

**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 10, 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 until 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.

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE                                      Naphtali Rothrock  
*Fanfare*                                      Jacques Lemmens  
*Toccata in D Minor (Dorian)*              J.S. Bach

10:00 a.m.

GREETING                                      Daniel Carlson  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP                              Bill Levering

INTROIT *Let Us Worship*              Tom Benjamin

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN                              #482  
*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

### \*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.**

### PROFESSION OF FAITH AND SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Domenico, Jessica and Charlotte Santabarbara

### PRESENTATION AND PROMISES

#### \*PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION

Do you promise to love, encourage, and support these sisters and this brother by teaching the gospel of God's love, by being an example of faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God's family in fellowship, prayer, and service?

**We do.**

### PRAYER AND BAPTISMAL COVENANT

#### \*BLESSING AND WELCOME

Welcome our sisters and brother in Christ.

**Joyfully we receive you. Join with us as we  
give witness in the world to the good news,  
for we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**Alleluia!**

#### \*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

*Greater Love Hath No Man* John Ireland  
Kate Rose and Johnny Willis, soloists

Many waters cannot quench Love,  
neither can the floods drown it.  
Love is strong as death.  
Many waters cannot quench Love.  
Greater Love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Who His own Self bare our sins  
in His own Body on the tree,  
that we, being dead to sins,  
should live unto righteousness.

Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified,  
in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Ye are a chosen generation,  
a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

That ye should show forth the praises  
of God Who hath called you out of darkness,  
out of darkness into His marvelous light.

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God,  
that ye present your bodies,  
a living sacrifice, holy,  
holy, acceptable unto God,  
which is your reasonable service.

Song of Solomon and St. John

FIRST LESSON Peg Miller  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy  
Spirit. Amen. Psalm 98 (pg 551)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON John 15:9-17 (pg 109)

SERMON Bill Levering  
*The Infectious Nature of Emotion*

\*HYMN *More Love to Thee, O Christ* #359

MINUTE FOR MISSION Nepal

OFFERING

OFFERTORY  
*Be Thou My Vision* arr. Jay Rouse

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

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 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* #438

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE  
*Threefold Amen* Traditional

POSTLUDE

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*  
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

**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:

*Rev Cornelius Van Leeuwen, Charles Young, Faith W. Nix, Sybil Liebhafsky, Elizabeth D. Corliss, Harrison Todd, Henry Nagamatsu*

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.

**Entered into Eternal Rest**

James Tillma  
April 30, 2015

## **United Prayer Ministry**

Please remember in your prayers:

*Ronnie Bartholic*, recovering from surgery  
*Carol Troost's mother*, now in Hospice care

We extend our condolences to the family of:

*James Tillma*

## **In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of their mothers, Caroline Taylor and Marguerite Melber, by Martha and Glenn Winchester and also in loving memory of their mother, Emily Nagamatsu, by Nancy and Brian.

## **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 Risseeuw, 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:** David Cotter, Gender Inequality

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

**May 24:** Coffee and Conversation

## **Reception for Naphtali Rothrock-Today**

Naphtali's last day at FRC is near. In her honor, we are having a farewell reception in the Assembly Hall. Join us as we show our appreciation for Naphtali's presence with us.

## **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm**

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

**May 17:** Peg Delaney Trio

**May 24:** Mike Lamkin, piano

## **Post Service Refreshments-Food Is Love!**

Easy way to love your neighbor -- bring post service refreshments! Please sign up in the Assembly Hall or email Karen the Taart Baas at gonda6@aol.com.

## **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:** Happy Mother's Day, Meeting Cancelled.

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

## **Faith Bookshop**

Need a last minute Mother's Day gift or something nice for a lady friend? New among our items is a selection of lovely earrings.

## **First Futures Building Campaign**

Have you given your thoughts to the First Futures Campaign planning leadership yet? If not, this is the Sunday for you. Meet with Fred Daniels and Lisa Etkin, in the Dirck Romeyn room, right after worship and offer your insights about locating our post worship assembly, the importance of our building to the community, how our worship space might be improved, and other suggestions. The campaign is in close dialogue with the architects, so now is the time to voice your thoughts!

## **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 at 7:30 pm to talk and be friends. Hope to see you then.

### **Group VII**

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

### **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 June 7.

### **Group V**

Our last meeting will be on June 8. Contact Barbara Piper with questions, 399-3620.

### **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.

### **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. She has a passion for people and has a passion for our commission and our community.

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.

### Special Offering for Relief in Nepal

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.

Please consider making a generous donation to support this crucial work for people in dire need. In the memo line of your check please write Nepal, or if donating cash please use a white envelope from the pew rack and write Nepal on the outside of the envelope.

### Religious Studies at Union College

The 2015 World Lecture on Religion and Conflict will be delivered by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine on the topic of *The Prodigal Son and his Prudent Brother: New Advice from an Old Story*. The lecture will be held in Nott Memorial on Tuesday, May 12th, at 5:30pm. The lecture is open to the public.

### Church Picnic May 17

Next Sunday, bring a dish to share. Burgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided.

### Addressing Suicidal Desperation

May 19 workshop, with a national presenter, is open to all who wish to help others in times of personal crisis by addressing suicidal thinking in a caring conversational approach. The workshop will be held at Scotia's First Reformed Church from 9am-noon; the cost is \$25. Call Samaritan Counseling Center at 518-374-3514 to register.

### Pentecost Bike Ride

Ride with the wind...of God, Sunday, May 24, after worship. This Fellowship Committee-Sponsored frolic is 14 level miles (round trip) on Mohawk Bike Path with lovely views of the river much of the way. We'll load up our wheels, drive just past Patersonville, unload and bike to Karen's Ice Cream, Etc. at Schoharie Crossing, where we'll take a rest and some refreshment before riding back to where we began. All are welcome to this easy-to-moderate holiday ride; sign up in Assembly Hall.

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes and Cathy Lewis	Vickie McGowan-Horan and Bill Martin
Greeters	Donna and David Bundy	Heather and Andy Chestnut
Flower Delivery	Kate and Richard Rose Harlene and Herb Bachoric	Sally and Jack Bestgen Peggy King
Faith Bookshop	Linda Witkowski	Committee Member
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Youth
Preacher	Bill Levering	Youth
Processing Elders	Peggy King, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Bill Rochelle, Ellie Rowland, Linda Witkowski	Birdie Blackmer, Eric Evans, Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce, Richard Rose, Linda Witkowski, Gene Zeltmann, Arend van der Veen
Reader	Peg Miller	Youth
Refreshments		Church Picnic Bring a Dish to Share
Ushers	George Davidson (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin	Youth with Art Shultes (head usher), Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Joan Lindsay

## **Sunday, May 10**

- 9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am ..... Worship
- 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5
- 11:00 am ..... Refreshments/Naphtali's Reception
- 11:15 am ..... First Forum & First Futures
- 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers
- 5:00 pm ..... Youth Group Mtg Cancelled

## **Monday, May 11**

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

## **Tuesday, May 12**

- 10:00 am ..... Horizon Bible Study
- 10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer
- 6:30 pm ..... Standing Committees
- 7:30 pm ..... Consistory

## **Wednesday, May 13**

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

## **Thursday, May 14**

- 7:30 am ..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 10:00 am ..... Stitch Group
- 12:30 pm ..... LUNN Advisory Board
- 7:30 pm ..... Chancel Choir

## **Friday, May 15**

- 10:00 am ..... Group VII
- 11:45 am ..... Fellowship Luncheon

## **Sunday, May 17**

- 9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am ..... Worship-Youth Sunday
- 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5
- 11:00 am ..... Church Picnic
- 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers
- 5:00 pm ..... Youth Group End of Year Party

“I mean, when the world comes for your children, with the knives out, it's your job to stand in the way.” — Joe Hill, *Horns*

“You don't understand,' she said, and there was a puzzling trace of resentment in her voice. 'Children never do. The love a parent has for a child, there's nothing else like it. No other love so consuming.” — Cassandra Clare, *City of Ashes*

“There is no death in remembrance. Remember me, Sarah. Remember me, and a part of me will always be with you.” - Martha Carrier to her daughter, Sarah Carrier” — Kathleen Kent, *The Heretic's Daughter*

“If you've not been loved as a child, you don't know how to love a child.” — Jane Gardam, *Old Filth*

“The accountant lingers at his children's doorway a moment more, listening to the easy rhythm of their breathing, and something cold moves through him, like the passage of a ghost - but he know that's not it. It's more like the portent of a future. A future that must never come to pass... and for the first time, he gives rise to a thought that is silently echoed in millions of homes that night. My God... what have we done?” — Neal Shusterman, *UnDivided*

“Y'all know how much I love you? "Infinity and back again," I say the way I've said it a million times. And then, daddy says to me, "go on and add a little bit more to that.” — Jacqueline Woodson, *Brown Girl Dreaming*

“She will not plant the seed in their mind, that a parent is capable of abandoning her children, of saying to them You are not enough. For Pari, the children and Eric have always been enough. They always will be.” — Khaled Hosseini, *And the Mountains Echoed*