

***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 dove descending breaks the air
With flame of incandescent terror
Of which the tongues declare
The one discharge from sin and error.
The only hope, or else despair
Lies in the choice of pyre or pyre-
To be redeemed from fire by fire.**

**Who then devised the torment? Love.
Love is the unfamiliar Name
Behind the hands that wove
The intolerable shirt of flame
Which human power cannot remove.
We only live, only suspire
Consumed by either fire or fire.”**

~ T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets

May 15, 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.

Pentecost
May 15, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Cliff Brucker

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Daniel Carlson

INTROIT

Come, Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire
Veni Creator Spiritus

*HYMN *Where the Spirit Is* Per Harling

Refrain:

Where the Spirit is, there's freedom.

Where the Spirit is, there is life!

**Not by this age can our freedom be nourished
not by our things, only by Spirit.**

**Practice my children to live by the Spirit,
drop all your masks, take freedom's clothing!**

(Refrain)

**Kingdom of God present among us,
gives to us all strength for the journey.
Practice my children to live by the Spirit,
tasting today hope for God's future!**

(Refrain)

**Wounds will be healed, eyes will be opened,
imaging God reflecting Jesus.
Practice my children to live by the Spirit;
heaven is here, time made eternal!**

Jonas Jonson

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**God of all, we come in humility, confessing
that we are often unresponsive and afraid.**

**When your Spirit speaks, we turn deaf
ears, for we fear what you might call us to
do. When your Spirit touches us, we deny
its impact. When the wind of your Spirit
threatens, we close the windows of our**

**hearts, afraid to disrupt our ordered lives.
When the fire of your Spirit touches us, we
quench the flame, afraid of the new life it
might bring. Forgive us, O Lord.**

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*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 - Ecumenical version

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he
ascended into heaven, he is seated at the
right hand of the Father, and he will come
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Ray Bostick, Zuri Keith, Kay Koroma, Beth
Millard, Conrad Saunders, Aline Stabler,
Lynn Wilkanowski

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES OF
CONFESSING MEMBERS

*PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION

*BLESSING AND WELCOME

We are ambassadors for Christ.
We are the salt of the earth;
we are the light of the world.

Welcome our sisters and brothers in Christ.
Joyfully we receive you. Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

ANTHEM

O Come Thou Sweet Redeeming Fire
Daniel Gawthrop

O come thou sweet redeeming fire,
O light of truth, resplendent love.
O come thou sweet redeeming fire.
Come thou, come thou.

Spark in earthly clay thy pow'r over death,
over death to life divine.
Washed now of sin, reborn to glory;
Seal in holy fire Thy promises.
Born of flesh, Thy blood atoning, Lamb of God.
Our risen Lord.

O come thou sweet redeeming fire,
O light of truth, resplendent love.
O come thou sweet redeeming fire.
Grace confirm us, peace attend us.
Come thou, Holy Spirit, come, come.
Jane Griner

FIRST LESSON Nancy Davidson
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit
Amen. Acts 2:1-21 (pg 119)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 14:8-17, 25-27 (pg 108)*

SERMON *Asking for Anything* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Open My Eyes That I May See* #324

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Cliff Brucker

*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 *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* #129

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Thompson

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:

Sybil Liebhafsky, Elizabeth D. Corliss, Harrison Todd, Henry Nagamatsu, Peg Shultes, Stephanie Cohen, Edward Lustenader, Jr.

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.

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!

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.

Get well cards and notes for Linda Witkowski

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

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: Youth at Vespers (read & perform)

May 22: Youth Service at 10am/arrive 9:30

End of Year Party at 5pm

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: Peg Delaney Trio

May 22: Nat Phipps

May 29: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

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.

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: Fostering Futures NY

May 22: FRC All Church Picnic

May 29: Coffee and Conversation

Pentecost Afternoon in Albany – TODAY

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 – TODAY

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.

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.

Tuesday Ladies – May 17 –Location Change

This Tuesday our 7pm meeting will be held at the home of **Linda Ward, 4029 Windsor Drive**. Please call Connie at 393-7061 for more info.

Make Room Campaign Update

Thank you for making your pledge to the campaign! God bless you! **The Phase 2 Design process** is still underway, and during the week of **May 16** our first follow up meeting will be held regarding Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen. During the week of May 23 the architect will bring their suggested revisions regarding Education. Be sure to forward your thoughts to the Phase 2 Design team members so they can represent you!

Faith Bookshop

This is a gift-giving time of year: graduations, and 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.

Midweek Evening Meal and Worship

Moves to Monthly – May 18

Our delicious dinners and contemplative worship on Wednesdays transitions to monthly gathering for the warmer months of the year. Join us **May 18** at 6pm in Assembly Hall for a feast--the main dish is provided; sides, salads, desserts are invited. The service which follows at 7pm is optional, though often the destination of diners, and attended by some who don't often come for dinner. In the quiet of Poling Chapel we attend to the love of God for all creation via guitar accompanied songs, guided meditation on Scripture, Communion, prayers, and Christ's peace. The rest of the dates are: June 22, July 13, and August 17.

Sacred Spaces Gentle Yoga – May 18

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.

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.

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.

Evening Circle – May 25

Our year-end potluck dinner will be held Wednesday, May 25, at 6pm. The location is to be determined. Stay tuned.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group – May 26

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

Annual Meeting – June 5

Immediately following worship on June 5, there will be a meeting of the congregation for the purposes of receiving annual reports and the election of officers.

Camp Scholarships to Fowler

Now is the time to sign kids and youth up for Summer Camp at Fowler. The church has scholarships available for a week at Camp Fowler this summer. You need to pre-register with the code van404. Please notify the church office if you are attending Fowler this summer.

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.

Summer Refreshments beginning June 12 move to The Huntley Garden

Beginning June 12, whenever possible, refreshments after the service will be served in the Huntley Garden. Please consider signing up for helping on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall along with an important instruction sheet.

Avery Presents – June 3

On Friday, June 3rd at 7 PM in the Sanctuary we will be treated to a program of sacred music by the St. Thomas the Apostle Church of Delmar choir. This is a roughly 30 voice group which performs traditional and contemporary selections.

Prospective Member Class – June 5

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Dr. Levering will be leading a membership orientation meeting that includes a tour of the church and a chat about who we are. It lasts 90 minutes and is held at 3pm in the church office.

Shepherds Needed to Feed the Sheep – June 8

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

Word Service - June 10

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, June 10 at 7pm and presents fine music, autobiographical stories, talks from our short-short fiction group, and a minister or two.

Lost and Found Basket in Narthex

Current contents include: cleaning cloth for glasses (blue), blue & maroon umbrella, grey sweatshirt, grey winter hat, and a Vail water bottle. Several jewelry items are in the office.

Union Presbyterian Mission Fund Project Solicitation

The Union Presbyterian Mission Fund Committee has \$12,300 remaining available in 2016 to fund not-for-profit mission projects. It has already distributed \$10,000 to the Home Furnishings Program (third year of a three year commitment) and \$5,200 to the Schenectady Inner City Mission Summer Intern Program. The committee requests project proposals from the congregation. The project may be local (within Schenectady County); regional (within the boundaries of Albany Presbytery & Regional Synod of Albany); national / international; and valued \$1,000 or more. Please submit your proposed project by October 1, 2016 to Liz Mastrianni (lzmastro@gmail.com) or the FRC office. Your suggested project must include:

Project or Organization Information (Name, Address, Phone, E-mail & Person to Contact)

Your Information (Name, Address, Phone Number and/or E-mail)

Description of the Project/Organization and why it should be considered.

SICM Summer Lunches - Clarification

FRC will be responsible for feeding hungry children lunch August 8 – September 2 at Yates Village. Look for details in the June *First Things* newsletter. We will not be hosting *Lunches on the Lawn* here at FRC this summer.

Pocket Prayer Shawls

The Prayer Shawl Group is making pocket prayer shawls designed to fit in a pocket, purse, or backpack and can travel with you. Like a full-sized prayer shawl, the pocket shawl can remind you of God's comfort, support and closeness. Hold this prayer shawl in your hand and be reminded that God is always with you. Pocket prayer shawls will be available on the tables at the entrances to the sanctuary and in the church office. There is no charge for the shawls.

Sunday, May 15

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

Monday, May 16

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

Tuesday, May 17

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

Wednesday, May 18

9:30 am Kerygma
 6:00 pm Gentle Yoga
 6:00 pm Midmonth Dinner
 7:00 pm Midmonth Worship

Thursday, May 19

7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00 am Stitch Group
 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Meeting

Sunday, May 22

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship/Youth Service
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am All Church Picnic
 12:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
 5:00 pm Youth Group End of Year Party
 6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Gay Doolittle and Carol Troost	Linnea D'Andrea and Bill Rochelle
Greeters	Carol DeLaMarter	Jack and Sally Bestgen
Flower Delivery	Don and Marilyn Leach Liz Mastrianni	Darwin and Ellie Brudos Wayne and Amy Brule
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Youth Service
Preacher	Bill Levering	Youth Service
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, James Gonda, Peggy King, Tom Lindsay, Keith Muse, Barbara Walton,	Tom Lindsay, Jeanette Davidson, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler
Reader	Nancy Davidson	Carol Troost
Refreshments	Ann Gotwals	All Church Picnic
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Lou Acquasanta, Jacob Etkin, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Mike Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd, Christine Lund