

**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.

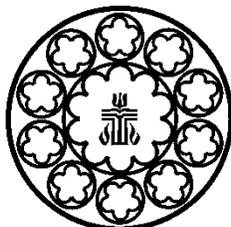
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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 31, 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.

Trinity Sunday
May 31, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Nat Phipps

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*
Grosser Gott, Wir Loben Dich

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #138
Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

*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.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Alfred Fedak

Triune God, Mysterious Being

God the Spirit, guide and guardian,
wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets,
sign of blessing, power of love:
give to those who lead your people
fresh anointing of your grace;
send them forth as bold apostles
to your Church in every place.

Christ our Saviour, Sovereign, Shepherd,
Word made flesh, Love crucified,
teacher, healer, suffering servant,
friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all pastors
learn and live a shepherd's care:
grant them courage and compassion
shown through work and deed and prayer.

Great Creator, Life bestower,
Truth beyond all thought's recall,
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy,
giving and forgiving all:
as you know our strength and weakness,
so may those the Church exalts
oversee her life steadfastly
yet not overlook her faults.

Triune God, mysterious Being,
undivided and diverse,
deeper than our minds can fathom,
greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied calling
your full image to proclaim,
that our ministries uniting
may give glory to your Name.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

FIRST LESSON Amy Brule
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Matthew 28:16-20 (pg 34)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Acts 1:1-14 (pg 118)*

SERMON Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
The Imperative

*HYMN #429
Lord, You Give the Great Commission

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Nat Phipps

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GRADUATION REFLECTIONS Sarah Evans

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 #538
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold 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 our church who entered into eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Helen Costanzo, Chi Hua Fong, Chester Buchanan, Beverly Fasake, Marie Metcalf, Burton Delack, Lora Marting, Jean Hay, Julia Amelia Jackson Phillips, Alice Marcellus

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 express our condolences to Aniko Fellegi-Bobok on the death of her mother.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of their children: Michael J. Ontkush and Laurel Davis Jeffers by Peter and Diane Ontkush.

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: Dave Gleason, piano

June 7: Nat Phipps Trio

June 14: Scott Bassinson, piano

Post Service Refreshments - Please Sign Up

Beginning June 14, we will meet in the Huntley Garden (weather permitting). Your help is appreciated! Please sign up in the Assembly Hall or email Karen the Taart Baas at gonda6@aol.com.

Church Directory Photo Deadline

Today is the LAST DAY Ralph Rosenthal will be taking pictures for the church directory. He is in the Heritage room (off the Dirck Romeyn Room.) No appt. necessary.

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: John Kucj; Liberia and Ebola

June 7: Congregational Meeting

June 14: Poetry Round Table

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.

Youth Group Schedule

Our youth group does not meet regularly during the summer months, but stay tuned for special activities to come! If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Stacey at revstacey@gmail.com.

First Futures Building Campaign

Get the latest on the First Futures building campaign! Meet with Fred Daniels today after worship in the Dirk Romeyn room. You can ask the questions, and he'll try to answer them.

Johnson Library

Check out the new titles on the adult and children's display tables by the library doorway, where a variety of topics are addressed. Boats and the seashore are children's books topics.

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop will be open briefly before and after the church service today. We will resume taking book orders in the fall; meanwhile, happy summer reading.

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 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.

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.

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.

Mid-Month Meal & Wednesday Worship

This summer join us for a delicious dinner (bringing food you enjoy and wish to share) at 6pm on June 17, July 15, and August 12. The contemplative communion service begins at 7pm for those who desire to worship. For more details contact Daniel Carlson 377-2201.

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

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. The parade steps off at 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 very much!

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 Frolic to Weston Priory

Join members of the Kerygma Conversation for a full-day field trip to the Weston Priory on June 24. We'll share rides there and back, stopping at the Vermont Country Store. Check Sunday's bulletin for more details!

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 22 at 6pm. 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.

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.

We Need Your Books for the Book Fair

It's not too early to rummage through your home library to find books that need a new home.

Why not donate them to our church Book Fair to be held on October 20? Fiction, non-fiction, children's (no college text books, please.) They may be just the books others have been looking for. We're beginning to collect books and store them in the Poling Conference Room, opposite our church library. If you'd like to be part of the Fair in some capacity, see or call Linda Witkowski 374-7904.

Stephen Ministry Picnic

All active and inactive Stephen Ministers (and, if they wish, a spouse or friend) are invited to our annual pull-out-the stops Picnic, Thursday, June 25, 6 pm at Maria Todd's home (1229 Viewmont Dr., Niskayuna). Call the church office or sign up in Assembly Hall to tell us you're coming and what food (and drink) you'll be bringing!

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.

Host Families Needed

Our Church is participating in a new ministry called Fostering Hope. It serves as a vehicle for us to follow God's mandate to help the "orphans" of present day; foster children, most of whom have been neglected or abused. The foster parents will help the team discover ways to lend practical and natural help such as:

~Befriending and offering emotional support to the foster parents after a long day

~Assisting with household maintenance and meals

~Celebrating important family milestones

~Helping the children get involved in athletic/recreational activities and attending events

~Homework help

~Mentoring in life skills such as budgeting, job preparation, cooking

Several FRC families have already attended an orientation and are moving forward in this process, but we are still in need of a few more families. If you are interest in volunteering, please join us in a mandatory training on June 15 at 6pm her at the church. For questions and signups contact Stacey Midge.

Counting Deacons	Bill Rochelle and Nancy Wainwright	Rebecca Grande and Joan Lindsay
Greeters	Darwin and Ellie Brudos	Sally and Jack Bestgen
Flower Delivery	Carol DeLaMarter and Ann Gotwals	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Mike Horan and Elsie Dotter
Faith Bookshop	Virginia Laumeister	Committee Member
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Preacher	J. Herbert Nelson II	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Jerry Griggs, Joyce Griggs, Lil Bertalan, Toni Masiatis, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Joe Lovell, Margaret Schadler	Caroline Welch, Jeanne Shoulder, Jeanette Davidson, Eric Evans, Brad Lewis, Catherine Lewis, Thomas Lindsay, Barbara Walton
Reader	Amy Brule	Nancy Davidson
Refreshments		Volunteers Needed
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Gonda, Joan Lindsay, Glenn Blinckmann, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda

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
- 11:15 am..... Kirk Ringers
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, June 1

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

Tuesday, June 2

- 10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
- 11:30 am..... Support and Care
- 1:30 pm..... Worship Planning

Wednesday, June 3

- 1:00 pm..... Thursday Bells

Thursday, June 4

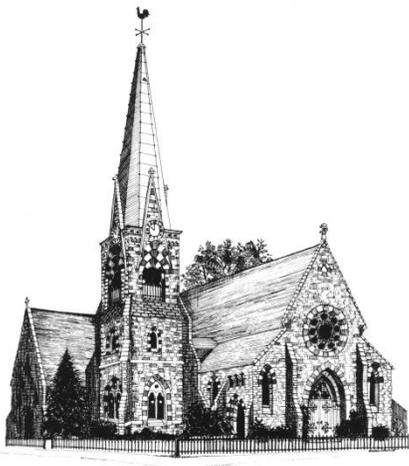
- 7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch

Friday, June 5

- 6:00 pm..... Archives

Sunday, June 7

- 9:00 am..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am..... Worship
- 10:15 am..... Church School K-5
- 11:00 am..... Congregational Meeting
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers



A categorical imperative would be one which represented an action as objectively necessary in itself, without reference to any other purpose.
~Immanuel Kant

If those committed to the quest fail, they will be forgiven. When lost, they will find another way. The moral imperative of humanism is the endeavor alone, whether successful or not, provided the effort is honorable and failure memorable.
~E. O. Wilson

I think it's imperative to follow your heart and choose a profession you're passionate about, and if you haven't found that 'spark' yet, if you're not sure what you want to do with your lives - be persistent until you do.
~Steve Kerr

The destiny of the woman must be shaped to a large extent on her own conception of her spiritual imperative and her place in society.
~Sandra Day O'Connor

Every man has his own destiny: the only imperative is to follow it, to accept it, no matter where it leads him.
~Henry Miller

Rich or poor, every child comes into the world with some imperative need of its own, which shapes its individuality.
~Lucy Larcom

When we start deceiving ourselves into thinking not that we want something... but that it is a moral imperative that we have it, that is when we join the fashionable madmen.
~Joan Didion

I believe we should reframe our response to climate change as an imperative for growth rather than merely being a way of being green or meeting environmental commitments.
~William Hague