

**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 17, 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 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 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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Olivia Mancuso

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

*HYMN *Gather Us In*

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to be whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*) Sara Bobok

**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.**

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*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*)

from Our Song of Hope

**In each year and in every place
we expect the coming of Christ's Spirit.
As we listen to the world's concerns,
hear the cry of the oppressed,
and learn of new discoveries,
God will give us knowledge,
teach us to respond with maturity,
and give us courage to act with integrity.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM Kirk Ringers

Praise His Holy Name

FIRST LESSON Alexandra Mancuso

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Matthew 5:3-10 (pg 4)*

PARENTS' MESSAGE Tess Sheremeta
and Hannah Bachorik

SECOND LESSON

Job 7:1-6 (pg 457)

SERMON

Olivia Mancuso

The Wrong Question

*HYMN

All in All

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I seek,
You are my all in all.

Seeking you as a precious jewel,
Lord to give up, I'd be a fool
You are my all in all.

Chorus: (sung twice)

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
Rising again, I bless your name,
You are my all in all.

When I fall down, you pick me up.
When I am dry, you fill my cup,
You are my all in all.

TEACHER RECOGNITION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I See You God

Who says you're invisible?
I see you all around. I see you in the starry sky
and on the snowy ground. I see you in each tiny
flower and in the tallest tree. I see you, God.
You're visible to me.

Who says you're invisible? I see you everywhere.
I see you in the gentle lamb and in the mighty
bear. I see you in each drop of rain and in the
deep blue sea. I see you, God.
You're visible to me.

I see you in a hand reached out in friendship.
I see you in a baby's smiling face.
I see you when your people work together to
make this world a better place.

Who says you're invisible?
I see you more and more. I see you in the
miracles that stretch from shore to shore.
I see you in the loving eyes of
friends and family. I see you, God.
You're visible to me.

*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

Colossians

Let the words of the Lord Jesus Christ
dwell in you (echo)
And whatever you say and
whatever you do (echo)
Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
who rose from the dead,
and gives you new life in Him.

Let the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
fill your heart (echo)
And whatever your gift and
whatever your part (echo)
Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
who rose from the dead,
and gives you new life in Him.

Let the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ
guide your way (echo)
whether walking at night
or walking in day (echo)
Walk in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
who rose from the dead,
and gives you new life in Him.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Erin Falconer Cullen

May 5, 2015

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:

Margaret (Peg) Shultes, Edward Lustenader, Jr., Katherine W. Williams, Martha Wallender, Arthur Lord

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:

Eileen Herring, with trigeminal neuralgia

We extend our condolences to the family of:
Dena Van Heyningen, mother/grandmother of
Carol and Deborah Troost

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Margaret (Peg) Shultes by her family.

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Peg Delaney Trio

May 24: Mike Lamkin, piano

May 31: Dave Gleason, piano

Pentecost Sunday

Join us next Sunday for our Pentecost service. Don't forget to wear red!

Memorial Day Church Office Closed

The office will be closed Monday, May 25.

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: Youth Sunday, All Church Picnic

May 24: Coffee and Conversation

May 31: John Kucj, Liberia and Ebola

Church Picnic Today

After worship come and join the fun at the annual spring picnic sponsored by the Youth Education and Nurture Committee. We will provide burgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, and beverages for all. Hopefully some of you have brought side dishes to share, but if not, please feel free to join us anyway! In addition to food and conversation, games will be available for the children. See you there!

Post Service Refreshments-Food Is Love!

Easy way to love your neighbor -- bring post service refreshments! Beginning June 14 we will enjoy these refreshments, weather permitting, in the Huntley Garden. 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: Meet at Jumpin Jacks at 5pm for our end of year party!

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.

First Futures Building Campaign

Have you given your thoughts to the First Futures Campaign planning leadership yet? Connect with one of the Planning Committee Chairs at the picnic today: Del Pierce, Nancy Davidson, Dave Hjelmar, Cindy Gallagher, Gay Doolittle, Dan Ipsen, Fred Daniels, or Lisa Etkin.

Faith Bookshop

If on the Bookshop desk there is a sales slip with your name and a check by "unpaid" on it, our treasury would be delighted if you would stop by and change it to "paid".

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.

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 finishing our 6 week study of the first half of the book of Psalms (Psalms 1-72) this week. Anyone interested is welcome to join us Tuesday at 10am 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.

Evening Circle

On Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 pm we will be meeting for a Pot Luck End of Year Picnic. The location has changed. We will meet at Sally Bestgen's home, 2517 Antonia Drive. Marilyn Leach is co-hostess. Dessert and beverage will be provided. All women of the church welcome. Program is planning for next year. Please sign up in Assembly Hall or call Sally at 346-0304.

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.

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.

Justice Action Council

Please join us in support of gay pride! A group from First Reformed's Justice Action Council will be marching in the Capital Pride Parade on Saturday June 13, 2015. The parade steps off at 12 noon at Washington Square Park in Albany. We will assemble there between 10 and 11 am. Car pooling can be arranged. Please contact Jeanne Shoulder at 781-724-5030 for more details.

Group VII

On June 19 at 11:30 am we will have our Annual Picnic at the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. Co-hostesses are Martha Winchester and Anne Robb.

Relief for Nepal

Due to recent earthquakes, thousands of people have died in Nepal, and over 100,000 are displaced, homeless, and injured. They are in desperate need of assistance to rebuild their homes and lives. Reformed Church World Service has been on the ground in Nepal, with their partner, World Vision, helping in the relief and recovery efforts, but they need our help to maintain this crucial ministry. We will continue receiving offerings through the month of May. Just put your cash or check made out to First Reformed Church in one of the white envelopes found in the pews, write "Nepal" on the front of the envelope, and put it in the plate during the normal offering. The Mission and Benevolence Committee will match donations received up to \$5,000. Thank you for your compassion and action in helping the people of Nepal.

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.

Military Service List

We are continuing to compile a list of members who have served in the armed forces in order to honor them well. If you know someone who should be added to the list, please let us know either on a white pew card or by calling the church office at 377-2201.

Room For All

From Loss to Legacy: Recalling our Past, Ensuring our Future Room for All will mark their 10th anniversary with a celebration dinner on Monday, June 22nd at 6 PM. The event will take place in Schenectady, New York, where the RfA's seeds were sown during the 2005 General Synod trial and conviction of the Rev. Dr. Norman Kansfield, who presided at his daughter Ann's same-gender wedding. Norm and Ann will be the guest speakers! You are invited to participate at any of three levels: With a donation of \$400, you may invite eight people to attend at your invitation, or if you prefer, you may sponsor a table and allow RfA to invite eight people on your behalf. Table sponsors are asked to sign up by May 25th and submit guest names by June 8.

If you prefer not to sponsor a table, you may help to underwrite the event with a general gift in any amount.

If you would simply like to attend, FRC is sponsoring a table (or tables!). The suggested at-cost donation for an individual ticket is \$50 per person; we invite you to contribute as you are able. The sign-up deadline is June 7. The evening will include an invitation to support the expanding work of Room for All. All gifts are fully tax-deductible. Please RSVP for a spot at the FRC tables by signing up in the office.

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

Monday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

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

Wednesday, May 20

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

Thursday, May 21

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

Sunday, May 24

9:00 am..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 10:00 am Worship
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Counting Deacons	Vickie McGowan-Horan and Bill Martin	Thomas Burgoyne and Fred Daniels
Greeters	Heather and Andy Chestnut	Karen Giuzio
Flower Delivery	Sally & Jack Bestgen Peggy King	Gay & Joe Doolittle James & Sharron McCullough
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Olivia Mancuso	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, Eric Evans, Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce, Richard Rose, Linda Witkowski, Gene Zeltmann, Arend van der Veen	Peggy King, Mary Jewett, Bob Beadle, Jack Bestgen, George Davidson, Gay Doolittle, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose
Reader	Alexandra Mancuso	PENTECOST
Refreshments	Church Picnic Bring a Dish to Share	
Ushers	Youth with Art Shultes (head usher), Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin, Joan Lindsay	Glenn Blinckmann, Linda Malgieri, Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal