

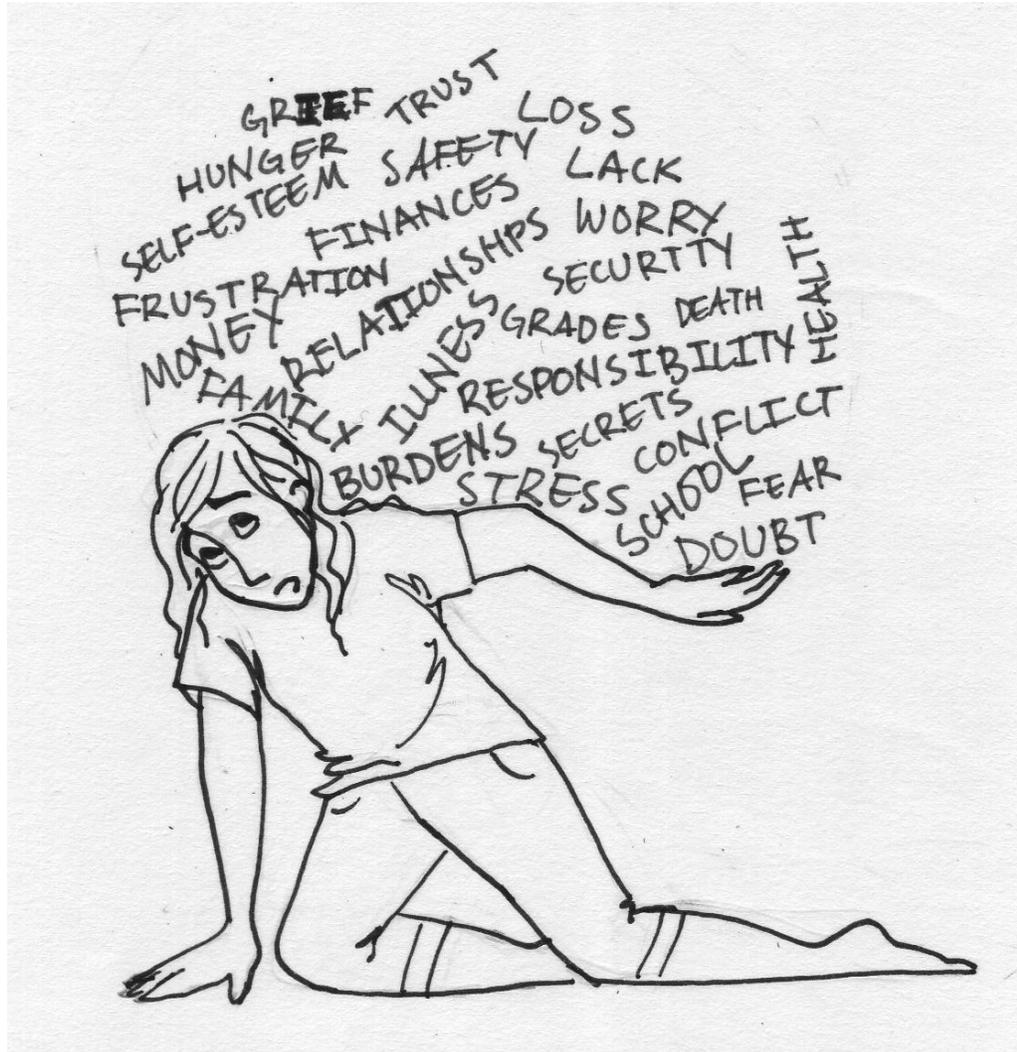
***The Covenant of Our  
Congregation  
Adopted in 1962***

*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.*

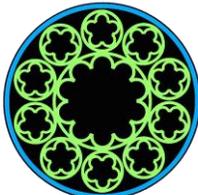
*It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.*

*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 28, 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 usually posted at [1stReformed.com](http://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.

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 28, 2016

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Helderberg Madrigal Singers

*Veni creator spiritus* Rabanus Maurus  
(9th century)  
arr. for HMS by TL Smith, 2016

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come  
from thy bright heav'nly throne;  
come, take possession of our souls,  
and make them all thine own...  
Far from us drive our deadly foe;  
true peace unto us bring;  
and through all perils lead us safe  
beneath thy sacred wing.

*Hallelujah* William Walker c. 1837  
arr. for HMS by TL Smith, 2016

*Justorum animal* Orlandus Lassus (1532-1594)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and the torment of death shall not touch them.  
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die;  
but they are in peace.

*Saltavan ninfe, satiri e pastori*  
Orazio Vecchi (1550-1605)

Nymphs, satyrs and shepherds  
danced among the sweet-smelling flowers,  
and singing, they said: Glory to love,  
who in the same instant wounds  
and heals the heart.

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

\*HYMN *Morning Has Broken* #469

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**God who bears our burdens, we are quick  
to burden those we meet, although we do  
not know their stories or understand the  
burdens they bear. Help us step outside  
our own perspective. Push us out of our  
self-focus. Nudge us to bless those we  
encounter rather than burden them, so  
that we may all walk freely.**

\*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

ANTHEM

*Cantate Domino* Orlandus Lassus (1532-1594)

O sing unto the Lord a new song:  
for he hath done marvelous things.  
With his own right hand, and with his holy arm:  
hath he gotten himself the victory.  
The Lord declared his salvation:  
his righteousness hath he openly showed  
in the sight of the heathen.  
He hath remembered his mercy  
and truth toward the house of Israel:  
and all the ends of the world have seen  
the salvation of our God.

Psalm 98

FIRST LESSON George Trimarco  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit  
**Amen.** *Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 (pg 227)*

RECOGNITION OF SARAH BACHORIK

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 13:10-17 (pg 76)*

SERMON *Burden or Blessing* Stacey Midge

\*HYMN *O for a World* #386

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*O quad gloriosum* William Byrd (1540-1623)

O how glorious is the kingdom in which all the saints rejoice with Christ. Clothed in white robes they follow the Lamb wherever he goes, praising God and saying:

Blessing, and splendor, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, honor, power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.

\*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 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* #438

### \*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:

*Norma Peterson, Eleanor Mae Hart*

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 her daughter Beth, and husband John by Eileen Herring.

## 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.

## Church School - September 4

Summer is coming to a close...and with that, Church School is BACK IN SESSION!!! We are so excited for the new school year! I hope that you all are planning to spend LOTS of time learning, laughing, and playing with us this year! SO many exciting new things are in store. Please remember to take part in Bible Sunday and the Fall Picnic on Sept 11. If your child is going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and I have NOT already contacted you about receiving a Bible from the congregation, PLEASE contact me!! If any parents are willing to do some volunteer teaching, even as a substitute, it would be GREATLY appreciated!! Please let me (Blythe) know.

## Youth Group Schedule

We kick off our program year on September 11, immediately after the all-church picnic, about noon. Both parents & 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

Helderberg Madrigal Singers: Martha Bond, soprano; Dawn Dana, alto; Dick Dana, tenor; Beth Gurzler, alto; Dave Metz, bass; Sarah Johnsen Popiel, soprano; Tim Smith, bass.

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.

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### **Thank you to Sarah Bachorik – TODAY**

Join us 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.

## Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

**Today:** Nat Phipps, piano

**Sept. 4:** Mike Lamkin, piano

**Sept. 11:** ‘Azzaam Hameed, piano

## 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 Refreshments

Whenever possible, our post service refreshments will be served in the Huntley Garden. We need volunteers for Sunday, September 4 please!

## 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 James Gonda at 607-765-5349.

## Post-service Refreshments Return to Assembly Hall September 18!

On September 18, refreshments will be served in Assembly Hall. Please participate in our Hospitality ministry; your food contributions are needed as attendance reverts to normal levels. Instructions for service are posted next to the sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. Thank you so much!

## 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 Playground Dates/Story Time

The Playground dates are now over and the Saturday Story Time has come to a close. Thank you for your participation. We will not be reinitiating that program as it was wildly unsuccessful. If anyone has any further “get together” ideas I would LOVE to hear them ...suggestions are ALWAYS welcome!

### **Kirk Ringers, Singers & Orff**

Kirk Ringers, Singers, and Orff will meet from 11:15am to noon in room 20 (at the top of the stairs) each Sunday, beginning September 18. We have loads of special music planned and lots of participants are needed! Any child of Church School age is invited to join us. No prior experience required. Come and find out what we are all about. If you have any questions please contact Jamie Ipsen, 399-6848.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:jgonda12309@gmail.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.

### **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.

### **Chancel Choir Resumes - September 8**

Join us as we prepare for regular participation in Sunday service as well as special events. Our choir ensemble will be preparing songs to coordinate with Creation-themed services in September and October with our pastors as the soloists. Now is a great time to join. All voice parts are needed and welcome. Contact Julie Panke, Dir. of Music [kirkechor@earthlink.net](mailto:kirkechor@earthlink.net) or Corine Salon, Artistic Coordinator [csalon@nycap.rr.com](mailto:csalon@nycap.rr.com) with any questions. Ensemble rehearses Thursdays at 7pm with Chancel Choir starting at 7:30pm.

### **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.

### **Communion Classes**

If your child is participating in Bible Sunday, they should also be participating in the Communion classes that Rev. Stacey will be teaching. These classes will begin September 11 and will be held for 3 consecutive Sundays in preparation for World Communion Day, October 2. Stay tuned for more details.

### **Horizon Bible Study for Fall – September 13**

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.

### **Office Help**

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

### **Kerygma Conversations – September 14**

This year, our Adult Education and Nurture class will engage in a deep, wide, and brisk walk through the church's history from the advent of Christ to the beginning of the Reformation. We'll meet each Wednesday through the fall (and most likely beyond), 9:30-11am, in Poling Conference room. Those wishing to join this group will be warmly welcomed together with those who have been considering the message of the gospel for our lives in this context for years! Copies of the acclaimed resource book we'll use, *The Story of Christianity* by Justo Gonzalez is available for perusal in the Faith Bookshop and the church office. To indicate your interest in participating or to ask a question regarding the same, contact Daniel Carlson.

### **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.

### **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).

### **Prayer Shawl Knit Group**

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

### **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).

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](mailto:RevJonathan16@gmail.com). We look forward to welcoming the church and community to Wednesday night Chat ‘n’ Chew!

### **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.

**Sunday, August 28**

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

**Monday, August 29**

9:00 am ..... Men's News Group

**Tuesday, August 30**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer

**Friday, September 2**

7:00 pm ..... Avery Presents – *Silent Movie*

**Sunday, September 4**

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

**Monday, September 5**

**OFFICE CLOSED – Labor Day**

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Joan Lindsay and George Trimarco	Kim and Tom Burgoyne
<b>Greeters</b>		
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Peggy King Carol DeLaMarter	Ann Gotwals Kim and Tom Burgoyne
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	Stacey Midge
<b>Preacher</b>	Stacey Midge	Jonathan Vanderbeck
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Peggy King, Thomas Lindsay	Darwin Brudos, Amy Brule, James Gonda, Mary Jewett, Del Pierce, Kitty Trimarco
<b>Reader</b>	George Trimarco	Amy Brule
<b>Refreshments</b>	Marilyn and Don Leach	Volunteers Needed
<b>Ushers</b>	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Sharron & Jim McCullough	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal