

**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.*

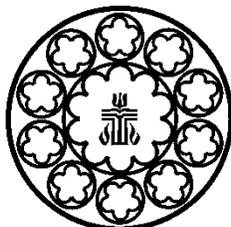
*It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.*

*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.*



*August 2, 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.

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

August 2, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE                      Route Fifty 5 Brass Quintet

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP                      Daniel Carlson

\* HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* #464

\* 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

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends!**

\*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

*Simple Gifts*                      Trad., Arr. Jari Villeneuve

FIRST LESSON                                      Carol Troost

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**                                      *John 6:25-35 (pg 98)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Ephesians 3:14-21 (pg 193)*

SERMON *Prayers for the People* Daniel Carlson

\*HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* #376

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Contrapunctus IX, from the Art of the Fugue*  
J.S. Bach, arr. Eberhard Ramm

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

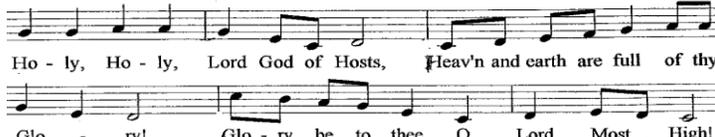
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 *God of Grace and God of Glory* #420

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*  
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

#### **Entered into Eternal Rest**

Jean Diesem – July 28, 2015

Memorial Service to be held in Sanctuary  
on Saturday, August 8, at 11:00am

#### **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 Templeton, William Hubbard, Charles VanWie, Bill Piper, Drew Mills, Thomas S. Getty*

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 the family of Jean Diesem.

#### **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:** Nat Phipps Trio

**Aug 9:** Mike Lamkin, piano

**Aug 16:** Peg Delaney Trio

**Music Notes:** Route Fifty 5 Brass Quintet: Ben Richards and Judson Hoffman, trumpets; Kara Pangburn, horn; Ryan Pangburn, trombone and Barret Germain, tuba.

Our Response of Praise is a joyful declaration first heard by John Bell at the Sunrise Hospice in S. Africa. Words and transcription copyright 2008 WGRG, Iona Community Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

#### **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!

### **Stacey is at Camp Fowler this week**

From Aug. 1-8 she is serving as the chaplain for campers in grades 9-12. The theme this summer is "The One," so they will be exploring who Jesus is and how Jesus changes our lives. Please pray for the campers, staff, and volunteers as they play, eat, work, laugh, worship, and learn together this week and all summer.

### **SICM Summer Lunches at Yates Village**

Our weeks at the Yates Village Community Room are 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.

### **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](mailto: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.

#### **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, August 26 in the Dirck Romeyn room.

### **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.

### **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.

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

### **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](mailto:csalon@nycap.rr.com)

### **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](mailto:1stReformed@gmail.com)

### **55<sup>th</sup> Stockade Walkabout September 26**

Mark your calendars now for this annual Stockade-wide 11 am – 5 pm open house and fundraising event highlighting our historic neighborhood. What ideas do you have for FRC's participation? Hundreds of people tour our church wanting to learn about its traditions and history. We set up exhibits and provide a hospitality room. Other groups share displays and talents in our facility and churchyard. What would you or your committee like to offer for this year's Walkabout? Let us know. Contact the FRC office or Laura Lee.

### **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.

### **Summertime Struggles**

Though it may be summer, Stephen Ministers don't take vacations from extending Christ's compassionate care! If you are having a difficult time in life or facing a challenge, contact Stephen Leaders, Daniel Carlson (346-6416) or Vernetta Theuner (355-2543) who can provide a confidential referral to a caring Stephen Minister. The burdens of life are always lessened with a caring friend by your side—no matter the season.

## 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

|                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Counting Deacons</b>  | Fred Daniels and Carol Troost  | Cathy Lewis and Vickie McGowan-Horan   |
| <b>Greeters</b>          | Joanne Bedell  | Nancy & George Davidson  |
| <b>Flower Delivery</b>   | Joyce & Jerry Griggs<br>Don & Jeanette Davidson  | Del Pierce and Kim Burgoyne  |
| <b>Faith Bookshop</b>    | Committee Member   | Committee Member   |
| <b>Liturgist</b>         |  | Stacey Midge   |
| <b>Preacher</b>          | Daniel Carlson   | Bill Levering  |
| <b>Processing Elders</b> | Birdie Blackmer, Peggy King, Don & Marilyn Leach, Tom Lindsay, Joe Lovell, Gay Doolittle | Darwin Brudos, Jeanette Davidson, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Adam Mason, Liz Mastrianni, Bill Rochelle, Linda Witkowski |
| <b>Reader</b>            | Carol Troost   | Barbara Walton   |
| <b>Refreshments</b>      |  | Volunteers Needed  |
| <b>Ushers</b>            | Del Pierce (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Mike Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Carol Troost  | George Davidson (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Kip & Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin                    |

## Sunday, August 2

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

## Monday, August 3

9:00 am ..... Mens Newsgroup

## Tuesday, August 4

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer  
1:30 pm ..... Worship Planning  
6:00 pm ..... Reading Group at Stockade Inn

## Friday, August 7

5:00 pm ..... Pastor's Pizza Picnic (Levering's)  
7:00 pm ..... First Friday Performance Series

## Sunday, August 9

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

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”

- Corrie ten Boom

“In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.”

- John Bunyan

“You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.”

- Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

“In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness, that God can fill you with Himself. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence.”

- Mother Teresa, *In the Heart of the World: Thoughts, Stories and Prayers*

“Give me the Love that leads the way

The Faith that nothing can dismay

The Hope no disappointments tire

The Passion that'll burn like fire

Let me not sink to be a clod

Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God”

- Amy Carmichael

“We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense. We pray when there's nothing else we can do, but God wants us to pray before we do anything at all. Most of us would prefer, however, to spend our time doing something that will get immediate results. We don't want to wait for God to resolve matters in His good time because His idea of 'good time' is seldom in sync with ours.”

- Oswald Chambers

“I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.”

- Abraham Lincoln

