

***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.

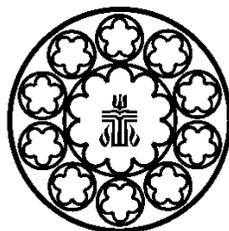
Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly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

Ten ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. *Proverbs 18*
2. Speak without accusing. *James 1:19*
3. Give without sparing. *Proverbs 21:26*
4. Pray without ceasing. *Colossians 1:9*
5. Answer without arguing. *Proverbs 17:1*
6. Share without pretending. *Ephesians 4:15*
7. Enjoy without complaint. *Philippians 2:14*
8. Trust without wavering. *Corinthians 13:7*
9. Forgive without punishing. *Colossians 3:13*
10. Promise without forgetting. *Proverbs 13:12*

April 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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Katherine Storms, organist

Dietrich Buxtehude

Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist

“We pray now to the Holy Spirit”

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Jubilate Deo* Michael Praetorius

*HYMN *Earth and All Stars* #458

*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*)

The Apostles' Creed – Traditional version

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into

heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Blythe Czwakiel

Elena Gieseler, Anastasia Czwakiel

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES

PRAYER AND BAPTISMAL COVENANT

BLESSING AND WELCOME

Welcome our sisters 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

Thee we Adore

Plainchant Tune

Arr. Ralph M. Johnson

Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee,
Who in thy sacrament art pleased to be;
Both flesh and Spirit in thy presence fail,
Yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.

Fountain of goodness, Jesus Lord and God:
Cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
Increase our faith and love, that we may know
The hope and peace which from thy presence hail.

O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see:
May what we thirst for soon our portion be,
To gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
The vision of thy glory and thy grace. Amen.

Thomas Aquinas (1227-1274)

FIRST LESSON

Jim Miller

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Revelation 21:1-6 (pg259)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John 13:31-35 (pg 108)

SERMON

Bill Levering

The Call to Change Our Feelings

*HYMN *They'll Know We Are Christians*

Peter Scholtes

**We are one in the Spirit,
 we are one in the Lord
 We are one in the Spirit,
 we are one in the Lord
 And we pray that all unity
 may one day be restored
 And they'll know we are Christians
 by our love, by our love
 They will know we are Christians
 by our love**

**We will work with each other, we will
 work side by side
 We will work with each other,
 we will work side by side
 And we'll guard each one's dignity
 and save each one's pride
 And they'll know we are Christians
 by our love, by our love
 They will know we are Christians
 by our love**

**We will walk with each other,
 we will walk hand in hand
 And together we'll spread the news
 that God is in our land
 And they'll know we are Christians
 by our love, by our love
 They will know we are Christians
 by our love**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Klokken Tower Ringers*
There is a Balm in Gilead Arr. Patricia Cota

*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 *O Perfect Love*

**O perfect love,
 all human thought transcending,
 Lowly we stand in prayer
 before thy throne,
 That we may find a love
 that knows no ending
 Reflecting care and peace
 that is your own.**

**O perfect life,
 bring forth our full assurance
 Of tender charity and steadfast faith,
 Of patient hope and quiet brave endurance
 With childlike trust that fears
 not pain nor death.**

**Grant us the joy
 that brightens earthly sorrow.
 Grant us the peace
 that calms all earthly strife.
 Be with us now; help us to face tomorrow.
 Show us the way to timeless love and life.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen

Robert Bennett

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of husband and father Glenn Winchester by his family.

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:

*Rachel Rowe, Barbara Cockerham,
Rev. Dr. J. Dean Dykstra, Patricia Dykstra,
Dae Gillespie, Leonard Grupe, James Tillma,
Garrett Veeder*

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.

Music Notes

We welcome Katherine Storms to the organ bench today.

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.

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, May 1, May 8: Regular Meetings

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: *Out of the Ashes, Where a Seed Finds Life*
24 min. film/discussion led by Wales Brown

May 1: *Talk Back*, Bill Levering

May 8: Mother's Day, *Coffee & Conversation*

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: 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.

When We Give Cheerfully and Accept

Gratefully, Everyone Is Blessed - *Maya Angelou*

We are blessed indeed as we gather for post-service refreshments! If you have never done so, please consider hosting a Sunday in May or June. Instructions are located near the sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. Many thanks!

Get well cards and notes for Linda Witkowski

Send to Massachusetts General Hospital, Ellison Building, 19th fl, 55 Fruit St, Boston, MA 02114

Faith Bookshop

Today is the last Sunday donated jewelry will be for sale in the Bookshop. Copies of "The Beverwyck Anthology", a booklet of short writings, poems and photographs, are available in the Shop, free of charge. Most likely you know some of the contributors.

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.

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.

Make Room Campaign Update

We are pleased to report that the Make Room Campaign has received pledges totaling \$671,300 thus far, on our way to \$1 million. Thank you! We commend your generosity! We hope to finalize the campaign on May 15, and if you would like to speak with Fred Daniels or Lisa Etkin about your pledge please do not hesitate. **The Phase 2 Design process** is still underway, and during the week of **April 25** a meeting will be held regarding **Music**. During the week of May 2 the topic will be Community Use, Access, and Exterior Campus. 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. She 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 and Daniel 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

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.

The Short-Short Writing Group – April 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 Gonda for more info, at jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Evening Circle – April 27

Wednesday 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 ????

Justice Action Council Book Club – May 1

The next Sunday Lunch and Book Discussion will be meeting 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.

Avery Presents – May 6

On May 6 at 7pm in the Sanctuary: *Ensemble Pastourelle* featuring Corine Salon, soprano; Michael Clement, pianist; Susan Martula, first clarinetist of the Albany Symphony; and guest Liisa Grigorov, flutist will present a concert of music by composers Bernstein, Canteloube, Hundley, Massenet, Rachmaninoff, Rodrigo, and Saens Saint. The concert is free and a reception will follow.

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. 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.

Lost and Found Basket in Narthex

Current contents include: grey sweatshirt, grey winter hat, and a Vail water bottle.

+ + +

The Greeks were smarter than us, and they had different words for different kinds of love. There's storge, which is family love. That's not us. There's eros, which is sexual love. There's philia, which is brotherly love. And then there's the highest form. Agape." He pronounced it 'aga-pay'. "That's transcendental love, like when you place the other person above yourself."
Bill Konigsberg

"What is this love that endures decades, passes on sleep, and resists death to give one kiss? Call it agape love, a love that bears a semblance of God's." Max Lucado

"Agape doesn't love somebody because they're worthy. Agape makes them worthy by the strength and power of its love. Agape doesn't love somebody because they're beautiful. Agape loves in such a way that it makes them beautiful." Rob Bell

"Agape" is loving a person for exactly who they are - not who we hope they'll become with enough fixing. It's this idea that every person has their layers, so you can never confine a person to only what you know about them from the first glance. It's stacked on the premise that to love anyone is to hope in them always."

— Hannah Brencher, *If You Find This Letter*

"How can we know something that surpasses or is beyond knowledge? How can we know something that is beyond words?... We can and do use words to point to all of our human experiences. However, the experience of "God as Agape" is beyond words, beyond the limitations of our minds."

— John David Geib, *Beyond Beliefs*

"Everywhere you find yourself a great opportunity for you to manifest agape love and give. This must be your lifestyle every day."

— Paul Silway

"Romance is like a white horse, strong, beautiful, and large. When agape love and romance merge that horse gets its wings and becomes a Pegasus. Both horse and Pegasus can go far but only the Pegasus is immortal, can soar beyond the stars thus true love is born." Cianna

"Friendship evangelism' is the freedom to Agape others without an agenda." —Young

Sunday, April 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
 5:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, April 25

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

Tuesday, April 26

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

Wednesday, April 27

9:30 am Kerygma
 11:30 am First Things Volunteers
 6:00 pm Midweek Meal
 7:00 pm Midweek Worship
 7:00 pm The Short-short Writing Group

Thursday, April 28

7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00 am Stitch Group
 6:00 pm First Futures Meeting - *Music*
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 29

11:45am Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, May 1

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship/Communion
 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
 12:30 pm CROP Walk Registration
 1:20 pm CROP Walk Opening Ceremony
 1:30 pm CROP Walk Starts
 3:00 pm New Member Class
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
 5:00 pm Youth Group

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Lyn Gordon and Joan Lindsay	Bill Martin and Nancy Wainwright
Greeters	Brad and Cathy Lewis	Norma and Dale Brown
Flower Delivery	Ellie and Gene Rowland Judy and Richard Arthur	Mary Jewett and Del Pierce
Faith Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Committee Member
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	George Davidson, Peggy King Joyce & Jerry Griggs, Del Pierce, Margaret Schadler	Christine Daniels, James Gonda , Jeanette Davidson, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Bill Rochelle, Barbara Walton, Gene Zeltmann
Reader	Jim Miller	Liz Mastrianni
Refreshments	Lorraine Aumic and Ginny Laumeister	Volunteers Needed
Ushers	Jim McCullough (head usher), Don & Jeanette Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Sharron McCullough	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal