

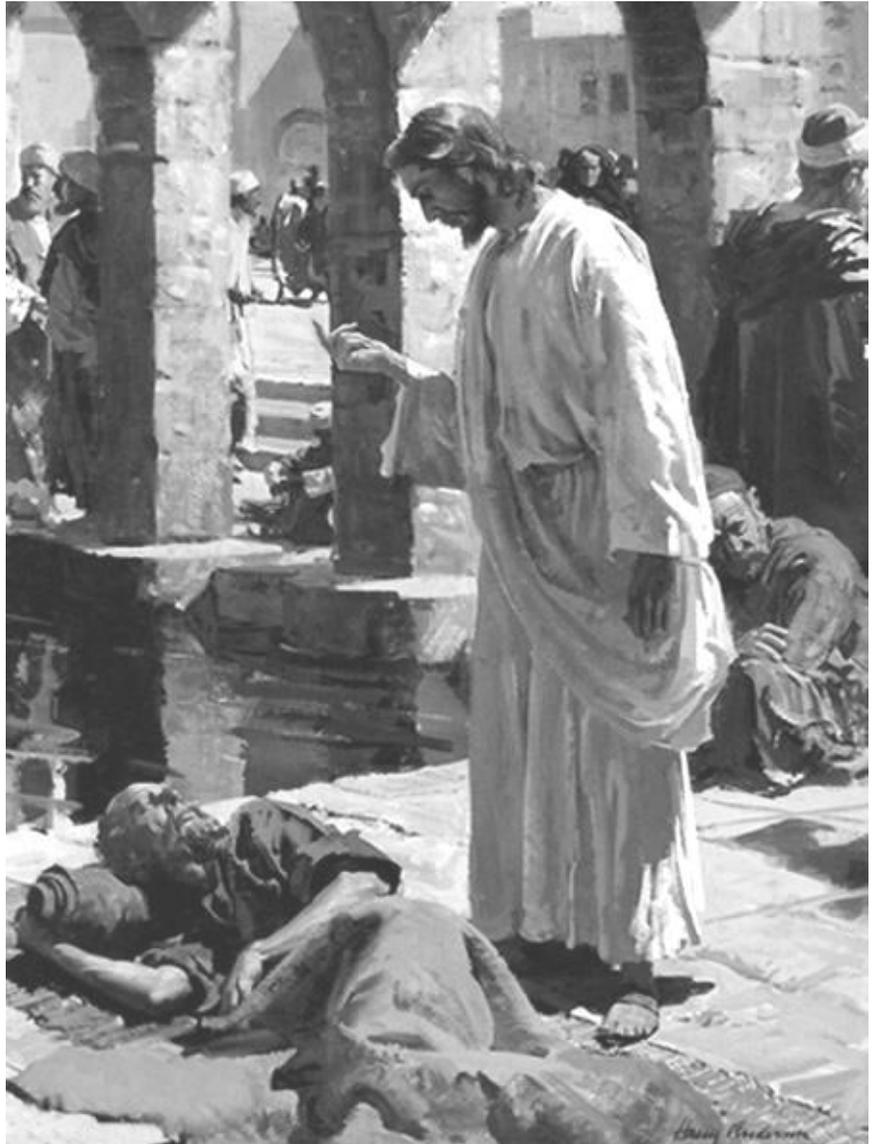
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.

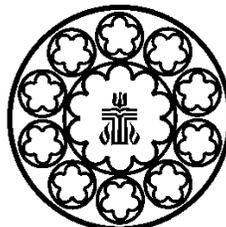
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



May 1, 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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Lisa Backman, Nancy Davidson, Kate Rose
Chris Kuchar, piano, Emma Cotter, oboe

Suscepit Israel from Magnificat BWV 243

J.S. Bach

Suscepit Israel puerum suum

He has taken under his protection Israel his boy,
recordatus misericordiae suae.

And remembered his mercy.

Luke 1:46-55

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *This is the Day* Lansom Demmings

*HYMN *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* #430

*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.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name Tom Fettke

When I gaze into the night skies

and see the work of your fingers;

The moon and stars suspended in space.

Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him?

You have given man a crown of glory and honor,

And have made him a little lower than the angels.

You have put him in charge of all creation;

The beasts of the field,

The birds of the air,

The fish of the sea,

But what is man that you are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory

of your name transcends the earth and

fills the heavens.

O Lord, our God, little children praise

you perfectly, and so would we.

Alleluia.

Linda Lee Johnson

FIRST LESSON

Liz Mastrianni

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy

Spirit. **Amen.** *Revelation 21:10, 22:1-5*

(pg259)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John5:1-9 (pg 96)

SERMON

Bill Levering

The Dangers and Necessity of Tough Love

*HYMN *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* #411

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Creation Will Be at Peace

Anna Laura Page

In the holy mountain of the Lord,

all war and strife will cease;

In the holy mountain of the Lord,
creation will be at peace.

The wolf will lie down with the lamb,
the cow and bear will feed,
their young will play together;
a little child will lead.

The leopard and goat will graze,
the lion will feed on straw,
They will war no more,
they will war no more,
a child will lead them all.

J. Paul Williams

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

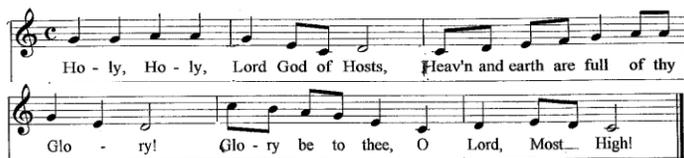
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*) Carl Steubing



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

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 *Come, Labor On* #415

*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:

Dorothy Greenwood, Harold Cassidy, Katherine Studer, Leroy Moody, Clarence H. Linder Sr., Erin Falconer Cullen, Elizabeth Paine

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.

United Prayer Ministry

We express our condolences to:

Lolly Fitts on the death of her daughter, *Joanne Fitts* on April 17.

Jeannette Davidson on the death of her mother, *Pauline Gaige* on April 24 and her sister, *Donna Porter* on April 26.

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 are grateful for today's string players:
Abby Norton Levering and Julia Smith, Violin I;
Beth Putnam and Brian Park II, Violin II;
Louise Dickinson and Edith Kliman, viola; and
Heather Ipsen, cello.

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 8, May 15: Regular Meetings

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Mike Lamkin, piano; Pete Toigo, bass;
Tom D'Andrea, drums

May 8: Scott Bassinson, piano

May 15: Peg Delaney Trio

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: *Worship Talk Back*, Bill Levering

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

May 15: *Fostering Futures NY*

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

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.

Faith Bookshop

This is a gift-giving time of year: Mother's Day (next Sunday), graduation, and, as always, birthdays. Before heading to the mall, check the Bookshop where you'll find variety at a range of prices. And, remember, you can order books there at a 30% discount.

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

Pledge cards are coming into the office, both in the Sunday plate and also by mail. Thank you for your generous gifts! We hope to finalize the campaign on May 15, so you should feel free to send your card back to the church now or bring it with you to worship on the 15th. **The Phase 2 Design process** is still underway, and during the week of **May 2** a meeting will be held regarding **Community Use, Wayfinding, Access and the Exterior Campus**. During the week of May 9 the topic will be Sustainable Building Practices. Be sure to forward your thoughts to the Phase 2 Design team members so they can represent you!

Annual CROP Walk – TODAY

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 ????

Sacred Spaces Gentle Yoga – May 4

This weekly class starts on Wednesday, May 4 from 6-7:15pm and is open to all levels of practice including those who may be new. Bring a yoga mat and any other props you wish to use. For more, call Mary LaFountain (518-225-3240). She is a licensed clinical social worker and yoga teacher. Cost is \$10 per class and there are two free slots for FRC members.

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 Saint-Saëns. The concert is free and a reception will follow.

Healthy Women, Healthy Families

Mother’s Day Project – May 8

The church has Mother’s Day Cards available. Proceeds from your free-will purchase go to the Healthy Women Healthy Families project, and the recipient of the card is informed that a gift has been made in her honor. Please see Lauren Cleworth in the church office during the week for more information.

Shepherds Needed to Feed the Sheep – May 11

FRC is committed to provide lunch at the Salvation Army on: May 11, 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.

Justice Action Council Book Club – TODAY

At noon in Assembly Hall, we will be discussing *Waking Up White & Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. All are welcome! No RSVP required, although a general count for the luncheon would be helpful. If you have ??? or wish to confirm, you can contact Mary Jewett 355-8059 or Jeanne Shoulder (781) 724-5030.

The Short-Short Writing Group – May 11

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.

Word Service – Discovery -May 13

Our WORD service is a collection of stories about particular topics, much like an NPR feature. This month highlights stories about discoveries. The service is Friday, May 13 at 7pm and presents fine music, autobiographical stories, talks from our short-short fiction group, and a minister or two.

Men’s Breakfast - May 14

We will begin with breakfast at 8am, as usual. But, rather than listening to a speaker, we will spend 1-2 hours working around the church.

Pentecost Afternoon in Albany – May 15

At First Church, Albany at 4pm, the renowned minister, author, and activist, Rev. Dr. James Antal, will speak on “Bringing Hope to the Climate Crisis through Faith & Action.” A brief service of worship led by Daniel Carlson and featuring the Festival Celebration Choir will follow. Admission is free, and all are invited to this event and a double your pleasure ride .

Lost and Found Basket in Narthex

Current contents include: grey sweatshirt, grey winter hat, and a Vail water bottle. Several jewelry items are in the church office.

Pentecost Bike Trip to Albany – May 15

On Sunday following worship, inspired cyclists will take the bike path to Albany, enjoying lunch (byo) at the Niskayuna Train Station, breezy fellowship and lovely views of the Mohawk, Cohoes Falls, and the Hudson along the way until we arrive at our destination for refreshments--and an optional Pentecost presentation and worship (see above), returning by bike or bus. Sign up in Assembly Hall.

Tuesday Ladies – May 17

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.

Stacey Midge on Study Leave

Stacey will be out of the office on extended study leave until May 21. Bill and Daniel will be covering Stacey's normal areas of ministry.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

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

Capital Community Voices

Directed by Julie Panke they will present "Songs and Sensibility" on Saturday, May 7 at 7:30pm at Green Meadow Elementary School, 234 Schuurman Rd, Castleton -On-Hudson, NY.

Octavo Singers Concert

Saturday, May 14, 7:30pm in the FRC Sanctuary. Franz Joseph Hayden's *The Seasons*.

+ + +

"If you took one-tenth the energy you put into complaining and applied it to solving the problem, you'd be surprised by how well things can work out... Complaining does not work as a strategy. We all have finite time and energy. Any time we spend whining is unlikely to help us achieve our goals. And it won't make us happier." — Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

"Without discipline, there's no life at all."

Katherine Hepburn

"As for loving, being tough comes at the start and as a last resort. The big middle of love is warm support and encouragement." - Dr. Bill Levering

"Sister, there are people who went to sleep all over the world last night, poor and rich and white and black, but they will never wake again. Sister, those who expected to rise did not, their beds became their cooling boards, and their blankets became their winding sheets. And those dead folks would give anything, anything at all for just five minutes of this weather or ten minutes of that plowing that person was grumbling about. So you watch yourself about complaining, Sister. What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Don't complain." — Maya Angelou, *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*

"That was the message. For me, alone among mortals, the gods send their messenger to tell me to stop whining. That'll teach me to go hide in a temple." — Megan Whalen Turner, *The Queen of Attolia*

"People who complain about something that they cannot do anything about are as irritating as those who complain about something that they can do something about." — Mokokoma Mokhonoana

"Beware of any aphorism about love." - Dr. Bill Levering

"Tough love and brutal truth from strangers are far more valuable than Band-Aids and half-truths from invested friends, who don't want to see you suffer any more than you have." — Shannon L. Alder

Sunday, May 1

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

Monday, May 2

9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
 11:00 am Women's Group

Tuesday, May 3

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
 11:30 am Support & Care Meeting
 1:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 4

9:30 am Kerygma
 6:00 pm Gentle Yoga

Thursday, May 5

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

Friday, May 6

7:00 pm First Friday Performance

Sunday, May 8

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 Nancy Wainwright	Vickie McGowan-Horan and George Trimarco
Greeters	Norma and Dale Brown	Ettkin Family
Flower Delivery	Mary Jewett and Del Pierce	Carol Troost and Vernetta Thuener
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Christine Daniels, James Gonda , George Davidson, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Bill Rochelle, Barbara Walton, Gene Zeltmann	George Davidson, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Margaret Schadler, Tom Lindsay, Jeanne Shoulder
Reader	Liz Mastrianni	Barbara Walton
Refreshments	Nancy Martin	Volunteers Needed
Ushers	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta & Nat Phipps