

***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.*

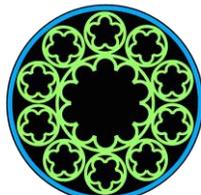
*It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.*

*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.*



September 4, 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.

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 4, 2016

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE John Norton, piano

*Prelude and Fugue No. 6 in D minor* J.S. Bach  
*Well-tempered Clavier, Book 2*

*Prelude and Fugue No. 1 in C major*  
*Well-tempered Clavier, Book 1*

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Jonathan Vanderbeck

\*HYMN *The Lord Be With You*

(L) The Lord be with you. (P) And al - so with you.  
(L) Lord, o - pen our lips. (P) And we'll sing your praise.

The Lord of heav-en and earth be wor-shipped in this place;  
O Lord, your un-fail-ing love and mer - cy will en - dure

the cov - en - ant of grace be re - newed.  
as fresh and bright and sure as morn-ing sun!

The Lord be with you.  
We bless you, Three - in - One.

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**O God who makes all things new, we know that even as you restore and reconcile all things to yourself, we are quick to tear down and destroy what is good. We have not loved one another the way you have taught us to love, and have ignored those most in need. We need you, O God, to continue to remind us what it means to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. For the sake of the world, Amen.**

\*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 The Belhar Confession, Article 4*)

**We believe**

**that God has revealed [Godself] as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;**

**that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;**

**that God calls the church to follow [God] in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**

**and that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Prelude No. 6 in D minor* J.S. Bach  
*Well-tempered Clavier, Book 1*

FIRST LESSON

Amy Brule

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit  
**Amen.**

*Luke 14:25-33 (pg 78)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*The Book of Philemon*  
(pg 215)

SERMON

Jonathan Vanderbeck  
*Counting the Cost*

\*HYMN *What Does the Lord Require* #405

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Wales Brown

OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*Fugue No. 23 in B major*  
*Well-tempered Clavier, Book 1*

J.S. Bach

## \*DOXOLOGY

#592

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## INVITATION

## COMMUNION PRAYER

(L) The Lord be with you. (P) And al-so with you.

(L) Now lift up your hearts (P) We lift them in praise.

O let us give thanks to the Lord. It is good and it is right,  
our joy and our de- light to give God praise - - -  
at all times and in all ways!

Holy and right it is...

...with your whole Church on earth and all  
the company of heaven we worship and adore  
your glorious name:

O Ho-ly are you Lord - the God of power and might  
Ho-san-na! Bles-sed is he! Christ Je-sus, who is come

the an-gels veil their sight! Earth is a-flame  
The Lord's a-noint-ed one: He comes a-gain!

with the glo-ry of your name!  
Ho-san-na, Lord, A-men!

Most righteous God...

... together we proclaim the mystery of the  
faith:

Your death, O Christ, we pro-claim. Your ris-ing cel-e-brate!  
Your com- ing we a- wait, to make all things new.  
All glo- ry un- to you!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray...  
...even so, come, Lord Jesus!

## COMMUNION

## 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

#223

*O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer*

## \*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:

*Mary Grupe, Richard Zentmire, James Pontius,  
Allen John Wood*

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.

## **Entered Into Eternal Rest**

Frances F. Shuey – 8/25/16

Memorial service here September 11 at 2pm

### **In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of her mother, Norma Knapp Peterson, by Anne Peterson.

### **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 resumes TODAY**

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

### **Sept 11: All Church Picnic**

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

### **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.

*The Lord Be With You* Words & Music: Ron Rienstra (c) 1999 Ron Rienstra Arr: Greg Scheer (c) 2008 Ron Rienstra Used by permission under CCLI #11256325 Addt'l Text: taken from *Worship the Lord, The Liturgy of the Reformed Church in America* (c) 2005 Reformed Church Press.

## **Youth Group Schedule**

We kick off our program year next Sunday, September 11, immediately after the all-church picnic, about noon. Both parents & youth are invited to attend. Youth will get acquainted during a Stockade Scavenger Hunt complete with Pokemons, while parents fill out the necessary registration paperwork and talk about the schedule for the year. Parents, please bring your insurance cards. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Stacey at revstacey@gmail.com.

The format of youth group is a bit different this year, with monthly service projects and active social events instead of weekly meetings at church. We will have our first service project on October 8 - stay tuned for more details!

### **Church School - TODAY**

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 next Sunday, September 11. If your child is going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and you have not been contacted about receiving a Bible from the congregation, please contact Stacey. If any parents are willing to do some volunteer teaching, even as a substitute, it would be greatly appreciated; please contact Stacey or the church office.

### **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 by contacting Stacey or the church office.

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

**Today:** Mike Lamkin, piano

**Sept. 11:** 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

**Sept. 18:** Peg Delaney Trio

**Church Picnic – NEXT SUNDAY- Sept 11  
NEED HELPERS PLEASE**

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.

**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 take place during the normal Church School time, and will begin September 11 and will be held for 3 consecutive Sundays in preparation for World Communion Day, October 2.

**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.

**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!

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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 will resume on September 22 at the home of Ronnie Bartholic 393-7679.

### **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.

### **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.

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 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!

### **Group VII - September 16**

We will have our Fall Luncheon at the Mohawk Golf Club, 1849 Union Street, on September 16 at 11:30am. Callers will be contacting Group VII members for reservations and menu selections.

### **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!

**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****Tuesday, September 6**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer  
 1:30 pm ..... Worship Committee  
 7:00 pm ..... Short-Short Writing Group

**Thursday, September 8**

10:00 am ..... Stitch Group  
 7:30 pm ..... Chancel Choir

**Sunday, September 11**

10:00 am ..... Worship/Bible Sunday  
 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:00 am ..... All Church Picnic  
 2:00 pm ..... Frances Shuey Memorial  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Kim and Tom Burgoyne	Bill Martin and Lyn Gordon
<b>Greeters</b>	Karen Giuzio	Ann and Joe Gotwals
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Ann Gotwals Kim and Tom Burgoyne	Barbara Walton Berta and Nat Phipps
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Jonathan Vanderbeck	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Darwin Brudos, Amy Brule, James Gonda, Mary Jewett, Del Pierce, Kitty Trimarco	Birdie Blackmer, Tom Lindsay, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton
<b>Reader</b>	Amy Brule	Liz Mastrianni
<b>Refreshments</b>	Don and Jeanette Davidson	ALL CHURCH PICNIC
<b>Ushers</b>	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta & Nat Phipps