

## **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.*

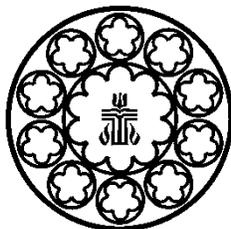
*Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly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



...saw Moses coming to  
take a closer look, God called to him from  
the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"  
"Here I am!" Moses replied.  
"Do not come any closer," the LORD  
warned. "Take off your sandals, for you  
are standing on holy ground. I am the  
God of your father—the God of Abra-  
ham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Ja-  
cob." When Moses heard this, he covered  
his face because he was afraid to look at  
God.

August 9, 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.

## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley  
*Rigaudon* David H. Hegarty  
*Allegro in A major* Wilhelm Friedmann Bach  
*Prelude and Fugue in C major* J. L. Krebs

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

\* HYMN *Let All Things Now Living* #554

\* 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

ANTHEM

*Bread of Life From Heaven* Argentine Folk  
arr. Marty Haugen

**Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given, we eat the bread and drink the cup until you come again.**

**Love as the One who, in love for you,  
Gave himself for the life of the world.  
Come to the one who is food for you,  
that your hunger and thirst be no more.**

(Refrain)

**Take in the light that will never dim,  
Taste the life that is stronger than death.  
Live in the One who will come and then  
raise you up at the last with the blest.**

(Refrain)

**Dwell in the One who now dwells in you;  
Make your home in the life-giving Word.  
Know only Christ, Holy One of God,  
and believe in the truth you have heard.**

(Refrain)

FIRST LESSON Barbara Walton

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** *Matthew 13:1-9, 34-36 (pg13)*

SECOND LESSON *Exodus 3:1-5 (pg 50)*

SERMON *Tales from the Lakes* Bill Levering

\*HYMN A. Katherine Hankey

*I Love to Tell the Story*

**I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory,  
of Jesus and His love.  
I love to tell the story,**

because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.

*Refrain*

*I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and His love.*

I love to tell the story;  
more wonderful it seems  
Than all the golden fancies  
of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story,  
it did so much for me;  
And that is just the reason  
I tell it now to thee.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story;  
'tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
The message of salvation  
from God's own holy Word.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,

I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY                      Olivia Mancuso, piano  
*Magician's Waltz*                      Olivia Mancuso

\*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                      *Fairest Lord Jesus*                      #306

\*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:

*Miriam Carreker, John Senn, James A. Ramsey, Mark McDermott, Marjorie Burke, Helen Huff Lord, Lorraine Ebeling, Linda Richards*

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 Mark McDermott by his wife & sons.

## **United Prayer Ministry**

Please remember in your prayers:

Ellie Rowland recovering from shoulder surgery.

Ruth Bergeron recovering from knee surgery.

Sarah Howes recovering from surgery.

## **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:** Mike Lamkin, piano

**Aug 16:** Peg Delaney Trio

**Aug 23:** Wayne Hawkins, 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!

## **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 Yates Village**

Our weeks at the Yates Village Community Room are August 10, and 17. Call the church office during the week at 377-2201, if you would like to be on the "substitute helper" list.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Church Fall Picnic - September 13**

Plan to stay after Worship for a time of fun, food and fellowship. Bring a dish to share: A-K, salad or side dish, L-Z dessert. Enjoy hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs. Cold drinks will also be served. If you can help with table set-up before worship or break-down and clean-up after the picnic please call Lyn Gordon at 370-4324.

## **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.

### **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](mailto:blytheg.rn@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)

### **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.

### **Reserve Rooms Online**

All groups need to reserve rooms one week in advance. You can find the facility use form from a link on the main page of [1stReformed.com](http://1stReformed.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 **October 4**.

### **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.

### **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)

### **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.

### **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.

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

*See lists above for desirable donations*

[www.schenectadyhomefurnishings.org](http://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](mailto:orontucker@yahoo.com)

<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Andy Chestnut and Vickie McGowan-Horan	David Bundy and Claire Hughes
<b>Greeters</b>	George Davidson	Natalie & Dick Davis
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Del Pierce and Kim Burgoyne	Sharon Gazin and Ellie & Darwin Brudos
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Darwin Brudos, Jeanette Davidson, Andy Chestnut, Tom Lindsay, Adam Mason, Liz Mastrianni, Bill Rochelle, Linda Witkowski	Birdie Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Nancy Davidson, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Brad Lewis, Del Pierce, Barbara Walton
<b>Reader</b>	Barbara Walton	Nancy Davidson
<b>Refreshments</b>	Lois Stickney and Karen Gonda	Mary Jewett
<b>Ushers</b>	George Davidson (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Kip & Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin	Art Shultes (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Joan Lindsay, Jim & Sharron McCullough

**Sunday, August 9**

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

**Monday, August 10**

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

**Tuesday, August 11**

- 10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer
- 6:00 pm ..... Reading Group at Stockade Inn

**Wednesday, August 12**

- 1:00 pm ..... Archives
- 2:00 pm ..... Staff Meeting
- 6:00 pm ..... Mid-Month Evening Meal
- 7:00 pm ..... Mid Month Evening Worship
- 7:00 pm ..... Writer's Group

**Sunday, August 16**

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

