

*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 16, 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.

Easter Sunday

April 16, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley
Prelude in D George Blake
The Clarion Call Gertrude Haupt Richolson
Enter His Courts With Praise! Adam Mason

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Christ the Lord is Risen Again*
Christ ist Erstanden,
arr. Burkhardt

*HYMN *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* #123

*PRAYER (*unison*)
**God of new life, we thank you for the hope
you have given us through Jesus Christ.
Help us to celebrate your Easter triumph
with all of our life. Amen.**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)
(from Our Song of Hope)
**Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world. In
His death, the justice of God is established;
forgiveness of sin is proclaimed. On the
day of the resurrection, the tomb was
empty; His disciples saw Him; death was
defeated; new life had come. God's
purpose for the world was sealed.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *This Joyful Eastertide*
Dutch Folk Tune,
arr. Jeremy Bankson

This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
has sprung to life this morrow.

(Refrain)

Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
but now is Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen;
but now has Christ arisen.

My flesh in hope shall rest
and for a season slumber,
Till trump from East to West
shall wake the dead in number.

(Refrain)

Death's flood has lost its chill
since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver.

(Refrain)

G. R. Woodward

FIRST LESSON Stacey Midge
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Acts 10:34-43* (pg 129)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 20:1-18* (pg 114)

SERMON Bill Levering
Resurrecting Easter

*HYMN *Thine Is the Glory* #122

OFFERING
OFFERTORY

In Thee is Gladness
Giovanni G. Gastoldi,
arr. Daniel Kallman

In thee is gladness, gone is all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By thee are given the joys of heaven,
Thou the only Savior art.

To serve thee ever, forsake thee never,
We bow before thee, love and adore thee.
Alleluia, alleluia!

In him is gladness, gone is all sadness,
He who once was dead is raised.
Jesus is giving life to the living,
and ever let him be praised!

Here where they laid him,
death has not stay'd him,
the tomb once somber holds him no longer.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Now the story of Easter glory
sung with glad voices, the world rejoices.
Alleluia, alleluia!

*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 *The Day of Resurrection!* #118

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Hallelujah Chorus*
G.F. Handel
**Anyone wishing to sing the Hallelujah Chorus
should come forward during this hymn.**

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

+ + +

Music Notes

We are grateful for today's instrumentalists:
David Hosley and Robert Hosley, trumpets;
William Hoeprich and Jonathan Kusche,
trombones; Andrew Janack, timpani.

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:

*Barbara Weber, Iris Read, Kouan Fong,
Margaret (Peg) R. Miller, Kathryn Pontius,
Marcia Todd, Reynold Downing, Margaret
Powers, Lewis Carosella, Charlotte Hubbard*

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.

Easter Offering - One Great Hour of Sharing

This offering is directed to 3 important
causes. 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 partners 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. Make checks payable to the First
Reformed Church.

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.

Easter Flower Delivery - Today

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

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.

Egg Hunt

After 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.

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

Johnson Library

There is a selection of Easter books in the Heritage Room for both adults and children.

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

Camp Fowler Scholarships

Now is the time to sign kids and youth up for Summer Camp at Fowler. For more information and registration go to campfowler.org. Also, contact the church office at 518-377-2201 if your child plans on going.

Eastertide Kerygma Explorations

Two new six week groups considering short writings by prominent authors related to Christ's resurrection and our own faithful living in light of this fantastic news begin this month. 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 get the book before we begin.

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.

*The sanctuary and the chapels are adorned to the glory of
God and in loving memory or in honor of:*

- Easter: The time of renewal - may peace prevail*
- David by Audrey Bain and Family*
- Bill Dotter by his wife, Elsie & children*
- LeRoy Jewett by his family*
- Harold Lapham by his family*
- Dorothy & Edmund Sanderson by Sandy Moynihan & Family*
- Neil W. Moynihan by Sandy Moynihan & Family*
- Our parents Dr. Henry & Emily Nagamatsu, from Nancy, Brian, & their families*
- Kathleen Phillips & Prof. E. Dwight Phaup by Douglas & Ann Phipps*
- Glenn Winchester by his family and loved ones.*
- Margaret (Peg) Shultes from her family*
- Our parents, Richard and Ruth Arthur, and P.J. and Edith Brownell by Dick and Judy Arthur*
- Virginia & Malcolm Bard given by their family*
- Howard & Florence Ball given by their family*
- Loved ones by Roberta Blackmer*
- Mr & Mrs. Richard E. Burgoyne by their family*
- Timothy Burgoyne from his family*
- Parents and siblings by Gay & Joe Doolittle*
- Carlton W. Dyer by his wife, Janice B. Dyer*
- Warren D. and Ethel F. Barrett by their children and grandchildren & great grandson*
- Lembke and Horan Families by Victoria McGowan-Horan & Michael Horan*
- Rudolph and Therese Mahlberg, and Paul Erickson, by the Erickson Family*
- William and Louise Stange and Sam Croce by Marlene Risseuw and the Erickson's*
- Raymond & Dolores Gonda and Joseph Marotta by James & Karen Gonda*
- Loved Ones by Cynthia Hamilton*
- Tom and Viola Ruckman, Tom Ruckman, Jr., Ross & Hazel Marrs by the Kiesow and Tobin Families*
- My husband Harold Lapham by his wife Fran Lapham*
- Linda Ralbovsky from Frank and Liz*
- Our father Harold Lapham from his children Cindy, Sharron & Jim, Hal & Barb*
- Mark McDermott by his wife, Gini*
- Loved Ones, by Anne Peterson*
- Bob and Gene Brown by their daughter*
- Our Parents by Ellie & Gene Rowland*
- George and Barbara Stroebel by Geoffrey Stroebel*
- In memory of Dorothy Reid by Geoffrey Stroebel*
- In loving memory of my Grandpa Al Holland and my Uncles Alan & Joe Attanasio, Love Emily*
- Earl Wainwright from his family*
- Janet Crandell and Bruce Crandell by Linda, Sandy & Donna.*

Stitch Group

The Stitch Group will hold its last meeting on April 27. We will start our weekly meetings again on September 7. Everyone is welcome to join. Any questions, call Joan Lindsay 399-3153.

Faith Bookshop

Environmentalist and author Bill McKibben is scheduled to speak at Union College tomorrow. His recent book, "Oil and Honey," is available for purchase in the Bookshop. Did you know you can order any book in print through the Bookshop at a 30% discount? Order forms are at the Bookshop desk.

Clothing and Food 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.

Midmonth Contemplative Worship

We gather in the stillness of Sanctuary to sing a few songs gently accompanied by acoustic guitar; to take turns reading a brief portion of Scripture; abide quietly in God's loving presence; gather around the Lord's Table where the bread and cup are passed from one person to the next; finally, with hands joined, offer prayers for those in need. Join us.

Coming Up
See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
April 16	10am	Easter	Worship Service	Sanctuary
April 18	10am	Horizons Bible Study	We will be using a Lenten devotional resource through April. Peg Miller 785-4460.	Dirck Romeyn
April 18	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	Now meeting at Linda Ward`s home 4028 Windsor Drive Niskayuna from 7-9	Linda Ward`s
April 18	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less	Dirck Romeyn
April 19	7pm	Midmonth Contemplative	Song, Scripture, Communion, Prayer	Sanctuary
April 19	7pm	Evening Circle	Will now be meeting at Liz Mastrianni's home 119 Park Place, Schenectady	Liz Mastrianni`s
April 20	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Dirck Romeyn
April 23	Worship	Klokken Tower Ringers	Remembering Madelyn Young	Sanctuary
April 23	12pm	Earth Sunday Action	Neighborhood pickup project	Stockade
April 29	12pm	Out To Lunch Bunch	Zen – Asian Fusion restaurant. 469 State St. Contact Gay Doolittle overdoo@msn.com	Zen Restaurant
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

“Half the people in the world think that the metaphors of their religious traditions, for example, are facts. And the other half contends that they are not facts at all. As a result we have people who consider themselves believers because they accept metaphors as facts, and we have others who classify themselves as atheists because they think religious metaphors are lies.”
 — Joseph Campbell, *Thou Art That: Transforming Religious Metaphor*

Too often we hold fast to the cliches of our forebears. We subject all facts to a prefabricated set of interpretations. We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought. — John F. Kennedy

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”
 — Pope John Paul II

“Myth is what we call other people's religion.”
 — Joseph Campbell

“Religion is like a blind man looking in a black room for a black cat that isn't there, and finding it.” — Anonymous

“The gifts of the Master are these: freedom, life, hope, new direction, transformation, and intimacy with God. If the cross was the end of the story, we would have no hope. But the cross isn't the end. Jesus didn't escape from death; he conquered it — Steven James, *Story*

“And now brothers, I will ask you a terrible question, and God knows I ask it also of myself. Is the truth beyond all truths, beyond the stars, just this: that to live without him is the real death, that to die with him the only life?” — Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

Sunday, April 16

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

Monday, April 17

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

Tuesday, April 18

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

Wednesday, April 19

1:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting
 7:00pm Midmonth Contemplative Worship

Thursday, April 20

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

Sunday, April 23

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	Mike Lamkin, piano – Easter Jazz	Tim Olsen, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Steve Lambert, trumpet (courtesy Schenectady Musicians Union local 85-133)
Bookshop/Heritage	Christina Jones	Bill Clock
Counting Deacons	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Joan Lindsay	Andy Chestnut, Dave Hjelmar
Greeters	Nelson & Karlyne Drimalas	James & Karen Gonda
Flower Delivery	(Easter Flower Delivery)	Liz Mastrianni, Peg & Jim Miller
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Norma Brown, James Gonda, Peggy King, Brad Lewis, Catherine Lewis, Barbara Walton	Brad Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Jeanne Shoulder, Ellie Rowland, Margaret Schadler, Mariah Todd
Reader	Stacey Midge	Liz Mastrianni
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Christine Lund, Doug Todd	Alden Brown, Jim McCullough, Sharon McCullough, Adam Kerwin