

**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.

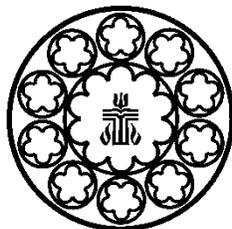
Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly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



The tree grows
With many leaves;
All connected
In the dance
With the sun, wind and rain.

January 24, 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.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 24, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Andy Janack, vibraphone

Caprice No. 2

Caprice No. 3 Matteo Carcassi
transcribed by Gifford Howarth

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *The Morning Breaks* Carol Matthew

* HYMN *I Danced in the Morning* #302 (v 1&2)

* 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*

① Dm *Round* Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F
Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F
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

Come, Let Us Join

Johann Crüger
Arr. Alice Parker

Come, let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne.
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.

“Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry,
“To be exalted thus!”
“Worthy the Lamb,” our hearts reply,
“For He was slain for us!”

Jesus is worthy to receive
Honor and power divine;
And blessings more than we can give,
Be, Lord, forever Thine.

Let all that dwell above the sky,
And air and earth and seas,
Conspire to lift Thy glories high,
And speak Thine endless praise!

The whole creation join in one,
To bless the sacred Name
Of Him Who sits upon the throne,
And to adore the Lamb.

Isaac Watts

FIRST LESSON

Amy Brule

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalm 19 (pg 498)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *1 Corinthians 12:12-31a*
(pg 174)

SERMON *Role Basics* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Earth and All Stars* #458

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1 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 #440
In Christ There Is No East or West

*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:

Mary Louise Martin-Stern, Mary McCarty, Douw Kunhardt Beekman, Marguerite Wellborn, Barbara Gifford, Caleb Paine, William Tucker, Herbert Strong, Emily Nagamatsu

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.

Post-service Refreshments

Sign-ups are needed

We are seeking volunteers for January and February. Please pair up with your friends or family members and host a Sunday. If you have questions about what is required, contact Karen the Taart Baas, karengonda6@gmail.com.

Music Notes

This morning's Anthem is considered to be the first hymn written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Watts is thought of as the 'father' of English hymnody since he was pivotal in the transition from psalm singing to hymn singing in the English church. Watts felt that singing only the psalms failed to provide adequate expression for Christian worship. *Come, Let Us Join* was first published in Watts' "Hymns and Spiritual Songs" in 1707. The arrangement is by Alice Parker who well-known for her compositions and arrangements of early American hymn tunes.

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: Challenges of Creating a Sustainable Community, Heather Ipsen

Jan 31: Social Media, Amy Tessitore

Feb 7: Heritage Sunday

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Mike Lamkin, piano

Jan 31: Scott Bassinson, piano

Feb 7: Skip Parson's Riverboat Jazz Band

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 31: - Pancake Breakfast – arrive by 9am

Feb 7: - The mission trip participants will be commissioned during the 10am worship service. Parents/participants will meet briefly after worship. There will be no 5pm meeting on this date.

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.

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.

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

>*Dinner at 6*-- Hot soup and cool salad is on the menu in Assembly Hall; bring something to share if you can.

>*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.

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.

Faith Bookshop

In the Bookshop you will find lovely framed photographs of FRC. They would be a nice gift, for someone to whom this church holds special meaning now or in the past.

Horizons Bible Study

We meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Poling Conf. room. A study on Luke's gospel started on January 12. Study guides are \$10, payable to Peg Miller. Anyone interested is welcome.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Hope to see you at the new Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 7pm led by Paige Convis in Room 22. We are beginning in the book of Job.

Group VII

Group VII will not meet in February.

The Short-Short Writing Group – Jan. 27

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. The deadline is February 29. 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.

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.

FRC Fellowship Lunches – January 29

Our next meeting will be January 29 at 11:30am in Assembly Hall. Our hosts will be Ellie & Gene Rowland and Sally & Bob Clark. Jenna Riley from Mabee Farm will be our speaker. The topic is *Secrets of Mabee House!* Everyone likes to know secrets! Please join us, bring a dish to share, and enjoy the fellowship, good food, and an interesting program. All are welcome! If you have any ideas for speakers or programs, please contact Sally Bestgen or Amy Brule.

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.

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. Contact Daniel Carlson (377-2201) to sign-up.

The Women's Group – February 1

We will meet on Monday, February 1 in the Dirck Romeyn room at 11am. All women of the church are invited for an informal time to get together. Bring your lunch to eat if desired. Coffee and tea and light refreshments will be available. Contact Maria Todd with questions.

Avery Presents, The Usual Suspects - Feb. 5

The Usual Suspects is a Schenectady based music group composed of five veteran musicians performing contemporary and classic hits from a variety of genres including pop, country, jazz, rock and blues. Join us at 7pm in Poling Chapel.

Men's Breakfast - February 6

The next meeting of the Men's Breakfast group will be, Saturday February 6 at 8am in Assembly Hall. Our speaker/program will be the Rev. Kent Busman, Director Fowler Camp and Conference Center: "Reflections on Living a Life in Balance". Kent is well known to the congregation, for his leadership role at Camp Fowler, in environmental stewardship, and "suburban homesteading". Join us for a contemporary view of the world that touches us.

Heritage Sunday is Feb. 7

The theme of our next Heritage Sunday is "Charting our Historical Voyage" and will be hosted by Caroline Welch in the Poling Chapel during First Forum. Two speakers will be featured: Dale Brown will give a PowerPoint presentation on our six different church buildings since 1680, and James Gonda will recite an abridged version of the "Historical Sermon" once given by the Rev William Elliot Griffis, 16th Pastor of First Reformed from 1877 to 1886, to celebrate our church's 200th anniversary. James will appear in period costume and related items from our historical collections will be on display.

New Member Class – February 7

Dr. Levering leads a membership meeting 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.

Volunteer to Help in Lent

We need volunteers! Can you help? Two or three people are needed to set tables on Wednesday afternoons. Three or four people are needed for clean up after the dinners. We also need people to help prepare food. This can be done at home and at least part of the cost of the food will be reimbursed from the offering. If you can help, please contact Marilyn Leach at 374-1022 or marilyn.leach64@gmail.com.

Mission Shares

Maybe we can't all go to Italy, but we can all be part of supporting the Youth Group as they travel to Palermo to work with immigrant and refugee populations, in partnership with the Waldensian Church and RCA missionaries JJ and Tim TenClay. Mission Shares are \$25 each. With each mission share purchased, you will receive a ticket to our annual Mission Shareholders' Dinner, where the youth will tell about their experiences in Italy. This year, for the first time, you will also receive a bracelet - the same as those that will be given to the youth when they are commissioned on Feb. 7 -to remind you to pray for our youth during their trip. Please contact a youth group member or Stacey to donate a share.

SICM Food Pantry Needs Volunteers

Can you help?!? The SICM food pantry is looking for volunteers who are able to commit to helping at the pantry 1 day a week or every other week from 9am to 12pm to help distribute groceries to our pantry guests. Volunteering for the pantry is a great way to serve your community and to spend time with a fun group of people. Please contact Shelly Ford 346-4445 or sford@sicm.us or Ellie Rowland 250-4302 for more information on this and other volunteer opportunities at the SICM food pantry.

+ + +

“If everyone helps to hold up the sky, then one person does not become tired.”
— Askhari Johnson Hodari, *Lifelines: The Black Book of Proverbs*

“All for one, and one for all.”
— Alexandre Dumas, *The Three Musketeers*

“Like a sculptor, if necessary,
carve a friend out of stone.
Realize that your inner sight is blind
and try to see a treasure in everyone.” — Rumi

“When there is no enemy within, the enemies
outside cannot hurt you.”
— Winston S. Churchill

“Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred
pianos all tuned to the same fork are
automatically tuned to each other? They are of
one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but
to another standard to which each one must
individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met
together, each one looking away to Christ, are in
heart nearer to each other than they could
possibly be, were they to become 'unity'
conscious and turn their eyes away from God to
strive for closer fellowship.”
— A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

“The Destiny of Man is to unite, not to divide. If
you keep on dividing you end up as a collection
of monkeys throwing nuts at each other out of
separate trees.” — T.H. White

“Each person you meet
is an aspect of yourself,
clamoring for love.”
— Eric Micha'el Leventhal

“Unity is a beast in itself. If a wolf sees two little
boys playing in the woods on one side, and a big
strong man on the other, he will go to the one
who stands alone.” — Suzy Kassem

“God is going to send you someone that will
rescue you. Then one day you will rescue them in
return and together your story will rescue others.
He has always been a God of rescues and a maker
of warrior's for his grace. You only need to
believe that you are part of something greater
than you know.” — Shannon L. Alder

Sunday, January 24

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
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

Monday, January 25

9:00 am Men's Newsgroup
 7:00 pm Creation Care

Tuesday, January 26

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study

Wednesday, January 27

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
 11:30 am First Things Volunteers
 1:00 pm Thursday Belles

Wednesday, January 27 continued

6:00 pm Midweek Feast – *Dinner*
 7:00 pm Midweek Feast – *Study*
 7:00 pm The Short-short Writers Group
 8:00 pm Midweek Feast - *Worship*

Thursday, January 28

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

Friday, January 29

11:30 am Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, January 31

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Pancake Brunch Fundraiser
 11:00 am Baptismal Buddies
 11:15 am First Forum
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Linnea D'Andrea and Richard Gardner	Gay Doolittle and Joan Lindsay
Greeters	Sharron & Jim McCullough	Bill & Caroline Brooks
Flower Delivery	Norm & Eleanor Shilling Susan & Gene Zeltmann	Keith Muse Kitty & George Trimarco
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Birdie Blackmer
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Jack Bestgen, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Jeanne Shoulder, Gene Zeltmann	Peggy King, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Tom Lindsay, Richard Rose, Gene Zeltmann
Reader	Amy Brule	Gene Rowland
Refreshments	Ellie Rowland	Lorraine Aumic
Ushers	Art Shultes (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin	George Davidson (head usher), Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough