

***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.

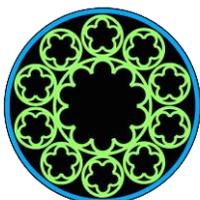
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



December 4, 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.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Klokken Tower Ringers

Savior of the Nations, Come 16th C. German
Arr. Moklebust

Tom D'Andrea, Kate Rose, percussion

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Wales, Alden and Joe Brown

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more, Em - man - u - el.

OneLicense #700-700

*HYMN “*Hey, Hey, Anybody Listening?*”

refrain:

Hey, hey, anybody list'ning?

Hey, hey, anybody there?

Hey, hey, anybody list'ning?

Anybody care?

**We've got good news, good news,
good news, good news:**

Christ the Lord will soon be found here!

**Good news, good news,
good news, good news:**

Let's help spread the news around here!

If I had a drum I'd drum it,

a mandolin I'd strum it,

A hummingbird hum I'd hum it,

Ev'rywhere, ev'rywhere, ev'rywhere,

ev'rywhere.

(refrain)

People come on, come on,

come on, come on:

Let's sing out for Mary's son here!

Come on, come on, come on, come on:

He'll bring joy to ev'ryone here!

If I had a harp I'd twang it,

a tambourine I'd bang it,

A fireman's bell I'd clang it,

Ev'rywhere, ev'rywhere, ev'rywhere,

ev'rywhere.

(refrain)

Come on, sing out, sing out,

sing out, sing out!

Tell the world about his birth now!

Sing out, sing out, sing out, sing out!

Loud and clear to all the earth now!

If I had a chime I'd ring it,

a finger cymbal ching it,

We've got this song, let's sing it,

Ev'rywhere, ev'rywhere, ev'rywhere,

ev'rywhere.

(refrain)

-Richard Avery, Don Marsh

©1967 Hope Pub. Co.

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**We need you, God. We have denied and
avoided our frailties and**

brokenness. Prepare us for your

peace. When we have lost our way, show

us your path. When we think we know it

all, humble us and show us your truth.

When we have lost our hope, remind us of

your triumph.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria, Gloria

#576

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

(From the Brief Statement of Faith)

In gratitude to God, empowered by the

Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in

our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful

lives, even as we watch for God's new

heaven and new earth, praying, 'Come,

Lord Jesus.'

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Alleluia! Rejoice! The Lord Shall Come
arr. Patrick Liebergen

O come, O come, Emanuel
and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Alleluia! Rejoice!
The Lord shall come on earth to dwell.
Alleluia! Rejoice!
God will bless us with joy! Noel!

Sing we noel! Sing! He shall come!
The holy child so small,
meek and mild! Emmanuel!

O come, O come that holy night,
bring peace and love
with your light shining bright.

Sing we noel! Emmanuel! Alleluia! Rejoice!
God will bless us with joy! Emmanuel!

O fallen world, to you is the song!
Death holds you fast and night carries long.
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy;
Sweet to your ears, a carol of joy.

Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow;
Cold barren hillside shrouded in snow.
Deep empty valley, veiled by the night;
Hear angel music, hopeful and bright.

O fearful world, to you is the song!
Peace with your God, and pardon from wrong.
Tidings for sinners burdened and bound.
Carol of joy, a Savior is found!

Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes!
Thrill to the chorus filling the skies.
Look up, and sad-hearted! Witness God's love;
Join in the carol swelling above!

O friendless world, to you is the song!
All heaven's joy to you may belong!
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn,
Now unto you, a Savior is born!

Eileen Berry

FIRST LESSON Peg Miller
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit
Amen. *Isaiah 11:1-10 (pg 640)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 3:1-12*
(pg 2)

SERMON Bill Levering
Plain Old Preparation

*HYMN #409
Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

MINUTE FOR MISSION Wales Brown
World AIDS Day

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Carol of Joy* Dan Forrest

Green leaves have fallen, withered and dry,
Brief sunset fading, dim winter sky;
Lengthening shadows, dark closing in;
Then through the stillness, carols begin.

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

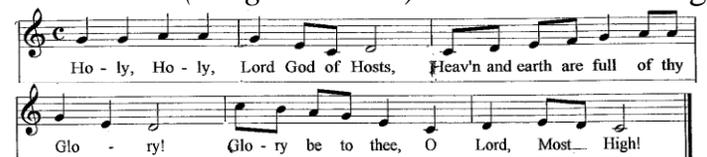
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 #3
Comfort, Comfort You My People

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Thompson

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

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: Bill Levering - Christmas Offering to *Hospice Hospital in Africa*

Dec 11: Mark Little - *Schenectady Smart City*

Dec 18: Dr. Steady Moono President of SCCC

Dec 25: Coffee and Conversation

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Dec 11: Scott Bassinson, piano

Dec 18: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Dec 25: Mike Lampkin, piano

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:

Robert Bruce Crandell, Katherine Rozendaal, Arthur E. Peterson, Sally Hahn, Marguerite Carr

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 our parents Dr. Henry & Emily Nagamatsu, from Nancy, Brian, & their families.

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.

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.

Faith Bookshop

Christmas season sale in the Bookshop! Books with pink stickers are half price and some are free. Most other items are marked down. You'll find jewelry, framed pictures of the church, special books for children, stocking stuffers and more. It's a jolly preparation for our closing when church renovations begin.

Youth Group Schedule

Dec 11: Mission Trip, Youth & Parent meeting

Dec. 17: Potluck and Spontaneous Nativity

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Family Service

Youth Mission Trip News

This year's mission trip for grades 9-12 is to Philadelphia! We will be working with an Urban Service Camp at Old First Church. Interested youth and their parents should attend a meeting on Dec. 11 at 11:30am (after the worship service) in the Dirck Romeyn Room. If you are interested but unable to attend the meeting, please contact Stacey.

Spontaneous Nativity Pageant and Potluck

Bring a dish to share and your sense of adventure, and join us for a potluck dinner followed by a no-rehearsal-needed performance of the Christmas story, starring you! This unique fellowship event will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5pm**. Roles exist for the very dramatic and those who would prefer not to speak publicly, and all ages are warmly invited to participate. Sinatra the camel is likely to make an appearance, and may even be available after the show for photo ops.

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 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.

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. 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.

Music Notes

Today's handbell Prelude Savior of the Nations, the composer Come, uses the ancient 'plainsong' setting for the hymn found on page 14 of our hymnal. This poignant setting touches on the pleading for a Savior to come live among us. The use of percussion adds the mystical feeling that perhaps the early Christians experienced.

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.

Dec 11: *Soon and Very Soon* (Schrader)

Dec 18: *As Joseph Was a-Walking* (Brentnall)

Stories of Gifting: Word Service Dec 9

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 at 7pm in Poling Chapel. The service presents fine music, autobiographical stories, works from our short-short fiction group, and a minister or two.

Thursday Musical Club Christmas Concert

Join the Thursday Musical Club all women's chorus directed by Julie Panke and accompanied by Elinore Farnum, for a Christmas concert on **Saturday, Dec. 10** at 2:30pm in the church sanctuary.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast group will meet on **Saturday, Dec. 10** at 8am in Assembly Hall. Following breakfast, we will be treated to a presentation by Ralph Rosenthal, featuring some of his favorite photographs. Ralph will talk about how he chooses subjects to photograph and how he achieves the impressive results that he is known for. As always, guests are welcome. Come and bring a friend. For more information, please contact Joe Doolittle (384-1700) or Gene Rowland (250-4302).

TLC (Tuesday Lunch Club) Dec 13

By popular demand, Casa Real Mexican Restaurant at 1400 Altamont Avenue in the Hannaford Plaza. This is where our friends from Mexico go to find their "taste of home." Join us at the FRC table at 12pm. May a reservation with Gay Doolittle by calling 399-0499 or email gaysdoolittle@gmail.com, so she can let them know ahead of time and maybe help organize a car pool, OR, just show up. The more the merrier.

Midmonth Contemplative Worship

Gather in the stillness of Poling Chapel; sing a few songs gently accompanied by acoustic guitar; take a turn reading a brief portion of Scripture; listen for God's invitation to faithfulness; abide in the Spirit's loving presence; share the Lord's Supper, offer prayers of joy or concern; depart in Christ's peace. On **Dec. 14** at 7pm, you are invited to our contemplative worship.

Group VII

Our Christmas Luncheon will be on **Friday, Dec. 16** at 11:45am in the Assembly Hall room.

Narthex Display Cases

Please take a few minutes to view the exhibits in the narthex windows which will remain through the first few weeks of December. Exhibit subjects include photos and information about Rev. Bill Levering and Andy Chestnut's trip to Zambia prepared by Karen Giuzio. And...bring joy to little children instruction and high ideals to youth....featuring photos by Rev. Stacey Midge and youth. Barbara Walton arranged this display.

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.

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.

Stephen Ministry Training

This week the Stephen Ministry Training class will be considering the subject of Supervision: A Key to Quality Care. In this presentation they will be learning how to engage in the process of small group peer supervision so they will be able to best minister to their respective care receivers.

Stitch Group

Our Thursday morning PHD* Stitch Group will not meet on Thursday, Dec. 22 nor Thursday, Dec. 29. Stitching will resume every week on January 5, 2017. Bring a new piece to begin or finish up something you have left undone. You are welcome for a one time visit or whatever your schedule allows. Call Joan Lindsay, 399-3153 if you would like more information. *Projects Half Done

Short-Short Writing Group

The FRC Short-Short Writing Critique Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in Assembly Hall at 7pm. Short-Shorts are fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, essays, and travel pieces told in 1,000 words or less. The mission of the group is to help one another improve as writers.

Pledge Update

Have you made your pledge for 2017? The easiest way to do it is to go online at 1stReformed.com and you will see a link on the left. It takes less than 30 seconds.

Tuesday Ladies

Tuesday Ladies will not be meeting during the month of December.

Christmas Offering

Mother of Mercy Hospice

In 1997, the Mother of Mercy Hospice was opened for terminally ill patients as an extension of the Home Based Care (HBC) services. It was one of the first hospices established in Zambia. HIV/AIDS cases were increasing at an alarming rate and it was becoming difficult for the formal health sector to take care of all the cases. The Hospice operates in a location where the poorest of the poor live. They have a clinic, an education center, and an orphanage.

Andy Chestnut and Bill Levering visited the hospice this summer and were impressed by the care they provided. Volunteers from around the world help there.

Poinsettia Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on **Sunday, December 18** to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our care and support to church members not able to join us for worship.

Stop by the Giving Tree, Assembly Hall

Take a card with suggested gift items from the tree and purchase a Christmas gift for the Men of City Mission. Place the gift unwrapped under the Christmas Tree. Gifts can be brought in December 4-18th. Gifts must be brought in to FRC by Sunday, December 18th. Please bring sizes larger to L- EXX

Men at the City Mission are often forgotten at Christmas time. Last Christmas season, my car was loaded high with many beautiful gifts. Let's keep the giving going again this year. Share the joy of giving with the Men of City Mission.

Daily Devotional Books

Group V has their Devotional books available again this year. These make great holiday gifts, hostess gifts, and just thoughtful gifts for friends and family. There are copies available in the book shop. These books can be used over, year after year. The quotes come from religious and non-religious sources. If you have any questions, contact Maria G. Todd, 882-6555, who will also have books. The cost is \$7 each or 3 for \$20.

December Calendar

- 4 Breakfast with St. Nicholas
- 4 New Member Class
- 9 Word Service: Gifting
- 10 Christmas Concert
- 12 Men's Breakfast
- 13 TLC Lunch Club
- 14 Midmonth Contemplative Worship
- 16 Group VII Christmas Luncheon
- 17 Christmas Pageant
- 24 5pm Family Service
9pm Carols & Candles Service
11pm Christmas Jazz Vespers
- 25 Christmas Day Worship

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

Family Service – 5pm

See the story of Jesus' birth lived-out by children and youth. Infants and children are welcome to this service that has all the magic of Christmas.

Music of the Season – 8:30pm

This year the Chancel Choir will present *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest* by Conrad Susa accompanied by harp, marimba, and piano. There will also be duets by Andrew Janacek and Mary McGuinness.

Carols and Candles Service – 9pm

Our traditional Christmas celebration will include the warm hope of tiny candles and familiar songs. Plan on bringing treats and staying to chat with friends. Gay Doolittle and Barbara Walton are looking for helpers for this.

Christmas Jazz Vespers – 11pm

This year our late service will feature quiet jazz renditions of classic carols. The Peg Delaney Trio will be playing but we will still have Silent Night, Candles, and a communion opportunity.

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

10am Informal Worship

Join our regular celebration with no sermon! We will sing carols and rejoice without neckties.

How to Give Memorial Flowers for Christmas

Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on December 24. The donation is \$20. **Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2016.** Please email, 1streformedpub@gmail.com or call 377-2201 the church office **no later than Thursday, December 18**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

Christmas Idea

It won't cost a penny! For the person who enjoys reading, how about the first three volumes of *The Beverwyck*, FRC's literary magazine, bundled with a red ribbon? Free copies are in the bookstore.

Christmas Eve Refreshments

The Christmas Eve Reception this year will be held in Assembly Hall. We count on you to bring your delicious holiday finger foods to share following the 9pm service! If you are able to help with set up or clean up, it would be very much appreciated. Contact Gay Doolittle, 588-2801 or Barbara Walton, 346-1943.



Sunday, December 4

8:30 am Breakfast with Saint Nicholas
 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
 3:00 pm New Member Class
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, December 5

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

Tuesday, December 6

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizon's Bible Study
 11:30 am Support and Care
 7:00 pm Short Short Writing Group

Wednesday, December 7

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations

Thursday, December 8

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

Friday, December 9

7:00 pm Word Service

Saturday, December 10

8:00 am Men's Breakfast
 2:30 pm Thursday Musical Club Concert

Sunday, December 11

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
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Bookshop	Sarah Howes	Bill Clock
Counting Deacons	Kim and Tom Burgoyne	Dick Gardner & Claire Hughes
Greeters	Ellie & Gene Rowland	Christine & Fred Daniels
Flower Delivery	Karen Gonda, David Hjelm	Nancy Wainwright & James Reid
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Gay Doolittle, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Jeanne Shoulder, Gene Zeltmann	Birdie Blackmer, Art Casey, Don & Marilyn Leach, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler
Reader	Peg Miller	Jim Miller
Hospitality	Bachorik Family	Becky Mason
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta and Nat Phipps	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” — Benjamin Franklin

“If your enemy is secure at all points, be prepared for him. If he is in superior strength, evade him. If your opponent is temperamental, seek to irritate him. Pretend to be weak, that he may grow arrogant. If he is taking his ease, give him no rest. If his forces are united, separate them. If sovereign and subject are in accord, put division between them. Attack him where he is unprepared, appear where you are not expected.” — Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

“I will prepare and some day my chance will come.” — Abraham Lincoln

“Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.” — Abraham Lincoln

“Another way to be prepared is to think negatively. Yes, I'm a great optimist. but, when trying to make a decision, I often think of the worst case scenario. I call it 'the eaten by wolves factor.' If I do something, what's the most terrible thing that could happen? Would I be eaten by wolves? One thing that makes it possible to be an optimist, is if you have a contingency plan for when all hell breaks loose. There are a lot of things I don't worry about, because I have a plan in place if they do.” — Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.” — H. Jackson Brown Jr., *P.S. I Love You*

“All things are ready, if our mind be so.” — William Shakespeare, *Henry V*

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” — Benjamin Franklin

“Why not seize the pleasure at once? -- How often is happiness destroyed by preparation, foolish preparation!” — Jane Austen, *Emma*

“Unfortunately, there seems to be far more opportunity out there than ability.... We should remember that good fortune often happens when opportunity meets with preparation.” — Thomas A. Edison

“If you believe you can accomplish everything by "cramming" at the eleventh hour, by all means, don't lift a finger now. But you may think twice about beginning to build your ark once it has already started raining” — Max Brooks, *The Zombie Survival Guide*:

“We should live our lives as though Christ was coming this afternoon.” — Jimmy Carter

“Sit down before fact as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion, follow humbly wherever and to whatever abysses nature leads, or you shall learn nothing. I have only begun to learn content and peace of mind since I have resolved at all risks to do this.” — Thomas Henry Huxley, *Life and Letters of*

First Reformed Church

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and
absolutely everyone is invited
to our worship, activities, and service.

THE CONSISTORY

MINISTERS

Bill Levering, Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister
Stacey Midge, Associate Minister

OFFICERS

James Gonda, Peggy King, Senior Elders
Catherine Lewis, Treasurer
Joanne Bedell, Clerk

ELDERS

Amy Brule
James Gonda
Peggy King
Marilyn Leach
Brad Lewis
Liz Mastrianni
Del Pierce
Jeanne Shoulder
Barbara Walton
Caroline Welch

DEACONS

Andy Chestnut
Fred Daniels
Gay Doolittle
Lyn Gordon
Dave Hjelmar
Vickie McGowan-Horan
Bill Rochelle
Richard Rose
Ralph Rosenthal
George Trimarco

COVENANTER

Jonathan Vanderbeck

CHURCH STAFF

Julie Panke, Music Director
Avery Tunningley, Organist
Corine Salon, Artistic Coordinator
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music
Shannon Kerwin, Interim Children's Ministry Director
Judy Moore, Director of Klokken Tower Ringers
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator
Lyn Gordon, Sunday Receptionist
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor
Diana Wahid, Housekeeper
Tom Mahan, Sexton