

***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.

*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,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Psalms 103:1-5 (ESV)



August 21, 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 usually posted at 1stReformed.com after a few days. Live streaming is also available there.

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.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 21, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Route Fifty 5 Brass Quintet

Selections for Brass

Canzona per Sonare No. 4

G. Gabrielli, arr G. Page

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Jonathan Vanderbeck

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Daniel Carlson

*HYMN *Step by Step*

Descants

O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise
G D/F# D C/E C/D D
O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise
G Dsus7 D7 G D/F# D C/E C/D D
you. O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise
you. I will seek you in the morn - ing, and I will
G Em Dsus D
you. I will seek you in the morn - ing, and I will
learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead
C Am7 G
learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead
me, and I will fol - low you all of my days.
D/F# C/E Dsus7 D7 G
me, and I will fol - low you all of my days.

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O gracious God, the abundance of your steadfast love fills our lives. Forgive us for forgetting your bountiful benefits and failing to bless you, the giver of every gift. Stir us up by the inspiration of your Spirit so that all that is within us may bless your holy name.

*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

(*from Our Song of Hope*)

**We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Amazing Grace Traditional, arr. B. Germain

FIRST LESSON Mary Jewett

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit

Amen. *Psalm 103:6-18 (pg 554)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Psalm 103:1-5, 19-22*

(pg 554)

SERMON *Blessing God* Daniel Carlson

*HYMN #376 v. 1-3

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Die Bankelsängerlieder Anon., arr. R. King

*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 #455 v. 1,3,4,6
All Creatures of Our God and King

*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:

*Anne Marie Buchanan, John Herring,
Beth Herring, Robert Moore*

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.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy Davidson by the Davidson family.

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 Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

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

We kick off our program year on September 11, immediately after the all-church (about noon). Both parents and youth are invited to attend. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Stacey at revstacey@gmail.com.

Music Notes

Route Fifty 5 Brass Quintet: Ben Richards and Judson Hoffman, trumpets; Kara Pangburn, horn; Ryan Pangburn, trombone and Barret Germain, tuba.

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.

Thank you to Sarah Bachorik – August 28

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

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.



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.

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.

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!

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.

First Forum will resume in September

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.

Sept 4: Meet Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck, introduce *Dear White Christians*

Sept 11: All Church Picnic

Sept 18: Missionary from Southern Sudan, Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather

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.

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.

Avery Presents

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.

The Short-Short Writing Group – Sept. 6

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.

Stitch Group - September 8

Our church stitch group meets every Thursday in Poling Conference room. Our first meeting of the year will be Thursday, September 8 at 10am. Work on whatever project you have. For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153.

Bible Sunday - September 11

Any child of the church in third grade that has not received a Bible will be presented one in worship on September 11. Please let us know.

Church Picnic - September 11

Stay after worship for a time of fun, food, and fellowship. Bring a dish to share; A-M, salad or side dish, N-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.

Midmonth Contemplative Worship

On the Wednesday evening closest to the middle of each month, a small group gathers in the stillness of Poling Chapel to worship differently: we sing songs gently accompanied by acoustic guitar; we take turns reading aloud a brief portion of Scripture and listening for God's intent for our respective lives; we engage in an extended time of centering prayer wherein we silently abide in God's loving presence; we gather around the Lord's Table where the bread and cup are passed from one person to the next; and finally, we join hands praying aloud for all who are on our hearts. On **September 14**, at 7pm, you are invited join us for contemplative worship. Those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

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. (Daniel will continue to lead a contemplative worship service once a month, see his article in the September newsletter).

We are looking for some volunteers willing to help with: food donations, financial support to purchase food, food shopping, basic meal preparation, hosting, clean-up, 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!

Youth Orchestra

If you have been playing an instrument for two or more years and would like to be part of a fun group, please phone Jamie Ipsen 399-6848. Rehearsal day and time will be determined by the participants.

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.

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.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We are not meeting in 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.

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.

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“Live your truth. Express your love. Share your enthusiasm. Take action towards your dreams. Walk your talk. Dance and sing to your music. Embrace your blessings. Make today worth remembering.”

— Steve Maraboli

“Reflect upon your present blessings -- of which every man has many -- not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.”

— Charles Dickens

“May we be strengthened with the understanding that being blessed does not mean that we shall always be spared all the disappointments and difficulties of life.”

— Heber J. Grant

That we are not much sicker and much madder than we are is due exclusively to that most blessed and blessing of all natural graces, sleep.

—Aldous Huxley

The thing to do, it seems to me, is to prepare yourself so you can be a rainbow in somebody else's cloud. Somebody who may not look like you. May not call God the same name you call God - if they call God at all. I may not dance your dances or speak your language. But be a blessing to somebody. That's what I think.

—Maya Angelou

“When we lose one blessing, another is often most unexpectedly given in its place.”

— C.S. Lewis

“You have to participate relentlessly in the manifestation of your own blessings.”

— Elizabeth Gilbert

An early-morning walk is a blessing for the whole day. --Henry David Thoreau

Humor is mankind's greatest blessing.

— Mark Twain



Sunday, August 21

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

Monday, August 22

9:00 am Men's News Group

Tuesday, August 23

10:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, August 24

11:30 am First Things Volunteers

Thursday, August 25

6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Small Group

Sunday, August 28

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	Claire Hughes and Bill Martin	Joan Lindsay and George Trimarco
Greeters		
Flower Delivery	Marey Bailey Christina and Matt Jones	Peggy King Carol DeLaMarter
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Jonathan Vanderbeck	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Amy Brule, Phil Falconer, James Gonda, Mary Jewett	Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Peggy King, Thomas Lindsay
Reader	Mary Jewett	George Trimarco
Refreshments	Aline and Brandon Stabler	Marilyn and Don Leach
Ushers	Bill Martin (head usher), Joanne Arnold, Kip Arnold, Adam Kerwin, Alden Brown	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Sharron & Jim McCullough