

***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.



February 5, 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 in the Walton House.

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. Those in grades K-2 are welcome to join church school after children's message.

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 Dirck Romeyn room 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

February 5, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin
Sten Isachsen, guitar
Suite Espagnole Joaquin Nin (1883-1949)
Vielle, Castille, Murcienne
Catalane, and Andalouse

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Let Your Light Shine* Tom Benjamin

*HYMN *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

Can't let anyone blow it out, (!)
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

*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

*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 *Light Everlasting* Olaf Christiansen
O Light everlasting, O Love never failing.
Illumine our darkness, and draw us to Thee;
May we from Thy spirit receive inspiration
That brethren together Thy wisdom may see.
Make known to all nations, Thy salvation!
Make known to all nations, Thy peace and salvation.
And help us, O Father, Thy temple to be.

FIRST LESSON Liz Mastrianni
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *1 Corinthians 2:1-16 (pg 166)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 5:13-20 (pg 4)*

SERMON *This Trembling Light* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God* #555

MINUTE FOR MISSION Caroline Welch
Archives & Historical Concerns

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Träumerei Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION and 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 (*unison*) Carl Steubing

**Holy, holy Lord God of Hosts, heav'n
and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be
to Thee O Lord, most high.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

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 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* #411

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Regent Square Amen Parke S. Barnard

POSTLUDE

Sicilian Mariners
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Janet Gardner, by her husband Richard Gardner.

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:

Virginia Cleveland, Janet Schwem, Janice Flom, Raymond Fisher, Janet Gardner, Philip Mathews, Lois Joyce Berner Mix, Esther Langworthy, Myrtle Wilson

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.

First Forum

Held most Sundays after worship at 11:15am in sanctuary. Suggestions for programs are welcome; Contact Amy Brule 785-8201, Peggy King 370-1885, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

Today: Heritage Sunday - Vietnam War,
Slippery Slope Towards War-How
We Got There – Dr. Rose

Feb 12: LGBTQ Inclusion

– Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck

Feb 19: "The Big Dig" SCCC

Archeology, Louise Basa

Feb: 26: Empowering Education,

Schenectady County Human Rights
Commission – Director Angie Morris

Faith Bookshop

Because of renovations, the bookshop will share space in the Heritage Room. 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.

Heritage Sunday – Today

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.

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.

Feb 12: There will be a brief mission trip information meeting following First Forum. All youth and parents who are going on the mission trip need to be there. We will meet at 12pm in the church office to sign paperwork and go over the schedule.

Sunday School and Children's Music

All Children's Sunday school and Music Classes have moved to the Walton House near the church office. For everyone's safety, parents must sign out their child upon pickup. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Shannon Kerwin or Jamie Ipsen 399-6848.

Learn to play the Ukulele: Sundays,
9am-9:55am

Church School: K-8, Sundays,
after the Children's Message

Childrens Music- Kirk Ringers, Singers, Orff:
Sundays, 11:15am – 12pm

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

Sunday Refreshments

For about a year starting in February, there will be a few changes in refreshments around Sunday morning worship. Dirck Romeyn room will house treats and beverages and you will find the hearty aroma of coffee wafting from the back of the sanctuary as well. There will be NO sleeping through Bill's sermon, as a caffeinated pick-me-up will be ready for you. Lacking a dishwasher and storage, responsible paper products will be used for the duration. We ask folks to bring items on a disposable plate and drop them off on the table in Dirck Romeyn room.

We Get By With A Little Help From Our Friends

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 Etkin, Maria Todd, Vernetta Thuener.

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...

Justice Action Committee

Last year, the Consistory decided to hang the Black Lives Matter banner on our church fence for the month of February. **Black Lives Matter** (BLM) is an international activist movement, originating in the African-American community that campaign against violence and systemic racism toward black people. 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. How do you show Justice in Action? Contact Consistory members Liz Mastrianni (lzmastro@gmail.com) or Jeanne Shoulder (jmsoulder@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.

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.

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 after worship today and send your submission by email to karengonda6@gmail.com or drop it off at the church office. Please, conclude whatever you write with a short prayer.

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 on Sunday mornings will be the ones down the steps in the Narthex.
- There may occasionally be a dumpster in the handicap parking lot taking up one spot.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” — Martin Luther King Jr., A Testament of

“There are darkneses in life and there are lights, and you are one of the lights, the light of all lights.” — Bram Stoker, Dracula

“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when people are afraid of the light.” — Plato

“Light thinks it travels faster than anything but it is wrong. No matter how fast light travels, it finds the darkness has always got there first, and is waiting for it.” — Terry Pratchett, Reaper Man

“May it be a light to you in dark places, when all other lights go out.” — J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Feb 5	3pm	New Member Class	For folks interested in joining	Office
Feb 6	10am	Group V	Information on Church Construction	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 7	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 8	7pm	Friedman Prep Talk	Dr. Brad Lewis gets us ready for Feb 9 visit	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 9	12pm	Thursday Lunch Club	Visits local restaurants	Tesoros Cafe
Feb 9	7pm	Friedman Lecture	Noted columnist in town - group of FRC going	Proctors
Feb 9	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 10	7pm	WORD Service	Craig Hoffman and the Unexpected	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 15	6pm	Midmonth Dinner	Complimentary Compostable Soup Supper	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 15	7pm	Midmonth Worship	Contemplative Service	Sanctuary
Feb 21	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	No dinner this month. Connie Young: 393-7061	Connie Young's

“Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone’s life. Be the light that helps others see; it is what gives life its deepest significance.”

— Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

“When you get to the end of all the light you know and it's time to step into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing that one of two things shall happen: either you will be given something solid to stand on, or you will be taught how to fly.” — Edward Teller

“We've all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on. That's who we really are.” — J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix*

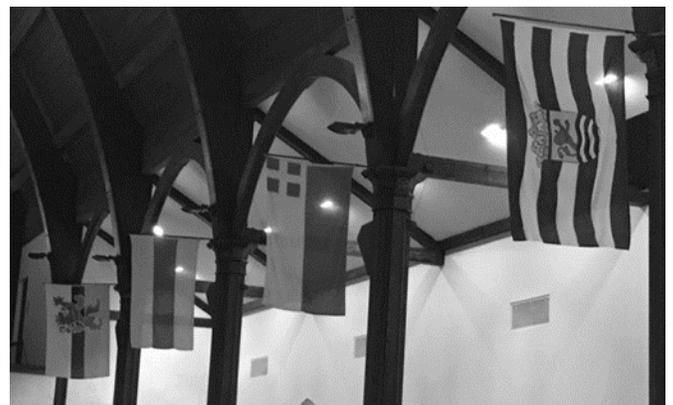
“Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.”
— Leonard Cohen

“Stories are light. Light is precious in a world so dark. Begin at the beginning. Tell Gregory a story. Make some light.” — Kate DiCamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux*

“When you light a candle, you also cast a shadow.” — Ursula K. Le Guin

“It may be that you are not yourself luminous, but that you are a conductor of light. Some people without possessing genius have a remarkable power of stimulating it.” — Arthur Conan Doyle

“Happiness is always there. You just have to choose to see it. There's no point dwelling in the dark and ignoring the light of the stars.” — Carrie Hope Fletcher



Sunday, February 5

9:00 am..... Chancel Choir
 9:00 am..... Ukulele Practice
 10:00 am..... Worship
 10:00 am..... Communion
 10:15 am..... Church School K-5
 11:15 am..... First Forum
 11:15 am..... Children's Music
 3:00 pm..... New Members Class
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, February 6

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

Tuesday, February 7

10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
 10:00 am..... Horizons Bible Study
 11:00 am..... Admin Staff Meeting
 11:30 am..... Support and Care
 1:30 pm..... Worship Planning
 7:00 pm..... Short Short Writing

Wednesday, February 8

9:30 am..... Kerygma Conversations
 1:00 pm..... Archives
 1:00 pm..... Pastoral Meeting
 2:00 pm..... Staff Meeting

Thursday, February 9

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

Friday, February 10

7:00 pm..... WORD Service

Sunday, February 12

9:00 am..... Chancel Choir
 9:00 am..... Ukulele Practice
 10:00 am..... Worship
 10:15 am..... Church School K-5
 11:15 am..... First Forum
 11:15 am..... Children's Music
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Pete Toigo, bass;	Tim Olsen, piano
Bookshop/Heritage	Bill Clock	Nancy Wainwright
Counting Deacons	Joan Lindsay, Therese McCarty	Claire Hughes, Gay Doolittle
Greeters	Joanne Bedell, James & Karen Gonda	Matt & Christina Jones
Flower Delivery	Lyn Wilkanowski, John and Chris Van Oort	Nancy Ellen Swann, Barbara Walton
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Jonathan Vanderbeck
Processing Elders	Barbara Walton, Birdie Blackmer, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Jean Shoulder, Liz Mastrianni,	Bill C. Rochelle, Carolyn Jones, Margaret Schadler, Marilyn & Don Leach, Peggy King
Reader	Liz Mastrianni	
Hospitality	Gay Doolittle	Ann Bish, Ann Hicks
Ushers	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette & Don Davidson, Jim & Sharron McCullough, Joan Lindsay	Glenn Blinkmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal