

***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 26, 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.

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.

Transfiguration Sunday

February 26, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Solemn March F. Mendelssohn
Is Not This the Story J.W. Dadmun
I Love to Tell the Story William G. Fischer

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT

O Wondrous type! O Vision Fair Deo Gracias

*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* #339

*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 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.**

CONFIRMATION

Welcome our new brother in Christ.

(*Jack Evans*)

**Joyfully we receive you into the body of
Christ. Join with us as we give witness in
the world to the good news, for we are all
one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Christus Paradox* Alfred Fedak

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and swordbringer
of the way you took and gave.
You the everlasting instant;
You, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggared by a soldier's toss,
You the everlasting instant;
You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victr'y.
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our death and life.

Alleluia, alleluia,
You, who are our death and our life.

Sylvia Dunstan

FIRST LESSON

Nancy Wainwright

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Proverbs 8:8-10 (pg 591)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 17:1-9 (pg 18)

SERMON

Bill Levering

Moving Beyond Fear

*HYMN

#369

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Sunday Devotional Discussion Norma Brown

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Ain'-a that Good News!*

William Dawson

*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

Transform Us as You, Transfigured Picardy

Transform us as you, transfigured,
Stood apart on Tabor's height.
Lead us up our sacred mountains,
Search us with revealing light.
Lift us from where we have fallen.
Full of questions, filled with fright.

Transform us as you, transfigured,
Once spoke with those holy ones,
We, surrounded by the witness
Of those saints whose work is done,
Live in this world as your Body,
Chosen daughters, chosen sons.

Transform us as you, transfigured,
Would not stay within a shrine,
Keep us from our great temptation—
Time and truth we quickly bind,
Lead us down those daily pathways
Where our love is not confined.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Traditional

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 Risseeuw, 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:

Georgeina Kellam, Marjorie Todd, Dr. Joseph Burke, Mark Opdyke, James Scholtz, Carl Settle, Sally Murray, Sallie Wemple

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.

Columbarium

The Columbarium is always open every Sunday and remain open throughout the building renovation.

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

Mar 12:FRC Youth Group Work Camp Report,
Rev. Stacey Midge

Mar 19:Creation Care Commitments,
Rev. Daniel Carlson

Music Notes

The music for the anthem consists of choral variations on the hymn tune Picardy (Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence). As the title, *Christus Paradox*, implies, Sylvia Dunstan's text contains about a dozen paradoxical aspects of Jesus Christ. "You the everlasting instant," a phrase which appears in every stanza, gives us the universality and particularity of Christ, his place in the human world and his transcendence as the divine.

Transform Us as You, Transfigured. Text, Sylvia Dunstan © 1993. Tune harmonization, Richard Proulx © 1986 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. OneLicense A700-700.

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

Lenten Devotional

The Lenten Devotional booklet prepared by First Reformed members will be available today.

Ash Wednesday Worship – March 1

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.

Devotional Discussion 9am

Every Sunday morning in Lent you may share about what the devotional writings in this Lenten Devotional moved you in the past week. Share how it moved you and perhaps why as we grow in our faith and in our understanding of foundational texts in the Christian tradition. Discussion led by 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.

Donations

Help the Youth Group After Church. SICM is assembling spring bags for children who use the Emergency Food Pantry. Please consider donating one or more of the following items: 8"x10" gift bags, Small games/puzzles, Sidewalk chalk, Yo-yos, Jump ropes, Bubbles, Coloring books and crayons, Craft supplies, Small outdoor games, Healthy snacks (100% fruit snacks, granola bars, etc.) There is a donation box available in the office for these items, which must be dropped off by March 26.

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. Contact Bill Clock at 641-2585 to say you left a donation.

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.
- 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.

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.

Johnson Library

Heritage, Bookshop, Library: during renovations, one room fits all. It's located between the Dirck Romeyn room and the Church Street church door, so it's easy to browse after Sunday service. You'll find church-related items for sale, some library books for circulation and church history information. On the desk, there are yellow forms for ordering books at a 30% discount through librarian, Ruth Roinos. The Bookshop committee is also pleased to announce that Christina Jones has taken over as chair.

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.

Justice Action Committee

“Nevertheless, she persisted” have become the famous words used to silence Elizabeth Warren on the Senate Floor. What is important to you? What are you willing to speak out for? We cannot become complacent. There are many ways we as individuals can put Justice in Action. Look for events in March and during Wednesday's Lenten Series. Learn more about issues you are passionate about and find ways to make a difference in our local community.

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 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, before Consistory meetings.

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.

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Feb 28	10am	Horizon Bible Study	Old Testament books of I and II Samuel	Dirck Romeyn
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 2	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Bible Study	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 3	7pm	Avery Presents	FRC and St. Thomas Church combined choir	Sanctuary
Mar 5	3pm	New Member Class	For folks interested in joining	Office
Mar 5	5pm	Mardi Gras Vespers	Clarinetist Skip Parsons & the Riverboat Band	Sanctuary
Mar 6	11am	Group V	Discussing Lenten Programs	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 8	6:30pm	Cookies & Conversations	Meet & Greet before classes begin	Sanctuary
Mar 8	7pm	Lenten Classes	Five-week study and worship	TBD
Mar 8	8pm	Evening Worship	Quiet service at the end of the evening	Sanctuary

"Fear is a preservative to be used only when needed." - Bill Levering

"Fear sprints, wisdom never stops walking."
- B. Hank Levering

"The beginning of fear is the absence of wisdom." - Rev. Bill Levering

"If you go out into the world in peace, it is easier to avoid retribution and less draining to support those in need." - Rev. Dr. William H. Levering

"Let your fear be measured in seconds. Let your love be measured in lifetimes." - W. H. Levering

"Never fear anything that has more than one name." – Anonymous

"Anxiety is not a gift." - W. Henry Levering

"There is a reason nightmares happen in the dark." - Dr. Bill Levering

"Anger is a costly shield from fear."
- William Levering

"Choose gods that deepen you by many means." - Dr. W. Levering

"Unlearning fear requires risk, reason, and resolve." - Billy Levering

"Pray that you do not end where you start."
- Rev. Levering

Pledge Against Hate



I pledge from this day onward:

- ♥ I will speak out against anyone who mocks or seeks to intimidate or actually hurt someone of a different race, religion, ethnic group, gender, or sexual orientation.
- ♥ I will reach out to support those who are targets of harassment.
- ♥ I will do my best to interrupt prejudice and to stop those who — because of hate — would hurt, harass or violate the civil rights of anyone.
- ♥ I will try at all times to be aware of my own biases against people who are different from myself.
- ♥ I will seek to deepen my understanding of other cultures, religions, sexual identities, and races that I don't understand.
- ♥ I will think about specific ways my community can promote respect for people and create a prejudice-free zone.

I firmly believe that one person can make a difference and that no person can be an "innocent bystander" when it comes to opposing hate.

Signed as a personal promise: _____

Date: _____

Created by Schenectady Clergy Against Hate, inspired by the Anti-Defamation League "World of Difference" Curriculum

There are pledge cards at the rear of the sanctuary suggested by the Schenectady Clergy Against Hate to address problems of discrimination, hate, and bullying.

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

Monday, February 27

8:30 am..... Life Line Screening
 9:00 am..... Men's Newsgroup

Tuesday, February 28

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

Wednesday, March 1**Ash Wednesday**

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
 1:00 pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting
 7:00 pm..... Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, March 2

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

Friday, March 3

7:00 pm..... Avery Presents

Sunday, March 5

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	Mike Lamkin	Mardi Gras- Skip Parsons, clarinet; Ken Olsen, trombone; Crick Diefendorf, banjo; Tim Coakley, drums; Pete Toigo, bass;
Bookshop/Heritage	Birdie Blackmer	Nancy Wainwright
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Richard Rose	David Bundy, Caroline Welch
Greeters	Tom Zych and Lian Drisgula	
Flower Delivery	Keith Muse, Carol Troost	Carol DeLaMarter, Jennifer Evans
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Del Pierce, Caroline Welch, Audrey Bain, Arthur Casey, Keith Muse, Bill Rochelle	Carolyn Jones-Assini, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Lis Mastrianni, Walt Robb, Jeanne Shoulder, Maria G. Todd, Barbara Walton,
Reader	Nancy Wainwright	Chris Fernandes
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Christine Lund, Victoria McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd,