

***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.

March 27, 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

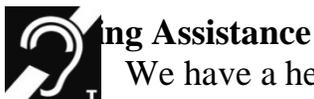
Past and current leaders we call 'Elders' walk in together at the beginning of worship and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the mission of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

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.

Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley
Brass and Timpani

Prelude and Fugue in C major J.S. Bach

This Joyful Eastertide Dutch Tune
arr. Sondra Tucker

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #123
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

*PRAYER (*unison*)
**God of new life, we thank you for the hope
you have given us through Jesus Christ.
Help us to celebrate your Easter triumph
with all of our life. Amen.**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)
(*from Our Song of Hope*)

**Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world. In
His death, the justice of God is established;
forgiveness of sin is proclaimed. On the
day of the resurrection, the tomb was
empty; His disciples saw Him; death was
defeated; new life had come. God's
purpose for the world was sealed.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Now the Green Blade Rises Noël Nouvelet
arr. Michael Burkhardt

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, I like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead my living Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

John Macleod Campbell Crumb

FIRST LESSON Paige Convis
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Isaiah 65:17-25 (pg 696)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Stacey Midge

SECOND LESSON *Luke 24:1-12 (pg 90)*

SERMON Bill Levering
The Specificity of Resurrection

*HYMN *Thine Is the Glory* #122

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Christ is Alive! Richard Wayne Dirksen

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Brian Wren

*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 #104
Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

*Anyone wishing to sing the Hallelujah
Chorus should come forward during this
hymn.*

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Hallelujah Chorus G.F. Handel

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

+ + +

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 eternal rest in previous years about this time:

LeRoy Jewett, Elenora Schweizer, Richard S. Arthur, Kenneth Mathes, Frida Kramer

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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Kinderwyk Parents

TODAY there will be no staff/volunteers in Kinderwyk to encourage you to bring your entire family into the service so they see the energetic & exciting side of church. We will have the Kinderwyk building open in case your small one needs a play break.

Church School

TODAY the children will remain in worship.

Music Notes

We are grateful for today's instrumentalists: David Hosley and Robert Hosley, trumpets; William Hoeprich and Jonathan Kusche, trombones; Andrew Janack, timpani.

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: Easter Reception; Assembly Hall

Apr 3: First Futures; Fred Daniels & Lisa Etkin

Apr 10: Celebration; Coffee & Conversation

Easter Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing

This offering is directed to 3 important causes. The Hunger Program works to alleviate hunger throughout the world and supports ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing. The Disaster Assistance Program provides disaster response locally, nationally, and throughout the world. Self-development of People partners with groups that assist those oppressed by poverty or social systems to help people take charge of their lives. Please share your resources to change lives with this offering.

Faith Bookshop

Need a last-minute Easter gift or memento for yourself? Look in the Bookshop. It's open today and has nice items for all ages.

Help Deliver Easter Flowers TODAY

We need volunteers to help deliver Easter flowers to recently-bereaved and home-bound church members. The flowers, an addressed card for each recipient, and a Sunday bulletin will be available for pick up after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. Help extend this lovely symbol of God's faithfulness.

Children's Eastertide Festival Next Sunday

It a busy day for families, so we are planning a huge event for children NEXT Sunday, April 3. This family celebration of Easter and spring will start at 11:30am and will include face painting, a bounce house, and an egg hunt at noon. Please feel free to bring friends, because we are advertising this widely and it is open to the community. Dress for the weather, since we will try to be outside.

Sweet April Showers Do Bring May Flowers - Thomas Tusser

Sweet post-service refreshments do bring many to Assembly Hall! Please sign up with your sweetheart or sweetest friend to host a Sunday in April or May.

Entered into Eternal Rest

Eleanor Jenkins – 3/16/16



Event	Date	Time	Notes
Avery Presents	Apr 1	7pm	1927 Silent Movie The Cat and the Canary. A haunted house mystery with suspense and over-acting. Good fun for all. Refreshments follow.
Family Spring Festival	Apr 3	11:30	Fun for children with face painting, a bounce house, and an egg hunt. Bring friends, since this is open to the community.
New Member Class	Apr 3	3pm	90 minute orientation with building tour.
Stories for Racial Healing	Apr 5	7pm	At Mt. Olivet Church. Joe Doolittle at 588-2801 for more info.
WORD Service	Apr 8	7pm	"Journey" is the theme of monthly story service.
Men's Breakfast	Apr 9	8am	Brad Lewis on "Intergenerational Accounting."
Levering Reception	Apr 10	11am	A reception for the Levering's and their new addition.
Thursday Music Club Spring Concert	Apr 10	2:30pm	The Mendelssohn Club will join the TMC for numbers from Broadway and Randall Thompson.
Tuesday Ladies	Apr 12		Connie Young at 393-7061 for more info.
Short-Short Writing Group	Apr 13	7pm	Writer's support group for short fiction. Contact James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com
Women's Group VII	Apr 15	10am	Daniel Carlson on his thesis: <i>To Serve the World We Touch</i>
Justice Action Book Club	Apr 17	12pm	<i>Waking Up White</i> . Lunch included. Mary Jewett, 355-8059 for more info.
Earth Sunday Frolic	Apr 17	12pm	Hike the Reist Wildlife Sanctuary in Niskayuna. Info and sign up in Assembly Hall.
Evening Circle	Apr 27	7pm	Holly Pajak on downsizing. Sally Clark: 377-2154
Prayer Shawl Group	Apr 28	10am	Held at Ronnie Bartholic's, 2305 Almeria Road
Most Every Week			
Youth Group	Sun	5pm	For grades 6-12, meets most Sundays (but not today) for food, fellowship, learning and service.
Jazz Vespers	Sun	5pm	Today: Scott Bassinson 4/3 Natt Phipps Trio plus Keith Pray 4/10 Tim Olsen, Ken Olsen, Bill Delaney, Tom D'Andrea
First Forum	Sun	11:15am	Most Sundays after worship briefing on important topics.
Men's Newsgroup	Mon	9am	A secular approach to the "Week in Review"
Klokken Ringers	Mon	7 pm	Rehearsal of bell group.
Horizons Bible Study	Tues	10am	Bible study skips Mar 29. New study on Acts begins Apr 5. Ask Peg Miller for more info.
Kerygma	Wed	10am	Regular Bible Study.
Archives	Wed	1pm	Working on our history.
Midweek Worship and Meal	Wed	6pm	Our regular Wednesday program takes a week off and starts back April 6 . 6pm Meal sharing tasty, often vegetarian food. 7pm Worship of reflective songs, prayers and communion.
Stitch Group	Thur	10am	Fabric crafters. Call Joan Lindsay, 399-3153
Breakfast Bible Bunch	Thur	7:30am	Heretics and disagreement. Not recommended.
Chancel Choir	Thur	7:30pm	Rehearsal for all interested.

The sanctuary and the chapels are adorned to the glory of God and in loving memory or in honor of:

- Our parents, Richard and Ruth Arthur, and P.J. and Edith Brownell by Dick and Judy Arthur
- Russell V. Jones and Dr. Charles J. Assini by the Assini family
- Carol Welch by the Assini family
- Grandpa Al Holland and my uncles, Alan and Joe Attanasio by Emily Attanasio
- David by Audrey Bain and Family
- Robert Bruce Crandell by his wife, Janet
- Parents and Siblings by Gay and Joe Doolittle
- Bill Dotter by his wife Elsie and children
- Carlton W. Dyer by his wife, Janice B. Dyer
- Warren D. and Ethel F. Barrett by their children, grandchildren and great grandson
- Rudolph and Therese Mahlberg and Paul Erickson by the Erickson family
- William and Louise Stange and Sam Croce by Marlene Risseuw and the Erickson's
- Charles Greskovich by Maria, Chad, and Ann
- Melissa Greskovich by Maria, Chad, and Ann
- Loved ones by Cynthia Hamilton

- LeRoy Jewett by his family
- Tom and Viola Ruckman, Tom Ruckman, Jr., Ross and Hazel Marrs by the Kiesow and Tobin families.
- Robert Matz and Meg Kester by Mary Matz
- Mark McDermott by his wife Gini
- Richard McLane by his wife Bev, children, grandchildren and great grand children
- Dorothy and Edmund Sanderson and Neil Moynihan by Sandy Moynihan
- Loved ones by Anne Peterson
- Our Parents by Ellie and Gene Rowland
- Pat Shaw Palmer by her sister, Tricia Shaw and Gerry Myers
- Margaret (Peg) Shultes by her family
- Frank Weisner by his daughter Pamela Silvano
- Eldon Springsted by his wife, Elaine
- Daniel J. Thuener by his wife Vernetta and Family
- Donald Troost and Dena Van Heyningen by Carol Troost and Deborah Troost
- Clarence and Sara Linder, Claribel Westcott Linder by the Walravens
- Loved ones by Martha Winchester

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Tom Burgoyne & Bill Rochelle	Claire Hughes and Vickie McGowan-Horan
Greeters	Lisa, Jacob and Julia Etkin	Sally & Bob Clark
Flower Delivery	Easter Flower Delivery	Gini McDermott Sally & Jack Bestgen
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Committee Member
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, Gay Doolittle, Christine Daniels, Jerry Griggs, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose,	Art Casey, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, James Gonda, Mary Jewett, Gene Zeltmann, Brad & Cathy Lewis
Reader	Paige Convis	Amy Brule
Refreshments	Easter Reception	
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Jim & Sharron McCullough, Ralph Rosenthal	Bill Clock (head usher), Lou Acquasanta Jacob Etkin, Nancy Wainwright

“Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.”

“What we have at the moment isn't as the old liturgies used to say, 'the sure & certain hope of the resurrection of the dead,' but a vague and fuzzy optimism that somehow things may work out in the end.”

“Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present.” — N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*

“Only after disaster can we be resurrected.”
— Chuck Palahniuk, *Fight Club*

“If you live in the dark a long time and the sun comes out, you do not cross into it whistling. There's an initial uprush of relief at first, then—for me, anyway- a profound dislocation. My old assumptions about how the world works are buried, yet my new ones aren't yet operational. There's been a death of sorts, but without a few days in hell, no resurrection is possible.” — Mary Karr, *Lit*

“For me the most radical demand of Christian faith lies in summoning the courage to say yes to the present risenness of Jesus Christ.” — Brennan Manning, *Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging*

“Hold fast to dreams,
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird,
That cannot fly.”
— Langston Hughes

“Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.”
— Emily Dickinson

“They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.”
— Tom Bodett

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”
— Pope John Paul II

“Remember Jesus of Nazareth, staggering on broken feet out of the tomb toward the Resurrection, bearing on his body the proud insignia of the defeat which is victory, the magnificent defeat of the human soul at the hands of God.” — Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

“If anyone or anything tries to curse or kill the Goodness at the Center of all things, it will just keep coming back to life. Forever Easter.”
— David Housholder, *The Blackberry Bush*

“Easter is a time where we are reminded that conclusions in [man's] mind are beginnings in God's plan.” — Craig D. Lounsbrough, *Flecks of Gold on a Path of Stone: Simple Truths for Profound Living*

“These special holidays give rise to various liturgical calendars that suggest we should mark our days not only with the cycles of the moon and seasons, but also with occasions to tell our children the stories of our faith community's past so that this past will have a future, and so that our ancient way and its practices will be rediscovered and renewed every year.”
— Brian D. McLaren, *Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices*

“The cross unerringly exposes this stunningly marvelous and abruptly exquisite declaration that God will not let this single life of mine, with all of its grotesque maladies and pathetic filth pass into oblivion without unflinchingly declaring that my life carries a value worth the expenditure of His. And if I dare look upon the cross, I am utterly perplexed but wholly enraptured by the immensity of such a love as this.” — Craig D. Lounsbrough

“Easter. The only time it's okay to put all of your eggs in one basket!”

