

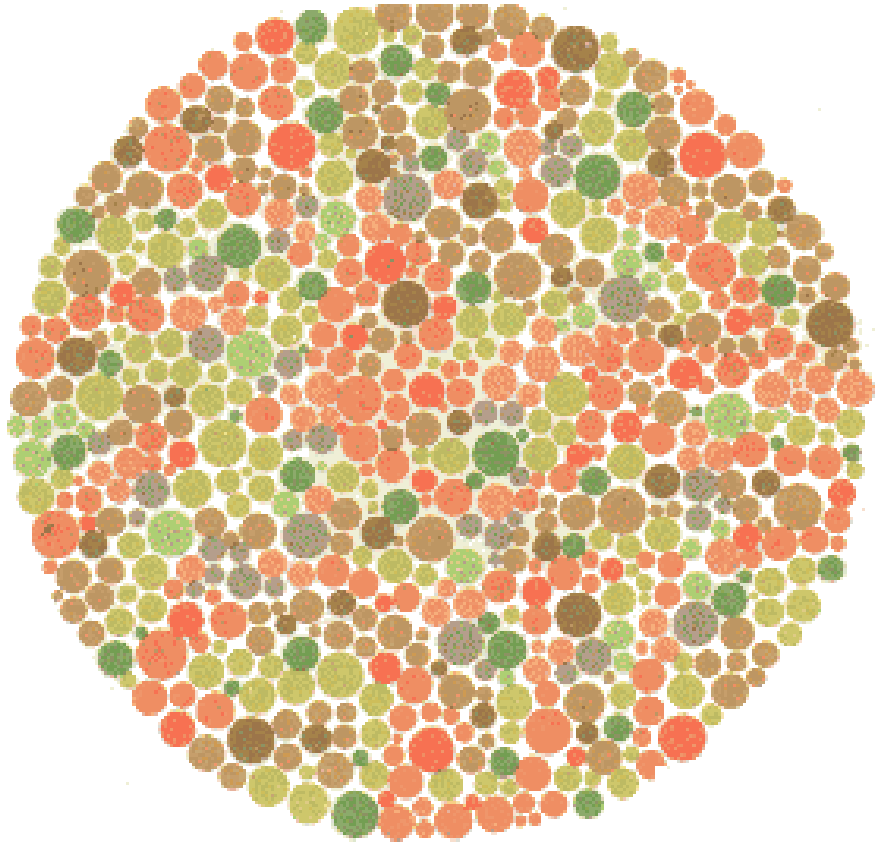
***The Covenant of Our  
Congregation  
Adopted in 1962***

*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.*



*What number do you see?*



*March 26, 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 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](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.

# Fourth Sunday In Lent

March 26, 2017

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Nat Phipps

10:00 a.m.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Be Thou My Vision* Slane

\*HYMN *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

Can't let anyone blow it out, (!)  
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD

*Beginning with silent prayer...*

Greek Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
English Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

\*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

*Good Shepherd, May I Sing Thy Praise*

arr. David S. Walker

Margie Halinski, flute

Klokken Tower Ringers

Vernetta Thuener and John Norton, percussion

FIRST LESSON

Christine Daniels

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

**Amen.**

*Ephesians 5:8-14* (pg 194)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*John 9:1-41* (pg 102)

SERMON

Bill Levering

*Opening Eyes, Seeing the Light*

\*HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Nat Phipps

\*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 *O God of Earth and Space* #274

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Twofold Amen*

Frank Cunkle

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.

### **In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary in the glory to God and in loving memory of Leroy Jewett by Mary Jewett.

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary in the glory to God and in loving memory of Janet Crandell on her Birthday by her daughters, Linda, Sandy and Donna.

### **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:

*Sylvia Ebeling, Leroy Jewett, Elenora Schweizer, Richard S. Arthur, Kenneth Mathes, Frida Kramer,*

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.

### **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**.

### **Music Notes**

Today's anthem overlays four different tunes that have been used for the text of Psalm 23, the lectionary psalm for this Sunday. The tunes are: St. Columba (Irish hymn tune), Resignation (from Southern Harmony), Marosa (Brother James' Air), and Cornish Canon (Traditional Air). Marosa is heard only in the flute part except for a snippet for soloist at the very end. St. Columba is used as the main melody and the others as countermelodies.

### **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.

### **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:** 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

### **A Devoted Friend in Difficult 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 will remain open during construction except for a few weeks during asbestos mitigation this spring.

### **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

### **Youth Group**

**April 2** at 5pm - Pizza and Game Night at Church - Bring your favorite game and join us for a fun evening of fellowship, and some conversation about the future of youth group. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome, including friends from outside of FRC membership. Hope to see you there!

**May 7** - Youth Service: the worship service will be led by our youth and children. Afterward, youth in grades 6-12 will have lunch, and then go to the Regional Food Bank for a service project from 1-3pm.

### **Horizons Bible Study**

The Horizons Bible Study group will conclude it's study of I & II Samuel. Following that we will be using a Lenten devotional resource through April, continuing to meet on Tuesdays in the Dirck Romeyn room at 10am. Anyone interested is welcome. Contact Peg Miller for more information 785-4460.

## **Sunday Refreshments**

A few changes in refreshments around Sunday morning worship. Dirck Romeyn room will house treats and beverages Paper products will be used for the duration.

## **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 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* 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.

## **Out To Lunch Bunch**

Without a kitchen, the 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](mailto:overdoo@msn.com) or just show up with a smile, a bit of \$, and a wish to do some good.

## **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.

### **Wednesdays During Lent March 8 - April 5**

#### **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 29	11:45am	First Things Volunteers	Pizza will be provided.	Church Office
Mar 29	6:30pm	Cookies & Conversations	Meet & Greet before classes begin.	Sanctuary
Mar 29	7pm	Lenten Classes	Four distinct educational opportunities.	Various
Mar 29	8pm	Evening Worship	Reflection, Communion, Prayers.	Sanctuary
Mar 30	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Dirck Romeyn
Mar 31	12pm	Out To Lunch Bunch	Fellowship Luncheons & TLC combined.	Puzzles Bakery
April 1	8am	The Saturday Breakfast	Formerly known as Men's Breakfast.	Dirck Romeyn
April 2	3pm	New Members Class	For folks interested in joining.	Church office
April 2	5pm	Youth	Pizza and game night.	Class Rooms
April 3	11am	Group V	We will discuss the Lenten programs that are offered. Call Maria Todd with Questions.	Dirck Romeyn
April 7	7pm	Avery Presents	A program of Bluegrass, Folk and Jazz music presented by Theresa McMahan.	Sanctuary

“Living is Easy with Eyes Closed.”  
— John Lennon

“To crooked eyes truth may wear a wry face”  
— J.R.R. Tolkien

“There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true.” — Søren Kierkegaard

“Nothing is easier than self-deceit. For what every man wishes, that he also believes to be true.” — Demosthenes

“There's none so blind as those who will not listen.” — Neil Gaiman, American Gods

“Nobody sees anybody truly but all through the flaws of their own egos. That is the way we all see ...each other in life. Vanity, fear, desire, competition-- all such distortions within our own egos-- condition our vision of those in relation to us. Add to those distortions to our own egos the corresponding distortions in the egos of others, and you see how cloudy the glass must become through which we look at each other. That's how it is in all living relationships except when there is that rare case of two people who love intensely enough to burn through all those layers of opacity and see each other's naked hearts.”  
— Tennessee Williams

“Had I been in love, I could not have been more wretchedly blind. But vanity, not love, has been my folly.” — Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice

“Just because you are blind, and unable to see my beauty doesn't mean it does not exist.”  
— Margaret Cho

“There are poisons that blind you, and poisons that open your eyes.” — August Strindberg

**Sunday, March 26**

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  
 11:15am ..... Rev. Antonio Reception  
 5:00pm ..... Jazz Vespers

**Monday, March 27**

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

**Tuesday, March 28**

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

**Wednesday, March 29**

11:30am ..... First Things Volunteers  
 1:00pm ..... Pastoral Team Meeting  
 6:30pm ..... Lenten Refreshments...

7:00pm ..... Lenten Classes  
 8:00pm ..... Lenten Contemplative Worship

**Thursday, March 30**

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

**Saturday, April 1**

8:00am ..... Men's Breakfast

**Sunday, April 2**

9:00am ..... Devotional Discussion  
 9:00am ..... Chancel Choir  
 9:00am ..... Ukulele Practice  
 10:00am ..... Worship  
 10:00am ..... Communion  
 10:15am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:15am ..... First Forum  
 11:15am ..... Children's Music  
 3:00pm ..... New Members Class  
 5:00pm ..... Jazz Vespers

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Jazz Vespers</b>	Peg & Bill Delaney, Tom D'andrea	Nat Phipps, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Keith Pray, saxophone
<b>Bookshop/Heritage</b>	Birdie Blackmer	Nancy Wainwright
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Thomas Burgoyne, Doug Todd	Kim Burgoyne, Therese McCarty
<b>Greeters</b>	Donna & David Bundy	
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Jeffery & Ruth Cox, Mike & Vickie McGowan-Horan	Bill Clock, Birdie Blackmer
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Eric Evans, James Gonda, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Bill Rochelle, Caroline Welch	Liz Mastrianni, Jean Shoulder, Arthur Casey, Christine Daniels, Jeanette Davidson, Gay Doolittle, Ellie Rowland, Eugene Zeltmann
<b>Reader</b>	Christine Daniels	Therese McCarty
<b>Ushers</b>	Art Shultes, Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough	Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal