

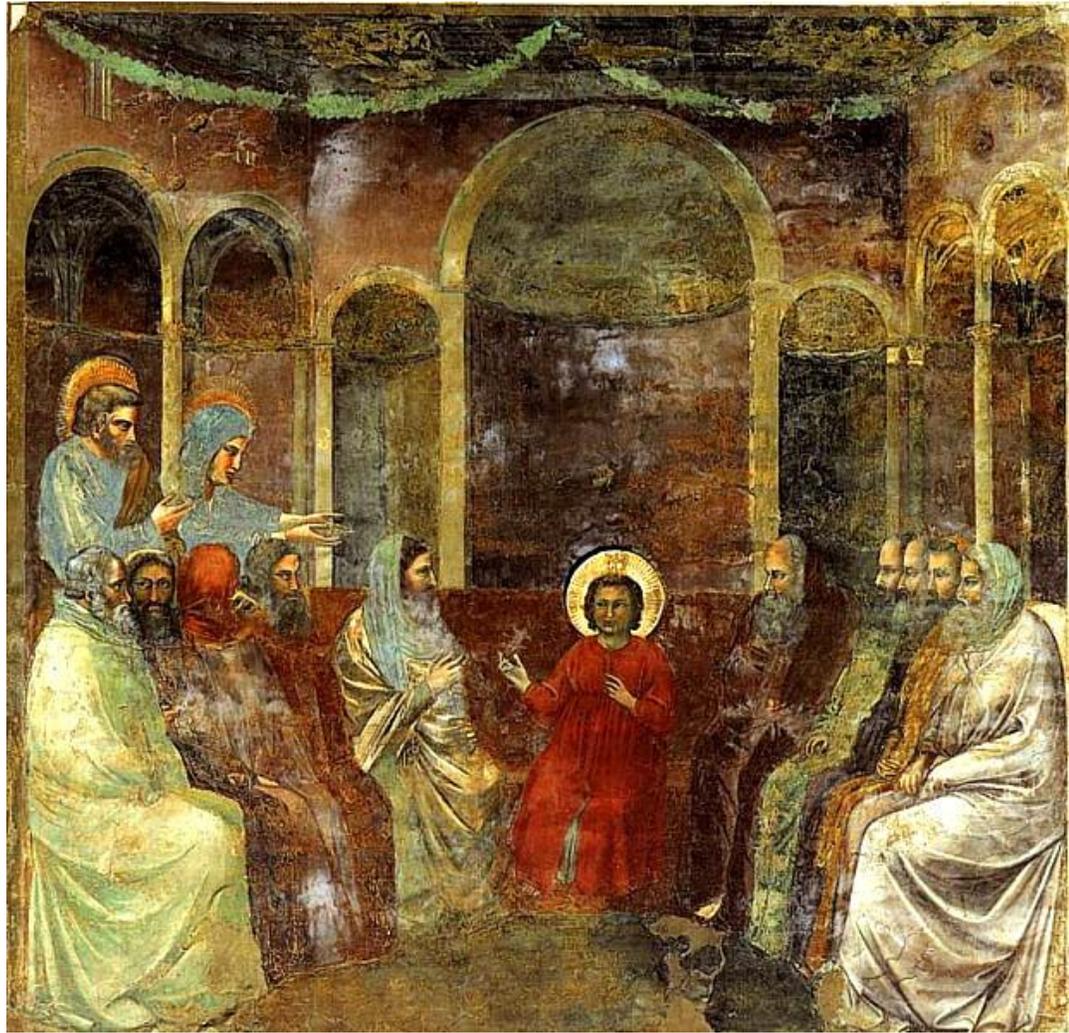
## **The Covenant of Our Congregation Adopted in 1962**

*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.*



*January 3, 2016*



**First Reformed Church**  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://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](http://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.

## Second Sunday after Christmas Day

January 3, 2016

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Bob Ridgeway

*Mine*

*Ancient Awareness*

Lyrics: Hildegard von Bingen

*Balance*

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Daniel Carlson

INTROIT *Glory* Pablo Sosa

\* HYMN *Once in David's Royal City* #49

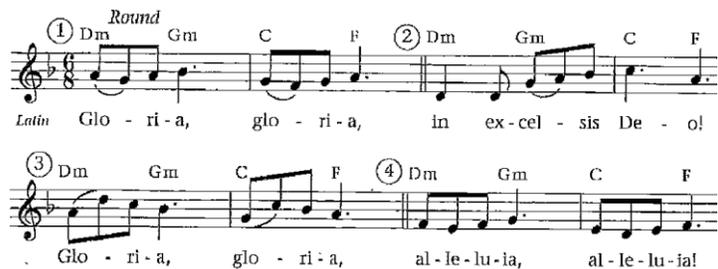
\* OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**O Holy One, you know how hard it is to grow up. In every age we often resist the challenges of increasing in wisdom, in human and divine favor. Have mercy on us and lead us by your Spirit in the way of Christ our Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.**

\*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 Our Song of Hope*

**Our only hope is Jesus Christ.  
After we refused to live in the image of  
God, He was born of the virgin Mary,  
sharing our genes and instincts,**

**entering our culture, speaking our  
language, fulfilling the law of our God.  
Being united to Christ's humanity,  
we know ourselves when we rest in Him.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

*Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*  
Marty Haugen

Awake! awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for now he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes asinging,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of his anthems role  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.

In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story,  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.

FIRST LESSON

Mary Jewett

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

*Psalm 148 (pg 582)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 2:40-52 (pg 59)*

SERMON *Growing Like Jesus* Daniel Carlson

\*HYMN *Lord, When I Came Into This Life* #522

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Psalm 23* Bob Ridgeway

\*DOXOLOGY #592 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

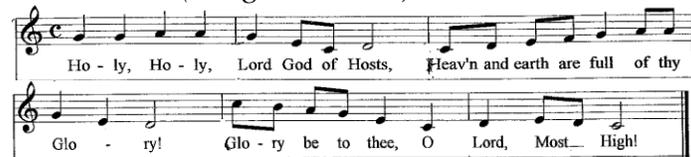
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*) Carl Steubing



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy  
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

*Come down the center aisle starting from all the FRONT pews. Return by way of the side aisles. The servers will bring the elements to any who choose to remain seated. Those who wish may join in singing:*

**This is the body of Christ;  
Broken that we may be whole.  
This cup as promised by God,  
True to God's Word, cradles our Lord.  
Food for the good of the soul.**

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 *All Beautiful the March of Days* #292

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Threefold Amen*

Danish

POSTLUDE

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*

Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

**Entered Into Eternal Rest**

Marjorie Cody Burris – 12/15/15

**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:

*Doris Willard, Mildred Alvater, Thomas Taft, Almy Coggeshall, Barton Dearing, Esther Eveleth, James Caulfield, Barbara Stroebell, Charlotte King, Albert Lawrence, Maude Dunlap*

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.

## **A Time for Sharing**

Extra cookies in your cupboard? Tons of tempting treats on your table? Trying to find a home for that fruitcake Aunt Edna gave you? Please place your excess goodies in our Assembly Hall freezer for post-service refreshments. Your physician will thank you, as will the Taart Baas!

## **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:** Building a Parenting Program,  
Wales Brown

**Jan 10:** Unity Luncheon, Viki Brooks

**Jan 17:** Community Justice CAB Program,  
Cheryl Vallee

## **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:** - Regular Meeting

**Jan 10:** - Regular Meeting

**Jan 17:** - Regular Meeting

## **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm**

**Today:** Peg Delaney Trio

**Jan 10:** Tim Olsen, piano

**Jan 17:** Nat Phipps Trio

## **Music Notes**

All songs performed by Bob Ridgway are inspired by worship at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady: *Mine* © 2013: Bill Levering gave a youth sermon. I had to write the song. *Ancient Awareness* © 2013: A poem by Saint Hildegard of Bingen (1098 – September 17, 1179) read by Matthew Fox as part of an Earth Day sermon. *Balance* © 2015: Daniel Carlson challenged the attendees of the 2015 Ash Wednesday service to be responsible for all God's creation. *Psalms 23* © 2015: Both Daniel Carlson (mid-week evening worship) and Stacey Midge (Sunday morning service) used this powerful psalm in worship during the same week providing a deeper insight into this psalm – “my cup overflows!”

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.

The song during communion was written by John Bell. ©1998 WGRG, Iona Community, GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Onelicense.net License #A-700700.

## **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. Any child of Church School age is invited to join us.

## **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.

## **New Member Class – TODAY**

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.

### **Church School – *Message from Blythe***

Please come upstairs to get your children and make sure that I have met you so I know which parents are attached to which children, especially if your kids haven't been coming to Church School regularly. It is difficult for me, being new, to know who is attached to whom. I would like to make sure that I become well acquainted with all of the parents of the wonderful children in the classes. Also, if you haven't filled out the informational sheet on your child, please be sure to do that in Rm 20 or Kinderwyk as well. These records are kept by the church and we would love to someday have a very accurate list of the children who have been through our program.

### **Christmas Stewardship**

It is near this time we remember the gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus in worship and thanksgiving. We too come to worship this King and to live in the light that he brings into the world. So as you consider how you might, please remember to give generously, out of a place of thanksgiving and praise, for the light of the world has come. Won't you continue to walk in this light and give with your whole life?

### **Stitch Group**

Our church PHD\* stitch group meets most every Thursday, in Poling Conference room. Work on whatever project you have; finish something old, or make something new. For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153. \*Projects Half Done.

### **Kerygma Conversations - January 6**

A study and discussion of the biblical Prophets and our own practice of prophetic faith begins Epiphany, January 6, and continues each Wednesday, 9:30-11am, in Poling Conf. room.

### **New Word Service – January 8**

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.

### **Midweek Feast: Food for Body, Mind & Soul Wednesdays in January**

>*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.

>*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 Men's Breakfast Group – January 9**

The next meeting of the Men's Breakfast group will take place on Saturday, Jan 9. Meetings are held in Assembly Hall, beginning with breakfast at 8am. Following the breakfast meal we traditionally have a brief program presentation.

Our speaker is Walt Robb, who will speak about "Generating an Electrical Revolution". This talk will examine various techniques for generating electrical energy, and make some projections (or educated guesses?) about the future use of these alternate modalities.

### **Unity Luncheon – January 10**

January 10 is Unity Sunday. Everyone is invited to the Unity Luncheon at FRC in Fellowship Hall hosted by the women of the church. The theme this year is "**Reflecting on Unity**". Our keynote speaker is **Viki Brooks**, Chaplain at Union College. Viki was an active leader, who helped form the unity of FRC and UPC. Andy Chestnut and his group the **Usual Suspects** will entertain us with dinner music. Barbara Walton will put on display many of the UPC church banners. A menu of **Perreca's** Lasagna and bread, plus salad and dessert will be served. Special vegan and gluten free meals will also be available. Did you know Perreca's was named the top bakery in NY by FlipKey, a subsidiary of Trip Advisor Media Group? **SAVE THE DATE!** Come to the Unity Luncheon...it is a great way to make a new friend. **See you Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>!!**

### **Horizons Bible Study – January 12**

A study on Luke's gospel will start on Jan. 12. Study guides are \$10, payable to Peg Miller. Anyone interested is welcome.

### **New Bible Study to begin January 12**

Paige Convis is starting a new Bible study on Tuesday's at 7pm. We will meet for about an hour each week to read and discuss scripture and how it speaks to our lives and to the current events happening in the world. Please join us for this time of study and sharing. We will begin our study in the book of Job. We will grapple with the age old question-- Why do bad things happen to good people? There might not be any good answers, but we will wonder together about the wisdom God's Word has for us even today.

### **The Short-Short Writing Group – January 13**

A writing critique group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Schermerhorn Conference room at 7pm. Short-Shorts are stories, essays, memoirs, or other non-fiction works told in 1,000 words or less. Contact James for more info, at [jgonda12309@gmail.com](mailto:jgonda12309@gmail.com).

### **Call for Submissions**

*The Beverwyck Anthology* is now accepting submissions for its March 2016 issue. Fiction, nonfiction, essays, memoirs, and travel pieces not exceeding one thousand words are acceptable. Poetry of less than 100 lines is also acceptable. Submissions should be appropriate for a church publication. Please email submissions to Rudy and Kathy Petersen, Editors-in-Chief, at [thebeverwyck@gmail.com](mailto:thebeverwyck@gmail.com).

### **Group VII – January 15**

Group VII meets next on Friday, January 15 at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Co-hostesses are: Carol Schweizer and Birdie Blackmer. The program is a Visit with the Covenanters. Any questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679.

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

Our third meeting is scheduled on Sunday, January 17 at noon on the Mezzanine. We will discuss chapters 3 & 4. The fourth meeting will be scheduled at that time. Contact either Mary Alice Jewett or Jeanne Shoulder with any questions. Lunch will be provided.

### **Tuesday Ladies – January 19**

Tuesday Ladies meets next on January 19, at the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. This will be our salad supper meeting. All ladies welcome to chat and get to know each other while we enjoy dinner at 6pm.

### **Friends for Racial Justice – January 5**

Stories of Racial Healing - Tuesday January 5, 7-9pm Arthur's Market, 35 North Ferry Street.

A follow-up to JAC First Forum. Come listen and share stories to deepen understanding of the complexities of racism in our society. Co-Sponsored by FRC/JAC and SICM. Questions contact Joe Doolittle 588-2801 or [aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com](mailto:aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com)

### **Evening Circle – January 20**

Evening Circle meets again on January 20. Please mark your calendars and join us!! We will be discussing the book *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Bachman. It's an easy read.

### **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).

### **Chrismon Tree**

We encourage everyone to stop in the Dirck Romeyn room to admire the tree between Sunday, December 20 and Sunday, January 3.

**Sunday, January 3**

10:00 am ..... Worship  
 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:00 am ..... Refreshments  
 11:15 am ..... First Forum  
 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers & Singers  
 3:00 pm ..... New Member Class  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

**Monday, January 4**

9:00 am ..... Men's Newsgroup  
 9:30 am ..... Chancel Guild Clean Up

**Tuesday, January 5**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer  
 11:30 am ..... Support & Care  
 1:30 pm ..... Worship Planning

**Wednesday, January 6**

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, January 7**

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

**Friday, January 8**

6:00 pm ..... Adult Education  
 7:00 pm ..... WORD Service

**Saturday, January 9**

8:00 am ..... Men's Breakfast

**Sunday, January 10**

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 ..... Unity Luncheon  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Kim & Tom Burgoyne	Lyn Gordon and Nancy Wainwright
<b>Greeters</b>	Bill & Nancy Martin	Glenn Blinckmann
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Louise Dickinson and Lisa Etkin	Ruth & Ken Roinos Linda & Bill Ward
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	Paige Convis
<b>Preacher</b>	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Birdie Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Art Casey, Gay Doolittle, James Gonda, Del Pierce	Jack Bestgen, Christine Daniels, George Davidson, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Gene Zeltmann
<b>Reader</b>	Mary Jewett	Peg Miller
<b>Refreshments</b>	Ellie Brudos	Unity Luncheon
<b>Ushers</b>	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright