

***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.

**POOR
IN SPIRIT
BLESSED ARE THE
THOSE WHO MOURN
THE MEEK
HUNGRY & THIRSTY
THE MERCIFUL
PURE
IN HEART
THE PEACEMAKERS
PERSECUTED
INSULTED**

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED. BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY. BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE INSULT YOU, PERSECUTE YOU AND FALSELY SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU BECAUSE OF ME. REJOICE AND BE GLAD, BECAUSE GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN, FOR IN THE SAME WAY THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.



January 29, 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 Friendship Hall which is located below the sanctuary.

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.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Bob Ridgway

*Jesus King of Angels
Down 'n' Outer
Now We're Together*

Fernando Ortega
Nanci Griffith
Bob Ridgway

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

Kumbaya

Ukulele Choir

Traditional

*HYMN

#138

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

*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 *Round* Dm 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

Blest Are They

David Haas

Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow,
they shall be consoled.

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones,
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst,
they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy,
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart,
they shall see God!

Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith,
the glory of God is theirs.

Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

FIRST LESSON

Christine Daniels

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (pg 166)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5:1-12 (pg 4)

SERMON

Invisible Blessings

Bill Levering

*HYMN

#356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

MINUTE FOR MISSION Stephen Ministry
Christine Boger-Walthers

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Starlings* Randy Stonehill

*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 *Word of Peace*
Brahms 1st Symphony, 4th Movement
(c) 2006 Bill Levering

We stand ere leaving to sing a word of peace. We stand for justice, that wars and hate would cease. Our hearts have moved, our ears have heard the God of time and space. Now filled with Spirit, fresh and true, we move out to run our holy race.

Send us refreshed, Lord, to spread kindness from this place. Help us to act, Lord, to speak the words of grace. We ask your blessings on all lands, on people everywhere. Help all your children live and learn and help us to have the strength to care.

Here we have tasted the goodness of the Lord. Here we have drunk from the fountain of God's word. We join our hearts for what God imparts: a fullness none deny. With saints before and future hopes we march to tomorrow, heads held high.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen

Dale Wood

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

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:

William Tucker, Herbert Strong, Emily Nagamatsu, Matilda Fontaine, Ellsworth Langdon, Rev. Bertram D. Atwood, George Stroebel, Herbert Stare

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

Sign up for flowers in the church office where 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 Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Music Notes

Now, We're Together (c) 2016 was written and performed by Bob Ridgway as a blessing at his brother's wedding reception on November 5, 2016. Please consider it a blessing for all.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Azzaam Hameed, piano

Feb 5: Nat Phipps Trio

Feb 12: Tim Olsen, piano

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

Feb 5: Heritage Sunday

What Kind of People Join FRC? – Today

Rev. Jon Norton (Abby's father), along with three other published scholars of the Religious Research Association are preparing a study of churches within the RCA and the UCC. They wish to find correlations between a church's psychological type and the choice people make to join that church. They believe that there are such relationships and that knowing them can be useful to the churches. This knowledge can give the leadership of a church a picture of how the church understands itself and can assist outreach to the surrounding community.

To help in this research, members are asked to come to the Forum today to learn about the project and to take an inventory. The questions asked are about how we process information and understand things. With this information, the team will assess our church's general psychological type and combine the findings of the other churches in the study. By the fall of 2017, the researchers will have a report for us and Rev. Norton will come back and tell us who we are.

Ministry of Care

We look to caring 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, who are ready and committed to giving 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 Ettkin, Maria Todd, Vernetta Thuener.

Faith Bookshop

Because of renovations, the bookshop will share space in the Heritage Room temporarily. The Bookshop committee will try to keep it useful and interesting; plus, you can soak up a lot of FRC history while you are in there.

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. No prior experience required. Come and find out what we are all about. If you have any questions contact Jamie Ipsen, 399-6848.

Kids Play Ukulele

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.

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.

Youth Mission Trip – Mission Shares

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

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...

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 everyone had a great time great time. Join us for a night of terrific music! Reception to Follow.

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.

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.

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.

Heritage Sunday – Feb 5

The Vietnam War, or at least the circumstances surrounding the Vietnam era, serves as an important and emotional focal point in the history of America and for the generation that lived through it. In an effort to bring some attention to this on the 42nd anniversary of the final end of the conflict, this year's heritage Sunday presentation will look at the question of the 'slippery slope toward war – how we got there.' Since this was a period where many people in the congregation took ideological positions and life-changing actions, after looking at the example of two congregation members, we will save some time to allow people to share a recollection or insight.

New Members Class – Feb 5

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Bill Levering will lead a membership orientation meeting **February 5**. It includes 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 Sundays of October through May.

TLC (THURSDAY Lunch Club) – Feb 9

Next up of February 9 at noon, Tesoros Café. Rated 4.7 stars, this casual dining establishment is family owned and personally loved. Located at 1712 Union Street, Specializing in the most scrumptious paninis and crepes, all made with the freshest of ingredients. Give Gay Doolittle a clue if you think you're coming. Chat at church, call at 399-0499 or email at Overdoo@msn.com. Last minute drop-ins welcome, too.

WORD Service – Feb 10

Famous Former Pastor of First Scotia, Rev. Craig Hoffman will be holding forth at the WORD service Feb 10 at 7pm. Avery will be at the piano and our stable of talented writers will add spice and sparkle.

Short-Short Writing Group

The FRC Short-Short Writing Critique Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7pm in Assembly Hall. 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.

Lenten Devotional Booklet

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.

Justice Action Committee

February is nationally known as Black History Month and the members of JAC and the Consistory felt that this is an appropriate recognition and a visible way to show our love, while recognizing that sadly racism is still with us. There are several events in February and during Lent for us to learn more and chances to make a difference in our local community:

Feb. 7: 'Schenectady Clergy Against Hate' have scheduled a blood drive in the afternoon at Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church.

Feb. 8 and 9: JAC is co-sponsoring a conversation led by Brad Lewis at 7pm at FRC on Thomas Friedman's book, *Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations*.

How do you show Justice in Action? Contact Consistory Members Liz Mastrianni (lzmastro@gmail.com) or Jeanne Shoulder (jmshoulder@hotmail.com) with your ideas for Action and we can help to get the word out. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, before Consistory meetings.

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.

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.

Moving Experiences

We are in a time of transition in our congregation, so there are few things that will be different for the next year:

We just have no place to put donation of food and clothing, so we are asking folks to take their donations directly to places that can use them.

We will be having a scaled back coffee fellowship after worship, so a plate of brownies may not have a place at the small table.

Coffee will not be available in Assembly Hall before the service as it has been, but will be in Dirck Romeyn room and at the back of the sanctuary.

The most commonly available restrooms available on Sunday mornings will be the ones down the steps at the rear of the sanctuary.

There may occasionally be a dumpster in the handicap parking lot taking up one spot.

"Don't be managed by the likelihood of mishaps. Be motivated by the promise of favor!" — Carlos Wallace

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
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, January 30

9:00 am Men's News Group

Tuesday, January 31

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

Wednesday, February 1

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations

Thursday, February 2

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

Friday, February 3

7:30 pm..... Avery Presents

Friday, Saturday 4

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

Sunday, February 5

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

The true secret to happiness is to let go what you want and accept life as it is. Call it what you will—trusting God, being enlightened, letting go—it is the true secret to happiness.
 – Alan Brehm

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Bookshop / Heritage	Christina Jones	Bill Clock
Counting Deacons	Therese McCarty, Fred Daniels	Joan Lindsay, Therese McCarty
Flower Delivery	Joanne Bedell, Ellie & Gene Rowland	Lyn Wilkanowski, John & Chris Van Oort
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Christine Daniels, Liz Mastrianni, Bill Rochelle, Gay Doolittle, Peggy King, Tom Lindsay	Liz Mastrianni, Jean Shoulder, Barbara Walton, Gay Doodlittle, Christine Daniels, Brad & Cathy Lewis
Reader	Christine Daniels	Liz Mastrianni
Hospitality	Ellie & Gene Rowland	
Ushers	Bill Martin (head usher), Alden Brown, Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin,	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim & Sharron McCullough