

**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.*



*June 14, 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, during the summer months, people stop for a chat and refreshments in Huntley Garden (weather permitting) 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.

## Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley  
*Valse Celeste* Edward Wittstein  
*Prelude and Fugue in F* J.S. Bach  
*Fantasy on "The Church's One Foundation"*  
Samuel Wesley  
arr. by Robert J. Hughes

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

INTROIT *Psalm 133* Barbara Boertje  
How very good and pleasant it is when we  
live in unity.

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #430  
*Come Sing, O Church in Joy*

\*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*)  
*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.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

William Joseph Rickard

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES OF THE  
PARENTS Jeffery and Brittany Rickard

\*PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION  
Do you promise to love, encourage, and  
support 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 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 *Mustard Seed* Folk Tune  
arr. June Fischer Armstrong

Oh, the Kingdom of Heaven's like a mustard seed,  
a mustard seed, a mustard seed.  
Oh, the Kingdom of Heaven's like a mustard seed  
planted in the ground.

Well, the seed took root and began to grow, began  
to grow, began to grow.  
And the seed took root and began to grow into a  
ten foot tree.

And the birds of the air began to perch on it, to perch on it, to perch on it.  
And the birds of the air began to perch on it. The ten foot mustard tree.

FIRST LESSON Barbara Walton  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** Mark 12:28-34 (pg 49)

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON Romans 12:1-21 (pg 161)

SERMON Justin Meyers  
*If Not Vengeance...Then What?*

\*HYMN *A Living Sacrifice* Schumann

**A living sacrifice  
God call us all to be;  
not incense burned, not merit earned  
but love, expressed and free.**

**A living sacrifice  
like cold hearts strangely warmed,  
alive, renewed, to do God's will,  
both holy and transformed.**

**One servant life in Christ:  
each one belongs for all;  
all one, but each with different gifts:  
build bridges, not a wall.**

**Our love must be sincere.  
Let kindness never cease.  
Put others' needs above your own,  
and choose a life of peace.**

#### OFFERING

OFFERTORY *O Day of Peace* Scottish Tune  
arr. Hal Hopson

O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May the swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love,  
all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.**

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #386  
*O For a World*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE  
*Threefold Amen* Danish

POSTLUDE  
*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* St. Anne

+ + +

**Entered into Eternal Rest**  
Harold (Hal) Clements – 6/7/15  
Memorial Service scheduled for October 3

**In Memoriam**  
The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Louise Stange by Marlene Risseuw and the Erickson family.

## **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 P. Lindsay, Grance Vanderwater, Bemetta Cronk, Walter Kozak, Roland Carreker, Rev. Donald Troost, Sonia Lintner, David Packard*

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:

*The Clements' family* on the death of Hal

## **Today's Baptism**

This morning we are delighted to welcome into God's family of faith, William Joseph Rickard, son of Jeff and Brittany Rickard. William Joseph was named after his grandfathers, William Rickard (also baptized here years ago) and Joseph Camardello, who are in God's eternal keeping. The family also wishes to gratefully recognize Brittany's mother, Lorelei Dalton, who from the day William Joseph was born, has sought to foster in him an awareness of God loving presence through prayer, songs books, written psalms and a lullaby CD to which he falls asleep every night.

## **Music Notes**

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## **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.

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

**Today:** Scott Bassinson, piano

**June 21:** Peg Delaney Trio

**June 28:** Scott Bassinson, piano

## **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:** Poetry Round Table

**June 21:** First Futures Update, Fred & Lisa

**June 28:** TBD

## **First Futures**

On June 21 Fred Daniels and Lisa Etkin will give an update during the First Forum.

## **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.

## **Camp Fowler Deadline June 30**

The deadline for summer camp registration is June 30. Campers are students in grades 3-12; Fowler also offers a family camp where children of all ages and parents can experience camp together. Volunteers are also needed as cabin counselors and kitchen and maintenance staff. Scholarships are available. Please contact Heather in the church office if you've already signed up or you are looking to sign up.

## **Church School Survey Deadline June 30**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8Z8MP7R> to fill out the survey online. Or, return your answers to Stacey Midge or Blythe Gieseler.

### **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.

### **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 pm, usually on the first Sunday of the month. Our next class is September 6.

### **Johnson Library**

Summertime is the season when the library's collection gets weeded-just like a garden. Stop by the display table to see what's come up that you might enjoy reading!

### **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!

### **Post Service Refreshments - Please Sign Up**

Beginning today, our post service refreshments will be served in the Huntley Garden (weather permitting). We rely on volunteers and it's very easy to do if you 'pair up' with someone. Please sign up in Assembly Hall, where you will also see an important instruction sheet. You can also email Karen the Taart Baas at gonda6@aol.com.

### **Monday Night Yoga**

Evening Yoga at FRC is taking the summer off and will return September 9.

### **Tuesday Ladies**

We will meet June 16 at 6 pm for our pot luck salad supper at the home of Connie Young.

### **Horizons Bible Study**

We will resume in the fall.

### **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 next meeting will be in the fall.

### **SICM Summer Lunches at FRC**

Glorious summer is now here! It is now time for us to plan for Summer Lunches for Schenectady's children when school is out. This year we are doing a pilot program for two weeks on FRC's lawn to see if there are enough children around during the day. Those weeks will be the week of July 20th and 27th. Our weeks at Yates will be Aug. 3rd, Aug. 10th and Aug. 17th. There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall at church, or you can call the church office during the week at 377-2201, or you may call Ellie Rowland after June 23 at 250-4302.

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

Join members of Kerygma Conversations for a full-day outing to Weston, VT on June 24. 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.

### **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!

### ***The Idolatry of God Reading Group Starts 6/16***

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 ASAP, 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 here at the church. A sign-up sheet is in Assembly Hall. Questions ask Stacey Midge.

### **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 [jgonda12309@gmail.com](mailto:jgonda12309@gmail.com) or the church office.

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	David Bundy and Douglas Todd	Bill Rochelle and Richard Gardner
<b>Greeters</b>	Joan Crandall	Joyce and Jerry Griggs
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Sharon McCullough and Barbara Walton	Nancy & George Davidson and Marilyn Leach
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Justin Meyers	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Peggy King, George Davidson, Phil Falconer, Ellie Rowland, Margy Schadler, Maria G. Todd, Linda Witkowski, Gene Zeltmann	Mary Jewett, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Liz Mastrianni, Bob Beadle, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Margaret Schadler
<b>Reader</b>	Barbara Walton	Marilyn Leach
<b>Refreshments</b>	Nancy Davidson and Jeanette Davidson	Volunteers Needed
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Carol Troost

**Sunday, June 14**

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

**Monday, June 15**

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

**Tuesday, June 16**

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

**Wednesday, June 17**

- 6:00 pm ..... Mid-month Evening Meal
- 7:00 pm ..... Mid-month Evening Worship

**Thursday, June 18**

- 7:30 am ..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 1:30 pm ..... LUNN Resource Center
- 7:00 pm ..... Stephen Ministry

**Sunday, June 21**

- 10:00 am ..... Worship
- 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5
- 11:00 am ..... Refreshments
- 11:00 am ..... Justice Action Book Group
- 11:15 am ..... First Forum
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers



No peace among the nations  
without peace among the religions

No peace among the religions  
without dialogue between the religions - Hans  
Kung

We fight over who buys the tea, not over religion.

Can we allow for God's mercy even as we allow for  
God's vengeance?

Interfaith really isn't that complicated, can we  
outdo each other in showing love and hospitality?

Rather it is through the slow and steady building of  
personal relationships that one discovers the  
fundamental truth that all people everywhere have  
the same dreams and aspirations, that all people  
struggle with the same fears and anxieties. - Reza  
Aslan

In the name of the God, Most Gracious, Most  
Merciful.

Praise be to God,  
The Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds;  
Most Gracious, Most Merciful;  
Master of the Day of Judgment.  
Thee do we worship,  
And Thine aid we seek.  
Show us the straight way,  
The way of those on whom  
Thou has bestowed Thy Grace,  
Those whose (portion)  
Is not wrath,  
And who go not astray.

The Fatiha/opening chapter of Qur'an which is  
recited at least seventeen times a day during  
corporate prayer.