

**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.*



*May 3, 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 Assembly 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.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

May 3, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Aspire Trio  
*Trio in A minor, Op. 114* Johannes Brahms  
*Allegro*

Nat Fossner, oboe and clarinet  
Erica Pickhardt, cello  
Kristen Tuttman, piano

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

INTROIT *Sing to the Lord* Linda B. Hansen

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #430  
*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

\*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 Nat Fossner, oboe  
*The God of Love My Shepherd Is* Mark Hayes

The God of love my shepherd is,  
And He that doth me feed:  
While He is mine, and I am His,  
What can I want or need?

He leads me to the tender grass,  
Where I both feed and rest,  
Then to the streams that gently pass.  
In both I have the rest.

Or if I stray, He doth convert  
And bring my mind in frame:  
And all this not for my desert,  
But for his holy name.

Yea, in death's shady black abode  
well may I walk, not not fear:  
For Thou are with me,  
Thy rod to guide me,  
Thy staff to bear.

Thou dost make me sit and dine,  
even in my enemies' sight.  
My head with oil, my cup with wine  
runs over, day and night.

Surely Thy sweet and wondrous love  
shall measure all my days;  
And as it never shall remove,  
so neither shall my praise.

*Adapted from Psalm 23 by George Herbert*

FIRST LESSON Carol Troost  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy  
Spirit. Amen. John 15:1-8(pg 109)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON 1 John 4:7-21 (pg 241)

SERMON Stacey Midge  
Love in the Time of Baltimore

\*HYMN *Though I May Speak* #335

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Trio in B-flat Major* Ludwig van Beethoven  
*Adagio*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

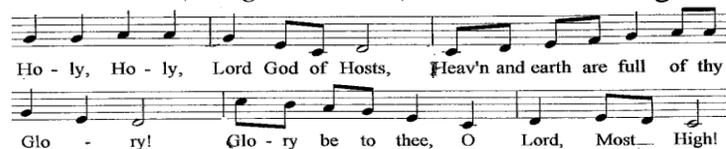
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*) Carl Steubing



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy  
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

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 *O for a World* #386

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Twofold Amen*

Danish

POSTLUDE

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*

Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

**Peg R. Miller Jazz Vespers Dedication**

Jazz Vespers today, May 3 at 5 pm, in the sanctuary, will be dedicated to the life of Margaret (Peg) R. Miller. Peg was an avid jazz enthusiast and kind spirit whose life will be celebrated by musicians including Tom D'Andrea, Peg and Bill Delaney, Colleen Pratt, and Patti Melita. A reception will follow the service.

**Por Favor, S'il Vous Plait, Alsjeblieft** (Dutch)

People who can read the Bible aloud briefly in different languages are needed for our Pentecost celebration. See Bill Levering.

**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:

*Clarence H. Linder Sr., Elizabeth Paine, Clifford Bryant, Lloyd Johnston, Albert Zink*

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:  
*Leah Kidwell-Fernandes' father,*  
who is in the Intensive Care Unit in Ohio.

### **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:** Stacey Midge, Coming Through Troubles – What I Learned in Belfast about Conflict, Hope and Radical Theology

**May 10:** David Cotter, Gender Inequality

**May 17:** Youth Sunday, All Church Picnic

### **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 In Sanctuary:** Peg Delaney Trio, Colleen Pratt and Patti Mellita, vocals

**May 10:** Azzaam Hameed, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

**May 17:** Peg Delaney, piano

### **Reception for Naphtali Rothrock**

Naphtali's last day at FRC is near. In her honor, we will be having a farewell reception on Sunday, May 10. Please sign up to bring light refreshments as we show our appreciation for Naphtali's presence with us.

### **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:** CROP Walk No evening meeting

**May 10:** Regular meeting.

Prepare for Youth Sunday next week.

**May 17:** Youth Sunday, be at church 9:30 am. Then meet at 5:00 pm for our end of year party.

### **Faith Bookshop**

Next Sunday is Mother's Day. If there is someone special you'd like to remember, it's not too early to look in the Bookshop today for a pleasing gift.

### **First Futures Building Campaign**

As the First Futures Campaign has continued its work, what we're finding is that the issue of our post worship fellowship space is arguably the most important element of our work. What we do in this regard seems to mean the most to the most of you. Get some insight and offer your ideas with Nancy Davidson, co-Chair of the Connecting with Each Other Committee, today after worship in the Dirk Romeyn Room.

### **Church Directory Photo Deadline**

Ralph Rosenthal will continue taking pictures for our next church directory, through the month of **May**, 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**

SPRING is the star of the Johnson Library's book display this morning. You will find guide-books with detailed descriptions for finding local natural areas, including waterfall locations. Also, books containing stunning photos of wildlife and flowers for armchair traveling enjoyment.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Tuesday Ladies**

Meetings are every 3rd Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young. We will meet May 19 to talk and be friends. Hope to see you then.

### **Annual CROP Walk - TODAY**

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.

### **Group VII**

On May 15 in the Dirck Romeyn room, Michael Brockbank will be speaking about Nijkerk.

### **New Member Class - TODAY**

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 today, May 3.

### **Group V**

Our next meeting will be tomorrow, Monday, May 4 at 11:00 am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Contact Barbara Piper with questions, 399-3620.

### **Men's Breakfast**

Men's Breakfast-May 9, 8:00 am; Reflections of a Missioner-on seeking the Welfare of the City".-Rev. Art Hudak – pastor Trinity Reformed Church. Rev. Hudak was in our initial class of Missioners and led a Street Ministry with the City Mission and Proctors, one result was the Ambassador Program, open community gardens and revitalized Trinity Reformed. The breakfast will be hosted At Arthur's Market, Ferry and Front Street in the Stockade. Join us for an interesting morning. Questions? ask Gene Rowland or Joe Doolittle.

### **Fellowship Luncheon May 15**

The Fellowship Luncheon group will have the last meeting for the spring on **Friday, May 15, in the Friendship Hall of First Reformed Church.** Yes, Assembly Hall is already booked.

Our speaker will be Angelicia Morris, Executive Director of the Schenectady County Human Right Commission. The Commission writes policy and assists Schenectady residents with discrimination issues. Angie is very dedicated to her work and is a dynamic speaker.

Bring a dish to share. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Please sign-up in Assembly Hall. Your hosts will be Marilyn Leach and Nancy Davidson. Come for the best meal in town and learn about the many ways the Schenectady's Human Rights Commission supports people in our city.

### Evening Circle

We will meet at the home of Amy Brule, 1078 Mohawk Road, on Wednesday May 8, at 6pm for our annual pot luck picnic. Drinks and dessert will be provided. This is our last meeting until fall and we will discuss programming for next year. Please let Amy, 785-8201, or Sally Clark, 377-2154, know that you will be there.

### Consistory Nominations

The Nominating Committee of First Reformed Church is beginning its work getting recommendations from the congregation for Elder and Deacon Candidates. Those being recommended and those making recommendations must be members of First Reformed Church. Candidates for Consistory should have vision, leadership skills, and be active participants in the worship and activities of this church.

### Elders and Deacons will be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation on June 7, 2015.

Please fill out a gold nominations form or a white pew card with your selections.

### Special Offering for Relief in Nepal

The numbers from Nepal are staggering: thousands dead, hundreds of thousands left homeless, and millions negatively impacted as a result of the earthquake last weekend. People like you and me woke up last Saturday expecting an ordinary day, and instead came face to face with terror and loss. Many still do not know the whereabouts or condition of their loved ones.

Today we are taking a special offering to support the RCA's response to the earthquake in Nepal. Together with other RCA churches across North America, we will support RCA Global Mission and its partner in international disaster response, World Vision. World Vision is on the ground in Nepal, assessing needs and providing resources to the most devastated areas. The day after the quake, World Vision teams began distributing shelter materials and blankets for about 1,000 families. In coming weeks, they will assist 100,000 people with supplies, shelter, clean water, sanitation, child protection, education, and health programs. Please consider making a generous donation to support this crucial work for people in dire need.

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Joan Lindsay and Douglas Todd	Claire Hughes and Cathy Lewis
Greeters	Anne & Walt Robb	
Flower Delivery	Vilhelm and Christine Lund Karen and John Norton	Kate and Richard Rose Harlene and Herb Bachoric
Faith Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Linda Witkowski
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Caroline Welch, Jeanne Shoulder, Mary Jewett, George Davidson, Keith Muse, Linda Ward, Maria G. Todd.	Peggy King, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Bill Rochelle, Ellie Rowland, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Carol Troost	Peg Miller
Refreshments	Ann Hicks and Ann Bish	Your Name Here
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Doug Todd, Victoria McGowan-Horan	George Davidson (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin

### **Sunday, May 3**

- 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
- 12:30 pm..... CROP Walk-Registration
- 1:20 pm..... CROP Walk-Opening Ceremony
- 3:00 pm..... New Member Class
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers/Peg R Miller Service

### **Monday, May 4**

- 9:00 am..... Mens Newsgroup
- 11:00 am..... Group V
- 6:00 pm..... Yoga
- 7:00 pm..... Klokken Ringers

### **Tuesday, May 5**

- 10:00 am..... Horizon Bible Study
- 10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
- 11:30 am..... Support and Care
- 1:30 pm..... Worship Planning
- 6:00 pm..... Archives

### **Wednesday, May 6**

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

### **Thursday, May 7**

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

### **Sunday, May 10**

- 9:00 am..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am..... Worship/Communion
- 10:15 am..... Church School K-5
- 11:15 am..... Reception for Naphtali
- 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

Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public. - Cornel West

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. - Martin Luther King Jr.

Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe. - Frederick Douglass

Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph. - Haile Selassie

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.- Elie Wiesel

In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice...the path of faith, the path of hope, and the path of love toward our fellow man. - Franklin D. Roosevelt