

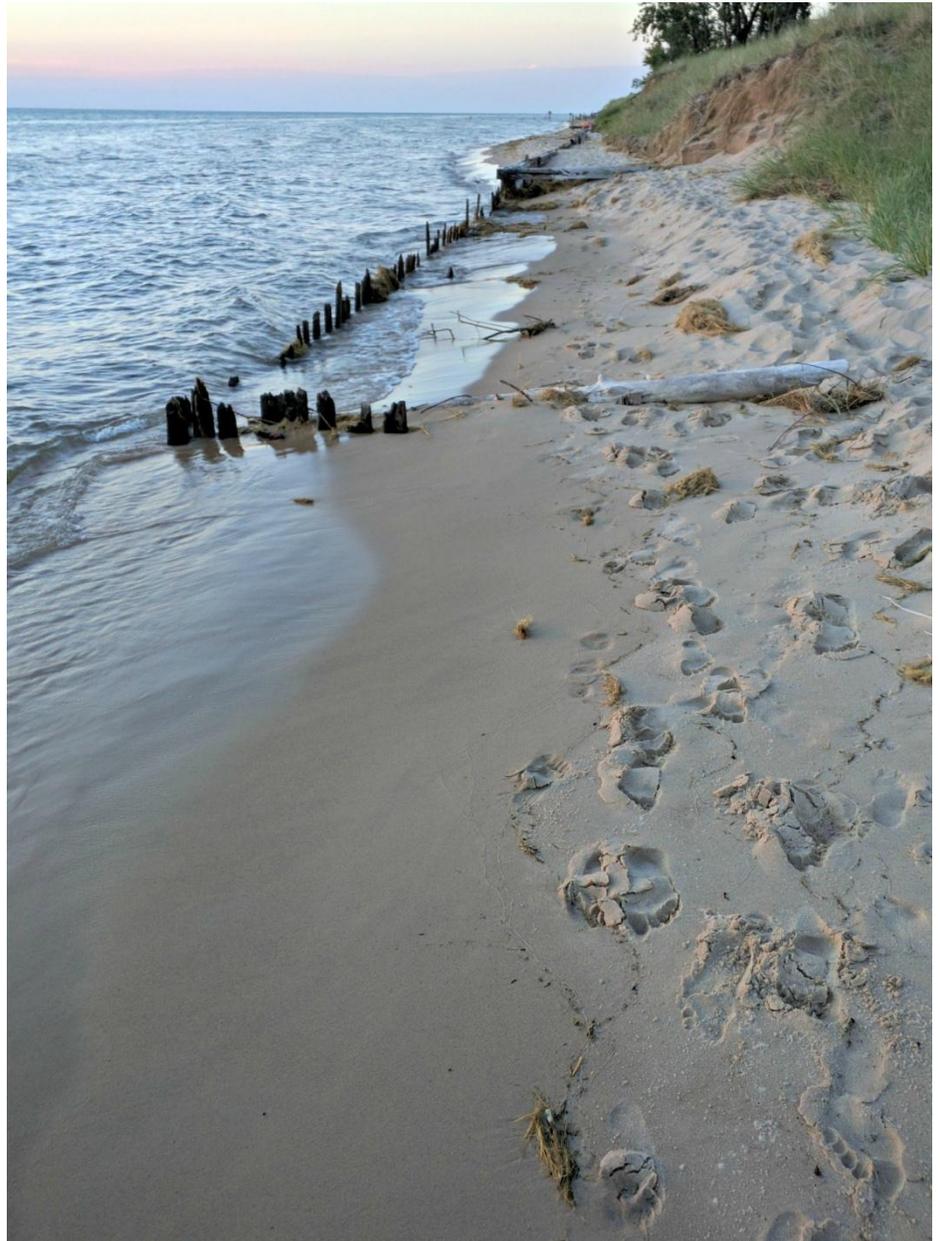
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.

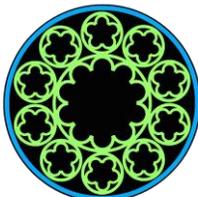
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



August 14, 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 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 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.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 14, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Leah Kidwell Fernandes, harp
Johnny Willis, voice, guitar, dobro, harmonica

Give Me Your Hand Traditional Irish
arr. Kim Robertson

Be Thou My Vision Traditional Irish
arr. Nancy Hurrell

All Creatures of Our God and King
Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1623
arr. Johnny Willis/Sunita Staneslow

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
American Folk Melody
arr. Staneslow

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Jonathan Vanderbeck
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

*HYMN *Let All Things Now Living* #554

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O God, you cradle us in our need, and push us into growth. We confess that all is not well, and that we grieve much that is gone. All is not well, and we hurt in part because we cannot fix ourselves, those we love, or the world. All is not well, and it is easy to despair. And so we ask for healing, and for strength and courage, and for grace to serve the world we touch. We pray to find you in the midst of all of our life, and to be cradled by you once again.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

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

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Leah Kidwell Fernandes, harp
This is My Father's World Traditional English
arr. Staneslow

FIRST LESSON Ellie Rowland
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit
Amen. *Matthew 13:1-9, 34-36 (pg 13)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Exodus 3:1-5 (pg50)*

SERMON *Tales from the Lake* Bill Levering

*HYMN *I Love to Tell the Story*

**I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.**

Refrain:

*I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

**I love to tell the story;
more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams.**

**I love to tell the story,
it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee.**

(Refrain)

**I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word.**

Refrain:

*I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

**I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long.
(Refrain)**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY David A. Vredenburg, organ
Meditation on "I Love to Tell the Story"
arr. Dale Wood

***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** *Fairest Lord Jesus* #306

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Alice M. Niedrach – 8/6/16

Memorial Service to be held here in October

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:

Lorraine Ebeling, Linda Richards, Dorothy Davidson, Cameron Barrie Rowe

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.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of: Mark McDermott by his wife and sons, and Helen P. Lindsay by Tom and Joan Lindsay.

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.

Missions to Africa

Dr. Levering and Elder Andy Chestnut will be away for almost two weeks on a trip to southern Africa. They will be checking in on our AIDS mission in Tapologo and looking at new ways to help in Zambia, where Dr. Levering will be preaching. The AIDS problem in Africa is substantial and changes rapidly and churches often provide help while governments are slower to address the needs.

Music Notes

We welcome David A. Vredenburg to the organ bench today.

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.

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Mike Lamkin, piano

Aug 21: Peg Delaney Trio

Aug 28: Nat Phipps, piano

Summer Refreshments

Whenever possible, our post service refreshments will be served in the Huntley Garden. Please consider signing up for preparation, cleanup, and refreshments by yourself or with a friend. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall.

Summer Ice Cream Socials at the Levering's House - TONIGHT

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.

August 14 – Great Consistory

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

Summer Playground Dates on Mondays

Every Monday at 10am until the end of August, we will meet 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!

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

The Short-Short Writing Group – Aug 16

A writing critique group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in Assembly Hall. 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.

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.

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 3rd Saturday of August we will have Story Time in the library. It will include either a read, or told story, and access to the Library for book check out. Refreshments will be available for adults and children in Assembly Hall. We meet in the Library at 10am.

Summer Kerygma Conversations-Aug 24

The final meeting will be next Wednesday, 9:30-11am in the Dirck Romeyn room to discuss Dietrich Bonhoeffer's last chapter in *Life Together*. Check First Things for upcoming fall class on church history beginning September 14.

Thank you to Sarah Bachorik – August 28

Join us on Sunday, August 28 for a reception recognizing Sarah Bachorik for the 12 years of caring for children in Kinderwyk.

1927 Not So Silent Movie – September 2

On Friday, September 2 at 7pm in Poling Chapel we will be showing the 1927 Silent Movie "My Best Girl" starring Mary Pickford. This is a tender romantic comedy with plenty of laughs and maybe even a few tears. Beautiful sets & costumes compliment a story of love found, lost, and rediscovered. There will be live accompaniment by Avery and a reception to follow in Assembly Hall.

Church Picnic - September 11

Stay after worship for a time of fun, food, and fellowship. Bring a dish to share; A-K, salad or side dish, L-Z dessert. Enjoy hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs. Cold drinks will also be served. If you can help with table set-up before worship or break-down and clean-up after the picnic, please call Gay Doolittle, 399-0499.

New Outreach Program – September 14

This fall, we will be revising our Wednesday night meal and worship. "Chat 'n' Chew" is in connection with our new outreach program with students at SCCC and is open to ALL people. Each Wednesday starting September 14 we will be offering a free weekly community meal from 5:30-6:30pm, with an informal "talk-back" on various topics from 6:30pm-7:00pm. These could include things such as religion, social justice, and community engagement. Pastor Daniel will continue to lead a contemplative worship service once a month, in place of the talk-back (see his article in this newsletter).

We are looking for some volunteers willing to help with basic meal preparation, shopping, clean-up, hosting, and those just willing to spend time with college students looking to find some community. We would love weekly volunteers, those who might like to form a consistent group to work a chosen week each month, or any other sort of volunteer involvement. Signups are in Assembly Hall, or you can contact Jonathan, our new covenanter, directly at RevJonathan16@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming the church and community to Wednesday night Chat 'n' Chew!

Office Help

The church office is looking for volunteers to help out between the hours 2pm-4pm Monday-Friday. Even if it is one or two days or once a month. Contact Heather at 377-2201 for further information.

Horizon Bible Study for Fall

Horizon's Bible study materials on "Who Is Jesus?" have arrived and can be obtained from Peg Miller for \$8 per copy. The new study will begin on September 13.

SICM Summer Lunches at Yates

Thank you everyone for volunteering at the summer luncheon program. We have enough volunteers but could always use substitutes. If you are interested in being a substitute, contact Ellie Rowland at 250-4302 or email her at erowland@nycap.rr.com .

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.

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.

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.

+ + +

“The lake of my mind, unbroken by oars, heaves placidly and soon sinks into an oily somnolence.’ That will be useful.”
— Virginia Woolf, *The Waves*

“When you sit tranquilly, you set a great example to the people who rush around in panic and thus you show the crazy waves the beauty of being a calm lake!” — Mehmet Murat ildan

“There's only one way to tackle life, enjoy a day at the beach, and jump into a Great Lake: Headfirst!” — Viola Shipman, *The Charm Bracelet*

“just find your way, like a river settling into its bed, and the sigh of the wind over a lake, light but restful... content with the joy in the arc of an arm throwing a ball for a dog to fetch”
— Jay Woodman

“If I had to describe the scent of Michigan in spring and summer, it wouldn't be a particular smell – blooming wildflowers or boat exhaust off the lake – it would be a color: Green.” — Viola Shipman, *The Charm Bracelet*

“Every lake belongs to the quietness desired by the swans.” — Munia Khan

“Find a calm lake and wait for the twilight in silence! There, existence will visit you with all its magnificence! The existence of the Existence can best be felt in the presence of dimness and in the absence of crowds and noises!”
— Mehmet Murat ildan

“She felt a strong pull toward the water and it was more than curiosity...”
— Karen Katchur, *The Secrets of Lake Road*

“The afternoon had passed to a ghostly gray. She was struck by the immensity of things, so much water and sky and forest, and after a time it occurred to her that she'd lived a life almost entirely indoors. Her memories were indoor memories, fixed by ceilings and plastered white walls. Her whole life had been locked to geometries: suburban rectangles, city squares. First the house she'd grown up in, then dorms and apartments. The open air had been nothing but a medium of transit, a place for rooms to exist.” — Tim O'Brien, *In the Lake of the Woods*

Sunday, August 14

10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
 7:00 pm *Great Consistory* Ice Cream Social
 at the Levering's home

Monday, August 15

9:00 am Men's News Group

Tuesday, August 16

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

Saturday, August 20

10:00 am Story Time FRC Library

Sunday, August 21

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

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Richard Davis and Bill Rochelle	Claire Hughes and Bill Martin
Greeters		
Flower Delivery	Kathy and Liz Barker Kitty & George Trimarco	Marey Bailey Christina and Matt Jones
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Jonathan Vanderbeck	Jonathan Vanderbeck
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, James Gonda, Tom Lindsay, Bill Rochelle	Amy Brule, Phil Falconer, James Gonda, Mary Jewett
Reader	Ellie Rowland	Mary Jewett
Refreshments	Ruth Roinos	Aline and Brandon Stabler
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Mike Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Carol Troost, Christine Lund	Bill Martin (head usher), Joanne Arnold, Kip Arnold, Adam Kerwin, Alden Brown