

**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.*

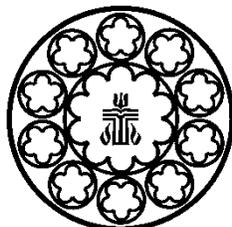
*Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly 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.*



God calls us to think outside the box.  
But in a good way.

*June 7, 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.

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

June 7, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Jubilate Deo* Michael Praetorius

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #461 (vs 1 & 2)  
*God Is Here!*

\*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 Chancel Choir and Orff Consort

*Carol of Creation* Shirley W. McRae

Sing and rejoice, all children of the earth,  
Give praise and thanks for the wonders of creation,  
For miracles past and myst'ries yet unfolding,  
All loving gifts of God's imagination.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Sing to the Lord!

Sing and rejoice, all children of the earth,  
The sun and moon and the twinkling constellation,  
Butterflies and birds and rivers running free  
shall soar and dance in joyous celebration.

Sing of the children, born to destiny,  
Greeting the future with bright anticipation,  
Artists and governors, astronauts and priests,  
Growing to be God's newest revelation.

FIRST LESSON Nancy Davidson  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** *2 Corinthians 4:13-18 (pg 181)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 3:20-35 (pg 37)*

SERMON Bill Levering  
*The Challenges of Thinking Outside the Box*

\*HYMN *Earth and All Stars* #458

OFFERING

OFFERTORY William France

*Bread of Heaven*

Bread of heav'n, on thee we feed,  
for thy flesh is life indeed;  
Ever may our souls be fed  
with this true and living Bread,  
Day by day with strength supplied  
through the life of him who died.  
Vine of heav'n, thy blood supplies  
this blest cup of sacrifice;  
'Tis thy wounds our healing give;  
to they cross we look and live:  
Thou our life! O let us be  
rooted, grafted, built on thee.

**\*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** #455 (vs 1 & 6)

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

Twofold Amen

Robert Bennett

**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:

*Duane Anderson, Chuck Nelson, Jocelyn Mathes, Jean Bundy, William Dotter, Edwards Murray, Mandalay Gremis*

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:

*Earl Wainwright* coming home from Sunnyview  
*Ruth Doering* in failing health  
*The Walther's family*, on the death of Mark's mother, Marilyn  
*The Hanson family*, on the death of Martha  
*The Cohen family*, on the death of Stephanie

**In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Bill Dotter by his wife and children.

**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.

**Entered into Eternal Rest**

Stephanie P. Miner Cohen - May 19, 2015

Martha Hanson - May 28, 2015

Thomas R. Haberbusch - May 29, 2015

**Justin Meyers**, former minister of FRC will be preaching NEXT WEEK! Justin is now the Director of Education for the Al Amana Centre, serving in Oman with his wife Stephanie and their two sons, Gavin and Collin. Al Amana is a project supported by the RCA that believes in, and is promoting, dialogue between Christians and Muslims worldwide.

### **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

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

**Today:** Nat Phipps Trio

**June 14:** Scott Bassinson, piano

**June 21:** Peg Delaney Trio

### **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:** Congregational Meeting

**June 14:** Poetry Round Table

**June 21:** Fred Daniels and Lisa Etkin, First Futures Update

### **Poetry Round Table**

Members of our church will be reading their favorite poems. If you would like to be part of the program, call Linda Witkowski at 374-7904.

### **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 - 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 pm, usually on the first Sunday of the month. Our next class is today, June 7.

### **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](mailto:revstacey@gmail.com).

### **Johnson Library**

Works of fiction for your summer reading pleasure can be found on the library's display table this morning. Don't forget to pick up books for the younger fry from the children's table.

### **Faith Bookshop**

The Bookshop will be open briefly before and after the church service today. Chocolate, coffee and tea available! We will resume taking book orders in the fall. Happy summer reading!

### **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 pm for our pot luck salad supper at the home of Connie Young.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:gonda6@aol.com).

### **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 7 pm for those who desire to worship. For more details contact Daniel Carlson 377-2201.

### **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.

### **Fiction Writers Group**

A Flash Fiction critique group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 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 the 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 3 through 21. 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 1. 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.

### **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!

### **Fellowship Frolic to Weston Priory**

Join members of Kerygma Conversations for a full-day outing to Weston, VT. Explore the lovely setting, participate in worship, and visit the brother's gift shop and the Vermont Country Store. More information and a sign-up sheet are in Assembly Hall.

### **Room For All**

From Loss to Legacy: Recalling our Past, Ensuring our Future Room for All will mark their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a celebration dinner on June 22 at 6 pm. If you would like to attend, FRC is sponsoring a table. The suggested at-cost donation for an individual ticket is \$50; we invite you to contribute as you are able. The sign-up deadline is TODAY in the church office.

### ***The Idolatry of God* Reading Group Starts June 16**

Stacey recently preached and led a forum based on some of the ideas from a conference she attended with radical theologian/philosopher Peter Rollins. Over the summer, she will lead a book group that will read and discuss his *Idolatry of God: Breaking Our Addiction to Certainty and Satisfaction*. The group will meet on Tues. evenings at 6pm beginning on June 16 and ending August 18. To promote a casual atmosphere and stimulating discussion, we will meet at the Stockade Inn. Please sign up for this group by contacting Stacey or the church office by June 10, so that books may be ordered in advance. At the first meeting, books will be distributed and general groundwork laid for future discussions.

## Fostering Hope Volunteers Wanted

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 6 pm her at the church. A sign-up sheet is in Assembly Hall. Questions ask Stacey Midge.

## 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 18. Fiction, non-fiction, children's (no college text books, please.) They may be just the books others have been looking for. If you'd like to be part of the Fair in some capacity, see or call Linda Witkowski 374-7904.

## Ushers Needed

The usher roster is still incomplete. We've had folks move away and other issues that have left us short in this vital part of our Sunday service. Ushering is a great way to meet and assist people. If you can't commit to a regular schedule, you can volunteer to serve on an as needed basis. Please consider helping out. Contact Del Pierce, in church, or by phone at 356-0955. Thank you.

## Daniel Away for Week at D.Min Class

Rev. Carlson will return from Chicago this Saturday and looks forward to being in worship Sunday, June 14.

<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Joan Lindsay and Rebecca Grande	David Bundy and Douglas Todd
<b>Greeters</b>	Sally and Jack Bestgen	Joan Crandall
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Mike Horan and Elsie Dotter	Sharon McCullough
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Justin Meyers
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Caroline Welch, Jeanne Shoulder, Jeanette Davidson, Eric Evans, Brad Lewis, Catherine Lewis, Thomas Lindsay, Barbara Walton	Peggy King, George Davidson, Phil Falconer, Ellie Rowland, Margy Schadler, Maria G. Todd, Linda Witkowski, Gene Zeltmann
<b>Reader</b>	Nancy Davidson	Barbara Walton
<b>Refreshments</b>		Nancy Davidson and Jeanette Davidson
<b>Ushers</b>	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright

## **Sunday, June 7**

- 9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am ..... Worship
- 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5
- 11:15 am ..... Annual Meeting
- 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers
- 3:00 pm ..... New Member Class
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

## **Monday, June 8**

- 9:00 am ..... Mens Newsgroup

## **Tuesday, June 9**

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

## **Wednesday, June 10**

- 1:00 pm ..... Archives
- 7:00 pm ..... Writer's Group

## **Thursday, June 11**

- 7:30 am ..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 1:30 pm ..... LUNN Resource Center
- 6:00 pm ..... A Different Way of Reading  
Graduation

## **Sunday, June 14**

- 9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am ..... Worship
- 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5
- 11:15 am ..... First Forum
- 11:15 am ..... First Futures
- 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

I've been saying for a couple of years now that people need to let God out of the Sunday morning box, that He doesn't want to just be with you for an hour or two on Sunday morning and then put back in His box to sit there until you have an emergency, but He wants to invade your Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. - Joyce Meyer

I'll be more enthusiastic about encouraging thinking outside the box when there's evidence of any thinking going on inside it. - Terry Pratchett

No matter what, people grow. If you chose not to grow, you're staying in a small box with a small mindset. People who win go outside of that box. It's very simple when you look at it. - Kevin Hart

You have to go on and be crazy. Crazy is like heaven. - Jimi Hendrix

A question that sometimes drives me hazy: am I or are the others crazy? - Albert Einstein

Some people never go crazy, What truly horrible lives they must live. - Charles Bukowski

Ignoring fame was my rebellion, in a funny way. I was insistent on being normal and doing normal things. It probably wasn't advisable to go to college in America and room with a complete stranger. And it probably wasn't wise to share a bathroom with eight other people in a coed dorm. Looking back, that was crazy. - Emma Watson

'Crazy' is a term of art; 'Insane' is a term of law. Remember that, and you will save yourself a lot of trouble. - Hunter S. Thompson

Propose new projects, new products, and more efficient ways to operate. Think 'outside the box.' -Walt Robb, Taking Risks

Grant stood by me when I was crazy, and I stood by him when he was drunk, and now we stand by each other. - William Tecumseh Sherman

