

***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.*

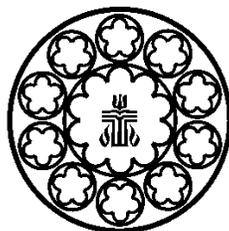
*It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.*

*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 8, 2016*



***First Reformed Church***  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York, 12305  
(518) 377-2201  
[www.1stReformed.com](http://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](http://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.

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2016

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

*On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand* Adam Mason  
*Choral Song* Samuel S. Wesley  
*Triumphant Finale* Thomas Bliss

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Alleluia, Lift Up Your Voice*  
Shirley McRae

\*HYMN #455 (v.1,2,5)  
*All Creatures of Our God and King*

\*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

*Love Enough to Give* John D. Horman  
Chancel Choir and Kirk Singers

A mother lined a basket  
to keep her baby dry,  
then rocked him on a river,  
lest he awake and cry.  
She let a princess name him,  
her son that he might live.  
God's people had a leader.  
She had such hope to give.

A mother sewed a jacket,  
lined in the softest wool,  
then dressed her little boy-child,  
her cup of blessing full.  
She brought him to the temple  
where he would serve and live.  
God's people had a prophet.  
She had such faith to give.

A mother laid her baby  
in manger lined with straw;  
then in the shepherd's story  
his call from God foresaw.  
She nurtured him and taught him  
the way that he must live.  
God's people had a Savior.  
She had such love to give.

Like Jochebed and Hanna,  
and Mary too, we know  
the hardest part of loving  
is learning to let go,  
so when we send our children  
out in the world to live,  
grant us such hope and faith,  
God, and love enough to give.

Mary Nelson Keithahn

FIRST LESSON Barbara Walton  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy  
Spirit. **Amen.**

*Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21*  
(pg 260)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 17:20-26 (pg 111)*

SERMON *Forging Unity* Bill Levering

\*HYMN *We All Are One in Mission* #435

MINUTE FOR MISSION Fred Daniels  
*First Futures*

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*Praise His Holy Name* Keith Hampton

\*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 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* #438

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Twofold Amen* Dale Wood

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:

*Lloyd Johnston, Albert Zink, Charles Young, Rev. Cornelius Van Leeuwen, Faith W. Nix*

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.

## In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of her mother, Caroline Taylor, and Glenn's mother, Marguerite Melber, by Martha Winchester.

## 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:** No Mtg. *Mother's Day*

**May 15:** Youth at Vespers (read & perform)

**May 22:** Youth Service at 10am, Party at 5pm

**Get well cards and notes for Linda Witkowski**  
Send to Massachusetts General Hospital, Ellison Building, 19th fl, 55 Fruit St, Boston, MA 02114

## **Church Picnic May 22**

Looking for volunteers. Please bring a dish to share. Burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Call Jennifer Evans at 368-1888.

## **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm**

**Today:** Scott Bassinson, piano

**May 15:** Peg Delaney Trio

**May 22:** Nat Phipps

## **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:** Mother's Day, *Coffee & Conversation*

**May 15:** Fostering Futures NY

**May 22:** FRC All Church Picnic



## **Post Service Refreshments**

If you have never done so, please consider hosting a Sunday in June. Instructions are located near the sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. Many thanks!

## **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. Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed yellow nomination form. Thank you!

## **Faith Bookshop**

This is a gift-giving time of year: Mother's Day (TODAY), 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**

Make Room Campaign update: The Make Room pledge campaign stands at \$782,750. If you haven't pledged we ask that you bring your pledge card with you to worship next Sunday. Or mail it, drop it off, or submit online at [1streformed.com](http://1streformed.com). Thank you! **The Phase 2 Design process** is still underway, and during the week of **May 9** a meeting will be held regarding Sustainable Building Practices. During the week of May 16 the architect will bring their suggested revisions regarding Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen. Be sure to forward your thoughts to the Phase 2 Design team members so they can represent you!

## **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](mailto:cyoung50@nycap.rr.com).

## **Sacred Spaces Gentle Yoga – May 11**

This weekly class started on Wednesday, May 4. It meets 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.

### **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.

### **Chancel Choir to Sing – May 14 at Harriet Tubman Concert**

All are invited to the annual concert at Duryee AME Zion Church, 311 Hulett St., at 6pm on Saturday. The Chancel Choir will sing a gospel piece, "Praise His Holy Name" and a traditional spiritual, "Steal Away." Our own Joe Doolittle will serve as this year's master of ceremonies.

### **Octavo Singers Concert**

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **Pentecost Next Sunday – May 15**

Everyone is encouraged to wear red!

### **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.

### **Group VII - May 20**

Our Spring Trip is Friday, May 20. We are going to the Islamic Center located at 21 Lansing Road in Colonie. Tour & talk at 12:30pm and prayer at 1:15pm. All are welcome to accompany Group VII. Call Connie Young at 393-7061.

### **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.

### **The Short-Short Writing Group – May 25**

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](mailto:jgonda12309@gmail.com).

### **Prayer Shawl Knit Group – May 26**

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

### **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.



"In necessary things, unity; in doubtful things, liberty; in all things, charity." - Richard Baxter

"By faithfulness we are collected and wound up into unity within ourselves, whereas we had been scattered abroad in multiplicity." - Augustine

"To a true child of God, the invisible bond that unites all believers to Christ is far more tender, and lasting, and precious; and, as we come to recognize and realize that we are all dwelling in one sphere of life in Him, we learn to look on every believer as our brother, in a sense that is infinitely higher than all human relationships. This is the one and only way to bring disciples permanently together. All other plans for promoting the unity of the Church have failed." - A.T. Pierson

"Nothing unites people as sharing the same affliction." - Jack Hyles

"Hold firmly that our faith is identical with that of the ancients. Deny this, and you dissolve the unity of the Church." - Thomas Aquinas

"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided." — J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond." — Gwendolyn Brooks

"One love, one heart . . .  
Let's get together and feel all right"  
— Bob Marley, *Bob Marley - Legend*

"I say to you all, once again -- in the light of Lord Voldemort's return, we are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided. Lord Voldemort's gift for spreading discord and enmity is very great. We can fight it only by showing an equally strong bond of friendship and trust. Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open." — J.K. Rowling

"Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship."

— A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

"All for one and one for all, united we stand divided we fall." — Alexandre Dumas, *The Three Musketeers*

"The downfall of the attempts of governments and leaders to unite mankind is found in this- in the wrong message that we should see everyone as the same. This is the root of the failure of harmony. Because the truth is, we should not all see everyone as the same! We are not the same! We are made of different colours and we have different cultures. We are all different! But the key to this door is to look at these differences, respect these differences, learn from and about these differences, and grow in and with these differences. We are all different. We are not the same. But that's beautiful. And that's okay. In the quest for unity and peace, we cannot blind ourselves and expect to be all the same. Because in this, we all have an underlying belief that everyone should be the same as us at some point. We are not on a journey to become the same or to be the same. But we are on a journey to see that in all of our differences, that is what makes us beautiful as a human race, and if we are ever to grow, we ought to learn and always learn some more." — C. JoyBell C.

"And in the case of superior things like stars, we discover a kind of unity in separation. The higher we rise on the scale of being, the easier it is to discern a connection even among things separated by vast distances." — Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

**Sunday, May 8**

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

**Monday, May 9**

9:00 am ..... Mens Newsgroup

**Tuesday, May 10**

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

**Wednesday, May 11**

9:30 am ..... Kerygma  
 1:00 pm ..... Archives  
 2:00 pm ..... Staff Meeting  
 6:00 pm ..... Gentle Yoga  
 7:00 pm ..... Short-short Writing Group

**Thursday, May 12**

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

**Friday, May 13**

7:00 pm ..... WORD Service - *Discovery*

**Saturday, May 14**

8:00 am ..... Men's Breakfast/*Work Day*  
 11:00 am ..... Ann Strobell Memorial  
 7:00 pm ..... Octavo Singers Concert

**Sunday, May 15**

9:00 am ..... Chancel Choir  
 10:00 am ..... Worship/Pentecost  
 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 ..... Pentecost Bike Trip to Albany  
 4:00 pm ..... Pentecost Presentation in Albany  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers with Youth  
 6:30 pm ..... Confirmation Class

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Vickie McGowan-Horan and George Trimarco	Linnea D'Andrea and Bill Rochelle
<b>Greeters</b>	Ettkin Family	Carol DeLaMarter
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Carol Troost and Vernetta Thuener	Don and Marilyn Leach Liz Mastrianni
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>		Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	George Davidson, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Margaret Schadler, Tom Lindsay, Jeanne Shoulder	George Davidson, Jeanette Davidson, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler
<b>Reader</b>	Barbara Walton	Nancy Davidson
<b>Refreshments</b>	Lois Stickney	Ann Gotwals
<b>Ushers</b>	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda	Bill Clock (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Jacob Ettkin, Nancy Wainwright