

***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.*

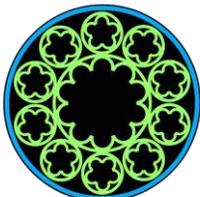
*It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.*

*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.*



*July 17, 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 children through age four is available from 9:45am until noon in Dykstra Chapel, which is located in the back left corner of the sanctuary.

### 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, during the summer months, people stop for a chat and refreshments in Huntley Garden (weather permitting) 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.

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

July 17, 2016

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Jonathan Vanderbeck

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

\*HYMN *Step by Step* Beaker (20<sup>th</sup> cent.)

Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You

I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days

Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You

I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days

And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**O God of compassion, we come to you  
tired from wrestling with things. We are  
empty and broken. Forgive our laziness  
and fear, we pray. Give us a new sense of  
hope and energy to be the love for the  
world you are to us.**

\*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*)

**We hear the Spirit's call  
to love one another  
opposing discrimination of race or sex,  
inviting us to love one another,  
and to share at every level  
in work and play  
in church and state  
in marriage and family  
and so fulfill the law of Christ.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING Olivia Cox. cello  
*The Swan* Camille Saint-Saëns

FIRST LESSON Barbara Walton  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit  
**Amen.** *Psalms 15 (pg 495)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 10:38-42 (pg72)*

SERMON Bill Levering  
*Worried and Distracted?*

\*HYMN *Make Me a Captive Lord* #378 v. 2,3  
to the tune of #428

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Jonathan Vanderbeck

\*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 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* #387

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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:

*Ida May Bacon, Marvin Humphrey*

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 Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

### **First Forum will resume in the Fall**

Forum happens 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

### **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, or outside (weather permitting), but you will always pick up your children in room 20. Contact Blythe to volunteer to help.

### **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.

### **FRC Summer Concert Meet-up -TODAY**

On Sunday, July 17, at 7pm you are invited to hear the The Earls of Leicester (Bluegrass) and Jim Gaudet and the Railroad Boys with others from First Reformed in Schenectady's Central Park. We will meet in the Rose Garden at 6:30 and go from there. Rain site is Proctor's. Hungry? Concessions are available at 6pm from Homestyle Catering and Ben & Jerry's. Questions? Contact James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com.

### **Summer Ice Cream Socials at the Levering's House**

On some Sunday evenings this summer, Bill and Abby will be hosting a time at their place for ice cream and fellowship. While they are inviting certain folks, come on by if you are bored. We will start at 7pm and be done by dark.

### **July 17 – Youth – TODAY**

Young adults, grades 7–12 and college students are welcome. Parents will be in a separate room.

### **August 14 – Great Consistory**

Elders and Deacons ever ordained in any denomination are welcome to gather and share the wisdom of the ages.

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

**Today:** Peg Delaney Trio

**July 24:** David Gleason, piano

**July 31:** 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

## Music Notes

Our Response of Praise is a joyful declaration first heard by John Bell at the Sunrise Hospice in S. Africa. Words and transcription copyright 2008 WGRG, Iona Community Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

Today's Musical Offering, *Le Cygne* or *The Swan*, is the 13th and penultimate movement of *The Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns. Originally scored for solo cello accompanied by two pianos, it has been arranged and transcribed for many instruments but remains best known as a cello solo.



## Summer Refreshments in Huntley Garden

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 procedures.

## Summer Playground Dates on Mondays

Beginning July 11, we will meet every Monday at 10am until the end of August at *Niskayuna's River Road playground* for a playground date. All ages are welcome. There will be refreshments provided, not guaranteed to be healthy but will be nut free. The play date is scheduled for 1 hour. Blythe Czwakiel, our Children's Ministry Director, will be there for any questions and/or suggestions for the Children's Education Program. Please join us for some fun!

## Kitchen Leftovers

The Assembly Hall kitchen has acquired many a wayward dish, platter, & bowl (we tend to keep any serving spoons which come our way.) Please retrieve your items from a table in Assembly Hall.

## Faith Bookshop

If you find it closed, a Bookshop committee member will be glad to help you. Seek out Birdie Blackmer, Bill Clock, Ginny Laumeister or Nancy Wainwright.

## Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We are not meeting in July or August, but will resume in September.

## Pocket Prayer Shawls

Designed to fit in a pocket, purse, or backpack and can travel with you. 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.

## Sacred Spaces Gentle Yoga

This weekly class will not be meeting during July or August. It will resume in September. For more info, call Mary LaFountain (225-3240). Cost \$10/class and there are two free slots for FRC members.

## The Short-Short Writing Group – July 19

A writing critique group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Dirck Romeyn Room. 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).

## Summer Kerygma Conversations-July 27

Meets every other Wednesday of July and August, 9:30-11am, usually in the Dirck Romeyn room. Contact Rev. Carlson to participate.

### **Call For Submissions!**

The *Beverwyck Anthology* is now accepting submissions for its Fall 2016 issue. Deadline for submissions is August 31. Fiction, non-fiction, travel pieces, memoir, all told in 1,000 words or less are acceptable. Submissions may be emailed as a WORD doc to Rudy and Kathy Petersen, Editors-in-Chief, at [threeoaksgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:threeoaksgarden@yahoo.com).

### **Midmonth Evening Meal & Worship-Aug. 10**

Join us this Wednesday at 6pm in Assembly Hall for a delicious dinner-- the main dish is provided; sides, salads, and desserts are invited. A brief contemplative service follows at 7pm, in the quiet of Poling Chapel where we attend to the love of God for all creation via guitar accompanied songs, guided meditation on Scripture, Communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.

### **Church Library Story Time – August 20**

All new this summer, we are pleased to invite you and your children and all of their friends to *STORY TIME*. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of July and August we will have Story Time in the library with refreshments available for adults and children in Assembly Hall. We will meet in the Library at 10am. Story Time will include either a read, or told story, and access to the Library for book check out.

### **SICM Summer Lunches at Yates**

First Reformed members are needed to volunteer everyday for four weeks in August: the weeks of August 8, 15, 22, and 29. It will take one and a half hours of your time. Please sign up in Assembly Hall or the office. You can do one day, one day a week, each day for one week, or whatever fits your schedule. Questions, contact Ellie Rowland at [erowland@nycap.rr.com](mailto:erowland@nycap.rr.com) or 250-4302.

### **Interviewing Stephen Ministry Candidates**

Having completed the recruitment process, our Stephen Leaders have begun interviewing applicants who've sensed God nudging them to serve as caregivers to those within our congregation and beyond who are going through a difficult time in life. These leaders ask we join them in giving thanks for those who've heard the call and seek God's blessing on the interview and selection process in preparation for the upcoming fall training.

### **Classis Assessment**

You have received a letter about our Classis assessment. We are currently assessed \$93.91 a member to keep the denomination & its mission going. It's a lot, but we don't mind since it keeps us together nationally. It's sort of a franchise fee per member.

### **Shepherds Needed to Feed the Sheep**

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

### **Stock Contributions**

We love to receive contribution of stock and they are a good way to get a good deduction for appreciated stock without paying tax. However, sometimes brokers don't tell us what is going on. So if you give a gift of stock, please let us know so that we can get the right number in the right place. Contact Heather and let her know. And thanks.

+ + +

“I can't blame modern technology for my predilection for distraction, not after all the hours I've spent watching lost balloons disappear into the clouds. I did it before the Internet, and I'll do it after the apocalypse, assuming we still have helium and weak-gripped children.”

— Colson Whitehead

“At times the whole world seems to be in conspiracy to importune you with emphatic trifles. Friend, client, child, sickness, fear, want, charity, all knock at once at thy closet door and say,—'Come out unto us.' But keep thy state; come not into their confusion. The power men possess to annoy me I give them by a weak curiosity. No man can come near me but through my act.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson, *The Essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson*

“We are always falling in love or quarreling, looking for jobs or fearing to lose them, getting ill and recovering, following public affairs. If we let ourselves, we shall always be waiting for some distraction or other to end before we can really get down to our work. The only people who achieve much are those who want knowledge so badly that they seek it while the conditions are still unfavorable. Favorable conditions never come.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

“The soul is "torn apart in a painful condition as long as it prefers the eternal because of its Truth but does not discard the temporal because of familiarity.”

— Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*

“It is very difficult to be learned; it seems as if people were worn out on the way to great thoughts, and can never enjoy them because they are too tired.”

— George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

“Sand was dribbling out of the bag of her attention, faster and faster.”

— Sarah Blake

“The saints, too, had wandering minds. The saints, too, had constantly to recall their constantly wandering mind-child home. They became saints because they continued to go after the little wanderer, like the Good Shepherd.”

— Peter Kreeft, *Prayer for Beginners*

“As with our colleges, so with a hundred ‘modern improvements;’ there is an illusion about them; there is not always a positive advance. The devil goes on exacting compound interest to the last for his early share and numerous succeeding investments in them. Our inventions are wont to be pretty toys, which distract our attention from serious things. They are but improved means to an unimproved end, an end which it was already but too easy to arrive at...”

— Henry David Thoreau, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers/Walden/The Maine Woods/Cape Cod*

“Sometimes I think it is because we remember when we could smoke in pubs, and that we pull our phones out together as once we pulled out our cigarette packets. But probably it’s because we are easily bored.”

— Neil Gaiman, *Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances*

“People will seek the ends of the galaxy to avoid that which they need most.”

— Criss Jami

“...shiny trinkets and frivolous spending make people forget what world they're living in.”

— Beth Lewis, *The Wolf Road*

“Our feelings of anxiety are genuine but confused signals that something is amiss, and so need to be listened to and patiently interpreted -- processes which are unlikely to be completed when we have to hand, in the computer, one of the most powerful tools of distraction ever invented. The entire internet is in a sense pornographic, a deliverer of a constant excitement that we have no innate capacity to resist, a seducer that leads us down paths that for the most part do nothing to answer our real needs.”

— Alain de Botton

**Sunday, July 17**

10:00 am ..... Worship  
 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:00 am ..... Refreshments  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers  
 6:30 pm ..... Central Park Concert Meet-up  
 7:00 pm ..... *Youth* Ice Cream Social  
 ..... at the Levering's home

**Monday, July 18**

9:00 am ..... Men's News Group  
 7:00 pm ..... Creation Care

**Tuesday, July 19**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer  
 7:00 pm ..... Short-short Writing Group

**Sunday, July 24**

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

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Claire Hughes and Bill Rochelle	Lyn Gordon and Gay Doolittle
<b>Greeters</b>	Darryl and Cathy Wisniewski	Gene and Ellie Rowland
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	The Mancuso Family Tom and Linnea D'Andrea	The Rose Family Helle Moore & Ralph Rosenthal
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	Jonathan Vanderbeck
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Gay Doolittle, Tom Lindsay, Bill Rochelle, Jeanne Shoulder	Darwin Brudos, Amy Brule, Gay Doolittle, Richard Rose
<b>Reader</b>	Barbara Walton	Gene Rowland
<b>Refreshments</b>	Lois Stickney	Tricia Shaw
<b>Ushers</b>	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Vickie & Mike Horan	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal