Adagio*

*Allegro assai*

*Presto*

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin

Petia Kassarova, cello

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *I Was Glad* Franklin G'vnn

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #145

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**O God, who will not let us go, we confess that we have been too wrapped up in ourselves. We have neglected you, ignored our neighbors, and failed to serve the world we touch. Through your transforming love, forgive what we have been, help us change what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we might find new delight in what is right. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia  
Praise ye the Lord!**

**Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia  
Praise ye the Lord!**

**Praise ye the Lord – Alleluia!**

**Praise ye the Lord – Alleluia!**

**Praise ye the Lord – Alleluia!**

**Praise ye the Lord!**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

*The Apostles' Creed* - Ecumenical version

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,  
and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he  
ascended into heaven, he is seated at the  
right hand of the Father, and 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.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *I Watched My Savior* Kingsfold  
Arr. Craig Courtney

I watched my Savior bleed away  
Sin nailed Him to a cross.  
The sky turned black, though it was day;  
all thought His cause was lost.

They put Him in a sinner's tomb  
and sealed it with a stone.  
My hope descended in that grave,  
all earthly plans undone.

Three days then passed of utter doubt;  
what good comes from the dead?  
The answer came with angel shout,  
"He rose just as He said!"

The stone was moved, my Lord was gone,  
along with all my sin.  
My hope ascended with the Son;  
now I believe in Him.

Sure grace now seals my heart to Christ,  
His blood has claimed my soul,  
full vict'ry won by sacrifice  
has made my spirit whole.

No longer can I doubt His love,  
nor question Heaven's plan.  
King Jesus lives and so shall I,  
enthroned at God's right hand. Amen.

Bryan Chapell

FIRST LESSON Liz Mastriani  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy  
Spirit. **Amen.** *Psalm 4 (pg 490)*

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 24:36b-48 (pg 91)*

SERMON *Casper and Jesus* Bill Levering

\*HYMN *I Danced in the Morning* #302

#### OFFERING

OFFERTORY G.F. Handel (1685-1759)  
*Violin Sonata in F Major op 1/12*

\*DOXOLOGY #592  
*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION Lynne Gilgore  
*Lunn Resource Center*

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

##### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

**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 *Fairest Lord Jesus* #306

\*CHORAL RESPONSE  
*Threefold Amen* Dale Wood

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE The Musicians of Ma'alwyck

+ + +

#### **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:

*Kathryn Pontius, Marcia Todd, Reynolds Downing, Margaret Powers, Lewis Carosella, Charlotte Hubbard*

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.

#### **United Prayer Ministry**

Please remember in your prayers:

*Nancy Wainwright, seeing an eye specialist  
Jean Diesem, moved to Kingsway Nursing Home*

We extend our condolences to the families of:  
*Margaret Reed and Madelyn Young*

#### **In Celebration**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving welcome to Abigail Rose Zeltmann, born March 31, 2015. She is the daughter of John and Rebecca Zeltmann, sister of Benjamin and granddaughter of Sue and Gene Zeltmann.

### **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 11:15 am 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:** Lynne Gilgore, Lunn Resource Center

**April 26:** Youth Group Music Talent, Olivia Mancuso

**May 3:** TBA

### **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:** The Peg Delaney Trio plus Jim Corigliano, sax

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

**May 3:** Nat Phipps, piano

### **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 26:** Regular meeting

We will continue our interfaith discussion and prepare for the youth service in May.

**May 3:** CROP Walk

### **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!

### **First Futures Building Campaign**

Kermit the Frog always said, "It's not easy being green!" Check out what being green might look like over the next 20 years or so, as the First Futures Campaign considers our commitment to care for creation. Del Pierce heads the Connecting with Creation planning committee and he will be in the Dirk Romeyn room right after today's service to answer your questions and note your suggestions as we plan for the upcoming building campaign.

### **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.

### **Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate**

Chocolate, coffee and tea! The shelves are no longer empty. A new order has arrived and includes an option for those who use a percolator.

### **Johnson Library**

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

### **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.

### **Midweek Evening Meal**

Our informal dinners take place on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the 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 is in the Poling Chapel at 7:00 pm. 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.

### **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 located at 107 Clinton Street. Lunch will be at 11:30 am at Puzzles Bakery and Café, 515 State Street. If you aren't joining us for lunch, please meet us at St. Georges Greek Orthodox Church at 1:00 pm.

### **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 THIS 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.

### **Octavo Singers**

Octavo Singers will be performing Mendelssohn's *St. Paul Oratorio* THIS Saturday, April 25, at 7:30 pm here at First Reformed Church, under the direction of Curtis Funk. The performance will be with orchestra, professional soloists and our nearly 100 voice choir. Please join us as we celebrate this magnificent musical event.

### 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.

### Lenten Series Bonus

*An Irresistible Conflict: The Empire State in the Civil War*, for sale in the bookshop, just \$19.75. It documents the role NY played in our nation's most enduring conflict. All copies are signed by the author

### Fiction Writers Group

A Flash Fiction critique group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Walton Conference Room. Flash Fiction is a COMPLETE story, fiction or non-fiction, written in 1,000 words or less. For more info and signups, contact James Gonda at jamesgonda63@yahoo.com or the church office.

<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Fred Daniels and Dave Hjelmarm	Cynthia and Joe Gallagher
<b>Greeters</b>	Connie Young	Kenneth and Ruth Roinos
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Doug and Maria Todd Alison and Walter Yang	Carol Troost Jamie and Dan Ipsen
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Linda Witkowski	Bill Clock
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Margaret King, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Liz Mastriani, Jeanette Davidson, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Barbara Walton, Maria Todd	Joyce Griggs, Mary Jewett, Liz Mastriani, Gay Doolittle, Philip Falconer, Jerry Griggs, Arend van der Veen, Linda Witkowski
<b>Reader</b>	Liz Mastriani	George Trimarco
<b>Refreshments</b>	Kay Korma and Ray Bostick	Your Name Here
<b>Ushers</b>	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bunday, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Victoria McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd

**Sunday, April 19**

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

**Monday, April 20**

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

**Tuesday, April 21**

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

**Wednesday, April 22**

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

**Thursday, April 23**

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

**Friday, April 24**

11:45 am ..... Fellowship Luncheon

**Saturday, April 25**

8:00 am ..... Men's Breakfast  
 2:00 pm ..... Madelyn Young Memorial  
 7:30 pm ..... Octavo Singers Concert

**Sunday, April 26**

9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary  
 10:00 am ..... Worship  
 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:15 am ..... First Forum & First Futures  
 11:30 am ..... Earth Friendly Frolic Lunch  
 12:15 pm ..... Earth Friendly Frolic Clean Up  
 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

“In one aspect, yes, I believe in ghosts, but we create them. We haunt ourselves.”-Laurie Halse Anderson, *Wintergirls*

“The house smelled musty and damp, and a little sweet, as if it were haunted by the ghosts of long dead cookies.” -Neil Gaiman, *American Gods*

“Sometimes the best and worst times of your life can coincide. It is a talent of the soul to discover the joy in the pain – thinking of moments you long for, and knowing you’ll never have them again. The beautiful ghosts of our past haunt us, and yet we still can’t decide if the pain they caused us outweighs the tender moments when they touched our soul. This is the irony of love.”- Shannon L. Alder

“Now I know what a ghost is. Unfinished business, that’s what.” -Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*

“Oh, very good,” interrupted Snape, his lip curling. “Yes, it is easy to see that nearly six years of magical education have not been wasted on you, Potter. Ghosts are transparent.”-J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

“Be hole, be dust, be dream, be wind  
 Be night, be dark, be wish, be mind,  
 Now slip, now slide, now move unseen,  
 Above, beneath, betwixt, between.”-Neil Gaiman, *The Graveyard Book*

“Ghosts don’t haunt us. That’s not how it works. They’re present among us because we won’t let go of them.” “I don’t believe in ghosts,” I said faintly. “Some people can’t see the color red. That doesn’t mean it isn’t there”, she replied. -Sue Grafton, *M is for Malice*

“We’re all ghosts. We all carry, inside us, people who came before us.”-Liam Callanan, *The Cloud Atlas*