

**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 dove descending breaks the air
With flame of incandescent terror
Of which the tongues declare
The one discharge from sin and error.
The only hope, or else despair
Lies in the choice of pyre or pyre-
To be redeemed from fire by fire.**

**Who then devised the torment? Love.
Love is the unfamiliar Name
Behind the hands that wove
The intolerable shirt of flame
Which human power cannot remove.
We only live, only suspire
Consumed by either fire or fire.”**

~ T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets

May 24, 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.

Pentecost
May 24, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley
Prelude and Fugue in C major J. S. Bach
Fantasy on "St. Kevin" Arthur S. Sullivan
Sortie Theodore Dubois
10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Come, Holy Spirit* Plainsong

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #128
On Pentecost They Gathered

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O Lord our Shepherd, you know us better than we know ourselves. We come before you now, believers and doubters alike, to share our deep need for strength and renewal. Forgive us and help us to know we are forgiven. Give us the heart and direction for renewal and service, we pray.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE HYMN 579
Gloria Patri

*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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Cannizzo, Lauren Cannizzo, Jill Masterson, Berta Phipps, Nathaniel Phipps, Brittany Rickard, Jeff Rickard, Pamela Silvano

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES OF CONFESSING MEMBERS

*PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION

*BLESSING AND WELCOME

We are ambassadors for Christ.

We are the salt of the earth;
we are the light of the world.

Welcome our sisters and brothers 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 Klokken Tower Ringers
Jean Hayes, flute; Tom D'Andrea, percussion
As the Wind Song Swee-Hong Lim, Arr. Mizell

As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Never seen, ever known,
where this wind has blown,
bringing life, bringing pow'r to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Shirley Erena Murray

FIRST LESSON

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Psalm 104:24-34 (pg555)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Acts 2:1-21 (pg 119)*

SERMON Bill Levering
Zepher Spirit

*HYMN #131
Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

OFFERING

OFFERTORY
Finlandia "Be Still, My Soul" Jean Sibelius
arr. by Harold DeCou

*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 *Spirit* #319

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Rob Landes

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:

*William George, Ricard Lawton, Edmund
Sanderson, Frederick Junker, Virginia Stare,
Jane Fisher*

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

We welcome Noah Hoon Sing Fernandes
born to Leah and Chris Fernandes

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Mike Lamkin Trio

May 31: Dave Gleason, piano

June 7: Nat Phipps Trio

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.

May 31: John Kucj, Liberia and Ebola

June 7: Congregational Meeting

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.

Church Directory Photo Deadline

Ralph Rosenthal will be taking pictures for the next week only, in the Heritage room (off the Dirck Romeyn Room.) No appt. necessary.

First Futures Building Campaign

The First Futures Campaign will not meet with interested folks after the worship today in consideration of the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop will be open briefly after today's worship service. We wish you all a pleasant Memorial Day.

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.

Group V

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

Tuesday Ladies

We will meet June 16 at 6:00 pm for our pot luck salad supper at the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue.

Midweek Evening Meal

Our final informal dinner for the spring takes place this Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the Assembly Hall. Bring what-ever you wish to share with others. The worship which follows is optional though often the destination of diners.

Wednesday Evening Worship

Our Pentecost 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 excitement and energy of Pentecost via guitar accompanied songs, guided meditation on Scripture, Communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.

Horizons Bible Study

We will resume in the fall using the Presbyterian Women's Horizon's Bible Study entitled "Come to the Waters," Interested? Talk with Peg Miller.

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.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee of the congregation nominates the following people for service for the congregational meeting on June 7:

For Deacon (Class of 2017): Lyn Gordon

For Elder (Class of 2017): Marilyn Leach, Amy Brule, Barbara Walton

For Nominating Committee (for 2016): Laura Linder, Kim Burgoyne, Sally Bestgen

Pentecost Bike Ride TODAY

Ride with the wind...of God, today, 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; we'll meet in the parking lot.

Poetry Round Table

The June 14 Forum after church will feature members of our church reading their favorite poems. If you would like to be part of the program, call Linda Witkowski at 374-7904.

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 info.

Relief for Nepal

Due to recent earthquakes, thousands of people have died in Nepal, and over 100,000 are displaced, homeless, and injured. 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.

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.

Military Service List

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!

If you would 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.



Acclaimed Violinist Theodore Arm to be Featured Artist with Musicians of Ma'alwyck
Musicians of Ma'alwyck is delighted to welcome violinist Teddy Arm, who will be joining us to perform a concert of music by Moszkowski, Bartok and Enesco on Friday, May 29th at 7pm at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady.

Tickets are \$25 adults/\$10 students, and may be purchased at www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org or by calling 518/377-3623.. Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear this wonderful violinist in some fantastic repertory.

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.

SICM summer lunches at FRC

Something new this summer! During in last two weeks in July, SICM summer lunches will be served on the lawn of First Reformed. This will be a pilot program to see if there are enough children in our area during noontime. We are also committed to serving at Yates Community Room for three weeks, August 3rd through 21st. Since over 70% of children live under the poverty line in our city, this is a desperately needed service.

Three volunteers are need for the cold lunch days and four when we serve hot sandwiches. A sign-up calendar will be in the Assembly Hall after June 1st. You may sign up for a week, one day each week, several times during the commitment time or even just once. Whatever suits your schedule will be appreciated.

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Thomas Burgoyne and Fred Daniels	Gay Doolittle and Nancy Wainwright
Greeters	Karen Giuzio	Darwin and Ellie Brudos
Flower Delivery	Gay & Joe Doolittle James & Sharron McCullough	Carol DeLaMarter and Claire Hughes
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Virginia Laumeister
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Preacher	Bill Levering	J. Herbert Nelson II
Processing Elders	Peggy King, Mary Jewett, Bob Beadle, Jack Bestgen, George Davidson, Gay Doolittle, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose	Jerry Griggs, Joyce Griggs, Lil Bertalan, Toni Masiatis, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Ellie Rowland, Margaret Schadler
Reader		Amy Brule
Refreshments		Your Name Here
Ushers	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Linda Malgieri, Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Gonda, Joan Lindsay, Glenn Blinckmann, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan- Horan

Sunday, May 24

- 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
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, May 25

Office Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26

- 10:00 am..... Morning Prayer

Wednesday, May 27

- 1:00 pm..... Thursday Bells
- 6:00 pm..... Evening Meal
- 7:00 pm..... Evening Worship
- 7:00 pm..... Writer's Group

Thursday, May 28

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

Sunday, May 31

- 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
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

"For even the very wise cannot see all ends."
— J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

"In every crowd are certain persons who seem just like the rest, yet they bear amazing messages."
— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *Night Flight*

"But it's your Oracle," I protested. "Can't you tell us what the prophecy means?"

Apollo sighed. "You might as well ask an artist to explain his art, or ask a poet to explain his poem. It defeats the purpose. The meaning is only clear through the search."

— Rick Riordan, *The Titan's Curse*

"Carry the fire."

— Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

"God doesn't bribe, child. He just makes a sign and lets people take it as they will."

— Stephen King, *The Stand*

"A writer is one who communicates ideas and emotions people want to communicate but aren't quite sure how, or even if, they should communicate them."

— Criss Jami, *Killosophy*

"Every single human being should be the fulfilment of a prophecy: for every human being should be the realisation of some ideal, either in the mind of God or in the mind of man."

— Oscar Wilde, *De Profundis*



Nationally famous preacher Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II serves as Director of the Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC. The Office of Public Witness is a prophetic office of the Presbyterians and implements the social justice agenda through advocacy with the federal government. The OPW also engages in a broad range of activities with congregations and structures, providing educational materials and arranging briefings and conferences. The Office will celebrate 70 years of "speaking truth to power" in 2016. Nelson believes that grassroots organizing is a major key to impacting the prophetic witness and political sphere in today's globalized culture.