

***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.



October 9, 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 Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

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, people stop for a chat and a cookie in Assembly Hall 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.

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 9, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Joyful Alleluia Robert J. Hughes
Marche Romaine Charles F. Gounod
Grand Triumphant Chorus Alexander Guilmant

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *From the Rising* Michael Tebbano

*HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #9

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Infinite God, forgive us when we cannot see beyond our own interests. We pray your pardon on our selfishness and our constant search for distraction and comfort. Heal our hearts, we pray, so that we may live for a larger vision and love for a noble end.

*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*)

The Apostles' Creed - Ecumenical version

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES OF CONFESSING MEMBERS

Elizabeth Barker, Kathy Barker, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Kristin Lion, Peter Lion

*PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION

*BLESSING AND WELCOME

We are ambassadors for Christ.

We are the salt of the earth;
we are the light of the world.

Welcome our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Joyfully we receive you. Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir and Klokken Tower Ringers

As For Me and My House Darrell Day

As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord.

As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord.

As for me and my house,
we will praise His holy name.

As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord.

As for me and my house,
we will feed the poor.

As for me and my house,
we will feed the poor.

As for me and my house,
we will shelter all who have a need.

As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord.

We will help the wounded heal.
We will help the blind to see.
We will find the lost.
We will teach the Word.
We will set the captives free.

As for me and my house,
we will love the world.
As for me and my house,
we will love the world.
As for me and my house,
we will serve the One True God.
As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord.

FIRST LESSON Marilyn Leach
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit
Amen. *Genesis 3:21-24 (pg 3)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 (pg 731)

SERMON *Living in Exile* Bill Levering

*HYMN *O Day of Peace* #450

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Klokken Tower Ringers
Rejoice! Richard J. Ruggiero

*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 #540
God Be with You Till We Meet Again

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Robert Bennett

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Thomas W. Norton – 10/4/16

Memorial Service to be held

November 12, at 11:30am in Poling Chapel.

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:

Marion Lentz, Gertrude Young, Eldon Springsted, Lauralee Moore, Jack Kampf, Frederick White, Emma Pitzer, William Fasake, Barbara Lawrence

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 Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and with love and remembrance of my father Joseph Marotta (9/25/16) by Karen and James Gonda.

Name Tag Sunday – TODAY

It's a big congregation, but there are ways to get to know it better. Please be sure to welcome our new congregants and wear your name tag. If you do not have a name tag, please fill out a white pew card.

Church Directories - TODAY

Updated directories are available in Assembly Hall and the church office.

New Member Reception - TODAY

Please join us, as we welcome our newest church families, for a reception in Assembly Hall after worship.

Post-service Refreshments in Assembly Hall

Join us for refreshments after worship in Assembly Hall. Please consider providing treats and hosting our post-worship fellowship by signing up for a couple of Sundays during the year. The sign-up sheet and instructions are in Assembly Hall. Direct any questions you may have to hospitality coordinators Gay Doolittle, gaysdoolittle@gmail.com 399-0499 or Barbara Walton, waltonbl@aol.com/346-1943.

Music Notes

Rejoice! Is an original composition by Richard Ruggiero, a handbell colleague and teacher from Queensbury NY. It is being rung on the newly refurbished and brightly polished Schulmerich Handbells. These memorial handbells are the first set that FRC owned and are still in use today! *We Rejoice!* In the memory of all those members and their families.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Scott Bassinson Trio

Oct 16: Peg Delaney Trio

Oct 23: 'Azzaam Hameed Trio

First Forum

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: Report from General Synod in June
Rev. Stacey Midge

Oct 16: Active Shooter Situations
Mike Munger, SCCC Security

Oct 23: The Election
Zoe Oxley, Union College professor

Church School

Children in grades K-5 are invited to go upstairs for church school after the Children's Message; those in grades 6-8 may choose whether to remain in the service or help out with the younger children. Additional teachers are needed, so if any parents or other adults are willing to volunteer regularly or as a substitute, please contact Shannon Kerwin or the office.

Youth Group Schedule

Youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join any or all of our youth group events, and friends are always invited. We have service projects and active social events approximately monthly.

October 30, 12:30-3pm Bowlathon to benefit Safe Inc. The cost is \$25, which includes bowling, shoes, and a pizza lunch.

Choir invites you to Drop-In for Anthem

For singers who cannot make it to regular Thursday night Chancel Choir rehearsals, you are welcomed and encouraged to join us on Sunday morning at 9am in the Sanctuary for anthems which may be familiar to you.

October 16 – Song of Generations (Kornelis) with Kirk Singers

October 23 – Set Me as a Seal (Childs)

October 30 – Offertory (Beck) Micah 6:8

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop, located across from the library, is open at its regular hours again: briefly before the Sunday church service and until 11:45 after.

Beverwyck Vol. 3 Available

The Short-short writers group released vol. 3 of the Beverwyck Anthology book. Copies are now available in the bookshop and the office.

Ring into Fall!

Klokken Tower Ringers cordially invite you to come and experience the joy of handbell ringing! Our usual rehearsal date is Monday at 7pm in the Poling conference room. Contact Judy Moore at, jbmnotes@nycap.rr.com with any questions.

New for Kids!

Learn to play the ukulele (or join us and share your expertise if you already know how to play!) We will be meeting in two groups each Sunday morning in room 20:

Grades 6-12 - 9-9:30 lesson, 9:30-9:59 practice

Grades 1-5 - 9:30-9:59 lesson & practice

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. 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.

Horizon Bible Study

We meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Poling Conference room. We started our nine-week study on "Who Is Jesus?" Join us.

New Member Class

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Dr. Levering will be leading membership orientation meetings that include a tour of the church and a chat about who we are. It lasts 90 minutes and is held in the church office at 3pm on the first Sunday of the month.

Tuesday Ladies –not meeting in October

Meetings are usually every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young. Please call Connie at 393-7061 for more info or ?????

Join Us for Chat ‘n’ Chew

EVERY Wednesday from 5:30-7pm, we gather in Assembly Hall to enjoy a home-cooked meal, spend time in community and conversation, and talk about various topics on religion, faith, and culture. ALL are welcome! Please get in contact with Jonathan at RevJonathan16@gmail.com, or (616) 822-3644 with questions or to volunteer to help. Thanks, and we hope to see you soon!

Let’s Do Lunch – Plan B

On **October 11** at noon anyone interested in food and fellowship should plan on joining in at the Persian Bite, 703 Union St. Please contact Gay Doolittle at 399-0499 or overdoo@msn.com ASAP to reserve your spot at the FRC table.

Word Service Starts Friday, October 14

Our WORD service is a collection of stories about particular topics, much like an NPR feature. It takes place on the second Friday of the month. The service resumes on Friday, October 14 at 7pm. The service presents fine music, autobiographical stories, works from our short-short fiction group, and a minister or two.

The Short-Short Writing Group – Oct. 18

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.

Evening Circle – October 19

Please call/email Ellie Rowland to confirm your attendance; 250-4302, erowland@nycap.rr.com We are having dinner at Casa Real, 1400 Altamont Ave. on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 6pm.

Stitch Group

Our church stitch group meets every Thursday at 10am in Poling Conference room. Work on whatever project you have. For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153.

Group VII – October 21

Our next meeting will be on Friday, Oct. 21 at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn room. The program is on Safe Inc. with Gay Doolittle as our hostess.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group –Oct. 27

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. All are welcome to join us and if you have any questions please give Ronnie a call at 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.

Johnson Memorial Library

Books may be borrowed for four weeks. On the card in the back of the book, list your name, address, and phone number. Enjoy the library for all it has to offer and please return the books.

Stephen Minister Training Sabbath

Our Stephen Ministry training class, which meets each Monday evening this fall and includes Nat and Berta Phipps, Joanne Bedell, Matt Jones, Sharon McCullough, Bill Clock, and Karen Gonda, will be taking a rest during Columbus Day. We thank God for the energetic engagement of our Stephen Minister trainees!

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!

+ + +

“Life is a relentless expulsion from where we come from and an ongoing deportation to alien realms. We are in exile and our greatest dream is to return to the lost land. It is the greatest dream because no matter how long our exile is going to last, the dream will remain. It is the greatest dream because when we finally care only for this dream, then our exile will be over.”
- Franco Santoro

“Most people are principally aware of one culture, one setting, one home; exiles are aware of at least two, and this plurality gives rise to an awareness of simultaneous dimensions...”
- Kobena Mercer

“It’s not easy to start over in a new place, ‘he said. ‘Exile is not for everyone. Someone has to stay behind, to receive the letters and greet family members when they come back.’”
- Edwidge Danticat, *Brother I’m Dying*

“Outcasts, callused from being in exile for too long, learn to thrive on being the hated; the attention and infamy of our actions fuels us to become antiheroes. Too often do we forget; we risk self-destruction if we fail to follow what we know is right; our talents too often become misplaced, misdirected, misguided from what could have been something wonderful.”
- Mike Norton, *Fighting for Redemption*

“For the first times in years, he felt the deep sadness of exile, knowing that he was alone here, an outsider, and too alert to the ironies, the niceties, the manners, and indeed, the morals to be able to participate.”
- Colm Toibin, *The Master*

“It’s a kindness that the mind can go where it wishes.” – Ovid, *The Poems of Exile: Tristia and the Black Sea Letters*

“Happiness is not only a hope, but also in some strange manner a memory...we are all kings in exile.” – G.K. Chesterton, *The Thing*

Sunday, October 9

10:00 am Worship/Name Tag Sunday
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am New Member Reception
 11:15 am First Forum
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers/Singers, Orff
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, October 10

Office Closed – Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 11

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
 6:30 pm Committee Meetings
 7:30 pm Consistory

Wednesday, October 12

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
 1:00 pm Archives
 2:00 pm Staff Meeting
 5:30 pm Chat 'n' Chew

Thursday, October 13

7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00 am Stitch Group
 7:00 pm Ensemble Practice
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, October 14

7:00 pm WORD Service

Saturday, October 15

1:00 pm Jan Crandell Memorial Service

Sunday, October 16

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:15 am First Forum
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers, Orff
 12:15 pm JAC Book Study
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	David Bundy and Joan Lindsay	Gay Doolittle and Richard Gardner
Greeters	Lauren Cleworth	Karen and James Gonda
Flower Delivery	Del Pierce Lauren Cleworth	Barbara Walton Adam and Becky Mason
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Peggy King, Tom Lindsay, Don & Marilyn Leach, Margaret Schadler, Maria Todd	James Gonda, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Del Pierce, Richard Rose, Barbara Walton. Gene Zeltmann
Reader	Marilyn Leach	Carol Troost
Hospitality	New Member Reception	Carol Troost
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Joan Lindsey, Jeannette and Don Davidson, Jim and Sharron McCullough	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal