

***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.

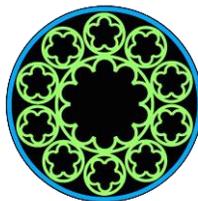
Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly 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.



What I want
heaven to be
is so much
about me

November 6, 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-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 6, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Nat Phipps, piano

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

Worship the Lord

John Porter

*HYMN (*see insert*)

Lord Most High

*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*)

from the Confession of 1967

Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common

welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

The Saints of God

James Bassi

The saints of God their conflict past,
and life's long battle won at last,
no more they need the shield or sword,
they cast them down before their Lord:
O happy saints forever blest,
at Jesus' feet how safe your rest.

The saints of God their wand'rings done,
no more their weary course they run,
no more they faint, no more they fall,
no foes oppress, no fears appall:
O happy saints forever blest,
in that dear home how sweet your rest.

The saints of God life's voyage o'er,
safe landed on that blissful shore,
no stormy tempests now they dread,
no roaring billows lift their head:
O happy saints forever blest,
in that calm haven of your rest.

The saints of God their vigil keep,
while yet their mortal bodies sleep,
till from the dust they too shall rise
and soar triumphant to the skies:
O happy saints rejoice and sing:
He quickly comes your Lord and King!

William Dalrymple Maclagan

FIRST LESSON

Gene Rowland

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit
Amen. *2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 (pg.205)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 20:27-38 (pg.84)*

SERMON

Bill Levering

The Problem with Heaven

*HYMN #508

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Nat Phipps, piano

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

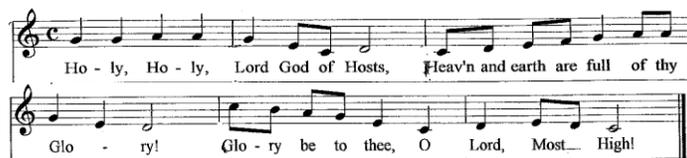
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*) Carl Steubing



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

#364

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen

Dresden

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:

Jean Heilman, Ada Huybregtse, Melissa Greskovich, Alan F. Kuhn, Marilyn Wemple, Richard McCary

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

Tom Norton – October 4, 2016

A memorial Service will be held on November 12, 2016 at 11:30am in Poling Chapel.

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 Celebration

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary in celebration of Martha Winchester's 90th Birthday from her friends.

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.

First Forum

Held most Sundays after worship at 11:15am in Poling Chapel. Suggestions for programs are welcome; Contact Amy Brule 785-8201, Peggy King 370-1885, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

Today: Joe & Gay Doolittle

“Fearless Generosity” Stewardship

Nov 13: Fred Daniels & Brandon Stabler
Making Room

Nov 20: Alyx Gleason, Siena College
3D Printing-Making Robotic
Hands & Arms

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.

Chancel Guild - Today

The Chancel Guild will hold its advent planning meeting today after worship in the Dirck Romeyn Room. All are welcome to attend.

New Member Class - Today

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.

Faith Bookshop

Although the move is some months away, the Bookshop is preparing for a new location during the church renovations, and since that space may be smaller than our current room, we are beginning to reduce our inventory. Currently, all books with pink stickers on the cover are half price.

Fair Trade coffee and teas

Half price sale! Stop by Faith Bookshop and pick up remaining inventory of Fair Trade coffee & teas.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Mike Lamkin, piano

Nov 13: Scott Bassinson, piano

Nov 20: Jazz Thanksgiving Festival, 4pm

Nov 27: David Gleason, piano

Thanksgiving Jazz Festival

The annual Thanksgiving Jazz Festival and Vespers will take place on **Sunday, November 20 in the main sanctuary from 4-6pm**. On the program will be: Nat Phipps, piano; Keith Pray, sax; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Peg Delaney, piano; Jim Corigliano, sax; Tim Coakley, drums; Bill Delaney, bass; Pete Toigo, bass; and Colleen Pratt, vocals.

The Youth program will have refreshments available at intermission.

Admission is \$10, \$5 students and retirement community residents.

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.

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

Church Directories

Updated directories are available in the church office.

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.

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.

Nov 12 - Sorting Thanksgiving Basket donations for Concerned for the Hungry. Meet at Keane School at 1252 Albany St. from 10am-2pm. Lunch will be provided.

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.

Today – *The Saints of God* (Bassi)

Nov 13 – *One Thing More* (Marshall)

Nov 20 – *Come, Let Us Join* (Parker)

Horizon Bible Study

The Horizons Bible study "Who Is Jesus?" will not meet on Nov. 22 but otherwise will continue on Tuesdays at 10am in the Poling Conference room through Dec. 13.

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.

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.

The Short-Short Writing Group

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. Copies of Vol. 1, 2, 3 are available in the bookshop and the office.

Join Us for Chat 'n' Chew

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!

Stephen Minister Training Continues

This week our Stephen Ministry training class will be exploring the benefit of professional mental health care as well as occasions when referral to such caregivers and other community resources is appropriate.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

Because of the November holidays, our next meeting will be on December 1 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.

Women's Group – Nov 7

The Women's Group will meet on Monday, Nov. 7 at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn room.

TLC (Tuesday Lunch Club)

November 8 - 11:55am

Celebrate the end of politics as we've come to know it. VOTE and then come join your friends at Tara Kitchen, 431 Liberty Street, just down from city hall and the post office. Liberty Street is right between the two. Tara Kitchen is a locally owned, highly rated, authentic Moroccan restaurant, first known for their exquisite sauces. They don't take reservations, but let's give them a "heads up". If you can, please RSVP Gay Doolittle (399-0499) or email overdoo@msn.com, or just show up. There will be lots to talk about!

Word Service – Nov 11

This month will feature Rev. Coombs, who is a board member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers. The service presents fine music, autobiographical stories, works from our short-short fiction group, and a minister or two. It takes place on the second Friday of every month at 7pm.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due Nov 13

Please see our new display in Assembly Hall! Brochures with packing instructions and labels can be found here as well as the red & green boxes. Regular shoe boxes or similar sized containers with removable lids are still acceptable. Boxes should be filled with small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, socks, gloves, etc. A check payable to Samaritan's Purse indicating O.C.C. on the memo line (\$7 shipping fee) should accompany each box. For more information, contact Shannon Kerwin 374-2542 or shan2112@yahoo.com.

Group VII – Nov 18

Group VII has their next meeting on Nov. 18 at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. The program will be by Her Treasure Box.

Youth Group Mission Trip Fundraiser

The youth group are digging into our church's Dutch heritage and making authentic saucijzenbroodjes to sell. These hand-rolled sausages wrapped in pastry, often called pigs-in-a-blanket, are a delicious appetizer or meal and go well with a bowl of soup on a cold winter's evening. They will be selling them by the half-dozen and dozen after church on Sunday, November 20. There will also be some to sample at fellowship time during refreshments. The pigs will come unbaked and are ready to be popped into the freezer or baked up fresh that afternoon. \$16/dozen, or \$9/half-dozen. Donations also gratefully accepted! All proceeds will go towards offsetting the cost of the youth group mission trip this February.

“In heaven, all the interesting people are missing.” — Friedrich Nietzsche

And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”
Luke 23:43

“They can keep their heaven. When I die, I'd sooner go to Middle Earth.”
— George R.R. Martin

“Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.” — Mark Twain

“What makes earth feel like hell is our expectation that it should feel like heaven.” — Chuck Palahniuk, *Damned*

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
John 14:2

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Sunday, November 6

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship & Communion
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:15 am First Forum
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers, Orff
 11:15 am Chancel Guild
 3:00 pm New Member Class
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, November 7

9:00 am Men's News Group
 11:00 am Group V
 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Training
 7:00 pm Klokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, November 8 – Election Day

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
 6:30 pm Standing Committees
 7:30 pm Consistory

Wednesday, November 9

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
 5:30 pm Chat 'n' Chew

Thursday, November 10

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

Friday, November 11

7:00 pm Word Service

Saturday, November 12

11:30 am Norton Memorial Service

Stewardship Sunday, November 13

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 Book Study
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Cathy Lewis, Doug Todd	Bill Martin, Therese McCarty
Greeters	Joan & Tom Lindsay	Mary Jewett
Flower Delivery	Doug Todd and Sandy Moynihan	Joanne Arnold, Kay Opdyke
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, Gay Doolittle, Brad & Cathy Lewis, James Gonda, Keith Muse, Maria Todd	Art Casey, Peggy King, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler, Jeanne Shoulder, Gene Zeltmann
Reader	Gene Rowland	Therese McCarty
Hospitality	Gay Doolittle	Ann Bish, Ann Hicks
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael & Vickie Horan, Christine Lunn, Doug Todd, Carol Troost	Bill Martin (head usher), Kip & Joanne Arnold, Alden Brown, Adam Kerwin