

**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.

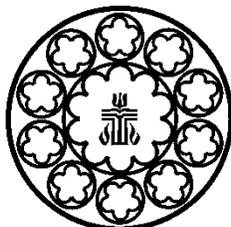
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



July 26, 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 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 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.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley
Incline Thine Ear Friedrich Heinrich Himmel
Joyful Alleluia Robert J. Hughes
The God of Abraham Praise Hebrew Melody

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

* HYMN *Let the Whole Creation Cry* #256

* OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**Our world and our lives are complex.
Sometimes we do not know which way to
go. Sometimes we make the wrong choice.
Our priorities clash and call us in
competing directions. Our actions do not
always match our values. But you, God,
understand our complications. Forgive us
when we cause harm to ourselves, to others,
and to the world around us. Turn us back
to what is good, and draw us more and
more into the flourishing life you offer.**

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)
(*from the Accra Confession*)

**We believe that God has made a covenant
with all of creation. God has brought into
being an earth community based on the
vision of justice and peace. The covenant is
a gift of grace that is not for sale in the
market place. It is an economy of grace for
the household of all of creation. Jesus
shows that this is an inclusive covenant in
which the poor and marginalized are
preferential partners and calls us to put
justice for the "least of these" at the centre**

**of the community of life. All creation is
blessed and included in this covenant.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Kate and Rachel Rose
The Moor Hilary Tann

Laudate Dominum. Laudate Eum.
Montes et omnes colles laudent nomen Domini.

It was like a church to me.
I entered it on soft foot.
Breath held like a cap in the hand. It was quiet.
What God was there made himself felt, not
list'ned to, made himself felt in clean colors
that brought a moist'ning of the eye
in wind over the movement of the grass.

Laudate Dominum. Benedic anima mea Domino
qui ambulat super pinna ventorum.
Laudate Dominum in sanctis eius.

There were no prayers said.
But stillness of the heart's passions,
that was praise enough;
and the mind's cession of its kingdom.

Laudate Dominum de caelis
Laudate Dominum de terra

I walked on, simple and poor.
I walked on while the air crumbled
and broke on me gen'rously as bread.

Montes et omnes colles laudent nomen Domini.

It was like a church to me. It was quiet.
There were no prayers said, but stillness,
that was praise enough.

Laudate. Montes, colles, laudent nomen Domini

FIRST LESSON Peg Miller

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalm 145:10-18 (pg 581)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 6:1-21 (pg 97)*

SERMON *A New World Order* Stacey Midge

*HYMN *O Day of Peace* #450

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Kate and Rachel Rose

Pie Jesu Andrew Lloyd Webber

Merciful Jesus,
who takes away the sins of the world
Grant them rest, grant them rest.

Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world
Grant them rest, everlasting rest.

*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 *O Day of God, Draw Nigh* #452

*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:

Richard Gordon, Alice Junker, Rhonda Phillips, Leonard B. Vandenberg, Albert Demont

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.

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: Dave Gleason, piano

Aug 2: Nat Phipps Trio

Aug 9: Mike Lamkin, piano

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 Summer Children's Program

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. Blythe Gieseler, our Director of Children's Ministries, will be there for any questions and/or suggestions for the Children's Education Program. Please join us for some fun!

Johnson Library

The Johnson Library will be sending out overdue notices for overdue books through e-mails, beginning in about three weeks' time. It is hoped this method of retrieving books out for more than the four weeks' borrowing span will result in more books coming back in a timely manner. Thanks for your part in helping us care for the collection.

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!

SICM Summer Lunches at FRC

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. Our first week started off slowly but we did feed children here on the First Reformed front lawn and will continue during the week of July 27. Our weeks at Yates will be August 3, 10, and 17. Call the church office during the week at 377-2201 if you would like to be on the "substitute helper" list.

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.

Camp Fowler Open House Saturday, August 1

You don't have to be going to camp to come visit and check out this wonderful place. From 2-4pm, bring your family and friends to the beach and swim, kayak, and canoe. From 4 - 6pm enjoy a Clements' Old Fashion Chicken BBQ for \$15. At 7pm in the Chapel, the Sacandaga String Band, led by Jordan White, will play a benefit concert. All are welcome for all, but reservations are appreciated by July 28 at (518) 548-6524.

Sacrament of Communion Next Sunday

The holy feast of our Lord will be celebrated within our morning worship service on August 2. Members will be invited to come forward to partake of the bread and share in the cup; gluten free crackers will also be available. Those unable to come forward will be served in their pews.

Senior Pastor's Pizza Picnics

This summer, Dr. Levering will be hosting a few picnics for folks of all types. The picnics last from 5 - 7 pm and include pizza, light snacks, and good fellowship. They are held at 923 Northumberland Drive in Niskayuna.

August 7: Families with children are invited. Bring the kids! Chat with the Senior Pastor while they run about. Then go see 'The Kid' at church.

August 14: The Great Consistory is invited to come by for pizza. Any current member of the congregation who has been ordained is welcome to come by and discuss the state of the church.

Performance Series by

Our New Organist Starts August 7

Avery Tunngley, our new organist, 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, he would like to start things off with the 1921 silent movie melodrama "The Kid" starring Charlie Chaplin and Jackie Coogan. Avery 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 best described as "laughter through tears".

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, karengonda6@gmail.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 August 12. The contemplative communion service begins at 7 pm for those who desire to worship. For more details contact Daniel Carlson 377-2201.

Fall Picnic September 13

All are invited to stay after church on September 13 for a time of fun, food, and fellowship! Please bring a dish to share. Volunteers are needed for set-up before the picnic and break-down/clean-up after the picnic. Sign-up in Assembly Hall.

Online Bible Study

Dr. Levering is starting a weekly online Bible Study class for folks who are not able to get to church regularly. To start up, email him at blevering@gmail.com.

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 or the church office.

Name Tags

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. It is always nice to put a name with a face as our congregation grows.

Directory Pictures Needed

We are publishing our church directory in the fall. If you did not get a picture taken by Ralph Rosenthal, we need a picture from you for our directory. This is important for all our new folks. Really. Send a picture you would like used that is not too silly to 1stReformed@gmail.com

Church School Helpers Needed

Although we hate to say it, September will be here before we know it! Teachers are needed for all classes in the Fall. Training will be provided. Please call/e-mail Blythe Gieseler 248-8686 or blytheg.rn@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.

New Short Term Choral Groups

This year, our Artistic Coordinator, Corine Salon, will be working with folks interested in different choral opportunities. If you have a pal and would like to sing a duet; if you have a small group that is interested in a little help and a Sunday to sing in worship, this is your chance. This fall we are starting a program for those who either can't make it to choir every week or who would like to be involved singing in some kind of group. Please let Corine know if you are interested at 346-9060 or csalon@nycap.rr.com

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.

The Home Furnishings Program

NEEDS OF THE MONTH

Furniture: love-seats, futons, small dressers

Furnishings: queen sheets; spatulas & cooking spoons, any size glasses (no stemware)

cutlery: forks, knives, teaspoons, soup spoons;

cereal & dessert bowls, toasters & toaster ovens

Call Jamie Doriguzzi, Program Coordinator, at 346-2444 to arrange for pick-up or warehouse drop-off of *useful* items (nothing dirty, cracked, chipped, broken or torn, please) or email us at homefurninc@aol.com

COMING UP:

AUGUST 7/8 “Clean Out the Warehouse” or “COW” Sale 9am-1pm both days, at Stanford Methodist Church *corner of Consaul Road and State Street*

AUGUST 15 Truck Drop-off Opportunity at Niskayuna Coop from 10am-1pm

See lists above for desirable donations

www.schenectadyhomefurnishings.org

SICM Seeks Donations for Back to School

We plan to distribute what we have by mid-August; therefore please bring any donations in by August 12. Please bring them either to the SICM Office, 1055 Wendell Avenue (M-Th 9-3) or the SICM Food Pantry (Tuesday preferred 8-2:30 or call 346-4445).

Funds are welcome as well for us to purchase additional items; just please indicate. SICM is eligible for GE (\$25+) and other matching programs. Thank you!

- ✓ Backpacks for boys & girls
- ✓ Pocket folders (plastic preferable)
- ✓ Subject & Marble Composition Notebooks
- ✓ Loose Leaf Paper (packages)
- ✓ Binders & Highlighters Triangles
- ✓ Pens and #2 Pencils
- ✓ Crayons & Scissors (child safe)
- ✓ Washable Markers & Glue Sticks

For information contact Oron Tucker:
orontucker@yahoo.com

Counting Deacons	Bill Martin and Linnea D’Andrea	Fred Daniels and Carol Troost
Greeters	Karen Giuzio and Vernetta Thuener	Joanne Bedell
Flower Delivery	Lauren Cleworth Andy & Heather Chestnut	Joyce & Jerry Griggs Don & Jeanette Davidson
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	George & Nancy Davidson, Mary Jewett, Adam Mason, Liz Mastrianni, Bill Rochelle, Jeanne Shoulder,	Birdie Blackmer, Amy & Wayne Brule, Peggy King, Don & Marilyn Leach, Tom Lindsay, Joe Lovell
Reader	Peg Miller	Carol Troost
Refreshments	Ginny Laumeister	Volunteers Needed
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Mike Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Carol Troost

Sunday, July 26

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

Monday, July 27

- 9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
- 12:30 pm SICM Lunches on the Lawn FRC

Tuesday, July 28

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 12:30 pm SICM Lunches on the Lawn FRC
- 6:00 pm Reading Group at Stockade Inn

Wednesday, July 29

- 9:30 am Summer Kerygma Conversations
- 12:30 pm SICM Lunches on the Lawn FRC

Thursday, July 30

- 12:30 pm SICM Lunches on the Lawn FRC

Friday, July 31

- 12:30 pm SICM Lunches on the Lawn FRC

Sunday, August 2

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

+ + +

“I believe Jesus wasn't thinking about miracle when He performed it. He's just doing normal activities as he did in His heavenly kingdom.”
- Toba Beta

“The kingdom is not an exclusive, well-trimmed suburb with snobbish rules about who can live there. No, it is for a larger, homelier, less self-conscious caste of people who understand they are sinners because they have experienced the yaw and pitch of moral struggle.”
- Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

“When I am not king, then THE Kingdom has its best chance of breaking through.”
- Richard Rohr, *Adam's Return: The Five Promises of Male Initiation*

“If we only had eyes to see and ears to hear and wits to understand, we would know that the Kingdom of God in the sense of holiness, goodness, beauty is as close as breathing and is crying out to born both within ourselves and within the world; we would know that the Kingdom of God is what we all of us hunger for above all other things even when we don't know its name or realize that it's what we're starving to death for. The Kingdom of God is where our best dreams come from and our truest prayers. We glimpse it at those moments when we find ourselves being better than we are and wiser than we know. We catch sight of it when at some moment of crisis a strength seems to come to us that is greater than our own strength. The Kingdom of God is where we belong. It is home, and whether we realize it or not, I think we are all of us homesick for it.”
- Frederick Buechner

“It's the treasure in the empty field; it's worth selling everything to own--your entertainment, your 401(k) or your registered retirement savings plan, your home, your comfort, the sand where you stick your head, your last word, your right answers, your safe and predictable nice little life centered on avoiding heartbreak or inconvenience to your schedule.”
- Sarah Bessey, *Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible's View of Women*

We believe that any economy of the household of life given to us by God's covenant to sustain life is accountable to God. We believe the economy exists to serve the dignity and wellbeing of people in community, within the bounds of the sustainability of creation. We believe that human beings are called to choose God over Mammon and that confessing our faith is an act of obedience.
- Accra Confession