

**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.

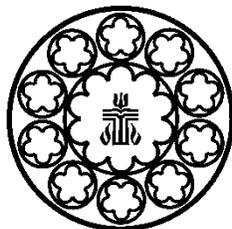
Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly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



A future peeks
Around the corner
Waiting
To be noticed
Is to be loved

November 29, 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.

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Cello Sonata No.2, Op. 8

II. Andante cantabile Nikolai Myaskovsky

Olivia Cox, cello; Avery Tunningley, piano

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Stacey Midge

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Cox Family

INTROIT

Come, Lord Jesus

Carey Landry

* HYMN

People, Look East

#12 (v. 1-4)

* 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

Gloria, Gloria

Round

Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

(From the Brief Statement of Faith)

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Celtic Advent Carol

Angerman and Barrett

Abby Norton Levering, violin;

Ellen Shapiro, flute;

Tom D'Andrea, John Norton, percussion

Be not afraid, I bring you good news.

The Savior is coming in glory to you.

He shall be called "God's Holy One."

Will you be ready for Him when he comes?

Light the candle, Jesus is coming,

Open your hearts, prepare ye the way.

Sleepers awake,

for soon is the dawning.

He will turn night into glorious day.

Be of good cheer and put away fear,

the light now is coming to dry ev'ry tear.

Love now with us, God's perfect Son.

Will you be ready for Him when he comes?

Veni, Emmanuel.

Come now and ransom Israel.

Veni, Emmanuel.

Jesus is coming.

Could He be coming today?

FIRST LESSON

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (pg 738)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (pg 203)*

SERMON

Future Love

Bill Levering

*HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

#11

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Righteous Actions for Climate Justice

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Blessed Be the King

Peter Mathews
Ellen Shapiro, flute

Blest be the King whose coming
is in the name of God!
For him let doors be open,
no hearts against him barred!
Not robed in royal splendor,
in pow'r and pomp comes he:
But clad as are the poorest---
such is his humility!

Blest be the King whose coming
is in the name of God!
By those who truly listen
his voice is truly heard.
Pity the proud and haughty,
who have not learned to heed
the Christ who is the Promise
and has our ransom paid.

Blest be the King whose coming
is in the name of God!
He only to the humble
reveals the face of God.
All pow'r is his, all glory!
All things are in his hand,
all ages and all peoples,
till time itself shall end!

Blest be the King whose coming
is in the name of God!
He offers to the burdened
the rest and grace they need.
Gentle is he and humble!
And light his yoke shall be,
For he would have us bear it
so he can make us free.

*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 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* #376

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Traditional

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Mary Jane Fleming 11/21/15

Memorial Service held 11/24/15

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:

Elsie Anderson Emory, Virginia Cain, Rev. Dr. Edwin McLane, Harvey Schadler, Donald Lemon, Maurice B. Tracy, Eulia Amd, Edgar Pitzer, Mary Frances Case, Robert S. Crandall, Robert Bruce Crandell

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.

How to Give Memorial Flowers for Christmas

As we prepare for the Holiday season, remember or celebrate a loved one by participating in the Christmas Memorial Flowers. Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on December 24. The donation is \$20. Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2014. Please call the church office no later than Thursday, December 18, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild.

United Prayer Ministry

Prayers of comfort:

Fleming, Ebeling, Fitts and Wainwright Families

Music Notes

The Response of Praise is from the Taizé community, Jacques Bethier ©Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Onelicense.net License #A-700700.

Christmas Eve Reception after 9pm Service Help is Needed - The Taart Baas wants you!

If you're available for set-up and/or decorating, clean-up, or bringing goodies, please sign up in Assembly Hall right away. We expect an abundance of attendees, like last year, and want to make it festive. Thank you!

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 and Conversation

Dec 6: Soap & Toilet Paper Ministry
Christmas Offering

Dec 13: City Mission, Mike Saccocio

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.

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

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. These rehearsals are VERY important as we will be covering all the Christmas Eve Service music. Please make every effort to attend each week!! 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: - *Advent Festival 5pm*

Dec 6: - Regular Mtg. & Advent Activity

Dec 13: - Regular Mtg. & Advent Activity

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Mike Lamkin Trio

Dec 6: Nat Phipps Trio

Dec 13: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop requests jewelry and Christmas ornaments from the congregation. These items may be brought to the Shop any Sunday where they will be made available for purchase with the proceeds going to a local, worthy cause.

Horizons Bible Study

During Advent, we'll do a three-week Upper Room Advent devotional study called "Light of Lights." We will meet on December 1, 8, and 15 at 10am in Poling Conference room. Study guides are \$8, available from Peg Miller. 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

Intergenerational Advent Festival - TONIGHT

On this evening of the first Sunday of Advent, those of all ages gather in Friendship Hall for a covered dish dinner and seasonal crafts. For dinner at 5pm, bring food you wish to share (seasonal suggestion: anything that begins with the letter A, for Advent, or food that is purple or blue, Advent colors). After our meal the crafts commence, including the making of unique Advent wreaths from natural materials and hand-dipped candles! We'll conclude at 7pm with a brief liturgy around our candlelit wreaths.

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

Please join us **TODAY** at noon for lunch and conversation on the Mezzanine. We will cover at least the first few chapters. The book is available in the church book store. Contact Mary Alice Jewett or Jeanne Shoulder with any questions.

New Member Class – January 3

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.

Midweek Feast: Food for Body, Mind & Soul Wednesdays during Advent

>*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. (see below)

>*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.

Study at Midweek Feast

For this Advent season, while we prepare to celebrate the incarnation of God, we will be discussing issues of the physical body and Christian spirituality.

Dec. 2 - *Body and Soul* - Christianity has tended to separate physical and spiritual matters but centers around the opposite: God becoming human, spirit merging with body. Learn about strands of Christian faith that embrace an integrated view of the whole self, and spiritual practices that celebrate our physicality.

First Friday Performances – December 4

Avery will be showing the 1987 movie *Babette's Feast* at 7pm in Poling Chapel. This is a heartwarming story of two sisters who take in a cook, Babette, as a refugee from war torn France. This is a foreign movie with subtitles. It will be played as a silent movie, with live accompaniment by Avery. Join us for a night out!

Thursday Musical Club Christmas Concert

Join the Thursday Musical Club all women's chorus directed by Julie Panke and accompanied by Elinore Farnum, for a Christmas concert on **Saturday, December 5 at 2:30pm** in the church sanctuary. The Thursday Belles, directed by Judy Moore, will be guest artists. Complimentary tickets are available for all church members from Julie or the church office.

Group VII

Our next meeting is our Christmas Lunch at 11:30am on December 18 in Assembly Hall.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas – Dec. 6

No matter your age or faith tradition, join us Sunday 8:45-9:45am for a complimentary Dutch breakfast of chocolate sprinkle sandwiches, strong coffee, oatmeal, and speculaas cookies, followed by a visit from the just and generous Sinterklaas, telling stories and giving gifts!

Klokken Tower Ringers, Thursday Belles and Carol Sing December 6

For 90+ years, this Carol Sing has taken place with handbells, carols, and a totally unique version of the 12 Days of Christmas! Please Join us at 3pm, in our Sanctuary, on December 6 and bring your friends and family. There will be a special guest too!

New Word Service – December 11

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 service.

Men's Breakfast Group – December 12

Our speaker will be The Rev. Victoria Brooks. Viki is the Protestant Minister at Union College, and she will talk about trends in the spiritual lives of Union College students. Breakfast will be served at 8am. There will be a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. information, contact Gene Rowland at 250-4302 or erowland@nycap.rr.com

Advent Lessons and Carols – Dec. 13

The choirs of St. George's Episcopal Church and First Reformed Church of Schenectady, will come together on Sunday, December 13 at 2pm for a traditional service of Advent Lessons and Carols at St. George's in the Stockade. Music of Brahms, Poston, Sumsion, and Gardner will be included. Andrew Krystopolski will be the organist and Julie Panke will direct the choirs. The Klokken Tower Ringers will assist.

Tuesday Ladies – Dec. 15

Tuesday Ladies meets next on December 15, 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.

Mark Your Calendars

Join us for the *All Church Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant* on **December 20**. We need participants of all ages to come at **4:30pm** for a run through and people to come at **6pm** to watch us sing and tell the story of the First Christmas. It's going to be an awesome night-- you won't want to miss it!

What To Do With Those Bottles and Cans

Turn in your redeemable recyclables at Creating Change Redemption Center at 309 Saratoga Rd. in Glenville, and tell them to donate the deposit to the *First Reformed Church of Schenectady Youth Mission Trip*. The youth group has an account there and will collect donations until the mission trip in February (Palermo, Italy).

+ + +

“You realize that our mistrust of the future makes it hard to give up the past.” — Chuck Palahniuk, *Survivor*

“It's amazing how a little tomorrow can make up for a whole lot of yesterday.” — John Guare, *Landscape of the Body*

“Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present.” — Albert Camus, *Notebooks 1935-1942*

“When did the future switch from being a promise to being a threat?” — Chuck Palahniuk, *Invisible Monsters*

“Listen to the people who love you. Believe that they are worth living for even when you don't believe it. Seek out the memories depression takes away and project them into the future. Be brave; be strong; take your pills. Exercise because it's good for you even if every step weighs a thousand pounds. Eat when food itself disgusts you. Reason with yourself when you have lost your reason.” — Andrew Solomon, *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression*

“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.” — Malcolm X

“I'm choosing happiness over suffering, I know I am. I'm making space for the unknown future to fill up my life with yet-to-come surprises.” — Elizabeth Gilbert, *Eat, Pray, Love*

Sunday, November 29

10:00 am Worship/1st Sunday of Advent
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:15 am First Forum
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers
 12:00 pm Justice Action Book Group
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
 5:00 pm Advent Festival

Monday, November 30

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

Tuesday, December 1

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
 11:30 am Support and Care
 1:30 pm Worship Committee

Wednesday, December 2

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
 1:00 pm Thursday Belles

“The future depends on what you do today.” —
 Mahatma Gandhi

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a
 known God.” — Corrie ten Boom

Thursday, December 3

7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
 8:30 am Belles Rehearsal in Sanctuary
 10:00 am Stitch Group
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 4

7:00 pm First Friday Performance

Saturday, December 5

2:30 pm Thursday Musical Club Concert

Sunday, December 6

8:45 am Breakfast with St. Nicholas
 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 Carol Sing
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

“The past is always tense, the future perfect.” —
 Zadie Smith

“The future belongs to those who believe in the
 beauty of their dreams.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

Counting Deacons	Richard Davis and Lyn Gordon	Dave Hjelmar and Bill Martin
Greeters	Tom & Joan Lindsay	Vernetta Thuener
Flower Delivery	James Gonda and Connie Young	
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Jack Bestgen, James Gonda, Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Tom Lindsay, Richard Rose, Jeanne Shoulder, Linda Witkowski	Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Mary Jewett, Liz Mastrianni, Keith Muse, Maria Todd, Barbara Walton, Gene Zeltmann
Reader		Ellie Rowland
Refreshments	Lorraine Aumic	Ginny Laumeister and Joanne Arnold
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd