

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-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 13, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Offertory in E Flat
Grand Chorus in B Flat Theodore Dubois

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT

Choral Call Robert Campbell

*HYMN (*see insert*) *Gather Us In*

*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 Ukulele Choir

Bring Forth the Kingdom Marty Haugen

Refrain: Bring forth the kingdom of mercy;
pray for the kingdom of peace;
work for the kingdom of justice;
hope for the city of God!

You are salt for the earth, O people;
salt for the kingdom of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people;
life in the kingdom of God! **Refrain**

You are a light on a hill, O people;
light for the city of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people;
shine for the kingdom of God! **Refrain**

You are a seed of the Word, O people;
live for the kingdom of God!

Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the kingdom of God! **Refrain**

FIRST LESSON Therese McCarty

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit
Amen. *Isaiah 65:17-25 (pg.695)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 21:5-19 (pg.85)*

SERMON Bill Levering

Ends and Beginnings

*HYMN *Earth and All Stars* #458

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

One Thing More Jane Marshall

Thou who hast given so much to me,
give one thing more: a grateful heart.
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
as if thy blessings had spare days,
but such a heart whose pulse may be,

whose pulse may be thy praise.
Thou who hast given so much to me,
give one thing more: such a heart
whose pulse may be thy praise.

George Herbert (1593- 1633)

*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 (*see insert*)

Siyahamba/We Are Marching in the Light of God

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen Greek

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Music Notes

Siyahamba/We are Marching in the Light of God. copyright 1984, Walton Music Corp. Used by permission. Gather us In. Copyright 1982. GIA Publications OneLicense #700-700

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.

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:

Alan D. Attanasio, George Graham, Dolph G.P. Ebeling, Josephine Van Nest, Albert Holland, Richard Roberts, John "Jack" Fitts, H. Gilbert Harlow, Earl Wainwright

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 Bernard Overeynder by his wife and daughters.

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.

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: Fred Daniels & Brandon Stabler
"Making Room"

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

Nov 27: Coffee & Conversation

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: 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.

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.

Nov 20: *Come, Let Us Join* (Parker)

Nov 27: *Companions All Sing Loudly*
(Dicie)

Fair Trade Coffee and Teas

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Stephen Minister Training Continues

This week our Stephen Ministry training class will be engaging the module: Dealing with Depression: The Stephen Minister's Role. In this session they will be looking into the very common problem of depression--its causes, symptoms, and the role Stephen Ministers can have in the lives of people who are experiencing depression.

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 19: Assembling pigs in a blanket for our fall fundraiser. Meet at the church from 12-4pm. Lunch will be provided.

Nov 20: Selling pigs in a blanket after the worship service. Please be at church by 9:45am to set up.

Nov 27: Attend the Advent Festival at church.

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!

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.

Midmonth Contemplative Worship

This Wednesday evening at 7pm, a relatively small number of folks will gather in the stillness of Poling Chapel to sing a few songs gently accompanied by acoustic guitar; take turns reading a brief portion of Scripture and listening for God's voice; engage in an extended time of centering prayer, silently abiding in God's loving presence; gather around the Lord's Table where the bread and cup are passed from one person to the next; finally, with hands joined, will pray for ourselves and others. You are invited.

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.

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.

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!

Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due Today

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.

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.

Intergenerational Advent Festival Nov 27

Gather on the evening of the first Sunday of Advent with those of all ages for a covered dish dinner and seasonal activities. For the meal at 5, bring food to share that begins with the letter A (for Advent—any Appetizer will do) or food that is purple or blue (contemporary Advent colors). After our dinner the crafts commence, including the making of lovely Advent wreaths from natural materials! We'll conclude by 7pm with a brief liturgy around our candlelit wreaths. Those wishing to share a favorite Advent craft or activity may contact Daniel Carlson.

“This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.”

— T.S. Eliot

“To be Irish is to know that in the end the
world will break your heart.”

— Daniel Patrick Moynihan

“Sure, everything is ending," Jules said,
"but not yet.” — Jennifer Egan, A Visit
from the Goon Squad

“I sat in the dark and thought: There's no
big apocalypse. Just an endless procession
of little ones.” — Neil Gaiman, Signal to
Noise

“I want you here. I don't care if it's a
hundred degrees and every blade of grass
dies. Without you, none of that matters to
me.” — Kami Garcia

“When you expect the world to end at any
moment, you know there is no need to
hurry. You take your time, you do your
work well.” — Thomas Merton

“We wrap up our violent and mysterious
world in a pretense of understanding. We
paper over the voids of our comprehension
with science and religion, and make
believe that order has been imposed. And,
for the most of it, the fiction works. We
skim across the surfaces, heedless of the
depths below. Dragonflies flitting over a
lake, miles deep, pursuing erratic paths to
pointless ends. Until that moment when
something from the cold unknown reaches
up to take us. — Mark Lawrence, Prinz
der Dunkelheit

The biggest lies we save for ourselves. We
play a game in which we are gods, in
which we make choices, and the current
follows in our wake. We pretend a
separation from the wild. Pretend that a
man's control runs deep, that civilization
is more than a veneer, that reason will be
our companion in dark places.”

— Mark Lawrence, Prince of Thorns

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

Monday, November 14

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

Tuesday, November 15 – Election Day

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
 7:00 pm Short Short Writing Group

Wednesday, November 16

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
 5:30 pm Chat 'n' Chew
 7:00 pm Contemplative Worship

Thursday, November 17

7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00 am Stitch Group
 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry
 7:00 pm Ensemble Practice
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, November 19

1:00 pm Youth Group

Sunday, November 20

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	Bill Martin, Therese McCarty	Lyn Gordon, Ralph Rosenthal
Greeters	James & Karen Gonda	Inge and Chuck Pangburn
Flower Delivery	Joanne Arnold, Kay Opdyke	Joan Lindsay, Sue Zeltmann
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Preacher	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Christine Daniels, Peggy King, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler, Jeanne Shoulder, Gene Zeltmann	Del Pierce, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose, Margaret Schadler, Gene Zeltmann
Reader	Therese McCarty	Ellie Rowland
Hospitality	Ann Bish, Ann Hicks	Sally Clark
Ushers	Bill Martin (head usher), Kip & Joanne Arnold, Alden Brown, Adam Kerwin	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim McCullough