

***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.



April 2, 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.

Fifth Sunday In Lent

April 2, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Leonid Polishchuk, violin

Fantasia No. 3 in F minor for violin

Georg Philipp Telemann

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Behold, I Make All Things New* Iona

*HYMN *We Come as Guests Invited* #517

*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: 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' 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 the bass clef part having a simple accompaniment. The lyrics are in both Greek and English.

*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 Ground from the Sunrise Mass Ola Gjeilo

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Hosana in highest.

Blessed is he who comes in name of Lord.

Hosana in highest.

Lamb of God, who takes away sins of world,

Grant us peace.

FIRST LESSON Therese McCarty

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

Amen.

Psalms 130 (pg 573)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 11:1-45* (pg 251)

SERMON

Bill Levering

The Tears that Heal

*HYMN

Martha, Mary, Waiting, Weeping Beach Spring

Martha, Mary, waiting, weeping,

Bowed beneath the weight of gloom.

Kept their watch where Laz'rus, sleeping

Lay within a rock sealed tomb.

Jesus, late in coming, met them,

Shed with them compassion's tear.

Martha, sore with sorrow, charged him,

"He'd have lived had you been here!"

Jesus spoke to Martha's grieving,

"Resurrection, life am I!

All who hear my Word, believing,

Live with me, although they die."

Then to Laz'rus' tomb he led them,

Called their brother forth by name,

Living, loving, hope exceeding,

Freed from death to Christ he came.

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**.

Music Notes

Music Notes: Ola Gjeilo, composer of today's Anthem, is a young Norwegian composer. The Ground is the last movement of a full length mass. It is a 'chorale' with the vocal parts in the style of J.S. Bach to which he adds a very 'active' accompaniment. He named it The Ground to give listeners a sense of having arrived at the end of the mass, to have reached a kind of peace and grounded strength, after the long journey.

Martha, Mary, Weeping, Wailing. Text: Herman G. Stuempfle © 1997 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. OneLicense #A700-700.

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.

Group V

Group V will meet tomorrow April 3 in Dirck Romeyn room. Any questions call Maria Todd.

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.

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.

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

Today 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.

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.

Horizons Bible Study

The Horizons Bible Study group will be using a Lenten devotional resource through April.

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 located in the Heritage room) or email them to us at cmjones514@gmail.com.

Johnson Library

There is a collection of books 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.



“The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.” — Mark Twain

“Death ends a life, not a relationship.”
— Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie

“Love never dies a natural death. It dies because we don't know how to replenish its source. It dies of blindness and errors and betrayals. It dies of illness and wounds; it dies of weariness, of witherings, of tarnishings.” — Anaïs Nin

“Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming "Wow! What a Ride!"
— Hunter S. Thompson, *The Proud Highway: Saga of a Desperate Southern Gentleman, 1955-1967*

“I don't want to die without any scars.”
— Chuck Palahniuk, *Fight Club*

“To the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure.” — J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
April 2	3pm	New Members Class	For folks interested in joining	Church Office
April 2	5pm	Youth	Pizza and game night	Church Office
April 3	11am	Group V	We will discuss the Lenten programs that are offered. Call Maria Todd with Questions	Dirck Romeyn
April 4	10am	Horizons Bible Study	We will be using a Lenten devotional resource through April. Peg Miller 785-4460.	Dirck Romeyn
April 4	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less	Dirck Romeyn
April 5	6:30pm	Lenten Snacks	Meet & Greet before classes begin	Dirck Romeyn
April 5	7pm	Lenten Classes	Four distinct educational opportunities	Various
April 5	8pm	Lenten Worship	Song, Reflection, Communion, Prayer	Sanctuary
April 6	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Dirck Romeyn
April 7	7pm	Avery Presents	A program of Bluegrass, Folk and Jazz music presented by Theresa McMahan	Sanctuary
April 21	10am	Group VII	"What's Your Story?" with Norma Brown	Dirck Romeyn
Holy Week April 9-16				
April 13	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday	Worship Service	Sanctuary
April 14	12pm	Good Friday	Worship Service	Sanctuary

"Death's got an Invisibility Cloak?" Harry interrupted again.

"So he can sneak up on people," said Ron.

"Sometimes he gets bored of running at them, flapping his arms and shrieking..."

— J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

"My dear, Find what you love and let it kill you. Let it drain you of your all. Let it cling onto your back and weigh you down into eventual nothingness. Let it kill you and let it devour your remains. For all things will kill you, both slowly and fastly, but it's much better to be killed by a lover." — Charles Bukowski

"Things we lose have a way of coming back to us in the end, if not always in the way we expect." — J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

"I DON'T CARE!" Harry yelled at them, snatching up a lunascope and throwing it into the fireplace. "I'VE HAD ENOUGH, I'VE SEEN ENOUGH, I WANT OUT, I WANT IT TO END, I DON'T CARE ANYMORE!"

"You do care," said Dumbledore. He had not flinched or made a single move to stop Harry demolishing his office. His expression was calm, almost detached. "You care so much you feel as though you will bleed to death with the pain of it." — J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

"I do not fear death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience from it." — Mark Twain

"Unbeing dead isn't being alive." — E.E. Cummings

Sunday, April 2

9:00amDevotional Discussion
 9:00amChancel Choir
 9:00amUkulele Practice
 10:00amWorship
 10:00amCommunion
 10:15amChurch School K-5
 11:15amFirst Forum
 11:15amChildren's Music
 3:00pmNew Members Class
 5:00pmJazz Vespers
 5:00pmYouth Pizza & Game Night

Monday, April 3

9:00amMen's Newsgroup
 11:00amGroup V
 7:00pmKlokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, April 4

10:00amMorning Prayer
 10:00amHorizons Bible Study
 11:00amAdmin Staff Meeting
 11:30amSupport & Care
 5:30pmFostering Families
 7:00pmShort Short Writing

Wednesday, April 5

8:30am Organ Tuning
 1:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting
 6:30pm Lenten Snacks
 7:00pm Lenten Classes
 8:00pm Lenten Worship

Thursday, April 6

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

Friday, April 7

1:00pm Gardner's Workshop
 7:00pm First Friday Performance

Sunday, April 9

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
 5:00pm Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Keith Pray, saxophone. (courtesy Schenectady Musicians Union local 85-133)	Wayne Hawkins, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Brian Patneau, saxophone. (courtesy Schenectady Musicians Union local 85-133)
Bookshop/Heritage	Nancy Wainwright	Sarah Howes
Counting Deacons	Kim Burgoyne & Therese McCarty	Ellie Brudos & Richard Rose
Greeters	Tom Zych & Lian Drisgula	Peggy King & Vernetta Thuener
Flower Delivery	Bill Clock & Birdie Blackmer	Lisa Etkin, Christine & Fred Daniels
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Liz Mastrianni, Jean Shoulder, Arthur Casey, Christine Daniels, Jeanette Davidson, Gay Doolittle, Ellie Rowland, Eugene Zeltmann	Darwin Brudos, Phil Falconer, Jerry Griggs, Jerry Griggs, Del Pierce, Richard Rose,
Reader	Therese McCarty	Norma Brown
Ushers	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.