

***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.

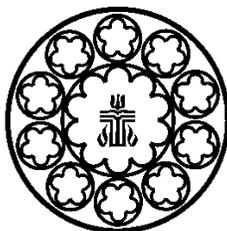
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



April 17, 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 LESSON Nancy Wainwright
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Numbers 35:33-34 (pg1 56)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Genesis 2:15 (pg 2)*

SERMON *Terms of the Lease* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Touch the Earth Lightly*
Shirley Erena Murray
music Colin Gibson

(choir)
Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sonata Pietro Locatelli (1695-1764)
Adagio

MINUTE FOR MISSION Cathy Lewis
CROP Walk

*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 #267
All Things Bright and Beautiful

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Greek

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:

Iris Read, Kouan Fong, Peg R. Miller,
Kathryn Pontius, Marcia Todd,
Rennie Downing, Margaret Powers,
Lewis Carosella, Charlotte Hubbard

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.

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: *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

May 1: *Talk Back*, Bill Levering

Earth Sunday Frolic - TODAY

After First Forum we'll leave from the main parking lot for the H.G. Reist Wildlife Sanctuary. Located in Niskayuna, this 111-acre set apart area contains several miles of well marked/maintained trails.

Earth Sunday Seedlings - TODAY

Members of our Creation Care Commission will be distributing free tree seedlings following worship today. If you can join us in this timely action whereby we help tend and keep God's good earth, planting trees!

Lost and Found Basket in Narthex

Current contents include: purple scarf, purple cane, grey sweatshirt and a water bottle.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Peg Delaney Trio, Jim Corigliano, sax

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

Nominations for Consistory

The Nominating Committee of FRC is charged to nominate Elders and Deacons to serve two-year Consistory terms. The Committee begins its work soliciting recommendations from the congregation for Elder and Deacon Candidates. There are yellow nomination forms located at the various entrances of the Sanctuary or you may write your suggestions on a white pew card.

Justice Action Council Book Club – TODAY

The next Sunday Lunch and Book Discussion will be meeting today 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.

Johnson Memorial Library

New books for children are on the display table this morning: *Psalms for Young Children* by Marie-Helene Delval are charmingly illustrated by Arno. Parents who are familiar with the "Peaceful Warrior" children's books by Dan Millman will like this *Quest for the Crystal Castle* for older children who like to read about overcoming obstacles. For little ones, there is *Waiting*, written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes. The *Loveable in the Kingdom of Self-Esteem*, by Diana Loomans, encourages young children with lively poetry and lavish illustrations by Kim Howard.

Music Notes

We welcome Katherine Storms to the organ bench today.

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 24, May 1: Regular Meetings

Horizons Bible Study

The study on the book of Acts will continue on Tuesday mornings at 10 in the Poling conference room through June 7th. Anyone interested is welcome - see Peg Miller for a study guide.

Faith Bookshop

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 free of charge!

First Futures update

In the mail this week you should have received the Make Room campaign literature. We encourage you to make a generous pledge to the building campaign. Thank you! The Phase 2 Design process is underway, and the mailed literature includes details about it. During the week of **April 18** a meeting will be held regarding **Education**. During the week of April 25 the topic will be Music. Be sure to forward your thoughts to the Phase 2 Design team members so they can represent you!

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.

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.

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.

The Short-Short Writing Group – April 26

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.

Evening Circle – April 27

The April meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 at 7pm. Holly Pajak of Senior Moves by Design NY will present her ideas on downsizing and/or room design. We'll meet at Sally Clark's. Please call for directions (377-2154) and let her know that you'll be attending!!

Prayer Shawl Knit Group – April 28

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

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 CROP Walk will take place beginning at Emmanuel Friedens Church and winding 5k through Schenectady. 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 ????

Shepherds Needed to Feed the Sheep – May 9

FRC is committed to provide lunch at the Salvation Army on: May 9, June 8, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, and Nov. 9 in 2016. Everyone can do a part of the project: peel, cut, and cook 5lbs of carrots, potatoes, celery, or onions; bag, and put in the freezer at church. Freeze any leftovers, bag, and put in the freezer. Join three friendly servers at the Salvation Army from 11am-1:30pm. We have fun! Contact Connie Young at 393-7061 or cyoung50@nycap.rr.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.

Please Sign Up in Assembly Hall for May!



“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”
— Theodore Roosevelt

“Oh Beautiful for smoggy skies, insecticided grain, For strip-mined mountain's majesty above the asphalt plain. America, America, man sheds his waste on thee, And hides the pines with billboard signs, from sea to oily sea.”
— George Carlin

“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.”
— Franklin D. Roosevelt

“It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.”
— Ansel Adams

“The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.”
— Pope John Paul II

“We're in a giant car heading towards a brick wall and everyone's arguing over where they're going to sit” — David Suzuki

“Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries.” — Jimmy Carter

“Understand: the task of an activist is not to negotiate systems of power with as much personal integrity as possible--it's to dismantle those systems.” — Lierre Keith, *The Vegetarian Myth: Food, Justice, and Sustainability*

Our congregation is committed, through formal action and informal intention, to the joyful and imperative care of creation.
— Rev. Dr. Bill Levering

Sunday, April 17

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
 12:00 pm JAC Book Club
 12:10 pm Earth Sunday Frolic
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
 5:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, April 18

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

Tuesday, April 19

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study

Wednesday, April 20

9:30 am Kerygma
 1:00 pm Thursday Belles
 6:00 pm Midweek Meal
 7:00 pm Midweek Worship

Thursday, April 21

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

Sunday, April 24

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
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
 5:00 pm Youth Group

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Bill Martin and Bill Rochelle	Lyn Gordon and Joan Lindsay
Greeters	Ellie and Gene Rowland	Brad and Cathy Lewis
Flower Delivery	Heather and Andy Chestnut Nancy and George Davidson	Ellie and Gene Rowland Judy and Richard Arthur
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Paige Convis	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, Art Casey, Liz Mastrianni, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose, Gene Zeltmann	George Davidson, Peggy King Joyce & Jerry Griggs, Del Pierce, Margaret Schadler,
Reader	Nancy Wainwright	Jim Miller
Refreshments	Ann Hicks and Ann Bish	Lorraine Aumic and Ginny Laumeister
Ushers	George Davidson (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin, Bill Martin	Jim McCullough (head usher), Don & Jeanette Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Sharron McCullough