

**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.

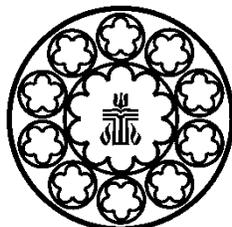
Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.



We have always held to the hope, the belief,
the conviction that there is a better life,
a better world, beyond the horizon.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

October 25, 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-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE John Norton, piano

*Selected Preludes and Fugues
from Well-Tempered Clavier, Bk. 1* J.S. Bach

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

INTROIT *From Heaven Above*
Von Himmel Hoch
text, Martin Luther

* HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* #260

* 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

Built on the Rock Kirken, arr. Alfred Fedak

Built on the Rock, the church shall stand,
Even when steeples are falling.
Christ built his church in every land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
Calling the souls of those distressed,
Longing for life everlasting.

Not in a temple built with hands
God the almighty is dwelling;
High in the heavens his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heaven above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.

We are God's house of living stones,
built for his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Yet to this place, an earthly frame,
We come with thanks to praise his name;
God grants his people true blessing.

Nikolai Grundtvig, 1854

FIRST LESSON Mary Jewett

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Jeremiah 31:7-9 (pg 733)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 10:46-52 (pg 47)*

SERMON *Healing and Hope* Stacey Midge

*HYMN *O Christ, the Healer* #380

OFFERING

OFFERTORY
Fugue in d minor No. 6
from Well-Tempered Clavier, Bk. 2 J.S. Bach

*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 #466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen

Dresden

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:

*Alice Harrington, Virginia (Ginnie) Mills,
Evelyn Johnson, F. David Schweizer,
Ted DeBoer, Robert V. Shepherd,
John Schmulbach*

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Nov 1: Peg Delaney Trio

Nov 8: Scott Bassinson, piano

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

The hymn on which today's Anthem is based has long been a favorite among Scandinavians and Lutherans. The hymn originally had 7 stanzas and relates well to the Reformation themes of the church, worship, and proclamation. Ludwig Lindeman, composer of the tune Kirken, was the son of a concert pianist, an organist in Oslo, and one of Norway's leading musicians of the nineteenth century. Author Nikolai Grundtvig wrote many works, including some on Norse mythology and more than 1,000 hymns.

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: Meet the Covenanters

Nov 1: Whole Life Stewardship

Nov 8: Stewardship Luncheon

Ordination Recognition Next Sunday – Nov 1

Please join us as we celebrate the ordination of Paige Convis, our Covenanter and Pastoral Resident. She was ordained on October 11, at Resurrection Reformed Church in Flint, MI.

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!

Happiness is Sharing Food

To all past and future hosts of post-service refreshments: you=awesome, we=grateful! Please encourage your friends to sign up in Assembly Hall to participate in our ministry of hospitality. Dank je wel!

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.

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.

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:** - 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
- Nov 8:** - 5pm meeting – Jesus, the One Who
Feeds the World

Sacrifice or Thanksgiving?

Is your offering a sacrifice or thanksgiving? Is it a true sacrifice for you and your family? Is it given out of a grateful heart of all that God has given you? Consider your giving as your very first and very best to God, and for God's mission in the world, for God is the one who give us every good gift.

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.

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.

Faith Bookshop

We have new books for children, incl. the very young, and for adults; some are recommendations from the congregation, which we always welcome!

New Member Class

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Stacey Midge 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Evening Circle

Evening Circle will meet again in 2016.

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*

The Short-Short Writing Group – Oct. 28

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

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 "Scary Tales" 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!

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.

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 Literary Magazine Hot Off the Press

Complimentary copies of *The Beverwyck Anthology* can be found in the Faith Bookshop.

Group V – Nov. 2

Group V will meet on Nov. 2 at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn room.

Tuesday Ladies

Tuesday Ladies meets next on November 17 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.

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.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast group will meet in Assembly Hall at 8am on Sat., Nov. 21. Bill Levering will be our speaker, and he will discuss the recent visit of Pope Francis to the U.S. The Pope raised a number of religious and humanitarian issues that are important not only to Catholics, but also to concerned Christians of any denomination. Questions/suggestion contact - Joe Doolittle - aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com or Gene Rowland - erowland@nycap.rr.com

+ + +

Religion is part of the human make-up. It's also part of our cultural and intellectual history. Religion was our first attempt at literature, the texts, our first attempt at cosmology, making sense of where we are in the universe, our first attempt at health care, believing in faith healing, our first attempt at philosophy.

— Christopher Hitchens

Healing takes courage, and we all have courage, even if we have to dig a little to find it.

— Tori Amos

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope. — Martin Luther King, Jr.

After the Berlin Wall came down I visited that city and I will never forget it. The abandoned checkpoints. The sense of excitement about the future. The knowledge that a great continent was coming together. Healing those wounds of our history in the central story of the European Union. — David Cameron

Sunday, October 25

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 26

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

Tuesday, October 27

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

Wednesday, October 28

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*
 7:00 pm Short-short Writing Group
 8:00 pm Midweek Feast – *Worship*

Thursday, October 29

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

Friday, October 30

11:30 am Fellowship Luncheon
 5:00 pm Haunted House YG Fundraiser
 7:00 pm Musicians of Ma'alwyck Concert

Sunday, November 1

8:30 am Early Bird Sunday Study
 9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship/Communion
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:15 am First Forum & Kirk Ringers
 3:00 pm New Member Class
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Counting Deacons | Richard Gardner and Doug Todd | Lyn Gordon and Douglas Todd |
| Greeters | Tom & Joan Lindsay | Phil & Jane Falconer |
| Flower Delivery | Ann Gotwals and Kay Opdyke | Judy & Dick Arthur Birdie Blackmer |
| Faith Bookshop | Birdie Blackmer | Linda Witkowski |
| Liturgist | Daniel Carlson | Stacey Midge |
| Preacher | Stacey Midge | Daniel Carlson |
| Processing Elders | Tom Lindsay, Jeanette Davidson, Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Liz Mastrianni, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler, Gay Doolittle | Birdie Blackmer, Christine Daniels, James Gonda, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Keith Muse, Richard Rose, Jeanne Shoulder |
| Reader | Mary Jewett | Carol Troost |
| Refreshments | Lorraine Aumic | Ellie Rowland |
| Ushers | George Davidson (head usher), Mike Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd, Lou Acquasanta | Del Pierce (head usher), Kip & Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin, Lou Acquasanta |