

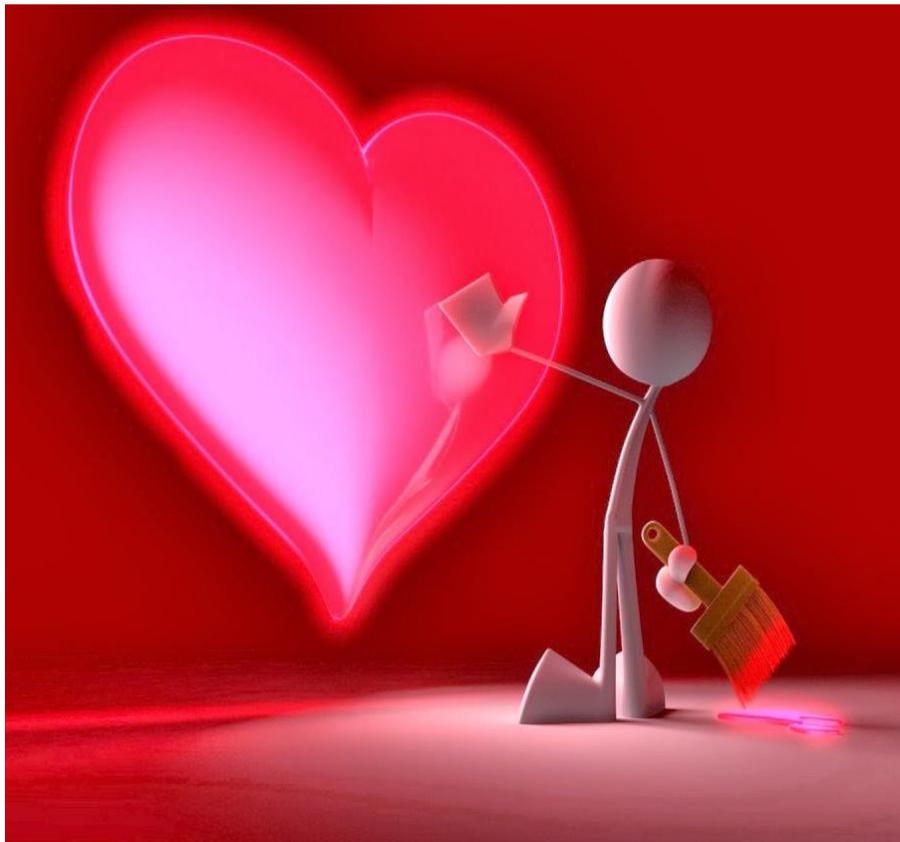
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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 12, 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 in Friendship Hall.

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.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley
Prelude on "Slane" arr. Gilbert Martin
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
arr. Eleanor Whitsett
Gott Sei Gelobet und Gebendeiet
arr. Kevin Hildebrand

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Jonathan Vanderbeck

INTROIT *Psalm 122:1* Franklin G'vnn

*HYMN *O Sing To the Lord* #472
Cantad al Senor

Verse 1 - Spanish (Choir only)

Verse 1 - Spanish - ALL

Verse 1 - English - ALL

Verse 2 - English - ALL

Verse 3 - English - ALL

Verse 1 - Spanish - ALL

*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 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 The Belhar Confession (Article IV)

**We believe that God has revealed God's
self as the one who wishes to bring about
justice and true peace among people; that
God, in a world full of injustice and
enmity, is in a special way the God of the
destitute, the poor and the wronged; and
that the church must therefore stand by
people in any form of suffering and need.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM Ukulele Choir
He's Got the Whole World Traditional

FIRST LESSON Liz Mastrianni
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (pg 186)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 5:21-37 (pg 4)*

SERMON *The Heart of the Matter*
Jonathan Vanderbeck

*HYMN *Take My Life* #391

MINUTE FOR MISSION Habitat for Humanity
Madelyn Thorne

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Brothers* Carl Steubing

Who is that man
In garments quaint and rare?
Who is he who speaks
In rhythms alien to my ear?
Who is he? Who is he?

To him I am
As strange as he to me;
And in his questing eyes
I read a silent plea,
Who are you? Who are you?

How sad it is
We do not know each other;
But when he smiles,

At once I recognize—
My brother!

I hope that he
Can see in me
His brother.

Miles J. Martin

*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 *We Are Called*

Come! live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God!

Refrain

We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called

to be hope for the hopeless,
so all hatred and blindness
will be no more! (*to refrain*)

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign
and we'll walk with each other
as siblings in Spirit
united in love! (*to refrain*)

1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen

Rob Landes

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 Jean Kemp Bundy and George Bashor by David and Donna Bundy.

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:

Bernice Stratton, Mary Reimherr, Gladys Toung, Margaret Sager, F. David Sheldon

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.

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.

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...

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: 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

A Faithful Friend Is A Great Gift

At one time or another we all look to caring friends to accompany us while we work through difficulties and related feelings. A Stephen Minister can be such a friend. We have new Stephen Ministers, who are ready and committed to care for 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, or Vernetta Thuener.

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.

Today: 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

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.

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.

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 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.

Donations

The food and clothing donation program has been reinstated. Please bring your donations to the bookshop in the Heritage room at the side door entrance to the Dirck Romeyn room. Behind the door to the bookshop are two plastic bins with lids marked "food" and "clothing". Leave your donations in the appropriate bin. Also, call Bill Clock at 641-2585 saying you have left a donation.

Faith Bookshop

In honor of Heritage month, the small, framed pictures of FRC are available for \$12 in the Bookshop. There are a variety of frame styles; all can be hung or stand on a table and would be a great gift for someone who can no longer attend services or as a remembrance for someone who is moving away.

Ash Wednesday Worship

You are invited to join us on Wednesday, March 1 at 7pm in the sanctuary to begin your Lenten journey. With notice, we offer childcare during this service and all Lenten activities.

Lenten Class Information

Our five-week study and worship programs on Wednesday evenings begins March 8, 7pm. See the First Things newsletter for course descriptions.

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 (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.

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Feb 14	10am	Horizon Bible Study	Old Testament books of I and II Samuel	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 15	6pm	Midmonth Dinner	Complimentary Soup Supper	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 15	7pm	Midmonth Worship	Contemplative Communion Service	Sanctuary
Feb 16	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Poling Conference
Feb 20	Presidents Day, Church Office CLOSED			
Feb 21	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	No dinner this month. Connie Young: 393-7061	Connie Young's
Feb 21	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 1	7pm	Ash Wednesday	Begin your Lenten journey with a special Worship service. We offer childcare.	Sanctuary
Mar 8	7pm	Lenten Classes	Five-week study and worship	TBD

“Dark and difficult times lie ahead. Soon we must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy.”

– J.K. Rowling, from *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

“You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.”

- Malcolm X

“Now we are forced to recognize our inhumanity
Our reason coexists with our insanity
And though we choose between reality and
madness

It's either sadness or euphoria”

-Billy Joel

“The whole world is a theatre for the display of the divine goodness, wisdom, justice, and power.”

-John Calvin

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

-President Barack Obama

“If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.”

-Maya Angelou

“You have the power to change perception, to inspire and empower, and to show people how to embrace their complications, and see the flaws, and the true beauty and strength that's inside all of us.”

-Beyoncé

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

Monday, February 13

9:00 am..... Men's News Group
 12:00 pm..... Stephen Ministry Facilitators Mtg
 1:00 pm..... Stephen Leaders Meeting

Tuesday, February 14

10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
 10:00 am..... Horizons Bible Study
 11:00 am..... Admin Staff Meeting
 6:30 pm..... Standing Committees
 7:30 pm..... Consistory

Wednesday, February 15

9:30 am..... Kerygma Conversations
 1:00 pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting
 6:00 pm..... Midmonth Dinner
 7:00 pm..... Midmonth Worship

Thursday, February 16

7:30 am..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00 am..... Stitch Group
 6:00 pm..... A Different Way Reading
 6:30 pm..... Stephen Ministry
 7:00 pm..... Ensemble Practice
 7:30 pm..... Chancel Choir
 7:45 pm..... Small Groups Peer Supervision

Sunday, February 19

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
 11:20 am..... Confirmation Class
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Tim Olsen, piano	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
Bookshop/Heritage	Nancy Wainwright	Sarah Howes
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes, Gay Doolittle	Joan Lindsay, Lyn Gordon
Greeters	Matt & Christina Jones	Ralph Rosenthal and Helle Moore
Flower Delivery	Nancy Ellen Swann, Barbara Walton	Douglas and Ann Phillips, Ken and Ruth Roinos
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Jonathan Vanderbeck	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Bill C. Rochelle, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Margaret Schadler, Peggy King, Marilyn & Don Leach,	Bob Beadle, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Richard Rose, Gene Zeltmann, Mary Jewett
Reader	Liz Mastrianni	
Ushers	Glenn Blinkmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps