

***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 23, 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**

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.

**Second Sunday of Easter**

April 23, 2017

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

*Sing Praises Unto His Holy Name* J.S. Bach

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Daniel Carlson

INTROIT

*Hallelujah*  
Zimbabwean

\*HYMN *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* #104

\*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

*Hymn of Promise*

Natalie Sleeth

Klokken Tower Ringers

In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

FIRST LESSON

Liz Mastrianni

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

*Psalms 16 (pg 495)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*John 20:19-31 (pg 115)*

SERMON

Daniel Carlson

*Easter Blessings*

\*HYMN

#121

*That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *A Better Resurrection*  
Craig Courtney

I have no wit, no words, no tears;  
My heart within me like a stone  
Is numb'd too much for hopes or fears;  
Look right, look left, I dwell alone;  
I lift mine eyes, but dimm'd with grief  
No everlasting hills I see;  
My life is in the falling leaf:  
O Jesus, quicken me.

My life is like a faded leaf,  
My harvest dwindled to a husk:  
Truly my life is void and brief  
And tedious in the barren dusk;  
My life is like a frozen thing,  
No bud nor greenness can I see:  
Yet rise it shall—the sap of Spring;  
O Jesus, rise in me.

My life is like a broken bowl,  
A broken bowl that cannot hold  
One drop of water for my soul  
Or cordial in the searching cold;  
Cast in the fire the perish'd thing;  
Melt and remold it, till it be  
A royal cup for Him, my King:  
O Jesus, drink of me. Christina Rossetti

\*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 *Christ Is Alive!* #108

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Lord, Dismiss Us* Sicilian Mariners  
Klokken Tower Ringers

+ + +

**Music Notes:** 'Hymn of Promise' was given to FRC as a memorial for Madelyn Young, former Director of Children's Music and Klokken Ringers handbell choir; Madelyn passed away April 11, 2015. Several ringers who trained and rang under Madelyn's direction return today to present this beautifully arranged piece in her honor.

Today we also bid a fond farewell to Judy Moore, who is concluding her ministry as the director of the Klokken Tower Ringers.

Thanks to today's guest singers: Lisa Bachman, Elyse Clark, Carol Jurs, Jeannette Storch, Joanna Petersen, Lydia Walrath, Laura Lester, Carol Christiana, Debbie Mazzone, Chip Bradley, Tom Johnson, Eric Chan, John Allen and Bill McColl.

**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:

*Rachel Rowe, Babara Cockerham,  
Rev. Dr. J. Dean Dykstra, Patricia Dykstra*

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.

**In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Pauline Gaige and Donna Porter by Don & Jeanette Davidson.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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**

### **First Forum After Worship**

After worship most Sundays at 11:15am in sanctuary we gather to learn about new ideas and existing efforts. We welcome suggestions for programs. Contact: Amy Brule 785-8201, Peggy King 370-1885, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700

April 23: Coffee and Conversation

April 30: Dr. Rev Bill Levering – Clergy  
Against Hate

### **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

### **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. Copies are available for perusal and purchase in the Faith Bookshop this morning; pick up a copy before we begin!

### **Mohawk Watershed Ecological Action**

Take part in our annual neighborhood pick-up project after worship and church school this morning. Gloves and bags provided. See Del Pierce or Gay Doolittle for more information. Lunch together after our creation care work is done may be an option.

### **Stitch Group – April 27**

This will be our last meeting until we start our weekly meetings again on September 7. Anyone is welcome to join. Questions, call Joan Lindsay 399-3153.

### **Annual CROP Walk – May 7**

On Sunday, May 7, the annual CROP Walk will take place beginning at Emmanuel Friedens Church and winding 5k through Schenectady. Want to walk? Get a donation form from the church office. Non-walkers can simply drop off their donations at the church office. Checks should be made out to "CWS/CROP." Checks eligible for GE Matching should be made out to SICM. Contact Cathy Lewis if you have ??'s

### **Camp Fowler**

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

## Johnson Library

There are several new books on the Library's shelf in the Heritage Room. Mary Oliver new collection of essays, *Upstream* can be found as well as poet, Billy Collins new book, *The Rain in Portugal*. On another note, *Hillbilly Elegy: a memoir of a family and culture in crisis* looks at the struggles of America's white middle class in the rust belt. In *Making sense of God: an invitation to the skeptical*. Timothy Keller asks skeptics to consider that Christianity is more relevant now than ever. And in their book, *The Book of Joy: lasting happiness in a changing world*, the Dalai Lama and Archbishop, Desmond Tutu answer the question of finding joy in life's inevitable suffering. Amani Al-Khatahtbeh in her coming of age book, *Muslim Girl*, tells of her experiences as an adolescent Muslim girl in American Society.

## 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.

## 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.

## Faith 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.

## Consistory Nominations

The Nominating Committee of FRC is beginning its work getting recommendations from the congregation for Elder and Deacon Candidates. Those being recommended and those making recommendations must be members of First Reformed Church. Candidates for Consistory should have vision, leadership skills, and be active participants in the worship and activities of this church. Nominations can be submitted in writing on a white church pew card and put in the offering plate.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." - Jesus, Gospel according to John, 14:27

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." ~ Albert Einstein

"It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." ~ Robert F. Kennedy South Africa, 1966

"Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence." ~ Johann Sebastian Bach

"I can tell you from experience that God's help and presence in our lives is vital. He is the Author of all true success and everything that is good-without Him, we can do nothing of true value." ~ Joyce Meyer

Coming Up				
See the newsletter or call the church office for more information				
Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
April 23	10am	Klokken Tower Ringers	Remembering Madelyn Young.	Sanctuary
April 23	11:30am	Mohawk Watershed Action	Neighborhood pickup project.	Stockade
April 25	10am	Horizons Bible Study	We will be using a Lenten devotional resource through April. Peg Miller 785-4460.	Dirck Romeyn
April 26	9:30am	Eastertide Explorations	Discussion of intriguing seasonal readings.	Dirck Romeyn
April 27	10am	Stitch Group	Hand craft together. Joan Lindsay: 399-3153	Dirck Romeyn
April 28	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
May 1	11am	Group V	Talk about church activities. All interested will go to lunch afterwards. Contact Maria Todd.	Dirck Romeyn

“If there is anybody in this land who thoroughly believes that the meek shall inherit the earth they have not often let their presence be known”. ~ W. E. B. Du Bois

“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.”

“The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.” ~ Albert Schweitzer

“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.” ~ Dalai Lama

“That deep emotional conviction of the presence of a superior reasoning power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God.” ~ Albert Einstein

“The presence of the Holy Spirit is the keystone of all our hopes.” ~ John Nelson Darby

“I work really hard at trying to see the big picture and not getting stuck in ego. I believe we're all put on this planet for a purpose, and we all have a different purpose... When you connect with that love and that compassion, that's when everything unfolds.” ~ Ellen DeGeneres

“I choose to fill my days with what I'm passionate about, and live with purpose.” ~ Ann Curry

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

“Love is the vital essence that pervades and permeates, from the center to the circumference, the graduating circles of all thought and action. Love is the talisman of human weal and woe – the open sesame to every soul.” ~ Elizabeth Cady Stanton

**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

**Monday, April 24**

9:00am ..... Men's Newsgroup  
 7:00pm ..... Klokken Tower Ringers  
 7:30pm ..... SCCC Concert

**Tuesday, April 25**

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

**Wednesday, April 26**

9:30am ..... Eastertide Kerygma Explorations  
 11:30am ..... First Things Volunteers  
 1:00pm ..... Pastoral Team Meeting

**Thursday, April 27**

7:30am ..... Breakfast Bible Bunch  
 10:00am ..... Stitch Group  
 2:00pm ..... SART Recognition  
 7:00pm ..... Ensemble Practice  
 7:30pm ..... Chancel Choir

**Sunday, April 30**

9:00am ..... Eastertide Kerygma Explorations  
 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

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Jazz Vespers</b>	Tim Olsen, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Steve Lambert, trumpet (courtesy Schenectady Musicians Union local 85-133)	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass Tim Coakley, drums; Jim Corigliano, saxophone (courtesy Schenectady Musicians Union local 85-133)
<b>Bookshop/Heritage</b>	Bill Clock	Sarah Howes
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Andy Chestnut, Cathy Lewis	Ralph Rosenthal, David Bundy
<b>Greeters</b>	James & Karen Gonda	Chuck & Inga Pangburn
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Liz Mastrianni, Peg & Jim Miller	Caroline Welch, Mike & Vickie McGowan-Horan
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Lay
<b>Preacher</b>	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Cathy Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Jeanne Shoulder, Ellie Rowland, Margaret Schadler, Mariah Todd	James Gonda, Peggy King, Birdie Blackmer, Norma Brown, Arthur Casey, Norm Kuchar
<b>Reader</b>	Liz Mastrianni	Jim Miller
<b>Ushers</b>	Art Shultes (head usher), Alden Brown, Jim McCullough, Sharon McCullough, Adam Kerwin	Art Shultes (head usher), Joan Lindsay, Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold