

***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.



January 22, 2017

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 after the Epiphany

January 22, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

There Is a Fountain Early American Melody
Still, Still with Thee Felix Mendelssohn
Something for Thee Robert Lowry
arr. Don Phillips

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Daniel Carlson

INTROIT *Let Us Worship* Tom Benjamin

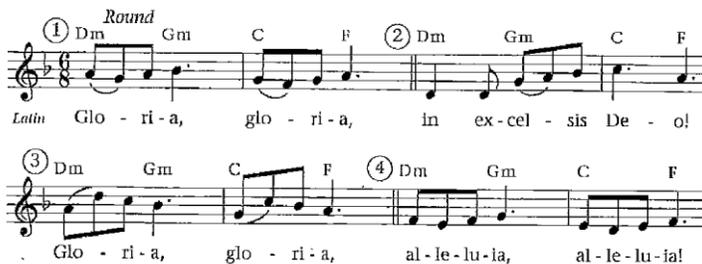
*HYMN *God of Compassion* #261

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**O holy God, we are divided, distracted,
and distraught. By your Spirit heal, focus,
and strengthen us to live as those united in
Christ and as a light of the world. Amen.**

*GODS FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*



① Dm Round Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F
Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

from Our Song of Hope

**As citizens we acknowledge the Spirit's
work in human government: for the
welfare of the people, for justice among the
poor, for mercy towards the prisoner,
against inhuman oppression against**

**humanity. We must obey God above all
rulers, waiting upon the Spirit, filled with
the patience of Christ.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
arr. Dale Wood

O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong;

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

FIRST LESSON Therese McCarty
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Matthew 4:12-22(pg 3)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (pg 166)

SERMON *The Call To Unity* Daniel Carlson

*HYMN *They'll Know We Are Christians*
Peter Scholtes

**We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity
may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love.**

**They will know we are Christians
by our love.**

**We will work with each other,
we will work side by side.**

**We will work with each other,
we will work side by side.**

**And we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride.**

**And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love.**

**They will know we are Christians
by our love.**

**We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand.**

**We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand.**

**And together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land .**

**And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love.**

**They will know we are Christians
by our love.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Thirsty Cry for Water, Lord New Britain
Kate Rose, soloist

The thirsty cry for water, Lord;
the hungry plead for bread.
And many long to rise again
where hope cast down, lies dead.

The cup of water poured
in love the pangs of thirst will still.
The bread of earth you bid us share,
the famished child can fill.

But help us also hear the cry
of hung'ring, thirsting hearts
For living water, bread of life
your grace alone imparts.

And come to us, O risen Christ,
our restless souls relieve;
And satisfy our starving hearts
that we may rise and live.

Herman G. Stuempfle

*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 #420
God of Grace and God of Glory

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen Danish

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:

Richard Vandercar, Janet Buchanan, Donald Mackintosh, Mary Louise Martin-Stern, Mary McCarty, Douw Kunhardt Beekman, Marguerite Wellborn, Barbara Gifford, Caleb Paine

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 now posted in the church office where in you can choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. 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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Scott Bassinson, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea drums

Jan 29: Azzaam Hameed, piano

Feb 5: Nat Phipps Trio

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: Nurturing Father's – Wales Brown

Jan 29: Choices People Make to Join Church – Rev. Jon Norton

Feb 5: Heritage Sunday

Help in Trouble Times

In times of trouble, we look to caring Christian friends to listen to us while we work through our situation and related feelings. A Stephen Minister can be such a friend. We just commissioned seven new Stephen Ministers last week! These Stephen Ministers are ready and committed Christian care to those in need. If you or someone you know could benefit from this ministry, please contact Daniel Carlson or another Stephen Leader: Joanne Arnold, Lisa Etkin, Maria Todd, Vernetta Thuener.

Kirk Ringers, Singers, and 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, 399-6848.

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.

Free Stuff - Help Recycle

Take a look in the hallway near the library, there may be something that interests you. Books, children's items, flowers etc...

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.

Youth Mission Trip

Each year, the Youth Group takes a mission trip during the February break, giving high school students an opportunity to serve others and experience different cultures and perspectives. The locations rotate on a roughly four-year cycle between local, domestic rural, domestic urban, and international locations. This year's destination is Philadelphia, where the youth will partner with the Urban Work Camp at Old First Church from Feb. 19-25. We appreciate your support and prayers. You can also support this important event by donating a Mission Share. For \$25, you can invest in helping our teens serve and learn in ways that will encourage lifelong volunteerism. Each Shareholder will receive a ticket to an event to be held after the youth return, where you will enjoy dessert while listening to the participants share about their experiences. Sorry, no full dinner this year, due to the construction. Please contact a youth group member or Stacey Midge to purchase your mission shares.

Book Return

Return any library books you have at home in the next two weeks.

Youth Group

Youth in grades 9-12 - the mission trip is almost here! We are going to Philadelphia from Feb. 19-25. There is still room, but you must tell Stacey ASAP that you intend to participate.

Stay tuned for more exciting service projects and fellowship events in March and into the spring for all youth in grades 6-12.

Lenten Devotional Booklet – Due Feb. 19

You are invited to contribute to this year's Lenten Devotional booklet. A poem, a drawing, a response to a Bible verse, or a short piece about an idea you'd like to share with the congregation. Sign up outside of Assembly Hall and send your submission by email to karengonda6@gmail.com or drop it off at the church office. Our deadline is February 19. Please, conclude whatever you write with a short prayer.

Drop In for Sunday 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 for anthems which may be familiar to you. We start at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. Here are the January titles:

Jan 29: *Blest Are They* (Haas)

Feb 5: *Light Everlasting* (Christiansen)

Story Sunday – Tonight

Story Sunday Three Spirits Tell Helping Stories, at the Scotia Reformed Church, 224 N. Ballston Ave, (Rte. 50) in Scotia at 7pm. We'll offer an assortment of the delectable Smiths Orchard Bakery Pies a la mode. Admission will be Free! We will have a free-will offering to support the work of Jason and Maggie Jo White's work in Romania. To help plan pies, reservations are helpful to Joe Doolittle 518-384-1700 or aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com

Concert at St. Thomas Church – Jan. 26

Our Chancel Choir will join the choir of St. Thomas the Apostle Church of Delmar for a combined program of sacred music at St.

Thomas Church 35 Adams Place, Delmar NY. The performance will be Thursday, Jan. 26 at 7:45 pm. Choir directors Julie Panke and Nelly Brown Bunk will conduct and organists Avery Tunningley and Dianne McMillan will provide organ and piano accompaniment. Refreshments to follow and a free will offering will be taken for the Food Pantries of the Capitol District. Please join us for an evening of music and fellowship!

Fellowship Luncheon – Jan 27

Fellowship Luncheon will be on Friday, Jan. 27 at 11:45am. **“Sing Along” with Nate Phipps** and shake off the winter blues. Join us for good music, good food and good fellowship! Our hostesses are Ellie Rowland and Connie. Just bring a dish to share, sit back and enjoy. Remember, Fellowship Luncheon is open to both men and women and all are welcome! Please sign up in Assembly Hall or call Sally Bestgen at 346-0304.

Avery Presents – Feb. 3

On Friday, February 3 at 7pm "The Usual Suspects" band will present a concert in the Sanctuary. They performed for us last year and a great time was had by everybody. Please join us for a night of terrific music! Reception to Follow.

Group V – Feb 4

Group V women's group will meet in the Dirck Romeyn room at 11am for an update on the Church room changes during the building phase.

Men's Breakfast – Feb. 4

The Men's Breakfast group will meet on Saturday, Feb 4. Our meetings begin at 8am in the Dirck Romeyn Room, with Continental Breakfast, bagels & Cream cheese, Juice and Coffee. Our speaker follows and we finish around 9am. While we haven't changed our name, we have been quite pleased by women attending and adding to our conversation and esprit. Please feel welcome. Our Speaker will be Rev Antonio Lesignoli, our guest Waldensian Minister from Italy. The Waldensians are a

protestant denomination that predates Luther. Their history is remarkable, and their present ministries serve immigrant populations, urban settings and rural communities. Join us to welcome him and learn more about his ministry and goals for his time with us.

Thomas Freidman at Proctors – Feb. 9

Join for this New York Times Foreign Affairs Columnist Talk at Proctors on Feb. 9 at 7pm “The Big Trends Shaping the World Today: Economics, Technology, and Geopolitics”.

On Feb. 8, 7pm meet for pie a la mode and a pre-lecture discussion of Freidman’s recent book, facilitated by Brad Lewis. Tickets at the group rate (we need 10) are \$33.50 plus tax. For more information contact Joe Doolittle 588-2801 or aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com. by Feb. 5.

Justice Action Committee

Several of us joined about 75 fellow Jewish and Christian people of faith in December for a candlelight vigil at a mosque in Latham to show our support for our Muslim brothers and sisters. Some wore t-shirts that on the front said *Today I am a Muslim* and on the back were the prophetic words of Protestant minister Martin Niemöller:

When they locked up the social democrats, I remained silent; I was not a social democrat.

When they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out; I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews, I remained silent; I wasn't a Jew.

When they came for me, There was no one left to speak out.

We don’t know where or how we will be called to action in 2017, but with our country divided after this past contentious election we know we need to be ready to take action: by writing or calling our members of Congress and physically bearing witness wherever we can. Our committee needs your advice and action. We will meet on second Tuesdays monthly, from 6:30 – 7:25pm before Consistory Meetings. If you cannot attend the meetings there are other

ways you can become involved and make a difference.

Moving to Storage

Because of the preparation for our big exciting renovation, you will see items moved out of their normal place. Don't be alarmed. We are emptying and rearranging spaces for the new construction. Contact Peter Ontkush at 377-9168 or pdontkush@att.net if you would like to help with this process. The last week of January volunteers are especially needed since we are trying to get many things moved by February 1. A big change is that Assembly Hall will not be available so Coffee and Conversation will be in the Dirck Romeyn Room and in the back of the sanctuary.

“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.” — J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

“Pit race against race, religion against religion, prejudice against prejudice. Divide and conquer! We must not let that happen here.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

“We have to recognize that there cannot be relationships unless there is commitment, unless there is loyalty, unless there is love, patience, persistence.” — Cornel West, *Breaking Bread*

“The rich, the poor, the high professor and the prophane [sic], seem all to be infected with this grievous disorder, so that the love of our neighbor seems to be quite banished, the love of self and opinions so far prevails.” — Christopher Marshall

"We should not confuse unity with uniformity. To agree and be of the same mind and judgement does not require us to formulate our theology in identical terms. Indeed, the true test of Christian unity is the ability to disagree in our formulations of the truth, even in our convictions about the truth, without compromising our ultimate loyalty to Christ and to each other." — Carl Holladay, *Preaching Through the Christian Year*

Sunday, January 22

8:30 am..... Pancake Breakfast
 9:00 am..... Chancel Choir
 10:00 am..... Worship
 10:15 am..... Church School K-5
 11:15 am..... First Forum
 11:15 am..... Kirk Ringers & Singers
 11:20am..... Confirmation Class
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, January 23

9:00 am..... Men's News Group

Tuesday, January 24

10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
 10:00 am..... Horizons Bible Study
 11:00 am..... Admin Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 25

9:30 am..... Kerygma Conversations
 11:30 am..... First Thing Volunteers

Thursday, January 26

7:30 am..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00 am..... Stitch Group

Friday, January 27

11:30 am..... FRC Fellowship Lunch

Sunday, January 29

9:00 am..... Chancel Choir
 10:00 am..... Worship
 10:15 am..... Church School K-5
 11:15 am..... First Forum
 11:15 am..... Kirk Ringers & Singers
 11:20am..... Confirmation Class
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Richard Rose, Lyn Gordon	Therese McCarty, Fred Daniels
Flower Delivery	Vickie and Mike Horan , Connie Young	Joanne Bedell, Ellie and Gene Rowland
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Walt Robb, Gay Doolittle, Peggy King, Tom Lindsay, Barbara Walton, Marilyn Leach, Don Leach	Christine Daniels, Liz Mastrianni, William C. Rochelle Jr., Gay Doolittle, Peggy King, Tom Lindsay,
Reader	Therese McCarty	
Hospitality	Barbara Walton	Ellie Rowland, Gene Rowland
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Christine Lund, Victoria McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough