

***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 19, 2017*



***First Reformed Church***  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://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.

### **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](http://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.

# Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 19, 2017

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE                      The Usual Suspects  
*Could You?*                      Andy Chestnut  
*I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For*

U2

*Be Who You Am*                      Andy Chestnut  
*Hallelujah*                      Rufus Wainwright

10:00 a.m.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP                      Stacey Midge

INTROIT *From the Rising*      Michael Tebbano

\*HYMN                      *Gather Us In*                      Marty Haugen



\*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*



\*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                      *For Where Love Is, There is God*  
Douglas Wagner

Come as strangers to the altar,  
for where love is, there is God.  
Come you poor, you weak, who falter,  
for where love is, there is God.  
Song and scripture wed together,  
bound by faith in sacred Word,  
Sharing peace and consolation,  
for where love is, there is God.

Let us each love one another,  
for where love is, there is God,  
And embrace as sister, brother,  
for where love is, there is God.  
Heal our hurting, lift our spirits,  
cease our cold, contentious ways.

Spread the grace of love unending,  
for where love is, there is God.

*Charlotte Lee*

FIRST LESSON Ellie Rowland  
 Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
 Amen. Matthew 5:38-48 (pg 5)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON  
 Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 (pg 106)

SERMON Margin For Others Stacey Midge

COMMISSIONING OF MISSION TRIP

Send me, Jesus (2x)  
 Send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

Lead me, Jesus (2x)  
 Lead me, Jesus, Lead me, Lord.

Fill me, Jesus (2x)  
 Fill me, Jesus, Fill me, Lord

\*HYMN *The Servant Song* #277

OFFERING  
 OFFERTORY *Amazing Grace* Traditional

\*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 *Here I Am, Lord* #525

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE  
*Twofold Amen* Greek

POSTLUDE *Sicilian Mariners*  
*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

+ + +

**Music Notes**

We thank The Usual Suspects for today's Prelude and Offertory: Andy Chestnut, bass guitar, vocals; Brian Litz, lead vocals; John Norton, keyboards; Roger Rose, lead guitar, vocals; Mark Sheehan, drums, vocals.

*Gather Us In*, Marty Haugen. © 1982 GIA Publications. *Send Me, Lord*. South African. © 1984 Walton Music. All rights reserved. OneLicense #A700-700.

**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.

## **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:

*James Stevenson, Richard Vandercar, Janet Buchanan, Donald Mackintosh, Mary Louise Martin-Stern, Mary McCarty*

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:** "The Big Dig" SCCC

Archeology, Louise Basa

**Feb: 26:** Empowering Education,  
Schenectady County Human Rights  
Commission – Director Angie Morris

## **Sunday Refreshments**

For about a year 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. Lacking a dishwasher and storage, paper products will be used for the duration.

NEW procedure for after-service snacks: NO signups, NO need to feed the 5,000 going forward. Please feel inspired to bring in ONE plate of goodies on a disposable plate and drop off in the Dirck Romeyn room. Thank you.

## **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.

**Each Sunday:**

**Learn to play the Ukulele:** 9am-9:55am

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

**Children's Music:** Kirk Ringers, Singers, Orff:  
11:15am – 12pm

## **Youth Group**

Youth in grades 9-12 - the mission trip is almost here! We are going to Philadelphia today through the 25th. 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 listening to the participants share their experiences.

## **Johnson Library**

The Johnson Library will have a shelf of circulating books in the Heritage room. The first books you will find there are a selection of books from our Lenten and Easter collection.

## **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. Please call the office 24hrs in advance if you want childcare.

## **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.

## **Sunday Morning Devotional Discussion**

Join us Sunday mornings in Lent at 9am in the Poling Conference Room to share about what devotional writing/s in the 2017 Lenten Devotional Booklet moved us in the past week and how and why, as we grow in our faith and in our understanding of foundational texts in the Christian tradition. Convener: Norma Brown.

## **A Trustworthy Traveling Companion**

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.

## **Food and Clothing Donations**

Behind the door to the bookshop are two plastic bins with lids marked "food" and "clothing". Leave your donations in the appropriate bin.

## **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, but will be in Dirck Romeyn room and the Narthex.
- 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.

## **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 campaigns against violence and systemic racism toward black people. February is 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.

## **Name Tags**

If you're in the vestibule facing the sanctuary, go left, turn right, and the name tags are stuck to a board on your right. And: if you don't have a name tag and would like one, please write your name with "NAME TAG REQUEST" on a white visitor pew card and drop in the collection plate. Your name tag will get made and placed on the aforementioned board.

## Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Feb 20	Presidents Day, Church Office CLOSED			
Feb 21	10am	Horizon Bible Study	Old Testament books of I and II Samuel	Dirck Romeyn
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
Feb 22	11:30am	First Things Volunteers	Pizza at noon	Assembly Hall
Feb 23	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Bible Study	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 23	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Mezzanine
Feb 26	Confirmation			
Mar 1	7pm	Ash Wednesday	Begin your Lenten journey with a special Worship service. We offer childcare.	Sanctuary
Mar 3	7pm	Avery Presents	FRC and St. Thomas Church combined choir	Sanctuary
Mar 8	7pm	Lenten Classes	Five-week study and worship	TBD

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

“Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible.”

— Mary McLeod Bethune

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” — Muhammad Ali

“Lose yourself in generous service and every day can be a most unusual day, a triumphant day, an abundantly rewarding day!”

— William Arthur Ward

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” — Audrey Hepburn

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

— William Shakespeare

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” — Winston Churchill

“Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in the world all of your own.” — Albert Schweitzer

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito. Anita Roddick

Human well-being is not a random phenomenon. It depends on many factors - ranging from genetics and neurobiology to sociology and economics. But, clearly, there are scientific truths to be known about how we can flourish in this world. Wherever we can have an impact on the well-being of others, questions of morality apply. — Sam Harris

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.” — Oscar Wilde

**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

**Monday, February 20****Office Closed****Tuesday, February 21**

10:00 am..... Morning Prayer  
 10:00 am..... Horizons Bible Study  
 11:00 am..... Admin Staff Meeting  
 7:00 pm..... Short Short Writing

**Wednesday, February 22**

11:30 am..... First Things Volunteers  
 1:00 pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting

**Thursday, February 23**

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

**Sunday, February 26**

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

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Jazz Vespers</b>	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums	Mike Lamkin
<b>Bookshop/Heritage</b>	Sarah Howes	Birdie Blackmer
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Ellie Brudos, Catherine Lewis	Fred Daniels, Richard Rose
<b>Greeters</b>	Ralph Rosenthal and Helle Moore	Tom Zych and Lian Drisgula
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Douglas and Ann Phillips, Ken and Ruth Roinos	Keith Muse, Carol Troost
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
<b>Preacher</b>	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Bob Beadle, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Richard Rose, Gene Zeltmann, Mary Jewett	Del Pierce, Caroline Welch, Audrey Bain, Arthur Casey, Keith Muse, Bill Rochelle
<b>Reader</b>	Ellie Rowland	
<b>Ushers</b>	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright