

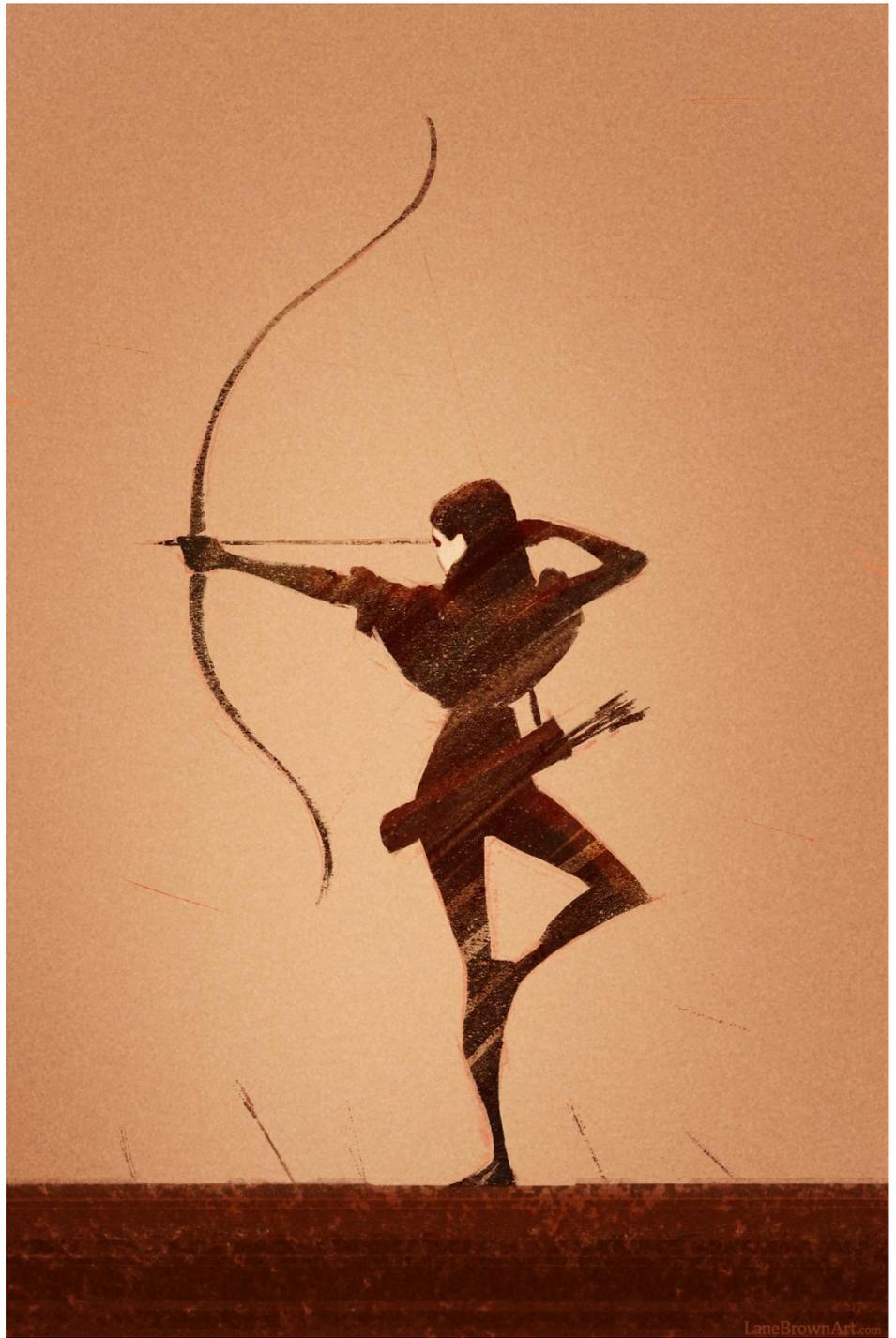
**The Covenant of Our  
Congregation  
Adopted in 1962**

*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 30, 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 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](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.

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2015

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Stacey Midge

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

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

\* 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 Marissa Scotti

*Ave Marie* J.S. Bach/Charles Gounod

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Holy Mary pray for us sinners  
now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

(English Translation)

FIRST LESSON Marilyn Leach

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** *James 1:17-27 (pg 229)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*  
(pg 42)

SERMON *Intentions or Actions* Bill Levering

\*HYMN *Though I May Speak* #335

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Stacey Midge

Shifting Sand by Caedmon's Call

Sometimes I believe all the lies  
so I can do the things I should despise  
And every day I am swayed by  
whatever is on my mind

I hear it all depends on my faith  
so I'm feeling precarious

The only problem I have with these mysteries  
is they're so mysterious

And like a consumer I've been thinking  
if I could just get a bit more

More than my fifteen minutes of faith,  
then I'd be secure

My faith is like shifting sand,  
changed by every wave

My faith is like shifting sand  
so I stand on grace

I've begged you for some proof  
for my Thomas eyes to see  
Slithering staff a leprous hand

and lions resting lazily  
A glimpse of your backside glory  
and this soaked altar going ablaze  
But you know I've seen so much,  
I explained it away

Waters rose as my doubts reigned  
My sandcastle faith it slipped away  
Found myself standing on your grace  
I've been there all the time

\*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 *Christ of the Upward Way* #344

\*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:

*Eleanor Mae Hart, Mary Grupe, 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 mother, Norma Knapp Peterson, by Anne Peterson. 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 Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

### Music Notes:

Our vocal soloist, Marissa Scotti, is 15 and a voice student of Corine Salon. The first part of the text of *Ave Maria* is a quote from the angel Gabriel when he appeared to the virgin, Mary, to tell her she has been blessed to carry the Lord, Jesus Christ, in her womb.

### First Forum

After worship most Sundays at 11:15 am in Poling Chapel, suggestions for programs are welcome from any committee or member; simply contact Amy Brule 785-8201, Peggy King 370-1885, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

**Sept 6:** Coffee & Conversation, TBA

**Sept 13:** Fall Picnic

**Sept 20:** Get to Know Christian Education,  
Blythe Gieseler

**Sept 27:** Doctoral Update and Invite, Daniel

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

**Today:** 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

**Sept 6:** Nat Phipps, piano

**Sept 13:** Scott Bassinson, 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 Picnic August 31**

Tomorrow we will be having a summer closing picnic dinner. Please email Blythe if you are interested in attending at [blytheg.rn@gmail.com](mailto:blytheg.rn@gmail.com). All are welcome!

### **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.

### **Post-service Refreshments Return to Assembly Hall September 6!**

Coffee and hot tea lovers, rejoice! On September 6, refreshments will be served in Assembly Hall. Please participate in our Hospitality ministry; your food contributions are needed as attendance reverts to normal levels. Instructions for service are posted next to the sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. Contact Taart Baas Karen, 607-725-4521 or [karengonda6@gmail.com](mailto:karengonda6@gmail.com) with questions. Thank you so much!

### **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.

### **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)

### **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](mailto:erowland@nycap.rr.com); or Joe Doolittle, [aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com](mailto:aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com).

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

Plan to stay after worship for a time food and fellowship. Sign up today at post-service refreshments to bring a dish to share: A-K, salad or side dish, L-Z dessert. Hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, veggie dogs and cold drinks will be provided. If you can help with set-up or clean-up 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".

### **Kerygma Conversations – September 16**

Starting September 16, a rigorous study and discussion of the world and our essential and complex relation to it, as discovered in science, revealed in Scripture and developed in our theology, will take place each Wednesday, 9:30-11am in Poling Conference room. Those who've been in this group for years and those who come for the first time will alike be warmly welcomed. The required resource book, *For the Beauty of the Earth: a Christian Vision of Creation Care*, will be available in the Faith Bookshop and church office for perusal and/or purchase by September 6, and at the first class. Those with questions regarding this Adult Education and Nurture opportunity should contact Daniel Carlson.

### **Midweek Feast: Good Food for Body, Mind, and Soul – September 16**

Every Wednesday this fall starting on Sept 16!  
>*Shared Supper at 6*--bring whatever food you enjoy and wish to contribute to the table in Assembly Hall where informal, friendly conversation is enjoyed week by week.  
>*Engaging Education at 7*--delve into a study and discussion this September led by Stacey Midge of the timely themes of the Accra Confession  
>*Contemplative Communion at 8*--end the evening with a brief, reflective service of song, scripture, silence, the Lord's Supper, and prayerful supplication for those in need.

### **Group VII September 18**

We will have our Fall Luncheon at the Mohawk Golf Club September 18 at 11:30am. Callers will be contacting Group VII members for reservations and menu selections.

### **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.

### **Early Bird Sunday Study – September 20**

A new opportunity will be offered this fall, starting September 20, for those up before sunrise and ready to learn with others from 8:30-9:30am. Freshly brewed coffee and sweet treats will be shared by those gathering in Walton Conference room for rigorous discussions, led by Daniel Carlson, regarding the world and our essential and complex relation to it, as discovered in science, discerned in Scripture and developed in our theology. The required resource book, *For the Beauty of the Earth: a Christian Vision of Creation Care* will be available in the Faith Bookshop and church office for perusal and/or purchase by September 6, and at the first meeting.

### **What's Your Story? Sept 21 and Sept 29**

Everyone has significant life stories to share, and doing so within the context of a small group committed to gently holding such stories in the light of God's love enables us to better know and appreciate others – and ourselves! A morning group (10-12), led by Kitty Trimarco, will be held on Monday, September, 21. The evening group (7-9), led by Scott Hicks, will be held on Tuesday, September 29. Both groups will meet in the Dirck Romeyn room. If you are interested in participating in either group, contact the church office or one of those noted above.

### **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group September 24**

We meet every fourth Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 24 at 9:30am at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Ronnie at 393-7679 with any questions.

### **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. We set up exhibits and provide a hospitality room. Other groups share displays and talents in our facility and churchyard.

### ART and Lamp Sale during Walkabout

The Home Furnishings Program of Schenectady will be sponsoring this sale during the Stockade Walkabout. There will be a pre-sale opportunity for church members between 10am and noon on Friday, September 25.

### 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 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 Salon know if you are interested at 346-9060 or csalon@nycap.rr.com.

### Directory Pictures Needed

If you did not get a picture taken by Ralph Rosenthal, send a picture you would like used that is not too silly to 1stReformed@gmail.com

### We Need Your Books for the Book Fair

Donate them to our church Book Fair to be held on October 18. Fiction, non-fiction, children's (no college text books, please). If you'd like to be part of the Fair in some capacity, see or call Linda Witkowski 374-7904.

### 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. Scholarships and travel assistance are available. Registration deadline is October 1.

<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Richard Davis and George Trimarco	Fred Daniels and Gay Doolittle
<b>Greeters</b>	Gini McDermott	Doug and Ann Phillips
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Amy and Wayne Brule Ellie and Gene Rowland	Lois Stickney and Carol Troost
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Amy & Wayne Brule, Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Don & Marilyn Leach, Katherine Trimarco, Linda Witkowski	Darwin Brudos, James Gonda, Adam Mason, Don and Marilyn Leach, Brad and Cathy Lewis, Del Pierce
<b>Reader</b>	Marilyn Leach	Ellie Rowland
<b>Refreshments</b>		Volunteers Needed
<b>Ushers</b>	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda	Bill Clock (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright

## **Sunday, August 30**

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

## **Monday, August 31**

9:00 am..... Mens Newsgroup

## **Tuesday, September 1**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer  
1:30 pm..... Worship Planning

## **Wednesday, September 2**

7:00 pm..... First Futures Meeting

## **Friday, September 4**

7:00 pm..... First Friday Performance

## **Saturday, September 5**

11:00 am ..... Dorothy Davidson Memorial

## **Sunday, September 6**

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

“A storyteller makes up things to help other people;  
a liar makes up things to help himself.”

- Daniel Wallace, *The Kings and Queens of Roam*

“The life of every man is a diary in which he  
means to write one story, and writes another.”

- J.M. Barrie

“Intention is one of the most powerful forces there  
is. What you mean when you do a thing will always  
determine the outcome. The law creates the world.”

- Brenna Yovanoff, *The Replacement*

“What one does is what counts. Not what one had  
the intention of doing.” - Pablo Picasso

“It is more Important to be of pure intention than  
of perfect action.” - Ilyas Kassam

“...the basic stuff of the universe, at its core, is  
looking like a kind of pure energy that is malleable  
to human intention and expectation in a way that  
defies our old mechanistic model of the universe--  
as though our expectation itself causes our energy  
to flow out into the world and affect other energy  
systems.” - James Redfield, *The Celestine  
Prophecy*

“All great acts are ruled by intention. What you  
mean is what you get.” - Brenna Yovanoff, *The  
Replacement*

“Powerful words come with powerful intent.  
Where you have passion, strength, courage, and  
determination you can accomplish anything!”  
- K.L. Toth

“Every journey begins with the first step of  
articulating the intention, and then becoming the  
intention.” - Bryant McGill, *Voice of Reason*

“The best way to insure you achieve the greatest  
satisfaction out of life is to behave intentionally.”  
- Deborah Day, *BE HAPPY NOW!*

“People as a rule do mean much more than they  
understand.” - Glenway Wescott, *The Pilgrim  
Hawk*

“The essence of communication is intention.”  
- Werner Erhard

“Take action! An inch of movement will bring you  
closer to your goals than a mile of intention.”  
- Steve Maraboli, *Unapologetically You:  
Reflections on Life and the Human Experience*