

***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 29, 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.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

May 29, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE William Smith, piano

Sonata Pathetique op. 13 L. von Beethoven
mov. 3 "Rondo"

Impromptu op.90 #2 in E flat Franz Schubert

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

INTROIT

From the Rising of the Sun M. Tebbano

*HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* #8

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Welcoming God, we confess that we are prone to keep company with those who are like us, and to be ignorant or suspicious of those who are different. We do not welcome all your children as readily as you do. Expand our vision to take in those beyond these walls so that we might love the world as you love.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

(from Our Song of Hope)

**God's Spirit speaks in the world
according to God's ultimate word in Christ.
In every time and place,
in ancient cities and distant lands,
in technology and business,
in art and education,
God has not been left without a witness.
The Word has entered where we have
failed to go.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Bless the Lord, O My Soul Lee Dengler
Tom D'Andrea, percussion

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all His benefits.

Bless the Lord, who forgives our sins,
and heals our hurts, who redeems our lives.

Bless the Lord, who is loving and kind,
who cares for us with a tender heart.

High as the heavens above the earth,
so great are His mercies toward us.

Far as the distance from east to west,
so far has He taken our sins.

From Psalm 103

FIRST LESSON

Mary Jewett

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit
Amen. *1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43 (pg 312)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Luke 7:1-10 (pg 65)

SERMON

Stacey Midge

Faith in Unexpected Places

*HYMN

Let the Whole Creation Cry #256

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

How Lovely are the Messengers

Felix Mendelssohn

How Lovely are the messengers
that preach us the gospel of peace,
To all the nations is gone forth
the sound of their words,
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

*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** #439

In Christ There Is No East or West

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Threefold Amen Dale Wood

POSTLUDE

Sicilian Mariners

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Hazel A. Feiker – 5/23/16

Burial to be private

Judith A. Bresler – 5/24/16

Committal to be private

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:

Helen Costanzo, Chi Hua Fong, Chester Buchanan, Beverly Fasake, Marie Metcalf, Burton Delack

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.

United Prayer Ministry

Prayers for healing: for Nancy Wainwright, who will undergo radiation treatment in Philadelphia for melanoma in her right eye.

Prayers for continued recovery: for John Norton, who was hospitalized in Boston with breathing difficulty but is feeling better and welcoming phone calls from friends at home.

Prayers of thanksgiving: that Linda Witkowski is expected to be discharged from Mass General as soon as there is room for her at a local rehabilitation facility.

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: Coffee and Conversation

June 5: Reception for Rev. Dr. Daniel Carlson

June 12: Working Group on Girls,
Kathleen McLean

Music Notes

The Offertory is taken from the oratorio, *Saint Paul*, which recounts the life of Saint Paul, who, on his missionary journeys, took the gospel to Europe after his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus. *Saint Paul*, composed in 1835, is the first of Mendelssohn's oratorios, the text of which is based largely on the Acts of the Apostles. This best-loved of choruses follows Paul's conversion and preaching the gospel with Barnabas.

Annual Meeting Information – June 5

The consistory invites members of the congregation to the Annual Meeting that will be held on June 5 immediately following the worship service. This meeting is for the purpose of receiving the annual reports, electing officers, and electing at large members of the nominating committee. Members are encouraged to get a copy of the annual report that is available today and read it and ask questions they may have in the next week. The meeting itself moves briskly. After the meeting this year, we will have a reception honoring Daniel Carlson on the completion of his Doctor of Ministry program.

In addition to officers who will be re-elected for a second and final term, the nominating committee will place into nomination the following people for a first term:

For Elder, Class of 2018

Liz Mastrianni
Brad Lewis

For Deacon, Class of 2018

Ralph Rosenthal
Andy Chestnut
Richard Rose

Youth Group Schedule

Our youth group does not meet regularly during the summer months, but stay tuned for special activities to come! If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Stacey at revstacey@gmail.com.

Camp Scholarships to Fowler

Now is the time to sign kids and youth up for Summer Camp at Fowler. You need to pre-register. Please notify the church office if you are attending Fowler this summer.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: ‘Azzaam Hameed, piano;
Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D’Andrea, drums
June 5: Nat Phipps Trio
June 12: ‘Azzaam Hameed, piano

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 in Assembly Hall. You will also find an important instruction sheet for summer.

Church School for Summer

There will always be a prepared craft or game activity for the children each Sunday if anyone chooses to attend. We may be meeting upstairs in room 20, Kinderwyk, or outside (weather permitting), but you will always pick up your children in the Kinderwyk Building. If you would be willing to run the craft, game or play activity for a Sunday, please email, call, or text me and let me know when you are available. Thank you for your continued support and participation and please remember to tell your friends about our fun program! - Mrs. Blythe

Horizons Bible Study

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

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.

Make Room Campaign Update

Make Room Campaign update: Many thanks to the numerous people who have pledge and donated to the Make Room Campaign. Pledge cards continue to come in, so if you haven't sent yours it's not too late! Meanwhile, **the Phase 2 Design process** is still underway, and during the week of **May 30** our second follow up meeting will be held regarding Music. During the week of May 30 the architect will bring their suggested revisions regarding Community Use. Thank you, everyone!

Summer Kerygma Conversations-June 1

All those who wish to take a deep summer dive into the life and writing of Dietrich Bonhoeffer are welcome to gather with Daniel Carlson and others seeking to grow in Christian faith and practice on the *first* and *third* Wednesday of June, July, and August from 9:30-11am in the Dirck Romeyn room. Reading sources TBD; coffee, treats, kind and challenging conversation guaranteed!

The Long Night Film Screening – June 1

At 7pm in Poling Chapel, Patty's Place is sponsoring a screening of "The Long Night," a documentary about the experiences of two survivors of human trafficking. The event is free, although donations will be accepted to benefit the work of Patty's Place, a street outreach program for women engaged in sex work.

Avery Presents – June 3

On Friday, June 3 at 7pm 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 & 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.

Women's Group – June 6

Women's group, formerly group V, will meet for lunch on Monday, June 6 at 11:30am at the Waters Edge Lighthouse Restaurant. Barbara Wood will be calling members. Anyone wanting to come may call Barbara.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

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

Sacred Spaces Gentle Yoga – June 6

This weekly class moved to Mondays. It meets from 6-7:15pm in the Dirck Romeyn room 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 info, call Mary LaFountain (225-3240). Cost \$10/class and there are two free slots for FRC members.

Stories and Songs for Racial Healing - June 7

Join us Tuesday at 7pm at Arthur's Market, for a program designed to deepen understanding of the complexities of racism in our society through the medium of storytelling. Co-sponsored by Justice Action Council of FRC, the program will feature Reggie Harris who will share stories and songs of his shared racial family history and living and working across racial boundaries.

The Short-Short Writing Group – June 7

A writing critique group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month 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 on Imagination - June 10

Stories of all types: autobiographical, Biblical, and fictional. Stories of fantasy and painful reality. Stories of imagination and music of the stars. This monthly service starts at 7pm and features storytellers and Avery at the piano in Poling Chapel. What's your story?

Justice Action Council -Capital Pride Festival

On June 11 we will gather at the church at 9:30, carpool down to Washington Park, check in, and assemble to march in the parade which kicks off at noon. Please call Jeanne Shoulder with any questions, 781-724-5030.

Group VII – June 17

Our Annual Picnic will take place on Friday, June 17 at 11:30am. It will be held at the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. Call Connie at 393-7061 with any questions.

Midmonth Evening Meal and Worship

Our delicious dinners and contemplative worship on Wednesdays transitions to monthly gathering for the warmer months of the year. Join us **June 22** 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: July 13 and August 17.

Join Prayer Chain Ministry

This vital ministry of intercession and thanksgiving in our church is now welcoming additional participants. Members periodically receive concise requests for prayer via email or phone and then pray as led. To help hold before God those within our community and beyond who are standing in the need of prayer, contact Marilyn Leach by phone (374-1022) or email (marilyn.leach64@gmail.com) who has agreed to co-coordinate this ministry along with Vernetta Thuener, Ann Gotwals, & Daniel Carlson

Extending Christ's Care

Stephen Ministers faithfully bring compassionate Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express God's love for those going through a difficult time in life--listening and comforting, drawing on the training they have received in training and regularly support and resourced through continuing education and small group peer supervision. If this job description fits how the Spirit has gifted and is beckoning you to serve, consider becoming a Stephen Minister! A training class begins this fall. For more information, stop by the Stephen Ministry table outside Assembly Hall today.

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.

Shepherds Needed to Feed the Sheep

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.

Stitch Group

Our church PHD* stitch group will resume in the fall. For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153. *Projects Half Done.

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.

Sunday, May 29

10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day, Office Closed

Tuesday, May 31

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

Wednesday, June 1

9:30 am Kerygma
 7:00 pm Documentary movie
The Long Night
 in Poling Chapel

Thursday, June 2

7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch

Friday, June 3

7:00 pm Avery Presents – *St. Thomas the Apostle Church of Delmar Choir*
 in the Sanctuary

Sunday, June 5

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship/Communion
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Annual Meeting
 followed by a Reception for
 Rev. Dr. Daniel Carlson
 3:00 pm New Member Class
 4:00 pm Klokken Ringers
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Bill Martin and Nancy Wainwright	Joan Lindsay and Vickie McGowan-Horan
Greeters	Ann and Doug Phillips	Kip and Joanne Arnold
Flower Delivery	Joanne and Kip Arnold Chris and Norm Kuchar	Joan and Tom Lindsay Dan Ertel
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, Mary Jewett, Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Tom Lindsay, Keith Muse	Gay Doolittle, James Gonda, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Mary Jewett, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Gene Zeltmann
Reader	Mary Jewett	Amy Brule
Refreshments	Lorraine Aumic	Reception for Rev. Dr. Daniel Carlson
Ushers	Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin, Bill Martin	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay Jim & Sharron McCullough