

**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.*

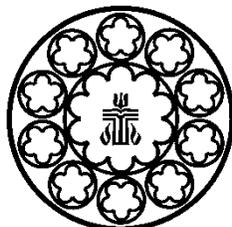
*Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly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

*June 28, 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 over in the Kinderwyk building.

### **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). 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.

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

June 28, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Stacey Midge

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

\* HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* #473

\*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

\*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.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

MUSICAL OFFERING Stacey Midge

*You Are Mine* David Haas

I will come to you in the silence  
I will lift you from all your fear  
You will hear My voice  
I claim you as My choice  
Be still, and know I am here

I am hope for all who are hopeless  
I am eyes for all who long to see  
In the shadows of the night,  
I will be your light  
Come and rest in Me

Chorus:

Do not be afraid, I am with you  
I have called you each by name  
Come and follow Me  
I will bring you home  
I love you and you are mine

I am strength for all the despairing  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free  
And all will know My name

I am the Word that leads all to freedom  
I am the peace the world cannot give  
I will call your name, embracing all your pain  
Stand up, now, walk, and live

FIRST LESSON Carol Troost

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** *2 Corinthians 8:7-15 (pg 183)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 5:21-43 (pg 39)*

SERMON *After the Miracle* Bill Levering

\*HYMN *Jesus Loves Me!* #304

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Stacey Midge

*Beautiful Things*

Gungor

All this pain  
 I wonder if I'll ever find my way  
 I wonder if my life could really change at all  
 All this earth  
 Could all that is lost ever be found  
 Could a garden come up from this ground at all  
 You make beautiful things  
 You make beautiful things out of the dust  
 You make beautiful things  
 You make beautiful things out of us  
 All around  
 Hope is springing up from this old ground  
 Out of chaos life is being found in You  
 You make me new, You are making me new

\*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.**

\*HYMN

#298

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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:

*Robert B. Gilbert, Richard McLane, Robert Marshall, Glenn Roe, Peter J. VonHermann, Dorothy Langdon, Marjorie Frick, Belle Kozak*

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.

**In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jens Brondel by Ruth and Carl Brondel.

**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:** Scott Bassinson, piano

**July 5:** Nat Phipps Trio

**July 12:** Peg Delaney Trio



### **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.

### **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.

### **Congratulations on Graduation!**

Many folks in our congregation have reached achievements this spring. If you know of someone that should be added to the list, please let us know.

**High School Graduates:** Sara Bobok (Harvard University), Sarah Evans (Rochester Institute of Technology), Elena Grande (SUNY Cortland), Olivia Mancuso (SUNY Fredonia)

### **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).

### **New Summer Children's Program**

Beginning the week of June 29, every Monday at 4 pm until the end of August we will be meeting at Indian Meadows Playground in Glenville for a playground date. All ages are welcome. There will be refreshments provided, not guaranteed to be healthy but will be nut free. The play date is scheduled for 1 hr. I will be there for any questions and/or suggestions for the Children's Education Program. Please join us for some fun!  
-Blythe Gieseler CEC

### **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**

Sweet Summertime! Don't forget your sun screen and post-service refreshments! Join us after church in the Huntley Garden (weather permitting). Please sign up in Assembly Hall, where you'll find an instruction sheet. Can't commit to service right now? Place your treats in the freezer for a future date. Contact Karen the Taart Baas, [gonda6@aol.com](mailto:gonda6@aol.com), with questions.

### **Mid-Month Meal & Wednesday Worship**

This summer join us for a delicious dinner (bringing food you enjoy and wish to share) at 6 pm on 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.

### **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 20 and 27. Our weeks at Yates will be August 3, 10, and 17. 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 at 250-4302.

### **Summer Kerygma Conversations**

Here's a great opportunity to meet with others to discuss whatever is currently of interest to you, whether a book, movie, travel, event, or issue. All are welcome to join this occasional gathering held from 9:30 am - 11 am, on Wednesday July 29 and August 26 in the Dirck Romeyn room.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Name Tags**

Our congregation is growing and we have many new faces in worship. It would be helpful to all the new members if we all wore our name tags. Name tags can be found on the door by Poling Chapel and Assembly Hall. Don't have one? Please contact the church office or let us know on a white pew card so we can make one for you.

### **Monday Night Yoga**

Evening Yoga at FRC is taking the summer off and will return September 9. If your heart desires, you can catch yoga at Indian Ladder Apple Farms Saturday mornings 8-9 am & Tuesday evenings in Albany at Westland Hills Park 6-7 pm. Enjoy the great outdoors!

### **First Friday Performance Series**

#### **by Avery Tunningley**

I will be offering a monthly performance series, generally on the first Friday of each month, beginning August 7 at 7 pm in the Poling Chapel. While the series may include a variety of events from solo recitals to hymn sings I would like to start things off with the 1921 silent movie melodrama "The Kid" starring Charlie Chaplin and Jackie Coogan. I will play an original musical score to accompany the movie.

While Charlie Chaplin is best remembered for his "slapstick" style and "The Tramp" character, his feature length movies were filled with social and political commentary. This movie is no exception. It tackles some big social justice problems of the time, though often through a layer of light hearted comedy. This is a movie that I can best describe as "laughter through tears". With its powerful yet tender message, "The Kid" is packed with emotion.

I hope that you can join me for a night out at the movies, 1920s style!

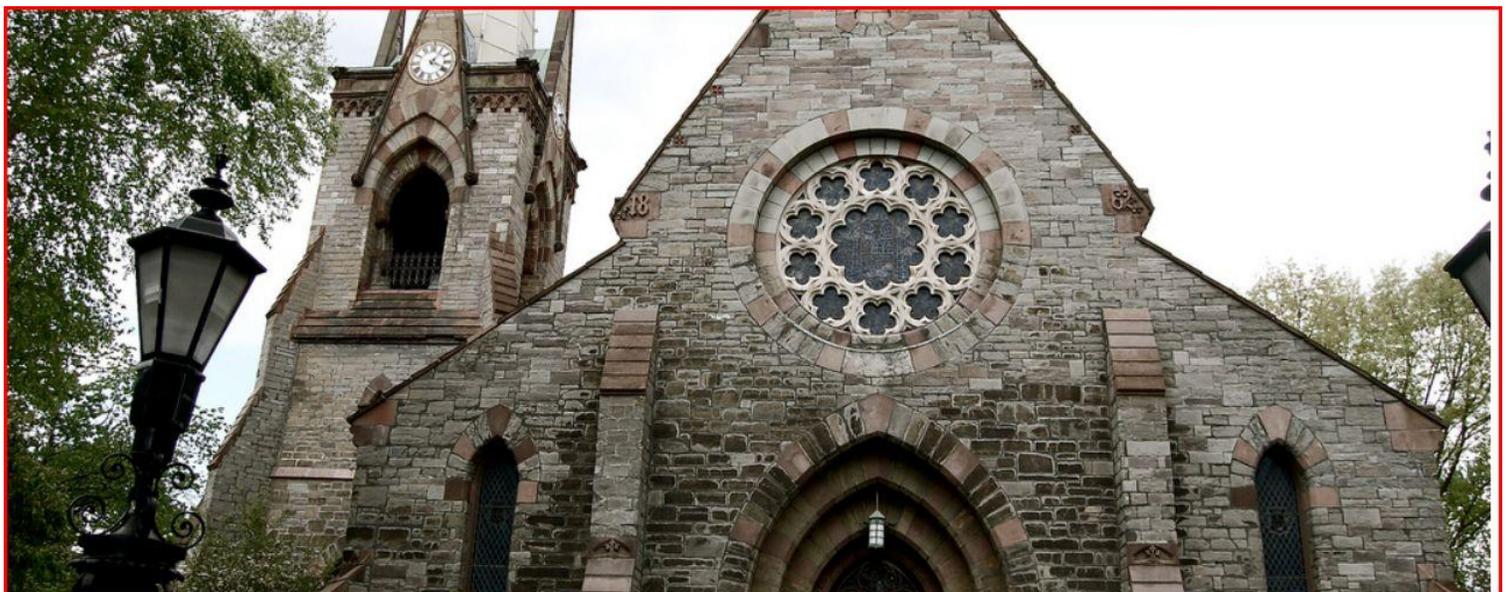
### **Ensemble Singers**

We are starting ensembles of many types again for those of you who either can't make it to choir every week or who would like to be involved singing some extra and different repertoire about once a month. I need to know your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices of when we can all rehearse and your particular evening conflicts. Please let me (Corine) know as soon as possible by e-mail or phone 346-9060 or [calon@nycap.rr.com](mailto:calon@nycap.rr.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.

| <b>Sunday Volunteers</b> | <b>This Sunday</b>                                                                                     | <b>Next Sunday</b>                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Counting Deacons</b>  | Gay Doolittle & Carol Troost                                                                           | Claire Hughes & Joan Lindsay                                                                           |
| <b>Greeters</b>          | Vernetta Thuener                                                                                       | Marey Bailey                                                                                           |
| <b>Flower Delivery</b>   | Ann & Doug Phillips and Ginny McDermott                                                                |                                                                                                        |
| <b>Faith Bookshop</b>    | Committee Member                                                                                       | Committee Member                                                                                       |
| <b>Liturgist</b>         | Daniel Carlson                                                                                         | Stacey Midge                                                                                           |
| <b>Preacher</b>          | Bill Levering                                                                                          | Lynne Gilgore                                                                                          |
| <b>Processing Elders</b> | Brad & Cathy Lewis,<br>Jerry & Joyce Griggs,<br>Peggy King, Don Leach,<br>Gay Doolittle, Bill Rochelle | Wayne & Amy Brule,<br>Don & Marilyn Leach,<br>Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce,<br>Birdie Blackmer, Mary Jewett |
| <b>Reader</b>            | Carol Troost                                                                                           | Mary Jewett                                                                                            |
| <b>Refreshments</b>      | Ellie Rowland and Lois Stickney                                                                        | Volunteers Needed                                                                                      |
| <b>Ushers</b>            | Del Pierce (head usher),<br>Lou Acquasanta,<br>Mike & Vickie Horan,<br>Jim & Sharron McCullough        | Art Shultes (head usher),<br>Lou Acquasanta, Joan Lindsay,<br>Jim & Sharron McCullough                 |



**Sunday, June 28**

10:00 am ..... Worship  
 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:00 am ..... Refreshments  
 11:15 am ..... First Futures  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

**Monday, June 29**

9:00 am ..... Mens Newsgroup

**Tuesday, June 30**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer

**Wednesday, July 1**

11:00 am ..... First Things Volunteers

**Friday, July 3**

**Office Closed for Independence Day**

**Sunday, July 5**

10:00 am ..... Worship  
 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:00 am ..... Refreshments  
 11:15 am ..... First Futures  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers  
 6:00 pm ..... Archives

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” — Albert Einstein

“One of the main reasons that we lose our enthusiasm in life is because we become ungrateful. We let what was once a miracle become common to us. We get so accustomed to his goodness it becomes a routine.” — Joel Osteen, *Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential*

“Don't give up before the miracle happens.” — Fannie Flagg, *I Still Dream About You*

“Calvin: Today for show and tell, I've brought a tiny miracle of nature: a single snowflake! I think we might all learn a lesson from how this utterly unique and exquisite crystal turns into an ordinary, boring molecule of water just like every other one when you bring it into the classroom. And now, while the analogy sinks in, I will be leaving you drips and going outside...” — Bill Watterson

“If you need a miracle, be a miracle.” — Phillip C. McGraw

“Most humans, in varying degrees, are already dead. In one way or another they have lost their dreams, their ambitions, their desire for a better life. They have surrendered their fight for self-esteem and they have compromised their great potential. They have settled for a life of mediocrity, days of despair and nights of tears. They are no more than living deaths confined to cemeteries of their choice. Yet they need not remain in that state. They can be resurrected from their sorry condition. They can each perform the greatest miracle in the world. They can each come back from the dead...” — Og Mandino, *The Greatest Miracle in World*

“When something poses as obstacle to you, surmount it and use it as a miracle to move on to greater height.” — Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha, *Overcoming the Challenges of Life*

“Miracles... seem to me to rest not so much upon... healing power coming suddenly near us from afar but upon our perceptions being made finer, so that, for a moment, our eyes can see and our ears can hear what is there around us always.” — Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*

“Just because you can explain it doesn't mean it's not still a miracle.” — Terry Pratchett, *Small Gods*