

**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.

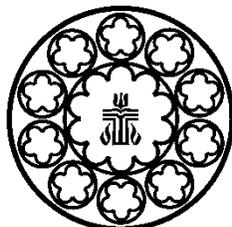


Many ways
Many whys

Many cares
Many wheres

Sometimes us
Sometimes me
Sometimes odd
Always God

September 27, 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 a hearing aid loop system 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.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Nat Phipps

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Alleluia*

* HYMN #483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

* OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**Infinite God, forgive us when we cannot see
beyond our own interests. We pray your
pardon on our selfishness and our constant
search for distraction and comfort. Heal
our hearts, we pray, so that we may live for
a larger vision and love for a noble end.**

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

Our Song of Hope

**We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true hope.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM arr. Jeffrey Honoré

How Can I Keep From Singing?

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real, though far off hymn,
that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth.
How can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing;
It sounds and echoes in my soul;
How can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am his;
How can I keep from singing?

adapted from Quaker song

FIRST LESSON Carol Troost

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *James 5:13-20 (pg 231)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 9:38-50 (pg 45)*

SERMON *Prayer 101* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Give to the Winds Thy Fears* #286
to *St. Thomas*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Nat Phipps

*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 #399
We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Robert Bennett

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:

*Elizabeth Nicholson, Ethel Kiess Betka,
Claribel Wescott Linder, Bernard Cain*

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.

Memorial Flowers

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of David Bain by his wife, Audrey Bain.

Memorial Service

A service for Hal Clements will be on Sat., Oct 3 at 2pm in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow.

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 Response of Praise is a joyful declaration first heard by John Bell at the Sunrise Hospice in S. Africa. Words and transcription copyright 2008 WGRG, Iona Community Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

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: Doctoral Update and Invite; Daniel
Oct 4: First Futures; Fred Daniels, Lisa Ettkin
Oct 11: Prison Ministry, St. Stephens, Pat Jones

Church School

This year our Pastors will be leading 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!

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Peg Delaney Trio
Oct 4: Nat Phipps Trio
Oct 11: Tim Olsen, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Youth Group Schedule

The youth group is open to all students in grades 6-12, and meets 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.

Today: - 5pm meeting - What's Your Story?
Getting to know each other and our youth mentors

Oct 4: - 5pm meeting - ????? About Jesus

Oct 11: - 5pm Visit the Faith for a Fair New York retreat at the Dominican Center

Post-service Refreshments

Many of us enjoy catching up with friends at Coffee Hour. We share our joys and concerns and encourage one another. We extend our welcome to visitors. We gather around the table, cookie in hand. It's like an informal worship time. We want to make it the best experience possible. If you have suggestions to improve our fellowship, contact Taart Baas Karen at karengonda6@gmail.com. If you are willing to host a Sunday, please sign up in Assembly Hall.

Fifty Years of Painting – A Retrospective By Katherine Trimarco

Join me in the Poling Conference room after worship each Sunday during 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.

Kirk Ringers

Kirk Ringers will meet from 11:15 to noon in room 20 (at the top of the stairs) each Sunday. We have loads of special music planned and lots of participants are needed! Any child of Church School age is invited to join us. No prior experience required!

Johnson Memorial Library

Schenectady's history and heritage in the Mohawk Valley are in the spotlight in the display table's books this morning. Photos of our city's past and its notable citizens are featured.

Thinking about Stewardship!

Each week we gather to praise God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. We know this God when we bring our offerings. They symbolize our stewardship — the management of our time, abilities and money, that which we return to God through God's church to proclaim God's presence among us. Thank you for your generosity.

Faith Bookshop

Remember note cards? E-mails and texts are efficient and postage free, but attractive note cards bring a pleasure all their own. You will find unique note cards in the Bookshop today designed by church members Ginny Laumeister (cards on the rack), Bill Clock (picture of FRC) and former church member John Blackmer (Poling Chapel window). It's a great opportunity to stock up!

Orff

If you are looking for Other Really Fabulous Fun at FRC, join us in the Music Office at 9am each Sunday morning! No experience is needed as we learn songs and accompaniments for worship. We have been blessed with a beautiful ensemble of ORFF instruments that must be played! Contact Jamie Ipsen, 399-6848, with questions.

Horizon's Bible Study

We are using the Presbyterian Women's Horizon's Bible Study entitled "Come to the Waters". We meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Poling Conference room.

Early Bird Sunday Study

A new education and nurture option this fall for those awake early and looking to learn with others before worship! Coffee and treats are shared by those gathered 8:30-9:30am for a discussion of *For the Beauty of the Earth: a Christian Vision of Creation Care*. The required course book can be ordered from study leader, Daniel. We meet in Walton Conference room.

Midweek Feast: Food for Body, Mind & Soul Every Wednesday this fall

>*Dinner at 6*--bring whatever food you like and wish to contribute to the table in Assembly Hall where informal, friendly conversation is enjoyed.

>*Study at 7*--delve into a study and discussion this September led by Stacey Midge of the timely themes of the Accra Confession

>*Worship at 8*--stay for a brief, reflective service of song, scripture, silence, the Lord's Supper, and prayers of supplication for those in need.

The Short-Short Writing Group

A writing critique group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Walton Conference room at 7pm. Short-Shorts are stories, essays, memoirs, or other non-fiction works told in 1,000 words or less. For more info, contact James Gonda at jgonda12309@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.

Stitch Group

Our church PHD* stitch group meets every Thursday in Poling Conference room. 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

Do you Hear What We Hear?

Klokken Tower Ringers invite you to explore the interesting musical world of handbells! 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. Questions can be answered by Judy Moore at moorebells@gmail.com

What's Your Story? - 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 the 3rd Monday of each month. The evening group (7-9), led by Scott Hicks, have its first gathering on Tuesday, September 29, after which they will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Both groups will meet in the Dirck Romeyn room. If you are interested in participating, contact one of those noted above.

First Friday Performance Series – Oct. 2

We will be showing the 1925 silent movie "Battleship Potemkin" at our next First Friday Performance on October 2nd at 7pm. The movie is a dramatized depiction of the 1905 mutiny that occurred on the Russian ship during the 1905 Revolution. This is a story which highlights the hardships endured by shipmen and civilians alike during that period. Though the content is sometimes intense, the imagery is often stunning and the story illustrates the power of the human spirit, even at the most difficult of times.

Baptismal Buddies Brunch – 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 will be an informal opportunity for those in this age and stage to get to know one another, learn about resources and practices enabling the fulfillment of the vows made in baptism, and give input on how our church can become more of a place of grace for our youngest members and their parents. There is no cost for this event, but please contact the church office to register.

World Communion Sunday – Oct. 4

On Sunday October 4, our 3rd graders will prepare and receive communion for the first time. We will also be collecting a special offering.

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 3pm, usually on the first Sunday of the month.

Blessing of the Pets – Oct. 4

On Sunday October 4 at 3pm, all are welcome to bring their furry, finned, or feathered friends to be blessed on the church lawn. We will celebrate God's creation of and care for all living creatures and the unique relationships humans have with our animal companions.

Group V

Group V will not meet until November.

Justice Action Council – Oct. 4

We will be meeting Sunday, Oct. 4 at noon on the Mezzanine. Focus points include economic and health access disparities; racism; fossil fuels divesture; promotion of acceptance and equality for all. Please join us and bring your passion.

New Word Service Starts - Oct. 9

Our congregation is full of stories. We have groups that tell each other stories of their lives (What's Your Story.) We have a group that write short stories of movement and wonder (Flash Fiction/Short-Shorts.) Our community has talented story-tellers of all types. Public radio has stories every day (Moth, Story Corps, This American Life.) We read our children stories all the time. **And God has stories of faith for us.** Put this all together, and you have a recipe for a fascinating worship service beginning at 7pm.

Group VII – Oct. 16

Group VII will resume our third Friday of the month 10am morning meetings on Oct. 16 in the Dirck Romeyn room with poetry readings by Linda Witkowski.

Worship Readers Meeting – Oct. 18

On Sunday, October 18 at 9am in Poling Chapel, there will be a meeting of folks who are signed up to read scripture. We will go over scheduling and some delivery issues.

Counting Deacons	Dave Hjelm and Joan Lindsay	David Bundy and George Trimarco
Greeters	Dale & Norma Brown	Lisa, Jacob, and Julia Etkin
Flower Delivery	Barbara Walton Vickie & Mike Horan	Carol Welch and Linda Witkowski
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Ginny Laumeister
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	James Gonda, Jerry Griggs, Thomas Lindsay, Joe Lovell, Adam Mason, Jeanette Davidson, Keith Muse, Barbara Walton	Birdie Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, James Gonda, Liz Mastrianni, Mary Jewett, Caroline Welch, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Carol Troost	Peg Miller
Refreshments	James Gonda	Shannon and Mark Karl
Ushers	Art Shultes (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Joan Lindsay	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal

Sunday, September 27

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School K-5
- 11:00 am Refreshments
- 11:15 am First Forum & Kirk Ringers
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

Monday, September 28

- 9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
- 6:00 pm Yoga
- 7:00 pm Klokken Tower Ringers
- 7:00 pm Creation Care

Tuesday, September 29

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
- 7:00 pm What's Your Story?

Wednesday, September 30

- 9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
- 11:00 am First Things Volunteers
- 1:00 pm Thursday Belles
- 6:00 pm Midweek Feast - *Dinner*
- 7:00 pm Midweek Feast - *Study*
- 8:00 pm Midweek Feast - *Worship*

Thursday, October 1

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

Friday, October 2

- 7:00 pm First Friday Performances

Saturday, October 3

- 2:00 pm Hal Clements Memorial Service

Sunday, October 4

- 8:30 am Early Bird Sunday Study
- 9:00 am Chancel Choir
- 10:00 am Worship/World Communion
- 10:15 am Church School K-5
- 11:00 am Refreshments
- 11:00 am Baptismal Buddies Brunch
- 11:15 am First Forum & Kirk Ringers
- 12:00 pm Justice Action Council
- 3:00 pm Blessing of Pets - Outside
- 3:00 pm New Member Class
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart." — Mahatma Gandhi
"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays." — Søren Kierkegaard

"Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one" — Bruce Lee

"Forgive me my nonsense as I also forgive the nonsense of those who think they talk sense."
— Robert Frost

"If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough." — Meister Eckhart

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day."
— A. Lincoln

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" — Corrie ten Boom

"The more you pray, the less you'll panic. The more you worship, the less you worry. You'll feel more patient and less pressured."— Rick Warren, *The Purpose of Christmas*

"A prayer for the wild at heart kept in cages."
— Tennessee Williams, *Stairs to the Roof*

"Why must people kneel down to pray? If I really wanted to pray I'll tell you what I'd do. I'd go out into a great big field all alone or in the deep, deep woods and I'd look up into the sky—up—up—up—into that lovely blue sky that looks as if there was no end to its blueness. And then I'd just feel a prayer."— L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

"In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart. "
— John Bunyan

"Dear Jesus, do something."
— Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire*

"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." — Martin Luther