

**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.



Defense is a choice.

August 23, 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 9:50am 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.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Prelude in G minor

J. S. Bach

Aria

John O. Schroeder

Toccata in D minor

N.V. Wheeler

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

* HYMN #262

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

* 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

Gene Rowland

Come Ye Disconsolate

Thomas Moore
Arr. Alice Parker

FIRST LESSON

Mary Jewett

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.

Amen. *Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 (pg 215)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Ephesians 6:10-20 (pg 195)*

SERMON

Armor of God

Bill Levering

*HYMN

#260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Gene Rowland

On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas

*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

Lead On, O King Eternal

#447

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Dorothy I. Davidson – 8/16/15
Memorial Service to be held
September 5, 11am in Poling Chapel

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:

Anne Marie Buchanan, John Herring, Beth Herring, Robert Moore

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 her daughter Beth, and husband John by Eileen Herring. As a symbol of our care, each Sunday the flowers are delivered to members of FRC who are not able to join us here.

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: Wayne Hawkins, piano

Aug 30: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Sept 6: Nat Phipps, piano

Youth Group Schedule

The youth group is open to all students in grades 6-12, and meets, starting September 20, every Sunday night from 5-7pm (unless otherwise indicated) for: discussion, food, learning, fellowship, and service. We kick off our program year with a picnic for all youth and parents.

Summer Children's Program

The summer play-date program has been wonderful and successful, please continue to attend. We will be meeting through the end of August at 4pm at Indian Meadows playground. Bring a friend ☺. The last Monday in August we will be having a summer closing picnic dinner also, please email me, blytheg.rn@gmail.com if you are interested in attending, all are welcome!

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.

Summer Kerygma Conversations August 26

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 September 4

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.

Chancel Choir Resumes September 10

At our first regular rehearsal we will prepare for Sunday service on the 13th and beyond. As always, our weekly Sunday offerings will cover a variety of musical styles to enrich our worship experience. Now is a great time to join. We are always in need of additional voices in all parts. Contact Julie Panke, Director of Music, or come to a rehearsal on Thursdays at 7:30pm in the downstairs choir room.

Stitch Group – September 10

Our church PHD* stitch group meets every Thursday in Poling Conference room beginning September 10 at 10am. Work on whatever project you have. Finish something old, make something new, work on something borrowed, or make something blue! For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153. *Projects Half Done

Men's Breakfast Group – September 12

At 11am the men's Breakfast group is planning a visit and tour of the Wolf Hollow Brewery, 6882 Amsterdam Road, (Rte. 5), Glenville, New York. <http://www.wolfhollowbrewing.com>
Please RSVP to Gene Rowland, erowland@nycap.rr.com; or Joe Doolittle, aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com.

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.

Horizon's Bible Study – September 15

We will resume on Tuesday, September 15 at 10am in the Poling Conference Room. We are using the Presbyterian Women's Horizon's Bible Study entitled "Come to the Waters".

Flash Writing Group

A flash writing critique group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Walton Conference Room at 7pm. Flash writing is a story, essay, memoir, or other non-fiction work told in 1,000 words or less. The group recently published a booklet of some of their best material called *The Beverwyck Anthology*. For more info, contact James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com.

New Literary Magazine Hot Off the Press

Complimentary copies of *The Beverwyck Anthology* can be found in the Faith Bookshop and the library. *The Beverwyck* is a product of the Flash Fiction Critique Group.

55th 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. HFP 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 10am 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

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**.

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.

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

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.

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.

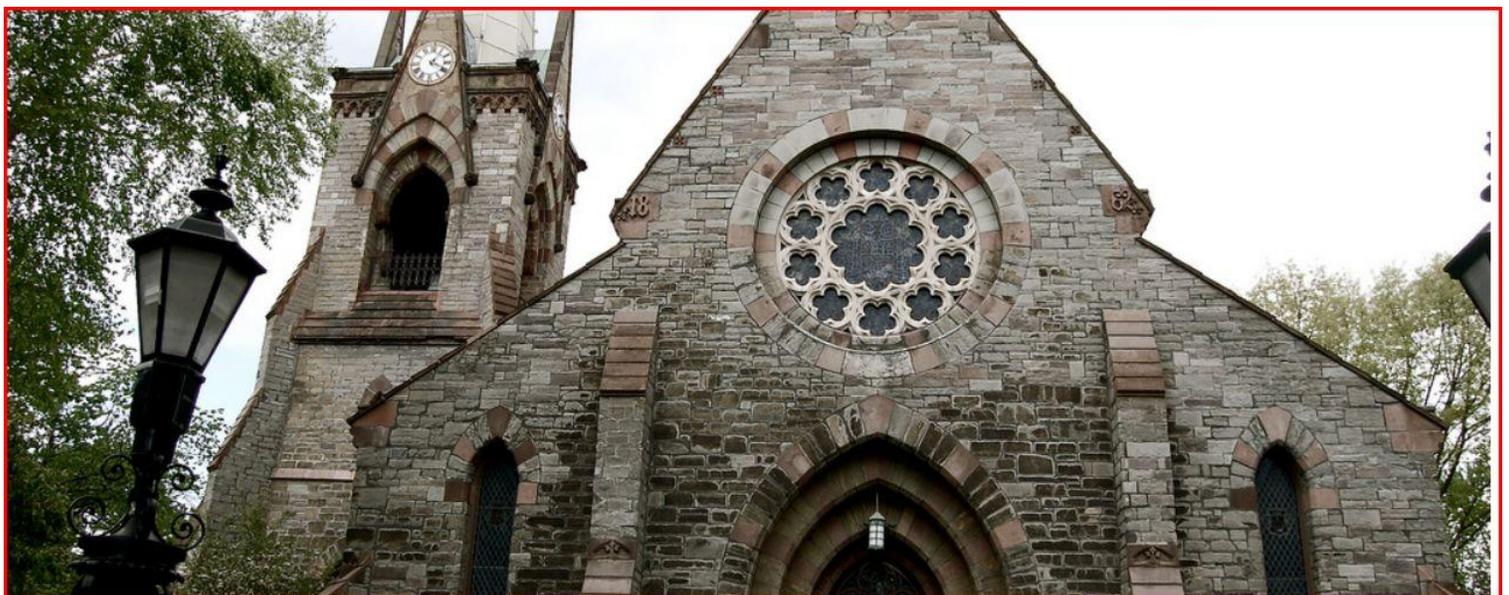
Room for All National Conference

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, or contact Room for All by phone at (201)803-9738. Registration deadline is October 1.

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

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Bill Martin and Bill Rochelle	Richard David and George Trimarco
Greeters	Ellie & Gene Rowland	Gini McDermott
Flower Delivery	Laura Lee and Ellie & Gene Rowland	Amy and Wayne Brule
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Gay Doolittle, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Del Pierce, Bill Rochelle, Jeanne Shoulder, Katherine Trimarco, Gene Zeltmann	Amy & Wayne Brule, Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Don & Marilyn Leach, Katherine Trimarco, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Mary Jewett	Marilyn Leach
Refreshments	Gay Doolittle and Joan Crandall	Volunteers Needed
Ushers	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda



Sunday, August 23

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

Monday, August 24

9:00 am Mens Newsgroup

Tuesday, August 25

10:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, August 26

9:30 am Summer Kerygma Conversations
11:00 am First Things volunteers
7:00 pm Writers Group

Sunday, August 30

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

+ + +

“There will come a time in your life when you lose something that matters to you. You'll fight for it and you won't win. But what really matters isn't the war you're waging, it's that you don't lose the person you are in the midst of the battle.” — J. Sterling, *The Perfect Game*

“But he understood at last what Dumbledore had been trying to tell him. It was, he thought, the difference between being dragged into the arena to face a battle to the death and walking into the arena with your head held high. Some people, perhaps, would say that there was little to choose between the two ways, but Dumbledore knew — and so do I, thought Harry, with a rush of fierce pride, and so did my parents — that there was all the difference in the world.” — J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

“Always keep your foes confused. If they are never certain who you are or what you want, they cannot know what you are like to do next.” — George R.R. Martin, *A Storm of Swords*

“Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved.” — Martin Luther

“If you will not die for us, you cannot ask us to die for you.” — Jacqueline Carey, *Kushiel's Dart*

“Unless one lives and loves in the trenches, it is difficult to remember that the war against dehumanization is ceaseless.” — Audre Lorde

“Every man should lose a battle in his youth, so he does not lose a war when he is old.” — George R.R. Martin, *A Feast for Crows*

“Under the Mountain dark and tall
The King has come unto his hall!
His foe is dead,
the Worm of Dread,
And ever so his foes shall fall.

The sword is sharp, the spear is long,
The arrow swift, the Gate is strong;
The heart is bold that looks on gold;
The dwarves no more shall suffer wrong.

The dwarves of yore made mighty spells,
While hammers fells like ringing bells
In places deep, where dark things sleep,
In hollow halls beneath the fells.

-from *The Hobbit (Dwarves Battle Song)*
— J.R.R. Tolkien

“Whenever we want to combat our enemies, first and foremost we must start by understanding them rather than exaggerating their motives.”
— Criss Jami, *Killosophy*

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Eph. 6:12 (NIV)”