

*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 9, 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

If you have lost or misplaced an item at church, please check the basket found in the Narthex located at the front of the church.

Columbarium

The Columbarium will remain open during construction except while asbestos mitigation.

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 9, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Joyous Prelude Chester Norman
Thanks Be to Thee G.F. Handel
The Palms Jean-Baptiste Faure

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
the Lord. **Hosanna!**

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

PROCESSIONAL INTROIT
Sing Hosanna Michael Burkhardt

Kirk Singers, Chancel Choir
Klokken Tower Ringers

*HYMN *Hosanna Loud Hosanna* #89
John Norton, piano

*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

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
the Lord. **Hosanna!**

*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 Kirk Singers
Do You See that Man? Russell Nagy

Do you see that man,
the one the Prophets called Emmanuel?
Do you see that man
they're calling Lord of all?
Do you see that Man,
the one who calls himself the Way?
I want to see Him!
He'll be here today!

Hosanna! Wave your branches high,
throw your garments before Him
as He passes by,
Hosanna! Come and hear what He'll say.
Hosanna! He's coming our way!

Do you see that Man.
the one the Baptist called the Lamb of God?
Do you see that Man
they're calling to be King?
Do you see that Man,
the one who calls himself the Son?
I want to see Him! He must be the One!

Joel Nagy

FIRST LESSON Norma Brown
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29* (pg 565)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 21:1-11* (pg 23)

SERMON Stacey Midge
Entrances and Exits

*HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* #88

MINUTE FOR MISSION Easter Offering
One Great Hour Of Sharing Frank Ralbovsky

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Ride On* Grayston Ives

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry
thy humble beast pursues his road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

In lowly pomp ride on to die,
O Christ thy triumph now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

At last the fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.

In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power and reign.
Henry Milman

*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 *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!* #91

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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:

*William Rickard, Duncan Mewherter,
Ann Matthews, Madelyn Young,
Garfield Williamson, Susan E. Shepherd*

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.

Eco-Palms for God's Glory and Creation

Today we are waving sustainable palm fronds. These palms come to us through a collaboration of our Formula of Agreement partners and an agricultural school focused on sustainability. The goal of this partnership has been to carefully cultivate the palm trees and tropical ecosystems in which they grow as well as pay a living wage to the palm frond harvesters in Mexico and Guatemala. Our Worship Committee identified this initiative as one of their creation care commitments for the year. We exuberantly praise God and faithfully preserve God's world with these palms.

Reception for Stacey Midge

There will be a reception following worship today for Rev. Stacey Midge as she takes on a new call.

Easter Offering - One Great Hour of Sharing

This cause, beloved by Union folks, is directed to 3 important areas. The **Hunger Program** works to alleviate hunger throughout the world and supports ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing. The **Disaster Assistance Program** provides disaster response locally, nationally, and throughout the world. **Self-development of People** collaborates with groups that assist those oppressed by poverty or social systems to help people take charge of their lives. Please share your resources to change lives with this offering on Easter Sunday, April 16.

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.

Sunday School and Children's Music

Children's Sunday school and Music Classes will be in the Walton House near the office. For everyone's safety, parents must sign out their child upon pickup. Any questions, 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

Flower Delivery - Help Share the Easter Joy

We need volunteers on Easter Sunday to deliver flowers to recently bereaved and home-bound church members. The flowers, an addressed card for each recipient, and a bulletin will be available for pick up after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will assist. Please plan on participating in this ministry of delivering, to those in need, a fragrant symbol of God's faithfulness and a warm greeting on behalf their family of faith.

Eastertide Kerygma Explorations

Two new six week studies and discussions of short writings by prominent authors related to Christ's resurrection--and our own faithful living in light of this fantastic news begin after Easter Sunday. One section will meet on Wednesdays, 9:30-11am beginning April 26; the other, on Sundays, 9-9:45am beginning April 29. The book, Bread and Wine: Reading for Lent and Easter will be used; contact convener, Rev. Carlson, to obtain a copy of the book before the first respective session.

Earth Sunday Ecological Action – April 23

Plan now to take part in our annual neighborhood pick-up project shortly after First Forum and Church School on April 23. Bring used plastic bags to place recycling and trash as we collect it. Gloves may be brought; we'll have some disposable ones on hand as well. A local lunch outing will follow for those who wish to feast following the local creation care frolic. Questions, contact Del Pierce or Gay Doolittle.

Ukulele for Spring Break – April 17-21

Looking for something to do over Spring Break? Join us for ukulele jams! Each weeknight M-F from 7pm - 8:30pm we will be playing through Camp Fowler Songs, contemporary Christian songs, hymns and gospel tunes. No experience is needed and we have extra ukuleles. Come and go as you need to, it will be a casual atmosphere! Questions? Contact Jamie Ipsen at 399-6848.

Word Service – April 14

On Good Friday at 7pm, we will be having our Word service as usual for the second Fridays of the month. The theme is "Battles" and will feature the national Moth Radio Hour star and local Union Professor Ashok Ramasubramanian telling the story of Karna, famous for his struggles and battles.

Youth Group – May 7

Youth 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.

College Scholarships

Applications for the Rev. Al Smith Education Scholarship are available through the church office. Please submit your completed application to the church office by Sunday, May 15. Questions can be directed to Sara Erickson at 374-4161 or ericksonhs@aol.com

Our Church's Mission

to the Community with Our Building

In the last two months, our building has provided well over 400 hours of meeting and activity space for all kinds of programs:

A Different Way in Reading Dyslexia Tutoring, Community Band Practice, Music Lessons, Gamblers Anonymous, Gam Anon, Life Line Medical Screening, Room For All, Regional Synod, Creating Cultures of Generosity Regional Synod, SAFE Event, Schenectady Community College Organ Rehearsals, Musicians of Ma'alwyk, Electric City Food Co op, Gardner's Workshop, Antique Group CHA, Stakeholders Meeting, Schenectady Art Society, Fostering Futures Foster Parent Support, Women League of Voters, Samaritan Counselling, Labor and Religion Coalition of New York

Justice Action Committee

On April 29 there will be a **Union College Community Pride Walk** at 12pm See Jeanne Shoulder for details.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae April 13 – 7:30pm

First Reformed has long celebrated a service of darkening on Maundy Thursday in which the Lord's Supper is celebrated. A series of readings and a darkening sanctuary create a somber and reflective remembrance of the trials of Jesus. We begin at 7:30pm lead by Revs. Vanderbeck and Midge.

Good Friday - April 14, 12pm

In the presence of a large rough-hewn wood cross in the middle of the sanctuary chancel, readers, cantors, intercessors, ministers, the Cancel Choir all lead this worship service focused on the final self-giving of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

Easter Sunday

Music for Easter Sunday will include a full complement of voices and instruments including brass quartet and timpani. Anthems will be In Thee is Gladness by Daniel Kallman and Easter Proclamation by John Ferguson. As is our tradition, we will invite people to join the choir for the Hallelujah Chorus.

Egg Hunt

Immediately following the children's message, all children will be escorted to an Easter egg hunt and other fun activities. We will try to be outside or will use the entire second floor above the office. Children can be picked up and signed out from the usual church school location after worship. You can then bring them to the reception.

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
April 9	9am	Devotional Discussion	Lenten Devotional discussions led by Norma Brown	Poling Chapel
April 9	11:15am	First Forum	Palm Sunday, Michael Bowman GE "The Future of Wind Turbines: Outside and Inside a Turbine"	Sanctuary
April 11	10am	Horizons Bible Study	We will be using a Lenten devotional resource through April. Peg Miller 785-4460.	Dirck Romeyn
April 11	6:30am	Standing Committees	Archive, Property, Mission & Benevolence, Youth Ed, Adult Ed, Finance, Worship, Fellowship & Membership, Justice Action	Various
April 11	7:30am	Consistory	Officers meeting	Assembly Hall
April 13	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Dirck Romeyn
April 13	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday	Worship Service led by Revs. Stacey Midge and Jonathan Vanderbeck	Sanctuary
April 14	12pm	Good Friday	Worship service focused on Christ's Passion.	Sanctuary
April 14	7pm	WORD Service	Will feature the national Moth Radio Hour star and local Union Professor	
April 16	10am	Easter	Worship Service	Sanctuary
April 18	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	New Location - Meeting at Linda Ward's home 4028 Windsor Drive Niskayuna from 7-9	Linda Ward House
April 19	7pm	Evening Circle	New Date - Will now be meeting at Liz Mastrianni's home 119 Park Place, Schenectady	Liz Mastrianni House
April 21	10am	Group VII	"What's Your Story?" with Norma Brown	Dirck Romeyn
April 29	10am	Peoples' Climate Movement	Marching for Climate, Jobs, and Justice	Washington, DC
April 29	12pm	Community Pride Walk	Union College See Jeanne Shoulder for details	Union College

"Look on every exit as being an entrance somewhere else." — Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*
 "The story of my life is about back entrances, side doors, secret elevators and other ways of getting in and out of places so that people won't bother me." — Greta Garbo

"As to the presidency, the two happiest days of my life were those of my entrance upon the office and my surrender of it."
 — Martin Van Buren

"The entrance strategy is actually more important than the exit strategy."
 — Edward Lampert

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages."
 — William Shakespeare

"We made our entrance into Paris. As for honors, we received all that we could possibly imagine; but they, though very well in their way, were not what touched me most. What was really affecting was the tenderness and earnestness of the poor people, who, in spite of the taxes with which they are overwhelmed, were transported with joy at seeing us."
 — Marie Antoinette

Sunday, April 9**Palm Sunday**

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

Monday, April 10

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

Tuesday, April 11

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

Wednesday, April 12

- 1:00pm Archives
- 1:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting
- 2:00pm Staff Meeting
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 13**Maundy Thursday**

- 7:30am Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 10:00am Stitch Group
- 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 14**Good Friday**

- 12:00pm Good Friday Service
- 7:00pm WORD Service

Sunday, April 16**Easter Sunday**

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

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Brian Patneau, saxophone. (courtesy Schenectady Musicians Union local 85-133)	Mike Lamkin, piano – Easter Jazz
Bookshop/Heritage	Sarah Howes	Christina Jones
Counting Deacons	Ellie Brudos & Richard Rose	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Joan Lindsay
Greeters	Peggy King & Vernetta Thuener	Nelson & Karlyne Drimalas
Flower Delivery	Lisa Etkin, Christine & Fred Daniels	(Easter Flower Delivery)
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, Phil Falconer, Jerry Griggs, Joyce Griggs, Del Pierce, Richard Rose,	Norma Brown, James Gonda, Marilyn Leach, Brad Lewis, Catherine Lewis, Barbara Walton
Reader	Norma Brown	Ministers
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright.	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Christine Lund, Doug Todd,