

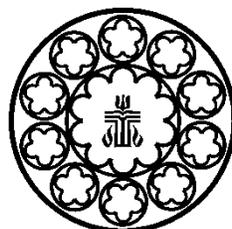
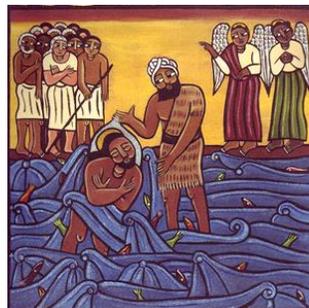
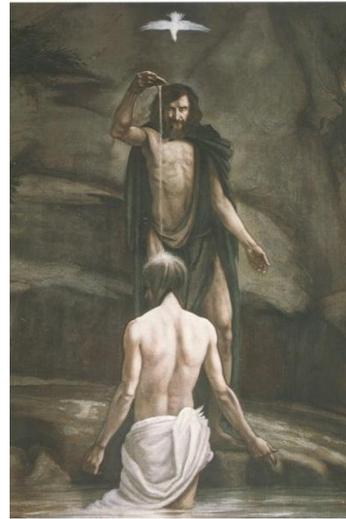
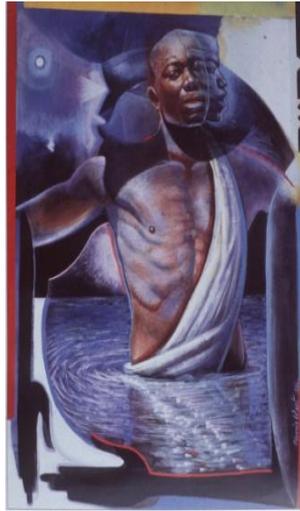
**The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962**

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 10, 2016

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 after the Epiphany

January 10, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

The Festive Trumpet Brian Glyncannon
Thanks Be to God G.F. Handel
Sortie Theodore Dubois

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Canon for Epiphany* Shirley McRae

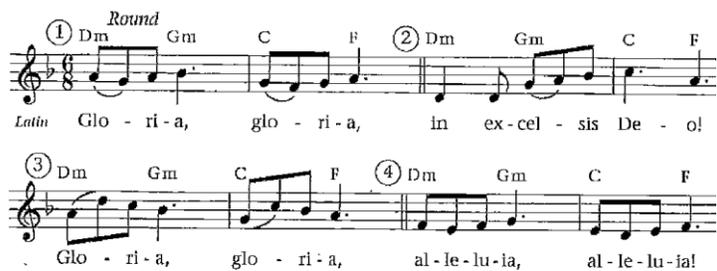
* HYMN *At the Name of Jesus* #148

* OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O God, of darkness and light, help us, we pray. We have failed to connect with the suffering of those who live in the shadows. We have not admitted to our own gloating or gloom. As light dawns on the world in this new year, lead us out of the gloaming into the grace of sharing our lives, whatever they may be, with each other, and with you.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*



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

Walk in the Light Traditional
arr. Andre Thomas

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the new-born King,"
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hail the heav'n -born Prince of Peace!
Jesus the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Jesus the Light of the world;

George Elderkin and Charles Wesley

FIRST LESSON Peg Miller

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Isaiah 43:1-7 (pg 672)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 3:21-22 (pg 60)*

SERMON *Knowing You Are OK* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Crashing Waters at Creation*

**1. Crashing waters at creation
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.**

**2. Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage,
channel to a light made new.**

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: Unity Luncheon, Viki Brooks

Jan 17: Community Justice CAB Program, Cheryl Vallee

Jan 24: Challenges of Creating a Sustainable Community, Heather Ipsen

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Tim Olsen, piano

Jan 17: Nat Phipps Trio

Jan 24: Mike Lamkin, piano

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 17: - Regular Meeting

Jan 24: - Regular Meeting

Music for Martin Luther King Sunday

As part of the worship service on Martin Luther King weekend the Chancel Choir will present an extended medley combining two South African freedom songs, Amazing Grace, and a traditional 'kyrie eleison'. Accompanying the choir are: Avery Tunningley, piano; Nat Phipps, keyboard; Pete Toigo, bass; Olivia Cox, cello and Tom D'Andrea, percussion. The choir will also sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" which is known as the "Black National Anthem" and became the official song of the NAACP in 1919.

Stewardship in the New Year

As you settle into the New Year have you pondered the way you will give of your time and resources to God? Seek first to serve God with all your life.

Unity Luncheon – TODAY

TODAY 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? Come to the Unity Luncheon...it is a great way to make a new friend. **Please join us!!**

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.

Church School – *Message from Blythe*

As we consider New Year resolutions, please consider involvement in the children's program. We all have something to offer: a talent, a life experience, a sport, or simply time. Our children need all of us. You can talk to me about your ideas at coffee hour, since I try to be there most Sundays. You can also reach me at blytheg.rn@gmail.com.

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 Resume

An introduction to the Biblical Prophets and our own practice of prophetic faith gets underway **January 13**, and continues through Lent each Wednesday, 9:30-11am. All are welcome!

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 discussion of the future of the church led by Stacey Midge.

>*Worship at 8*—stay, if you wish, for a brief, reflective service of song, scripture, silence, communion, and prayers around the Lord's Table.

Faith Bookshop

In the Bookshop you will find lovely framed photographs of FRC. They would be a nice moving-to-a-new-location gift, confirmation present, or memento for someone to whom this church holds special meaning now or in the past - - maybe even yourself!

Johnson Library

Copies of the Holy Bible, King James version, are on the display table this morning, "containing the old and the new testaments translated out of the original tongues: and with the former translations diligently compared and revised, by his majesty's special command." Called "the greatest work of English prose ever written," the story of how it all came about is told in *The King James Bible Translators*, by Olga Opfell, and *God's Secretaries; The Making of the King James Bible*, by Adam Nicolson.

New Bible Study to begin January 12

Hope to see you at the new Bible Study on Tuesday's evenings at 7:00 led by Paige Convis. We are beginning in the book of Job.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Campus Protestant Ministries – January 15

Join Campus Protestant Ministries in a short Taize worship service beginning on January 15th at 1:15 in the prayer and meditation room at Union College.

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 service.

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.

Evening Circle – January 20

Evening Circle meets again on Jan. 20, 7pm at the home of Ellie Rowland, 216 Lois Lane. We will be discussing the book *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Bachman. It's an easy read, join us!

Soup Shabbat with Congregation Gates of Heaven – January 22

In lieu of our usual pulpit exchange, this year we will participate in the Third Annual Gates Soup Shabbat on Friday, January 22. This year, the money raised will benefit Jubilee USA, an international debt relief organization working to build an economy that serves, protects, and promotes participation of the most vulnerable. You are invited to make soup for this event.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group – January 28

We will resume our 4th Thursday of the month meetings on January 28. We meet at 10am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic, 2305 Almeria Road.

New Member Class

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Dr. Levering leads a membership meeting on the first Sunday of the month, which 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.

Baptismal Buddies - January 31

Our second occasional gathering for recently and soon-to-be baptized babies and their parents will be January 31, after worship, beginning in the Dirck Romeyn room and concluding with a tour of Kinderwyck. There will again be refreshments, an informal opportunity get to know one another, and a continuing conversation on how FRC can become more of a place of grace for our youngest members and their parents.

Pancake Brunch after worship – January 31

Join the Youth Group after worship on January 31 for a Pancake Brunch to benefit the annual Mission Trip. Brunch is offered on a free will donation basis, so please be generous and support our senior high youth.

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).



Sunday, January 10

10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:15 am Unity Luncheon
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

Monday, January 11

9:00 am Men's Newsgroup

Tuesday, January 12

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
 6:30 pm Standing Committees
 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study
 7:30 pm Consistory

Wednesday, January 13

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

Wednesday, January 13 continued

6:00 pm Midweek Feast – *Dinner*
 7:00 pm Midweek Feast – *Study*
 8:00 pm Midweek Feast - *Worship*

Thursday, January 14

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

Friday, January 15

10:00 am Group VII

Sunday, January 17

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
 12:00 pm Book Club
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Lyn Gordon and Nancy Wainwright	Cathy Lewis and Therese McCarty
Greeters	Glenn Blinckmann	Vilhelm & Christine Lund
Flower Delivery	Ruth & Ken Roinos Linda & Bill Ward	Norm & Chris Kuchar Lynn Wilkanowski
Faith Bookshop	Linda Witkowski	Nancy Wainwright
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Jack Bestgen, Christine Daniels, George Davidson, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Gene Zeltmann	Darwin Brudos, Gay Doolittle, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose, Maria Todd, Barbara Walton
Reader	Peg Miller	Therese McCarty
Refreshments	Unity Luncheon	Connie Young
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd