

**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.



February 28, 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 in Lent

February 28, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

By Faith and Not By Sight Lloyd Larson

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Paige Convis

INTROIT *Rest in the Lord* Eric Thiman

* HYMN

Come to the Water John Foley

**O let all who thirst,
let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord:
without money, without price.
Why should you pay the price,
except for the Lord?**

**And let all who seek,
let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord:
without money, without strife.
Why should you spend your life,
except for the Lord?**

**And let all who toil,
let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary,
let them come to the Lord:
all who labor, without rest.
How can your soul find rest,
except for the Lord?**

**And let all the poor,
let them come to the water,
Bring the ones who are laden,**

**bring them all to the Lord:
bring the children without might.
Easy the load and light:
come to the Lord.**

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Beginning with silent prayer...

Greek Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
English Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

(from the United Church of Canada)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is
creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word
made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the
Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live
with respect in Creation, to love and serve
others, to seek justice and resist evil, to
proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our
judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life
beyond death, God is with us. We are not
alone. Thanks be to God.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee Jean Berger
The eyes of all wait upon thee;
and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand,
and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

Psalm 145: 15, 16

FIRST LESSON Liz Mastrianni

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Isaiah 55:1-9 (pg 685)*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 13:1-9 (pg 76)*

SERMON *A Bitter-Sweet Life* Paige Convis

*HYMN *I’ll Praise My Maker* #253

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lord Jesus, Think on Me Derek Healey

Lord Jesus, think on me
And purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free,
And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me
With care and woe opprest;
Let me thy loving servant be
And taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point thou the heav’nly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me
When flows the tempest high:
When on doth rush the enemy,
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
That, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
And share thy joy at last.

Synesius (375-430)
Allan W. Chatfield (1808-1896), tr.

*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 *We Give Thee but Thine Own* #428

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen Rob Landes

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Rev. Don Stake – 2/21/16

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 Harter, Mary MacKinnon, Marjorie Reid, Robert Traxler, Georgeina Kellam, Marjorie Todd, Dr. Joseph Burke, Mark Opdyke, James Scholtz, Carl Settle, Sally Murray, Sallie Wemple

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.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Carl Settle, by his wife Sue Settle.

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Mike Lamkin, piano

Mar 6: Nat Phipps Trio

Mar 13: 'Azzaam Hameed

Music Notes

The string parts for today's choral selections were arranged by Corine Salon. We are grateful to the instrumentalists: Beth Putnam and Julia Smith, Violin; Louise Dickenson and Edith Kliman, Viola; and Cathie-Jo Brun, Cello.

Kyrie 1987, Dinah Reindorf; arr. 2001 CRC Publications All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700

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: Science & Religion, Kirk Wegter-McNelly

Mar 6: Genghis Khan, Islam in Schenectady

Mar 13: Rev. Phil Grigsby, Hunger in Schenectady

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

Mar 6: Regular Meeting

Mar 13: *Mission Shareholder's Dinner*

First Futures Feedback Session – TODAY ***Our Children's Church Experience***

Do you have concerns or are you excited about the future of our children's programs with respect to the building campaign? Come share your thoughts with the Youth Ed committee right after worship in Poling Conference Room.

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.

A Stewardship Prayer

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in the whole of creation, we may honor you with our substance and be faithful stewards of your bounty. Amen

Church School

During the Lenten Season, Sundays will still have church school. However, on Palm Sunday and Easter, the children will remain in worship. Please also consider attending the Wednesday evening activities and service for Church School age children and their parents. Adam Mason & Jamie Ipsen have wonderful activities planned for your enjoyment! There will be small child care available in Kinderwyk during these times.

We will be discussing Lent in church school and the various activities that the children can engage in to be part of the Spirit of Lent and be closer to Christ. Please discuss these things at home with your children as well, so that they may share any family Lenten traditions that you already practice.

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

Our fourth meeting is **TODAY**, at noon on the Mezzanine. We will finish up the book, covering chapters 5 & 6. Contact either Mary Alice Jewett or Jeanne Shoulder with any questions. Lunch will be provided.

Goodbye February, Hello March!

As we march into March, let us not forget post-service refreshments. Please sign up in Assembly Hall. Thank you!

Johnson Library

New books adorn the display table this morning: If you haven't read any poetry lately, or even think you don't like poetry, try Anne Porter's *Living Things: Collected Poems*. Each one is like a meditation for the soul. Parents will be interested in *Connecting With Our Children; Guiding Principles for Parents in a Troubled World*, by Roberta Gilbert, M.D. *City of God; Faith in the Streets*, tells the events of an Ash Wednesday. The author is Sara Miles, who also wrote *Take This Bread*.

Faith Bookshop

In recognition of Heritage Month (Feb.), we have reduced the price of small framed pictures of First Reformed Church to \$12, plus tax, and are offering note cards featuring the stained glass windows in Poling Chapel at no charge.

Horizons Bible Study

We meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Poling Conference room. The March Bible study on Luke is stretching out its lessons as follows: March 1 is the second half of study guide chapter 6, March 8, chapter 7; March 15, chapter 8. No meeting March 22 (Holy Week) or 29.

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.

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. Please call Connie at 393-7061 for more info.

Avery Presents - March 4

This Friday at 7pm in Poling Chapel we will be featuring Marjorie Rush, soprano. Marjorie will be presenting a collection of Spirituals, Art, Songs, and Classics. She will be accompanied by Avery Tunngley on the Steinway grand piano. Admission is free and a reception will follow.

Waldensian Italian Dinner – March 5

On Saturday, March 5 at 6pm here at FRC, a group of visiting Italian pastors has asked to cook for our congregation an authentic Italian meal for free. For dessert, there will be a short talk about the Waldensian church in Italy. No reservations required. Please join us for a fabulous meal.

New Member Class – March 6

Dr. Levering leads a membership meeting which includes a tour of the church and a chat about who we are on the first Sunday of the month. It lasts 90 minutes and is held in the church office at 3pm. Next class March 6.

Stories for Racial Healing – March 8

Join us at our sister-congregation, Temple Gates of Heaven, on Tuesday, Mar 8, at 7pm for a continuation of the conversation started at First Forum last fall designed to deepen understanding of the nature of racism in our society. Built upon the successful approach by the Albany Society of Friends, the program uses the medium of story-telling to build societal bridges. Participants are invited to share stories of racism experienced or perceived and to reflect upon the lessons. Contact Joe Doolittle, aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com, 588-2801

WORD Service – Hope – March 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. The next service is Friday, March 11.

Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays, through March 16

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Lenten Programs

8pm ~ Lenten Evening Worship

Dinner

Dinners will be simple-but-hearty meals with provisions for vegetarian and vegan diners. To help cover the cost of the dinners a free will offering (\$5 per person/\$10 per family) is requested from those able to contribute.

Programs

To begin our spiritual journey to Easter Sunday on March 27 the Adult Education and Nurture Committee is sponsoring 3 group programs, weekly worship services, and dinners.

Activities for children will be provided by the Youth Education and Nurture Committee.

Childcare will be available in Kinderwyk.

Lenten Evening Worship

Following class and before heading home, join others for an abbreviated service of song, communion, and prayers.

Lenten Volunteers Needed

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.

Jesus in Jerusalem

A book study led by Covenanter and Pastoral Intern, Paige Convis, *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem*. Books (\$11) are available in the Faith Bookshop; check with Paige for reading assignment.

Science and Religion

March 2, 9, 16: *Faith & Physics: Duet or Duel?* Union College Visiting Professor of Science and Religion, Kirk Wegter-McNelly leads this exploration.

History Class

Presented by the Archives & Historical Concerns Committee. Charting Our Historical Voyage; Five Notable Ministers of our Congregation.

March 2: The Rev. William Elliot Griffis, D.D., L.H.D., played again by James Gonda, will be interviewed by Caroline Welch asking *16 Intriguing Questions for Our 16th Pastor*.

March 9: Author and Daily Gazette Reporter Bill Buell will discuss his research on the life of our 19th minister, the Rev. George R. Lunn, D.D. in *The Socialist Takeover of Schenectady*

March 16: Phil and Jane Falconer, who served on the 1993 Dorchester 50th Commemoration Committee, will share the life of our 21st minister, the Rev. Clark V. Poling: *Minister, Family Man, Friend and Chaplain*.

Lenten Series For Kids

Join the Wonderful Wednesday Wackers in the music office after dinner each Wednesday during Lent. Adam Mason and Jamie Ipsen will be teaching the group rhythms, riffs, and improvs using the Boomwhackers and Orff instruments. They hope to perform several spiritual and contemporary songs at the completion of the series. Regular attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. No musical experience is needed.



Sunday, February 28

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School K-5
- 11:00 am Refreshments
- 11:00 am Youth Ed. Feedback Session
- 11:15 am First Forum
- 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers
- 12:00 pm JAC Book Club
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, February 29

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

Tuesday, March 1

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
- 11:30 am Support & Care Mtg.
- 1:30 pm Worship Planning
- 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study

Wednesday, March 2

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

Wednesday, March 2, continued

- 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner
- 7:00 pm Lenten Classes
- 7:00 pm The Short-short Writers Group
- 8:00 pm Lenten Service

Thursday, March 3

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

Friday, March 4

- 7:00 pm First Friday Performance

Saturday, March 5

- 6:00 pm Waldensian Italian Dinner

Sunday, March 6

- 9:00 am Chancel Choir
- 10:00 am Worship/Communion
- 10:15 am Church School K-5
- 11:00 am Refreshments
- 11:00 am Chancel Guild
- 11:15 am First Forum
- 3:00 pm New Members Class
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes and Bill Rochelle	Gay Doolittle and William Martin
Greeters	Barbara Walton Jeanette & Don Davidson	
Flower Delivery	Bill Clock Larry & Faye Phillips	Maria Todd Cynthia Hamilton
Faith Bookshop	Committee Volunteer	Committee Volunteer
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Paige Convis	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	George Davidson, James Gonda, Liz Mastriani, Bill Rochelle, Maria Todd, Bill Ward	Christine Daniels, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Keith Muse, Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton, Gay Doolittle
Reader	Liz Mastriani	Nancy Davidson
Refreshments	Liz Mastriani	Gay Doolittle
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Doug Todd, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan	George Davidson (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin, Bill Martin