

**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.*

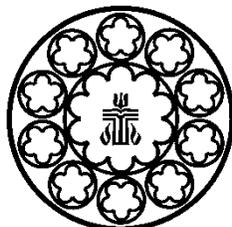
*Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly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



Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribably and glorious joy.  
1 Peter 1:8

*August 16, 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.

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Helderberg Madrigal Singers

*Super flumina Babylonis*

Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)

*Psalm 137*

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept;  
when we remembered thee, O Sion.

*Dindirin, dindirin* Anonymous

*Ecce quomodo moritur Justus*

Jacob Handl (1550-1591)

The righteous man has been taken away from  
present iniquity and his memory shall be in peace.  
In peace is his place and in Sion is his homestead.  
And his memory shall be in peace.

*Sing joyfully* William Byrd (1542-1623)

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

\* HYMN *Joy to the World* #40

\* 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

*Set me as a seal upon thine heart*

William Walton (1902-1983)

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
As a seal upon your arm;  
For love is as strong as death,  
Many waters cannot quench love,  
Nor can the floods drown it.  
Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
As a seal upon your arm;  
For love is as strong as death.

Song of Solomon

FIRST LESSON Nancy Davidson

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** *Proverbs 9:1-6 (pg 591)*  
*Psalm 34:9-14 (pg 508)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Jeremy Bork

SECOND LESSON *Ephesians 5:15-20 (pg 194)*

SERMON *How to Have Fun* Bill Levering

\*HYMN *While By the Sheep*  
Traditional German

**While by the sheep we watched at night,  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.**

**Refrain:**

***How great our joy! Great our joy!***

***Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

**There shall be born, so He did say,  
In Bethlehem a Child today. (Refrain)**

**This gift of God we'll cherish well,  
That ever joy our hearts shall fill. (Refrain)**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Henry Purcell (1659-1695)  
*I was glad*  
*Psalm 122*  
*Anthem from the Coronation of James II 1685)*

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

\*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:

*Cameron Barrie Rowe*

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 Cameron Rowe by his parents, Jim and Jessica, his brother Colin, and sister Anna.

**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.

**Music Notes:** Helederberg Madrigal Singers: Martha Bond, soprano; Dawn Dana, alto; Dick Dana, tenor; Beth Gurzler, alto; Dave Metz, bass; Sarah Johnsen Popiel, soprano; Tim Smith, bass.

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

**Today:** Peg Delaney Trio, w/ special guest

**Aug 23:** Wayne Hawkins, piano

**Aug 30:** 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

**Jazz Vespers Today**

Abby Norton Levering, Upstate Bishop and Violinist Extraordinaire will be featured at Jazz Vespers this evening. Abby has studied violin for 58 years and will be playing a violin crafted in 1293 by Antonio Felinius.

### **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).

### **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**

FANS - the kind you hold in your hand - are provided by the church Bookshop for your cooling comfort during the church service. Pick one up and return it to one of the containers located at several entrances to the sanctuary.

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

Our last week at the Yates Village Community Room begins August 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, August 26 in the Dirck Romeyn room.

### **First Friday Performance Series**

On September 4 at 7pm Avery will be showing "Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans" (1927) starring Janet Gaynor and George O'Brien in Poling Chapel. He will play a live piano accompaniment. Reception to follow.

### **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.

### **Monday Night Yoga**

Yoga returns at 6pm on Monday Sept. 14.

### **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)

### **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)

## **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.

## **ART and Lamp Sale during Walkabout**

The Home Furnishings Program of Schenectady has accumulated a large assortment of framed pictures and artwork. It will be offering many of these for sale during the Stockade Walkabout. Some antique lamps and other such items will be available as well. These will be on display in the Poling Chapel and Conference Room with a pre-sale opportunity for church members between 10 a.m. and noon on Friday, September 25. Anyone wishing to donate further items to this sale may do so by leaving them in the Poling Conference Room marked for the HFP Sale. All proceeds from the sale will go to support the work of HFP.

## **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)

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Room for All National Conference**

Room for All is holding a national conference in celebration of ten years of advocating for the full participation of LGBTQ persons in all aspects of the life and ministry of the RCA. The conference will be at Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI from October 22-25, 2015.

Scholarships and travel assistance are available. Find detailed information and register online at [www.roomforall.com](http://www.roomforall.com), or contact Room for All by phone at (201)803-9738. Registration deadline is October 1.

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	David Bundy and Claire Hughes	Bill Martin and Bill Rochelle
<b>Greeters</b>	Natalie & Dick Davis	Ellie & Gene Rowland
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Sharon Gazin and Ellie & Darwin Brudos	Laura Lee and Ellie & Gene Rowland
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Birdie Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Nancy Davidson, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Del Pierce	Gay Doolittle, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Del Pierce, Bill Rochelle, Jeanne Shoulder, Katherine Trimarco, Gene Zeltmann
<b>Reader</b>	Nancy Davidson	Mary Jewett
<b>Refreshments</b>	Mary Jewett	Gay Doolittle and Joan Crandall
<b>Ushers</b>	Art Shultes (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, George Davidson, Carol Troost, Jim & Sharron McCullough	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal



## **Sunday, August 16**

10:00 am ..... Worship/Communion

10:15 am ..... Church School K-5

11:00 am ..... Refreshments

5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

## **Monday, August 17**

9:00 am ..... Mens Newsgroup

## **Tuesday, August 18**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer

6:00 pm ..... Reading Group at Stockade Inn

## **Sunday, August 23**

10:00 am ..... Worship

10:15 am ..... Church School K-5

11:00 am ..... Refreshments

5:00 am ..... Jazz Vespers

“I don't want whatever I want. Nobody does. Not really. What kind of fun would it be if I just got everything I ever wanted just like that, and it didn't mean anything? What then?” — Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*

“I know it is wet and the sun is not sunny, but we can have lots of good fun that is funny.” — Dr. Seuss, *The Cat in the Hat*

“I can't imagine anything worse than being required to have fun.” — Scott Westerfeld

“It ain't no fun if the homies can't have none.” — Snoop Dogg

“Happiness is part of who we are. Joy is the feeling” — Tony DeLiso, *Legacy: The Power Within*

“When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy.” — Rumi

“Laughter is wine for the soul - laughter soft, or loud and deep, tinged through with seriousness - the hilarious declaration made by man that life is worth living.” — Seán O'Casey

“I have drunken deep of joy, And I will taste no other wine tonight.” — Percy Bysshe Shelley

“Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy.”

— Thích Nhất Hạnh

“He was mastered by the sheer surging of life, the tidal wave of being, the perfect joy of each separate muscle, joint, and sinew in that it was everything that was not death, that it was aglow and rampant, expressing itself in movement, flying exultantly under the stars.” — Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*

“One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.” — Helen Keller, *The Story of My Life*

“To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with.” — Mark Twain

“Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” — Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever.” — John Keats, *Endymion: A Poetic Romance*

“I want a life that sizzles and pops and makes me laugh out loud. And I don't want to get to the end, or to tomorrow, even, and realize that my life is a collection of meetings and pop cans and errands and receipts and dirty dishes. I want to eat cold tangerines and sing out loud in the car with the windows open and wear pink shoes and stay up all night laughing and paint my walls the exact color of the sky right now. I want to sleep hard on clean white sheets and throw parties and eat ripe tomatoes and read books so good they make me jump up and down, and I want my everyday to make God belly laugh, glad that he gave life to someone who loves the gift.” — Shauna Niequist, *Cold Tangerines: Celebrating the Extraordinary Nature of Everyday Life*

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.” — Rabindranath Tagore

“Music... will help dissolve your perplexities and purify your character and sensibilities, and in time of care and sorrow, will keep a fountain of joy alive in you.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer