

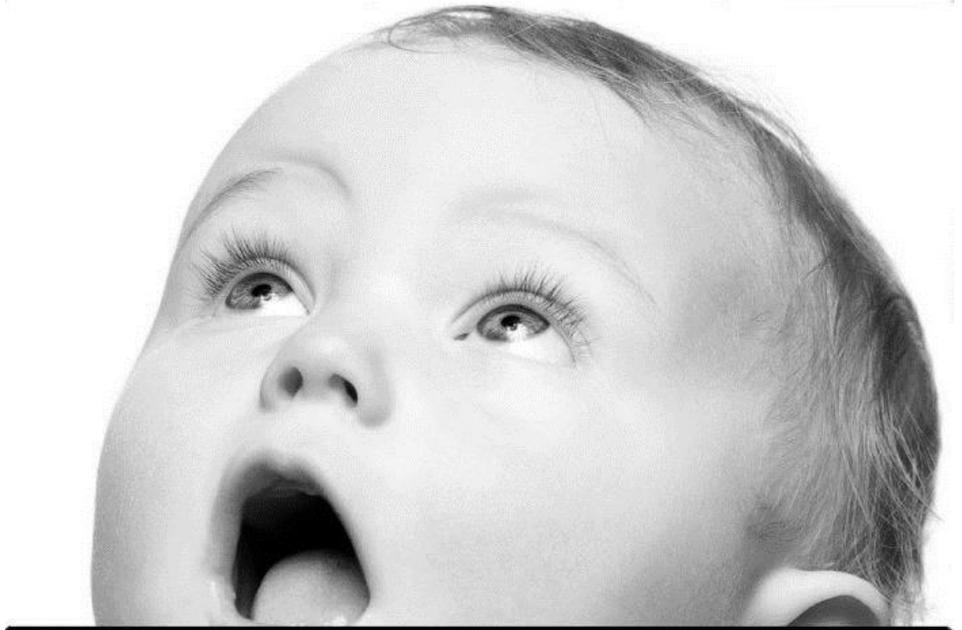
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



March 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 Downstairs 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.

Second Sunday In Lent

March 12, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Barbara Adler

Solemn Prelude Martin Setchell
Lenten Aria Noel Rawsthorne
My Song is Love Unknown Michael Burkhardt
Aria for Organ John Dixon

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Jonathan Vanderbeck

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Holy, Holy, Holy* Nicea

*HYMN #138

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Beginning with silent prayer...

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Kyrie Eleison'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has a melody with lyrics: 'Greek Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' and 'English Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The bass clef part has a simple accompaniment. The second system is similar, with the treble clef part having lyrics: 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' and 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The bass clef part continues the accompaniment.

*GODS FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell in
the house of the LORD for ever. Glory to
God in the highest and peace to all on
earth.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed – Traditional version

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus
Christ his only Son our Lord; who was
conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell; the third day he rose
again from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from thence he
shall come to judge the quick and the
dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy
catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of
the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot Traditional
Ukulele Choir

Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home

Well I looked over Jordan and what did I
see?

Coming for to carry me home
A band of angels looking out for me.
Coming for to carry me home

Sometimes I'm up and sometimes I'm down
Coming for to carry me home
But still my soul feels heavenly bound
Coming for to carry me home

The brightest day that I can say
Coming for to carry me home
When Jesus washed my sins away.
Coming for to carry me home.

FIRST LESSON

Barbara Walton

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

Amen.

Psalms 121 (pg 571)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary in the glory to God and in loving memory of David and Elenora Schweizer by Tod Schweizer.

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:

*John Hillers, Eleanor Jenkins,
Carolyn "Carol" Welch, Ann P. Strobell*

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

Mar 19: Creation Care Commitments,
Rev. Daniel Carlson

Mar 26: Visiting Methodist Pastor from Italy.
*Italy and USA: Two Countries Without
Reformation, But....*
Rev. Antonio Lesignoli

Help in Your Time of Need

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 ready and committed to care for those in need! If you or someone you know could benefit from this ministry, contact Daniel Carlson or any other Stephen Leader.

Music Notes

We welcome Barbara Adler to the organ bench today. *Lord Most High*. Harris and Sadler. © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna Music. All rights reserved. CCLI #11256325.

Lenten Devotional

The Lenten Devotional booklet prepared by First Reformed members is available in both regular and large print editions.

Lenten Devotional Discussion

Every Sunday morning at 9 within Lent you are invited to come and discuss with others which devotional writing(s) in our Lenten Devotional moved you in the past week. Participants share how, and perhaps why, they were moved as we grow in our faith and understanding of the foundational texts in the Christian tradition. Led by Norma Brown.

Mid-week Lenten Program

Its not too late to join-in for our weekly Wednesday fellowship, study, and worship through the season of Lent! See the calendar grid below for times of each dimension and the First Things newsletter for course descriptions.

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

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. Call Bill Clock 641-2585 when you leave a donation.

Johnson Library

There is a collection of books on the Johnson Library shelf in the Heritage Room having to do with the Lenten Season. *Seven Weeks For The Soul* by Gerard Hughes contains Scripture based meditations. *The Desert: And Anthology For Lent* compiled by John Moses is a collection of writings for the contemplation of solitude, while *Searching for Truth* by John Polkinghouse contains meditations on science and faith. Two additional books explore gender issues and religion, which is the topic of the Lenten program presented by Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck. The books are *On Being Liked* by Fr. James Alison and *Bible, Gender and Sexuality* by James Brownson.

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.

Name Tags

To the left of the Narhtex, the name tags are stuck to a board on your right. If you don't have a name tag and would like one, please write your name with on a white visitor pew card and drop in the collection plate. Your name tag will get made and placed on the aforementioned board.

Columbarium

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

Give Easter Memorial Flowers

Each Easter, members of Chancel Guild adorn our church with beautiful Easter flowers. Your family can contribute to remember a loved one or honor a loved one. Please send your suggested donation of \$20 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309 and contact the church office with the name of the person the flowers are in honor or memory of. Even if you have donated in previous years, please place an order by **April 7**.

**Wednesdays
During Lent
March 8 - April 12**

Cookies & Conversations 6:30pm

Meet and greet in the sanctuary before class begins.

Lenten Classes 7pm

Our traditional five-week study offering four classes.

Evening Worship 8pm

A quiet service at the end of the evening led by Daniel Carlson.

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Mar 12	11am	SICM	Youth group assembling spring bags	FRC
Mar 14	10am	Horizon Bible Study	Bible Study	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 15	6:30pm	Cookies & Conversations	Meet & Greet before classes begin	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 15	7pm	Lenten Classes	Four distinct educational opportunities	Various
Mar 15	8pm	Evening Worship	Contemplative Communion at the end of the evening	Sanctuary
Mar 16	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 17	10am	Group VII	Questions? Contact Connie Young	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 21	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 21	10am	Horizon Bible Study	Bible Study	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 21	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	Chat and get to know each other. For more info contact Connie Young at 393-7061	Connie Young's
Mar 26	6:30pm	Room For All	"A Night with Elton Jonathan" (616)822-3644 or RevJonathan16@gmail.com	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 31	12pm	Out To Lunch Bunch	Fellowship Luncheons & TLC combined	Puzzles Bakery

"[Tolstoy] does not necessarily get rid of [his angry] temperament by undergoing religious conversion, and indeed it is obvious that the illusion of having been reborn may allow one's native vices to flourish more freely than ever, though perhaps in subtler forms."

— George Orwell

"No one will make a good end to the life into which he is born unless he is born again before he ends it." — Augustine of Hippo

"I'm always happy when I'm surrounded by water, I think I'm a Mermaid or I was a mermaid. The ocean makes me feel really small and it makes me put my whole life into perspective... it humbles you and makes you feel almost like you've been baptized. I feel born again when I get out of the ocean."

— Beyoncé Knowles

"He knows he will be born again, And start fresh anew." - Dejan Stojanovic, Circling: 1978-1987

"Beware of the guy whose God is in the skies." — George Bernard Shaw, Man and Superman, Maxims for Revolutionists

"Go higher and higher, until it becomes impossible to bring you down, I wanna use a microscope to locate you, don't even dream of coming down." — Michael Bassey Johnson

"Life is all about Re-Inventing Yourself, so that you can rejoice every moment, just un-learn and let-go of the past and no sooner you do it, you stay afresh and are born again!"

— Ramana Pemmaraju

"Our actions in the present build the staircase to the future. The question is whether that staircase is going up or down." — Craig D. Lounsbrough

"A transformed life is the greatest of all miracles. Every time a person is "born again" by repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ, the miracle of regeneration is performed."

— Billy Graham, Billy Graham in Quotes

Sunday, March 12

9:00am Devotional Discussion
 9:00am Chancel Choir
 9:00am Ukulele Practice
 10:00am Worship
 10:15am Church School K-5
 11:15am First Forum
 11:15am Children's Music
 12:00pm Consistory
 5:00pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, March 13

9:00am Men's Newsgroup
 7:00pm Klokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 15

9:30am Kerygma Conversations
 1:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting

Thursday, March 16

7:30am Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00am Stitch Group
 6:30pm Stephen Ministry
 7:00pm Ensemble Practice
 7:30pm Chancel Choir
 7:45pm Small Group Peer Supervision

Friday, March 17

10:00am Group VII

Sunday, March 19

9:00 am Devotional Discussion
 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
 12:30 pm UPC Mission Fund
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Scott Bassinson, piano	Peg & Bill Delaney, Tom D'andrea
Bookshop/Heritage	Bill Clock	Christina Jones
Counting Deacons	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Rebecca Grande	Ellie Brudos, Kimberly Burgoyne
Greeters	Ruth and Ken Roinos	Sally and Jack Bestgen
Flower Delivery	Cynthia Hamilton, Lisa Etkin	Sharron McCullough, Gini McDermott
Liturgist	Jonathan Vanderbeck	Antonio Lesignoli
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Carolyn Jones-Assini, Jack Bestgen, Birdie Blackmer, Marilyn Leach, Richard Rose, Ellie Rowland	Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Phil Falconer, Peggy King, Walt Robb, Barbara Walton,
Reader	Barbara Walton	Marilyn Leach
Ushers	Alden Brown, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin	Art Shultes, Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough