

**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.

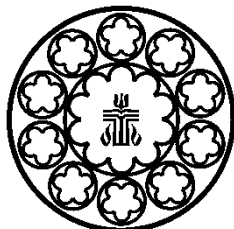
Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly 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.



*Handling the graces of the world
is a joyous dance
of giving and receiving.*

November 8, 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-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley, piano

Waltz Impromptu Nicholas Kullak

Sonata Pathétique op. 13 L. von Beethoven
Adagio cantabile

Nocturne op. 72 No. 1 F. Chopin

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Worship the Lord* John Porter

* HYMN *We Gather Together* #559

* 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

Kirk Ringers & Singers

Fe Y Esperanza (Faith and Hope)

Melinda Hoiland

Fe y esperanza, we live by faith and hope.
Fe y esperanza, we live by faith and hope.
We have faith in God who loves us and in Jesus,
God's son, and we hope that our world will
someday live as one.

Fe y esperanza, we live by faith and hope.
Fe y esperanza, we live by faith and hope.
God has giv'n us many blessings and gifts to
share with our brothers and our sisters in the
world everywhere.

Fe y esperanza, we live by faith and hope.
Fe y esperanza, we live by faith and hope.
We have faith in God who loves us and in Jesus,
God's son.
And we hope that our world will someday live as
one.

FIRST LESSON

Amy Brule

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *2 Corinthians 8:1-5a (pg 182)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 12:38-44 (pg 49)*

SERMON

Bill Levering

Grumpiness and Generosity

*HYMN *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* #560

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Have We Any Gift

Alfred Fedak

Have we any gift worth giving
to the Giver of all things?
What would please the ever-living,
one true God from whom life springs?
Not dead gold or merchandise,
but a living sacrifice;
worship both profound and freeing,
serving God with all our being.

Christ by costly incarnation
dwelt in human time and place

to reveal to all creation
God's redeeming love and grace.
So are we in flesh and bone
given means of making known
through the web of daily living
God's own pattern of self-giving.

Let us shun the selfish merit
worldly wisdom has defined,
but renewed by God's own Spirit
be transformed in heart and mind:
by past mercies taught and led,
let us seek the path ahead,
trusting that, like those before us,
God will guide us and restore us.

Carl Daw

*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 *Give Thanks, O Christian People* #552
to Ellacombe

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Stamford

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:

Alan F. Kuhn, Marilyn Wemple, Richard McCary, Alan D. Attanasio, George Graham

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.

Memorial Flowers

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of his beloved wife, Jean C. Collins and their son, David N. Collins, by William Collins.

United Prayer Ministry

Please remember in your prayers:
Carol Troost's father, diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of skin cancer.

Music Notes

Today's Offertory was a gift from the congregation of Scotia Reformed Church to former pastors, Craig and Jan Hoffman, upon their twentieth year at the church.

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.
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Whole Life Stewardship – TODAY

We will consecrate our gifts as a reflection of our dedication to God today. Join us in Friendship Hall after church to celebrate our recognition of what is first. We will be hosting a luncheon.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Scott Bassinson, piano

Nov 15: Tim Olsen, piano

Nov 22: *Thanksgiving Jazz Festival 4-6pm*

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: Stewardship Luncheon

Nov 15: Racism & Storytelling, Joe Doolittle

Nov 22: Building a Parenting Program,
Wales Brown

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.

Kirk Ringers and Singers

Kirk Ringers and Singers 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: - 5pm meeting – Special presentation on Refugees

Nov 15: - 5pm meeting – Jesus who ...How Do We See Jesus?

Parent & Youth Mission Trip Mtg.

Nov 22: - Pie distribution after worship.
No Evening Meeting.

Faith Bookshop

Back by popular demand: sale of donated jewelry. Bring jewelry you'd like to share to the Bookshop any time; Sale to begin in December.

Johnson Library

We are looking for one person to help us in the library on Tuesdays from 1-4pm. Please contact Ginny Laumeister if you are interested: 381-4201 or vlaumeister@twc.com

It's Stewardship Sunday

Today is the day that we celebrate the faithful giving of this gathering of God's people. Giving of ourselves in this way is a challenge. But we do it out of gratitude for all that God has given us. Your faithful giving opens up opportunities for this church to serve our programs of education and fellowship and of outreach to community and the world. Thank you for giving your first and your best to God. Your sacrifice is noticed and works for the bringing of the Good News of God's welcoming love to all.

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

Congregational Meeting Notice – Nov. 22

There will be meeting of the congregation on November 22, after worship, to consider a building renovation proposal.

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. This week's topic is "Social Media 101."

>*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.

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?

There will not be a morning session for What's Your Story. There is an evening session (7-9), led by Scott Hicks, that meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Dirck Romeyn room.

New Word Service – November 13

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.

First Futures Building Campaign - Q&A:

Won't the plan being offered suffer from significant cost overruns? The architectural firm engaged an outside professional firm to estimate the costs. The projected cost contains a 15% contingency and includes architectural fees. And, the Planning Committee is continuing to work on ways to reduce the cost without giving up much of the project; already the cost has been reduced from an original estimate of \$3.8 to \$3 million.

Chancel Guild – November 15

Chancel Guild will hold a Business Meeting on Nov 15 in the Dirck Romeyn room after worship.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due Nov 15

Completed boxes can be dropped off at our blue bin in the church lobby. All cash donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to FRC of Schenectady indicating O.C.C. on the memo line. We especially need the \$7 shipping fees that need to accompany each box! For more information visit www.samaritanspurse.org or contact Shannon Kerwin 374-2542 or shan2112@yahoo.com Thank you!!!!

Tuesday Ladies – November 17

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.

Pie Sale to raise funds for the mission trip

Apple and pumpkin pies are available - now with a new, improved crust recipe! - for \$12 each. Please order your pies on the form in Assembly Hall or use a white pew card by **November 19** for pickup after church on November 22.

Group VII – November 20

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 County Historical Society.

Annual Thanksgiving Jazz Festival & Vespers

Sunday, **November 22** in the main sanctuary from 4-6pm. On the program will be: Nat Phipps, piano; Keith Pray, sax; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Pete Toigo, bass; Peg Delaney, piano; Jim Corigliano, sax; Tim Coakley, drums; Bill Delaney, bass; and Colleen Pratt, vocals. Admission is \$10, \$5 students and retirement community residents.

Men's Breakfast Group – November 21

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

Thanksgiving Offering – November 22 Concerned for the Hungry

Monies collected at our church will be sent to Concerned for the Hungry and are used to purchase supplies in bulk at greatly reduced prices to help stretch the dollars. Checks should be made payable to FRC, with *Concerned for the Hungry* in the memo line. See First Things article.

New Book Club - *The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

The Justice Action Council and the Adult Education and Nurture Committee are forming a book club to discuss and examine this poignant work by Michelle Alexander. Please join us on Sunday, **November 29** at noon for lunch and conversation on the Mezzanine. We will cover at least the first few chapters. More meeting dates to follow. The book is available now at a discounted rate in the church book store. Contact either Mary Alice Jewett or Jeanne Shoulder with any ???

Covenanter Brittany Bernardi needs a ride

Are you heading to or toward NYC for Thanksgiving? Brittany is looking for a ride.

Sunday, November 8

10:00 am Worship
10:15 am Church School K-5
11:00 am Stewardship Luncheon
11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers & Youth Group
6:00 pm Adult Education

Monday, November 9

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

Tuesday, November 10

10:00 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
6:30 pm Standing Committee Meetings
7:30 pm Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, November 11

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
1:00 pm Thursday Belles
1:00 pm Archives
2:00 pm Staff Meeting
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, November 12

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

Friday, November 13

7:00 pm WORD Worship Service

Sunday, November 15

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
11:30 am Chancel Guild Meeting
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” — Hebrews

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.” — John Bunyan

“When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?” — Eleanor Roosevelt

“I care not for a man's religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it.” — Abraham Lincoln

“That's what I consider true generosity: You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.” — Simone de Beauvoir

“Conquer the angry one by not getting angry; conquer the wicked by goodness; conquer the stingy by generosity, and the liar by speaking the truth.” — Gautama Buddha

“Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think.” — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“(I)f we are going to be kind, let it be out of simple generosity, not because we fear guilt or retribution.” — J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*

“Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only gift is a portion of thyself. Thou must bleed for me.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

“We can be as honest as we are ignorant. If we are, when asked what is beyond the horizon of the known, we must say that we do not know. We can tell the truth, and we can enjoy the blessed freedom that the brave have won. We can destroy the monsters of superstition, the hissing snakes of ignorance and fear. We can drive from our minds the frightful things that tear and wound with beak and fang. We can civilize our fellow-men. We can fill our lives with generous deeds, with loving words, with art and song, and all the ecstasies of love. We can flood our years with sunshine — with the divine climate of kindness, and we can drain to the last drop the golden cup of joy.” — Robert G. Ingersoll, *The Works of Robert G. Ingersoll, Vol 1: Lectures*

“Be practical as well as generous in your ideals. Keep your eyes on the stars, but remember to keep your feet on the ground.” — Theodore Roosevelt

“Practice giving things away, not just things you don't care about, but things you do like. Remember, it is not the size of a gift, it is its quality and the amount of mental attachment you overcome that count. So don't bankrupt yourself on a momentary positive impulse, only to regret it later. Give thought to giving. Give small things, carefully, and observe the mental processes going along with the act of releasing the little thing you liked.” — Robert A F Thurman

Counting Deacons	Bill Rochelle and Nancy Wainwright	Fred Daniels and Carol Troost
Greeters	Dale & Norma Brown	Jim & Sharron McCullough
Flower Delivery	Linnea D’Andrea and John Van Oort	Joanne Bedell and James Reid
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Birdie Blackmer
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, Jeanette Davidson, Peggy King, Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce, Barbara Walton, Bill Ward, Gene Zeltmann	Art Casey, George Davidson, Gay Doolittle, Peggy King, Don & Marilyn Leach, Bill Rochelle, Maria Todd
Reader	Amy Brule	Nancy Davidson
Refreshments	Stewardship Luncheon	Gay Doolittle and Joan Crandall
Ushers	Art Shultes (head usher), Jim & Sharron McCullough, Joan Lindsay, Lou Acquasanta	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal