

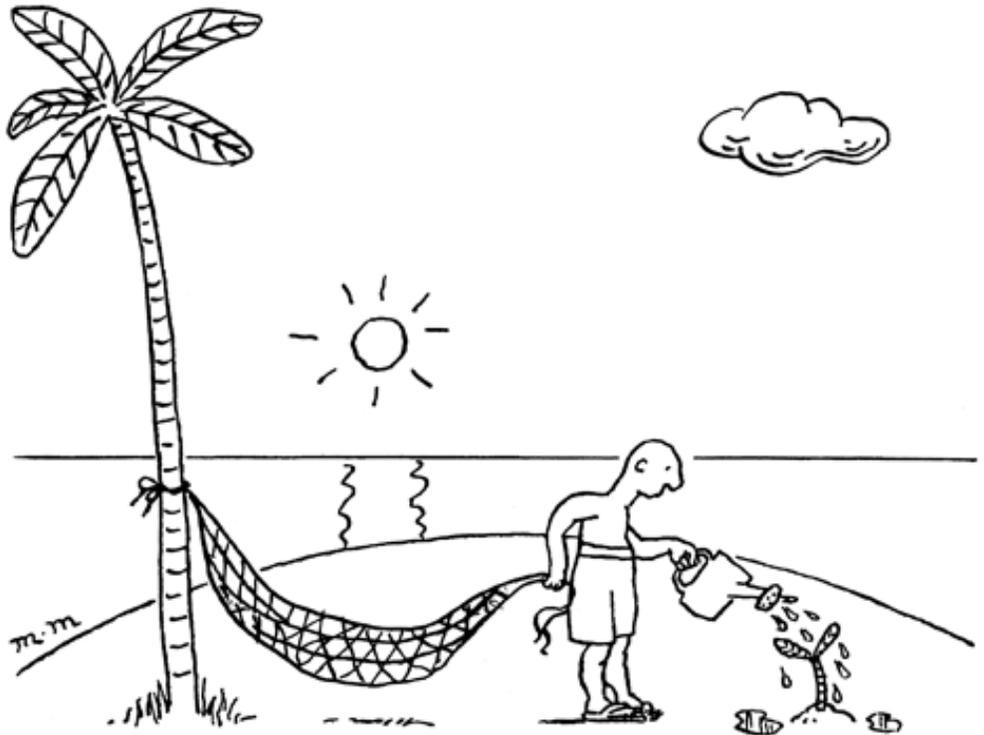
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.

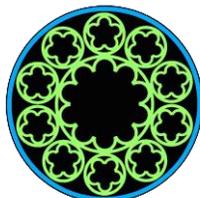
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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 11, 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.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Aria

March

G. F. Handel

Now Thank We All Our God G. F. Kaufmann

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

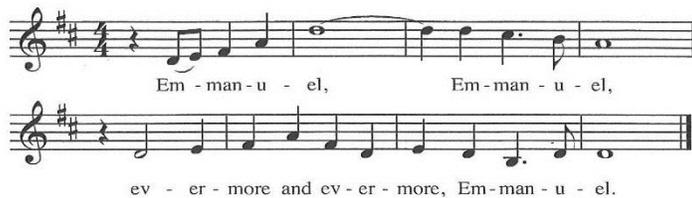
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Mongillo and Ochal families



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

OneLicense #700-700

*HYMN #2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*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

Celtic Advent Carol Angerman and Barrett

Ellie Kampf, flute

Abby Norton-Levering, violin

Tom D'Andrea, John Norton

Julie Panke, percussion

Be not afraid, I bring you good news.
The Savior is coming in glory to you.
He shall be called "God's Holy One."
Will you be ready for Him when he comes?

Light the candle, Jesus is coming,
Open your hearts, prepare ye the way.
Sleepers awake,
for soon is the dawning.
He will turn night into glorious day.

Be of good cheer and put away fear,
the light now is coming to dry ev'ry tear.
Love now with us, God's perfect Son.
Will you be ready for Him when he comes?

Veni, Emmanuel.
Come now and ransom Israel.
Veni, Emmanuel. Jesus is coming.
Could He be coming today?

FIRST LESSON

Jim Miller

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *James 5:7-10 (pg 231)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 11:2-11 (pg 11)*

SERMON

Bill Levering

How to Wait Without Grumbling

*HYMN #8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Soon and Very Soon Andrae Crouch
Arr. Schrader

*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 #12

People, Look East

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

People, Look East Bensaçon

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Scott Bassinson, piano

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

Dec 25: Mike Lampkin, piano

Offering Envelopes

2017 offering envelopes are at the church office. There are plenty of extras available for those who did not sign up for them.

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:

Ethel Avery, Harold W. Lapham, Adeline Graham, Ruth Arthur

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 Harold Lapham by his family.

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.

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: Mark Little - *Schenectady Smart City*

Dec 18: Dr. Steady Moono President of SCCC

Dec 25: Coffee and Conversation

Post-service Refreshments in Assembly Hall

Consider providing treats and hosting our post-worship fellowship by signing up for a couple of Sundays during the year in Assembly Hall.

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

Today: 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.

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 each Sunday morning in room 20 from 9am - 9:55am

Group VII

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

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.

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.

Singers Needed!

We are looking for singers to make up a High School/Alumni choir for the 5pm Christmas Eve service. Roughly anyone in high school up through age twenty something. There will be three rehearsals TBD. Please contact Jamie Ipsen if you are interested.

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

Dec 25: *Poverty* (Welsh Carol)

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. Make 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.

Chat 'n' Chew Concluding

After several meals shared together this fall, Chat 'n' Chew will be concluding on Dec. 14. EVERYONE is welcome to join us for this final meal at 5:30pm. When the new semester starts at SCCC, Jonathan will be exploring new opportunities for programming at the college. Thank you for your support!

Midmonth Contemplative Worship

Gather in the candlelit stillness of Poling Chapel to sing a few songs gently accompanied by acoustic guitar, take turns 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, and depart in Christ's peace. This Wednesday, **Dec. 14 at 7pm.**

Stephen Ministry Training

This week the Stephen Ministry Training class will continue their focus Supervision: A Key to Quality Care. In this session 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.

Tuesday Ladies

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

Chrismon Tree

The Chrismon Tree has been donated and decorated by Gay Doolittle and Carolyn Jones-Assini. More details about the tradition can be found in First Things and a brochure in the Dirk Romeyn room. It is given in remembrance of Carol Welch, who supplied the Chrismon Tree for so many years. Gay and Carolyn also want to honor two respective family members: Marjorie Doolittle and Russell Vernon Jones, who were both born on December 25th. They wish to also thank Tom Burgoyne and Gary Nelson, who helped transport and set it up.

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.

Christmas Displays at Entrance Area

"And a little child shall lead them"

Take a moment to view this Advent Season's Narthex displays. See the beautifully hand carved ARI Kuolt wooden figures of the David Coons Van Voast Memorial Crèche and other special Christmas items.

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.

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 18**. Please bring sizes large to L-XX. Share the joy of giving with the Men of City Mission.

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 December 18**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 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 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

Monday, December 12

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

Tuesday, December 13

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

Wednesday, December 14

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

Thursday, December 15

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

Friday, December 16

10:00 am Group VII

Sunday, December 18

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 Spontaneous Nativity
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Bookshop	Bill Clock	Christina Jones
Counting Deacons	Dick Gardner & Claire Hughes	Doug Todd, George Trimarco
Greeters	Christine & Fred Daniels	Maria Todd
Flower Delivery	Nancy Wainwright & James Reid	Congregational Members
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, Art Casey, Don & Marilyn Leach, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler	Art Casey, Jeanette Davidson, Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Richard Rose, Maria Todd
Reader	Jim Miller	Mary Jewett
Hospitality	Becky Mason	Lian Drisqula & Thomas Zych
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Mike & Vickie Horan, Doug Todd