

***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.

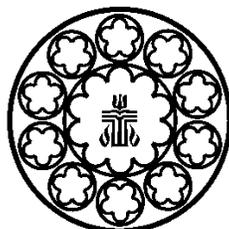
Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly 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 Lord is my shepherd.
Feed my sheep.
I shall not want.
Feed my sheep.
He makes me lie down.
Feed my sheep.

April 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.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 10, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Chorale-Prelude on "Euraclydon" George Blake

Prelude in G minor J. S. Bach

Allegro moderato Johann Rinck

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Alleluia*

*HYMN *God Is Here!* #461

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

God of new life, we thank you for the hope you have given us through Jesus Christ. We confess that we do not always live into that hope. We are killed by fear, anxiety, and shame. Help us to live fully the resurrection life you have given us. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

**Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Hallelujah! Halle, lu-jah!**

*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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rose Elaine Lawrence

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES

Jessica and Michael Lawrence

PRAYER AND BAPTISMAL COVENANT

BLESSING AND WELCOME

Welcome our sister in Christ.

Joyfully we receive you. Join us to give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Come to the Water John B. Foley, S.J.
Louise Dickenson, viola

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 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.

FIRST LESSON

Brad Lewis

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

Psalms 30 (pg 505)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 21:1-19 (pg 115)*

SERMON *4 Ways to Feed Sheep* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Baptized in Water* #492

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I Watched My Savior Kingsfold
Arr. Craig Courtney
Don Lester, bass

I watched my Savior bleed away,
Sin nailed Him to a cross.
The sky turned black, though it was day;
all thought His cause was lost.

They put Him in a sinner's tomb
and sealed it with a stone.
My hope descended in that grave,
all earthly plans undone.

Three days then passed of utter doubt;
what good comes from the dead?
The answer came with angel shout,
"He rose just as He said!"

The stone was moved; my Lord was gone,
along with all my sin.
My hope ascended with the Son;
now I believe in Him.

Sure grace now seals my heart to Christ,
His blood has claimed my soul,
full vict'ry won by sacrifice
has made my spirit whole.

No longer can I doubt His love,
nor question Heaven's plan.
King Jesus lives and so shall I,
enthroned at God's right hand. Amen.

Bryan Chapell

*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 #538
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Robert Bennett

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

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:

Duncan Mewherter, Ann Matthews, Madelyn Young, Garfield Williamson, Susan E. Shepherd, Barbara Weber

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.

Reception for The Levering Family

Abby, Bill Levering's wife, bore a child named Alice Abigail Levering on March 1. Abby was the gestational carrier for Bill's son Ryan and his wife Terrill, who are Alice's parents. They will all be at the reception for you to greet. Please join us in Assembly Hall, as together we celebrate the birth of Alice. All are welcome!

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.

In Celebration

The flowers this morning are in celebration of a new life in the Levering family.

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.

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: Celebration; Coffee & Conversation

Apr 17: *To Serve the World We Touch;*

Rev. Daniel Carlson

Apr 24: *Out of the Ashes, Where a Seed Finds*

Life – 24 min. film, followed by a discussion led by Wales Brown

Faith Bookshop

There's a delightful read available in the Bookshop: "The Beverwyck Anthology, Volume 2." Stop in, pick one up (no charge) and enjoy the 1,000 words- or- less offerings. No doubt you know some of the contributors.

Horizons Bible Study

We meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Poling Conference room. The Bible study on Acts began on April 5. Ask Peg Miller for more info.

First Futures update

By now you have received the April edition of First Things. In it is a discussion of the Phase 2 Design process for the First Futures Campaign. It describes a series of upcoming meetings with the architect and how you can offer your thoughts and suggestions. During the week of April 11, a meeting will be held on the new Fellowship Hall and the kitchen. During the week of April 18 the topic will be Education. Look for details in First Things, and forward your thoughts to the Phase 2 Design team members so they can represent you.

Looking For Something To Read?

Great News! The second edition of *The Beverwyck Anthology*, First Reformed's literary magazine, is now available in the bookstore. Packed with fiction, nonfiction, photography, and poems; stop in today for your personal copy!

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, April 17, and 24: Regular Meetings

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Tim & Ken Olsen, Bill Delaney, Tom D'Andrea

Apr 17: Peg Delaney Trio, Jim Corigliano, sax

Apr 24: Steve Lambert, Dave Gleason, Mike Lawrence, Tom D'Andrea

Thursday Musical Club and Mendelssohn Club Concert - TODAY

The Thursday Musical Club Chorus will present its Spring Concert this afternoon at 2:30pm in the FRC sanctuary. Guest artists are members of the Mendelssohn Club. Both groups will feature songs from Broadway musicals and the two groups will combine for selections from Randall Thompson's *Frostiana* based on the poetry of Robert Frost.

Please Sign Up in Assembly Hall



Midweek Meal & Worship on Wednesdays

All who are hungry for free, good food and fellowship are invited to a homemade Eastertide feast each Wednesday of April in Assembly Hall at 6pm. A brief contemplative worship service including reflective songs, scripture, prayer, and communion follows at 7pm in Poling Chapel.

Stacey Midge on Study Leave

Stacey will be out of the office from April 15 through May 21 on extended study leave. Although her recent wrist injury and surgery have changed her plans somewhat, she still intends to spend most of that time in the UK finishing a book project that has been in progress for a while, about responding to increasingly secular culture through a broadened sacramental worldview. Bill, Daniel, and Paige will be covering Stacey's normal areas of ministry during her absence.

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.

The Short-Short Writing Group – April 12

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 Gonda for more info, at jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Group VII – April 15

Group VII has their next third Friday of the month 10am meeting on April 15 in the Dirck Romeyn room. The program will be *To Serve the World We Touch*, presented by Rev. Daniel Carlson.

Tax Relief Game Night! We all need a break.

Please join us for a night of fun and games for all ages. This intergenerational gathering will begin on **Friday, April 15** with a potluck at 6:30pm in Assembly Hall followed by games at 7pm. Please bring a dish or dessert to share. Bring a game (or two) that you would like to play, and feel free to bring a friend. Need more information? Call or e-mail Barbara Mancuso at 381-8860 or brmancuso@yahoo.com

Earth Sunday Frolic - April 17

We'll head out from the church a little after noon for H.G. Reist Wildlife Sanctuary. Located in Niskayuna, this 111-acre set apart area contains several miles of well marked/maintained trails. Sign up in Assembly Hall for this Creation Care Commission sponsored inter-generational outing.

Justice Action Council Book Club – April 17

The next Sunday Lunch and Book Discussion will be meeting April 17 and again on May 1, at noon in Assembly Hall. We will be discussing *Waking Up White* and *Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. Copies of *Waking Up White* are available from Mary Jewett. All are welcome! No RSVP required, but if you know you will be attending, a general count for the luncheon would be helpful. If you have questions or wish to confirm, you can contact Mary Jewett 355-8059 or Jeanne Shoulder (781) 724-5030.

Tuesday Ladies – April 19

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. Please call Connie at 393-7061 for more information.

New Kerygma Conversation – April 20

A video-based exploration and discussion of the significance of biblical prophets to contemporary culture begins Wednesday, April 20, 9:30-11am. This six-week course, featuring OT scholar, Walter Brueggemann, assumes no previous knowledge and includes a participant's resource book (\$10). Contact class leader, Rev. Daniel Carlson, ASAP, to indicate your intention to attend and order a book; a copy is available for perusal (not purchase) in Faith Bookshop.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic, 2305 Almeria Road.

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.

Fellowship Luncheon – April 29

Join us on April 29 at 11:45am. Our speaker, John Kucij, will share with us experiences ranging from Peace Corp volunteers to their latest project in Liberia. This is our last luncheon until September. Just bring a dish to share, sit back, and enjoy. Please sign up, either by phone (346- 0304) or in Assembly Hall.

Annual CROP Walk – May 1

On Sunday, May 1, the annual Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) walk will take place (12:30pm registration, 1:20pm opening ceremony, 1:30pm walk starts), beginning at Emmanuel Friedens Church and winding 5k through Schenectady. The proceeds support hunger-fighting efforts around the world, with 25% going to local food pantries, Community Crisis Network, and Senior Meals. Want to walk? Get a donation form from the church office. Non-walkers can simply drop off their donations at the church office. Checks should be made out to "CWS/CROP." Checks eligible for GE Matching should be made out to SICM. Contact Cathy Lewis if you have ????

+ + +

“The Church does not dispense the sacrament of baptism in order to acquire for herself an increase in membership but in order to consecrate a human being to God and to communicate to that person the divine gift of birth from God.” — Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Unless You Become Like This Child*

“How do you know yourself to be a child of God in fact as well as in name?”

Answer: “Because I am baptized in the name of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” - John Calvin (from his catechism)”

“Thus the vocation of the baptized person is a simple thing: it is to live from day to day, whatever the day brings, in this extraordinary unity, in this reconciliation with all people and all things, in this knowledge that death has no more power, in this truth of the resurrection. It does not really matter exactly what a Christian does from day to day. What matters is that whatever one does is done in honor of one’s own life, given to one by God and restored to one in Christ, and in honor of the life into which all humans and all things are called.

The only thing that really matters to live in Christ instead of death”

— William Stringfellow, *Instead of Death: New and Expanded Edition*

“Love is tears of joy, this is the baptism of fingers. (L'amour, c'est larme de joie, - C'est le baptême des doigts)” — Charles de Leusse

“You know it’s a real salvation when Baptists use cold water.” — Jared Brock

“Living in the present moment is the recurring baptism of the soul, forever purifying every new day with a new you.” — Alaric Hutchinson, *Living Peace*

Sunday, April 10

10:00 am..... Worship
 10:15 am..... Church School K-5
 11:00 am..... Levering Reception
 11:15 am..... Kirk Ringers & Singers
 12:00 pm..... Choir Meeting
 2:30 pm..... Thursday Musical Club Concert
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers
 5:00 pm..... Youth Group

Monday, April 11

9:00 am..... Mens Newsgroup
 7:00 pm..... Klokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, April 12

10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
 10:00 am..... Horizons Bible Study
 6:30 pm..... Standing Committee Meetings
 7:30 pm..... Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, April 13

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

Wednesday, April 13 continued

6:00 pm..... Midweek Meal
 7:00 pm..... Midweek Worship
 8:00 pm..... Short-short Writing Group

Thursday, April 14

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

Friday, April 15

10:00 am..... Group VII
 6:30 pm..... Game Night

Saturday, April 16

2:00 pm..... Jean Brown Memorial Service

Sunday, April 17

9:00 am..... Chancel Choir
 10:00 am..... Worship
 11:00 am..... Refreshments
 11:15 am..... First Forum
 12:00 pm..... JAC Book Club
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers
 5:00 pm..... Youth Group

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Dave Hjelm and Cathy Lewis	Bill Martin and Bill Rochelle
Greeters	Norma and Dale Brown	Ellie and Gene Rowland
Flower Delivery	Joanne Bedell Sally and Jack Bestgen	Heather and Andy Chestnut Nancy and George Davidson
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Committee Member
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	George Davidson, Gay Doolittle, Margaret Schadler, Jeanne Shoulder, Brad & Cathy Lewis	Darwin Brudos, Art Casey, Liz Mastrianni, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose, Gene Zeltmann
Reader	Brad Lewis	Nancy Wainwright
Refreshments	Alice Reception	Ann Hicks and Ann Bish
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Christine & Vilhelm Lund, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan	George Davidson (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin, Bill Martin