

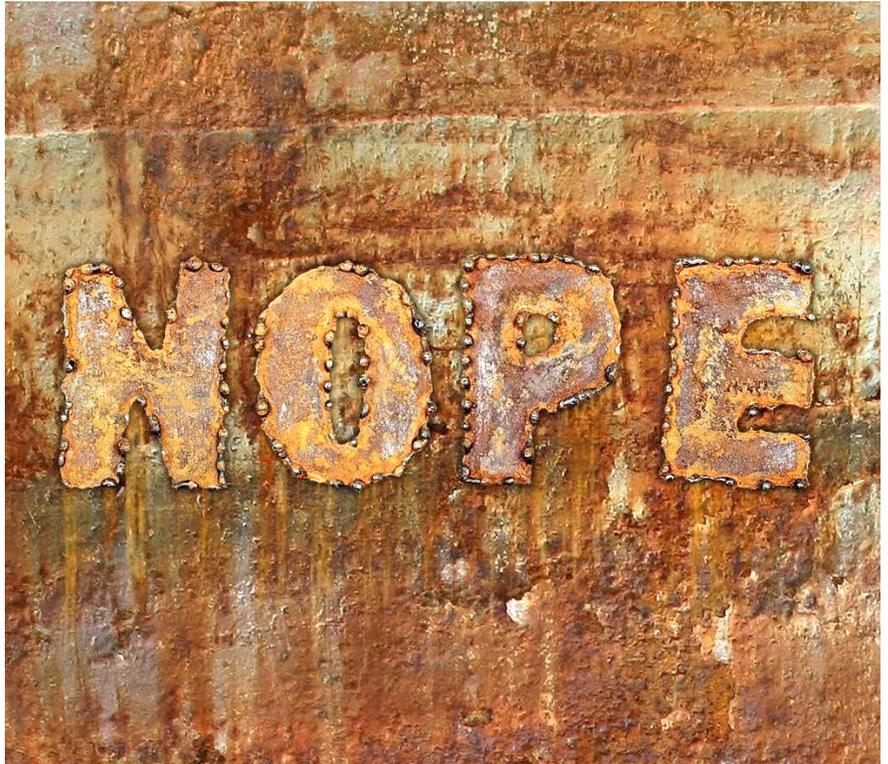
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



*Suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope,
and hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love
has been poured into our hearts*

March 19, 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.

Third Sunday In Lent

March 19, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE John Norton, piano

Fugue No. 20 in A minor
from Well-Tempered Clavier, Bk 1
Prelude No. 12 in F minor
from Well-Tempered Clavier, Bk 2 J.S. Bach

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Antonio Lesignoli

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Create in Me* John Erickson

*HYMN *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* #129

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Beginning with silent prayer...

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part has the 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 has a simple accompaniment. The second system is similar, with the 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 music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

*GODS FORGIVING LOVE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed – Traditional

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 *The Falconer* Alfred Fedak

Rise, my song, and stretch your wings,
delight and need to trace.

Rise for those the gospel brings
to seek a singing place.

This will be our singing day,
word and tune will both be true.

Song, soar up, but not away
—the falconer waits for you.

Rise my song, and have no fear
of soaring wide and high,
Christ the falconer is near,
wherever you may fly.

See the human world below,
showing scars and beauty too.

In a closing circle go
the falconer waits for you.

Soar, my song, with wings wide fanned,
delight and need to trace.

Come to Christ's uplifted hand,
and find a resting place.

One day soaring song shall see
everything made whole and new.

Day of gladness come to be!
The falconer waits for you.

Richard Leach

FIRST LESSON Marilyn Leach

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

Amen.

Romans 5:1-11 (pg 155)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 4:5-42* (pg 94)

SERMON Revs. Midge, Carlson and Levering
From Suffering To Hope

*HYMN *Live Into Hope* #332

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *When Rooks Fly Homeward*
Arthur Baynon

When rooks fly homeward and shadows fall,
When roses fold on the hay-yard wall,
When blind moths flutter by door and tree,
Then comes the quiet of Christ to me.

When stars look out on the Children's Path,
And grey mists gather on carn and rath,
When night is one with the brooding sea,
Then comes the quiet of Christ to me.
Joseph Campbell

*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 *Canto de Esperanza* #432

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Celtic Amen O'Carroll and Walker

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

+ + +

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Linda Witkowski – 3/8/17
Service will be March 25 at 1pm

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:

Phyllis Demont

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: Creation Care Commitments,
Rev. Daniel Carlson

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

Rev. Antonio Lesignoli

April 2: Laura Combs "New Choices Recovery"
Laura.whitman@newchoicesrecover.org
Heroin Addiction 348-7968 cell 727-8523

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 9am 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

It's 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.

A Caring Companion In Troubling Times

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.

Columbarium

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

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.

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

Name Tags

To the left of the Narthex, name tags are on a board to your right. If you don't have a name tag and would like one, please write your name on the sign up sheet also on the board. Your name tag will appear on the board soon.

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.

Faith Bookshop

Read any good spiritual books lately? We want to hear about them! Faith Bookshop is seeking suggestions for new inventory and we'd like your input. Stop by after church and submit your ideas at the Faith Bookshop (now conveniently located in the Heritage Room) or email them to us at cmjones514@gmail.com. Keep your eyes peeled for new offerings in the coming weeks.

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. Paper products will be used for the duration.

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 Risseuw, 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**.

Out To Lunch Bunch

Without a kitchen, the our Fellowship Luncheons are starving and the TLC Lunch Bunch propose to combine forces. We will gather at Puzzles Bakery and Café at 515 State Street on the last Friday of the month, which is March 31, at noon. Puzzles strives to raise autism awareness by providing exposure and understanding of autism spectrum disorders. Let's support their efforts. If you're on board, contact Gay at 399-0499 or overdoo@msn.com or just show up with a smile, a bit of \$\$, and a wish to do some good.

**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.

“We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.” — Abraham Lincoln

“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.” — Maya Angelou

“Pain and suffering are always inevitable for a large intelligence and a deep heart.” — Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Crime and Punishment

“Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars.” — Kahlil Gibran

“Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms you would never see the true beauty of their carvings.” — Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

“When you've suffered a great deal in life, each additional pain is both unbearable and trifling.” — Yann Martel, Life of Pi

“Everyone suffers at least one bad betrayal in their lifetime. It's what unites us. The trick is not to let it destroy your trust in others when that happens. Don't let them take that from you.” — Sherrilyn Kenyon, Invincible

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Mar 21	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 21	10am	Horizon Bible Study	We will be finishing the study of I & II Samuel.	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 22	6:30pm	Cookies & Conversations	Meet & Greet before classes begin	Sanctuary
Mar 22	7pm	Lenten Classes	Four distinct educational opportunities	Various
Mar 22	8pm	Evening Worship	Contemplative Communion at the end of the evening	Sanctuary
Mar 23	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 24 & 25		Archives Committee	Supporting the Underground Rail Road Project at Capital Region's 16 th Conference	SCCC
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

“When you compare the sorrows of real life to the pleasures of the imaginary one, you will never want to live again, only to dream forever.” — Alexandre Dumas, The Count of Monte Cristo

“We were promised sufferings. They were part of the program. We were even told, 'Blessed are they that mourn,' and I accept it. I've got nothing that I hadn't bargained for. Of course it is different when the thing happens to oneself, not to others, and in reality, not imagination.”
— C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed

“Character is like a tree and reputation its shadow. The shadow is what we think it is and the tree is the real thing.” — Abraham Lincoln

“But a mermaid has no tears, and therefore she suffers so much more.” — Hans Christian Andersen, The Little Mermaid

“A man's true character comes out when he's drunk.” — Charlie Chaplin

“What is hell? I maintain that it is the suffering of being unable to love.” — Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov

“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.” — Helen Keller

“There is no beauty in sadness. No honor in suffering. No growth in fear. No relief in hate. It's just a waste of perfectly good happiness.”
— Katerina Stoykova Klemer

“If you wish to glimpse inside a human soul and get to know a man, don't bother analyzing his ways of being silent, of talking, of weeping, of seeing how much he is moved by noble ideas; you will get better results if you just watch him laugh. If he laughs well, he's a good man.”
— Fyodor Dostoyevsky

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

Monday, March 20

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

Tuesday, March 21

10:00am Morning Prayer
 10:00am Horizons Bible Study
 11:00am Admin Staff Meeting
 11:30am Stephen Leader Team
 7:00pm Short Short Writing

Wednesday, March 22

9:30am Kerygma Conversations
 1:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting
 6:30pm Lenten Refreshments
 7:00pm Lenten Classes
 8:00pm Lenten Contemplative Worship

Thursday, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

6:30pm Room For All

Saturday, March 24

1:00pm Linda Witkowski Service

Sunday, March 26

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
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Peg & Bill Delaney, Tom D'andrea	Azzaam Hameed
Bookshop/Heritage	Christina Jones	Birdie Blackmer
Counting Deacons	Ellie Brudos, Kimberly Burgoyne	Thomas Burgoyne, Doug Todd
Greeters	Sally and Jack Bestgen	Donna & David Bundy
Flower Delivery	Sharron McCullough, Gini McDermott	Jeffery & Ruth Cox, Mike & Vickie McGowan-Horan
Liturgist	Antonio Lesignoli	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Phil Falconer, Peggy King, Walt Robb, Barbara Walton,	Eric Evans, James Gonda, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Bill Rochelle, Caroline Welch
Reader	Marilyn Leach	
Ushers	Art Shultes, Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough	Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal