

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.

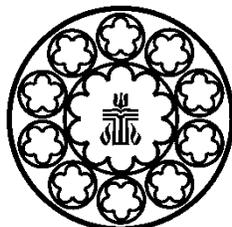
Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.



“As uncomfortable as it might be,
I refuse to let the comfort of being agreed with
suffocate my opinions.”

— Mokokoma Mokhonoana

September 6, 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: 518-630-0911

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 9:45am 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 upstairs in room 20.

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 church school activities.

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, people stop for a chat and a cookie in Assembly Hall before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. Visitors are welcome to join in.

Service Online

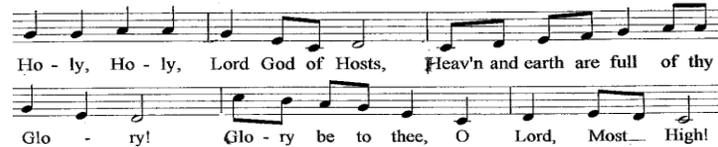
A recording of each of our worship services is at 1stReformed.com one or two days following the service.

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.

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 *Lord, Make Us Servants*
O Waly Waly Tune

**Lord, make us servants of your peace;
where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.**

**Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
where all is gloom, may we sow hope,
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.**

**May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly,
for in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiven.**

**Dying, we live, and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace,
to wake at last in heaven's light.**

*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:

Richard Zentmire, James Pontius, Allen John Wood, Richard L. Shuey, Charlotte Ramsey

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.

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.

First Forum

After worship most Sundays at 11:15am 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.

Today: Coffee & Conversation

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: Nat Phipps, piano

Sept 13: Scott Bassinson, piano

Sept 20: Dave Gleason, piano

Church School

September has actually arrived! The children and parents are prepping to head back to school and it is time to begin our learning in Church as well! This year our Pastors will be spearheading the teaching of Church School, but we request that every member sign up for a single Sunday (or more if you desire) to help a Pastor with the lesson for that day. Sign up calendar sheets are available in Assembly Hall. Please sign up as soon as possible so the Pastors will know in advance who they will be working with, and if you have any activities you are particularly fond of...ie: stories, children in worship, crafts. Thank you so much!

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.

Post-service Refreshments

Return to Assembly Hall TODAY!

Coffee and hot tea lovers, rejoice! Refreshments will be served in Assembly Hall today. 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 with questions. Thank you so much!

Faith Bookshop

If you want to visit the Bookshop today, please come in immediately after the church service.

Johnson Memorial Library

America is the subject of the titles on the display table this morning: *Listening Is an Act of Love*, edited by Dave Isay, founder of StoryCorps, is a collection of Americans' memories. *American Moments* is a gathering in large print of essays about American life, compiled by Charles Kuralt. *The American Reader; Words That Moved a Nation*, is an anthology of poems, documents and letters that reflect the part that all Americans have played in creating the national character. *Above Hallowed Ground; A Photographic Record of September 11, 2001*, was compiled by photos taken by the New York City police department.

Chancel Choir Resumes - Sept. 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 - Sept. 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 – Sept. 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 – Sept. 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.

Fifty Years of Painting – A Retrospective By Katherine Trimarco – Sept. 13

Join me in the Poling Conference room after the service each Sunday during the month of September and into October for a showing of my paintings created over the last 50 yrs. and let me share with you a lifetime of personal inspiration.

Horizon's Bible Study – Sept. 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 – Sept. 16

A rigorous study and discussion of this world and our 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*, is available in the Faith Bookshop and church office for perusal and/or purchase. Those with questions regarding this Adult Education and Nurture opportunity should contact Daniel Carlson.

Group VII - Sept. 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.

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

Midweek Feast: Food for Body, Mind & Soul 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.

Early Bird Sunday Study – Sept. 20

A new opportunity for adult education and nurture this fall, starting September 20, is geared for those up early Sunday and ready to learn with others before worship. Freshly brewed coffee and sweet treats will be shared by those gathering 8:30-9:30am in Walton Conference room for a discussion, led by Daniel Carlson, regarding the world and our relation to it. The required resource book, *For the Beauty of the Earth* is available in the Faith Bookshop & church office.

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. 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.

New Word Service Starts in October

Our congregation is full of stories. **And God has stories of faith for us.** Put this all together, and you have a recipe for a fascinating worship service that will begin Friday, Oct.9, at 7pm.

Do you Hear What We Hear? – Sept. 21

Klokken Tower Ringers invite you to explore the interesting musical world of handbells! Fall is start-up time for many of our music programs including handbells. Regardless of previous musical experience we will welcome you and train you! Some music reading skills are helpful and the specific techniques, we teach! What we offer is a unique way to participate in worship and fellowship and a fun experience! All ages are welcomed. Join us at 7pm on Mondays in the Poling Conference Room beginning Sept. 21. Questions can be answered by Judy Moore at moorebells@gmail.com

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 Sept. 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.

55th Stockade Walkabout Sept. 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 – Oct. 4

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.

Baptismal Buddies – Oct. 4

A first gathering for newly/soon-to-be baptized babies and their parents as well as expecting parents is scheduled for October 4, following worship, in the Dirck Romeyn room. There is no cost for this event, but please contact the church office to register. Detailed info in First Things!

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.

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. See Stacey for more info.

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 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, September 7

LABOR DAY – *Office Closed*

Tuesday, September 8

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 6:30 pm..... Standing Committees
 7:30 pm..... Consistory

Wednesday, September 9

1:00 pm..... Thursday Belles
 2:00 pm..... Staff Meeting
 7:00 pm..... Writers Group

Thursday, September 10

7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00 am Stitch Group
 7:30 pm..... Chancel Choir

Saturday, September 12

10:00 am Stockade Art Show

Sunday, September 13

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship/Communion
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Picnic
 5:00 am Jazz Vespers

+ + +

The more we are able to engage in enthusiastic disagreement with each other, the more we will be able to uncover the best in ourselves and each other. - Karen Kimsey-House, *Co-Active Leadership: Five Ways to Lead*

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.- S.G. Tallentyre, *The Friends of Voltaire*

I don't have to agree with you to like you or respect you. - Anthony Bourdain

“The best practice is to be around people who absolutely disagree. Grace in conflict is a study in love.” - Bryant McGill, *Simple Reminders: Inspiration for Living Your Best Life*

Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels and Gay Doolittle	Linnea D’Andrea and Vickie McGowan-Horan
Greeters	Doug and Ann Phillips	Bob and Sally Clark
Flower Delivery	Lois Stickney and Carol Troost	Louise Dickinson and Vernetta Thuener
Faith Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Birdie Blacker
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, James Gonda, Don and Marilyn Leach, Brad and Cathy Lewis, Adam Mason, Del Pierce	George Davidson, Jeanette Davidson, Phillip Falconer, Mary Jewett, Liz, Mastrianni, Keith Muse, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Ellie Rowland	Liz Mastrianni
Refreshments	Becky Mason and Ginny Laumeister	PICNIC: A-K=Salad/Side Dish, L-Z=Dessert
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Carol Troost