

**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.

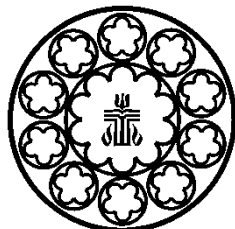
Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.



I believe God is managing affairs and that He doesn't need any advice from me. With God in charge, I believe everything will work out for the best in the end. So what is there to worry about?

— Henry Ford

October 18, 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.

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley
Aria G.F. Handel
Prayer for Peace John O. Schroeder
Grand Chorus in B flat Theodore Dubois

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

INTROIT *Sing to the Lord* Linda Hansen

* HYMN #263
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

* 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

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Gift of Love arr. John Behnke
Thursday Belles, Encore Ringers

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

FIRST LESSON Gene Rowland

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Job 38:1-7, 34-41 (pg 484)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 10:35-45 (pg 47)*

SERMON Stacey Midge
On Not Being in Charge

*HYMN #268
God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

OFFERING

OFFERTORY
Spirit of the Living God
Daniel Iverson, arr. Malcolm Kogut

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.

Kindle in my heart your fire;
come light my way,
Come, create, renew, inspire;
come with your grace.
Fill me, lead me, show me, stir me.
Holy Spirit, flow through me:
call me to serve.

Make my life what it should be;
teach me your love.
May the world see you in me;
teach me your song.
Call me, keep me, heal me, free me.
Spirit who enlivens me,
come rest in me.

Iverson and Kogut

*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 #285
God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE
Threefold Amen Dale Wood

POSTLUDE
Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

Entered Into Eternal Rest
Jean Morgan – 9/24/15

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:

*Dorothy Downing, Anne B. Coggeshall,
Sara Hollister Linder, Marie Pletenik,
Loretta Bloomquist*

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 her mother, Marie Pletenik, by Jeanne Shoulder.

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Peg Delaney Trio

Oct 25: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Nov 1: TBA

Music Notes

O Waly Waly, the tune for today's Musical Offering, is a Scottish folk tune that we know as the hymn, The Gift of Love and uses words based on 1st Corinthians 13. It is also recognized as the familiar folk tune, The Water is Wide. The Encore Ringers are an ensemble from Thursday Belles who know this melody and text to be always timely.

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.

Post-service Refreshments

Fall programs are in full swing, with attendance back to normal levels. Your donated refreshments are needed more than ever. Please sign up in Assembly Hall. Thank you.

Book Fair - TODAY

Stop on in!! We have a large assortment of books perfect for holiday gifts. Snacks too!!!

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: Bookfair

Oct 25: Meet the Covenanters

Nov 1: Whole Life Stewardship

Church School

This year our Pastors will be leading the teaching of Church School, but we need your help. Please sign up ASAP in Assembly Hall, so the Pastors will know ahead of time who they will be working with. Also, if you have any activities you are particularly fond of ie: stories, children in worship, crafts, let us know. Thank you so much!

Orff

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

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.

Today: - 5pm meeting – Jesus the Outsider of Outsiders, and Haunted House planning

Oct 25: - SAFE Inc. Bowl-a-thon 1pm
Boulevard Bowl. \$25/person
- 5pm meeting – Haunted House set-up

Oct 30: - Haunted House opens at 5pm

Nov 1: - 5pm meeting – Jesus the Challenger, Haunted House clean-up

Faith Bookshop

A new book order has come in. The new adult books are on the table displaying note cards; children's are on the small table in the back.

Consider this about Stewardship!

God is the source of all things. God calls us to be accountable, as any steward is accountable, for all the things God has given to us. We are accountable for 100% of all that we have. That means all of our time, our talents, or gifts and our \$\$\$\$. Tithing helps us to manage better that 100%. To be able to tithe absolutely requires that we learn to manage well all that we have and all that we are. Every one of us can learn about money, ourselves and God as we grow in our ability to be good stewards of all that God has given us.

Whole Life Stewardship

We will consecrate our gifts as a reflection of our dedication to God on Sun., Nov. 8. Determined workers of the church are putting on a luncheon to be held in Friendship Hall after church to celebrate our recognition of what is first.

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.

Improving Our Children's Church Experience

Is FRC providing your children with the church experience you want for them? Are we serving the needs of your family? Do you have suggestions to improve church school, the youth group, or Kinderwyck? The Youth Education Committee invites the youth of the church and their parents to attend a 30 minute discussion immediately after worship on Sun, Nov. 1 in the Poling Conference room. Feedback on existing programs and ideas for new ones are welcome. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

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

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 the discussion of various timely topics led by Stacey Midge during October, see First Things for details.

>*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.

Fall Foliage Hike – TODAY

Join us for an easy-to- moderate walk on marked trails in the Albany Pine Bush, home of the Karner blue butterfly. Adults/families with children ages 5 & up will experience an engaging time in nature including exhibits in the Discovery Center. Bring a bagged lunch. Meet in the church parking lot at noon to join our car pool.

Klokken Tower Ringers

Join us at 7pm on Mondays in the Poling Conference room. Questions can be answered by Judy Moore at moorebells@gmail.com

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. Join us!

Stitch Group

Our church PHD* stitch group meets every Thursday in Poling Conference room. Work on whatever project you have. For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153. *Projects Half Done

First Futures Building Campaign - Q&A:

Why should we make such significant improvements to our buildings? New construction is an investment in our mission, by making our spaces more accessible and functional. Our outreach will be different, not lessened. Rather than sending dollars out the door with outright gifts or locally based mission personnel, more mission might take place inside our walls with greater opportunity for members to volunteer and participate. *Read more about this and other points on the church website at 1streformed.com*

What's Your Story?

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, will meet on the 4th Tuesday (*please note date change*) of the month. Both groups meet in the Dirck Romeyn room. If you are interested in participating, contact one of those noted above.

Tuesday Ladies – Oct. 20

Tuesday Ladies will begin October 20 at the home of Connie Young 1400 Keyes Avenue. All ladies welcome to chat and get to know each other around a cup of tea at 7pm.

FRC First Responders Team

The Support and Care Committee is in the process of forming a Health Care Ministry. Our first step is to develop a First Responders Team to help in a medical emergency here at FRC. We need to identify all: physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, EMT's and people trained in the current CPR and AED who would be willing to help in a medical emergency. If you are interested in being a member of the First Responders Team please contact Amy Brule at amy1941castle@gmail.com or 785-8201.

Union Presbyterian Mission Fund Project Solicitation

The Union Presbyterian Mission Fund Committee has approximately \$14,000 available in 2015 to fund mission projects. The committee requests project proposals from the congregation. The project may be local (within Schenectady County); regional (within the boundaries of Albany Presbytery & Regional Synod of Albany); national/international; and valued \$1,000 or more. Please submit your proposed project by November 1 to Liz Mastrianni (lzmastro@gmail.com) or the FRC office. Your suggested project must include: Project or Organization Information (Name, Address, Phone, E-mail & Person to Contact) Your Information (Name, Address, Phone Number and/or E-mail) Description of the Project/ Organization and why it should be considered.

New Word Service

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. Our next service is November 13.

Group VII

Group VII meets on the 3rd Friday of the month at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn room. Our next meeting is on November 20 with a program by the Schenectady Historic Society.

Evening Circle – Oct. 21

Evening Circle will enjoy dining out at the Garden Bistro 24 on October 21. It is located at 1207 Troy-Schenectady Rd, in front of the old CHP building. Please note change of date. We will gather at 6pm and everyone is invited. RSVP to Ellie Rowland, 250-4302.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group - Oct. 22

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.

Men's Breakfast Group – Oct. 24

We will meet Saturday, October 24 at 8am in Assembly Hall for breakfast followed by an interesting presentation on the early history of the auto-mobile industry in New York (yes, NY.) Bring a friend if you can. Please contact Gene Rowland, rowland@nycap.rr.com, or Joe Doolittle, aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com with any questions or suggestions for future programs.

FRC Fellowship Lunches – Oct. 30

Fellowship Luncheon will hold its first meeting Friday, October 30 at 11:30am in Assembly Hall. Our hostesses will be Amy Brule and Sally Bestgen. Our speaker, Lynne Gilgore, will tell us about her recent trip to Haiti and the Haiti Water Project of Schenectady Rotary.

Youth Group Haunted House and Musicians of Ma'alwyck Concert – Oct. 30

Join us, Friday, October 30 here at FRC. Macabre Music: The Final Installment concert at 7pm and Haunted House (5pm) prior to concert and resuming after concert until 10pm. Tickets to the haunted house are \$5 and are available at the door. Tickets for the concert will be available in the office. Come spend the evening with us and prepare to be scared!

Group V

Group V will not meet until November.

Harvest for the Pantry

SICM is having a dinner to raise funds for their emergency food pantry on Sunday, November 8 from 4-7pm at First Reformed Church of Scotia. For questions and/or to purchase tickets please see Inge-Lise Pangburn.

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The story being told in 'Star Wars' is a classic one. Every few hundred years, the story is retold because we have a tendency to do the same things over and over again. Power corrupts, and when you're in charge, you start doing things that you think are right, but they're actually not. — George Lucas

I can control my destiny, but not my fate. Destiny means there are opportunities to turn right or left, but fate is a one-way street. I believe we all have the choice as to whether we fulfill our destiny, but our fate is sealed. — Paulo Coelho

The world is so unpredictable. Things happen suddenly, unexpectedly. We want to feel we are in control of our own existence. In some ways we are, in some ways we're not. We are ruled by the forces of chance and coincidence. — Paul Auster

Sunday, October 18

- 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, October 19

- 9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
- 10:00 am What's Your Story?

Tuesday, October 20

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study

Wednesday, October 21

- 9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
- 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 22

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

Saturday, October 24

- 8:00 am Men's Breakfast

Sunday, October 25

- 8:30 am Early Bird Sunday Study
- 9:00 am Chancel Choir
- 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

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You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them. — Maya Angelou

Counting Deacons	Gay Doolittle and Lyn Gordon	Richard Gardner and Doug Todd
Greeters	Karen Giuzio and Inge-Lise Pangburn	Tom & Joan Lindsay
Flower Delivery	Linnea D'Andrea and Carol Schweizer	Ann Gotwals and Kay Opdyke
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Linda Witkowski
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Art Casey, Jeanette Davidson, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Margaret Schadler, Maria Todd, Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton	George Davidson, Jeanette Davidson, Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Liz Mastrianni, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler, Gene Zeltmann
Reader	Gene Rowland	Mary Jewett
Refreshments	Refreshments for Bookfair	Lorraine Aumic
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy & Robert Allen, Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright	George Davidson (head usher), Mike Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd, Lou Acquasanta