

***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.



There's a place for us,
Somewhere a place for us.
Peace and quiet and open air
Wait for us
Somewhere.

Somewhere.
We'll find a new way of living,
We'll find a way of forgiving
Somewhere...

There's a place for us,
A time and place for us.
Hold my hand and we're halfway there.
Hold my hand and I'll take you there
Somehow,
Someday,
Somewhere!

-West Side Story

May 14, 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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Sing Alleluia! Lee Rogers
Repose Charles E. Overholt
Praise and Honor to the King!
Cyrus S. Mallard

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

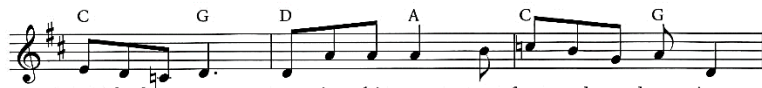
CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Enter Into His Gates* Tom Benjamin

*HYMN *Gather Us In*



1 Here in this place — new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - tery, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van-ish'd a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way — here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peop - les to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire — of love in our flesh and our bone.

*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 *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

Zubulon Highben
Margie Halinski, flute

Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,
grain of life and grape of love,
Your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flow'r, until I know.

Jean Jantzen

FIRST LESSON

Ellie Rowland

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. 1 Peter 2:2-10 (pg 233)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON John 14:1-14 (pg 108)

SERMON

Bill Levering

A Place for Us

*HYMN

#416

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sanctify Me

V. Michael McKay

Sanctify me. Fill me with your Spirit.
Sanctify my body, my mind, and my soul.
I want to be used by thee, Lord.
Sanctify all of me.
I'm available; I'm available.
My heart is fixed, my mind's made up:
I want to be used by thee; yes, I'm available.

*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

#356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Dale Wood

POSTLUDE

Sicilian Mariners

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

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:

Charles Young, Faith W Nix (Riggs), Sybil Liebhafsky, Elizabeth D. Corliss, Harrison Todd, Henry Nagamatsu, Margaret Schultes, Stephanie P. Miner Cohen, Edward Lustenader, Jr.

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.

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.

Music Notes: Inspiration for Ms. Janzen's text for today's Anthem comes from the writings of a 14th-century mystic, Julian of Norwich (c. 1342–c. 1416). This song, inspired by the description of God as Mother, is a song to the Trinity, addressing one Person in each of the three verses. The familiar images of God's power and might are replaced by a gentler vision of a patient 'nurturing one', who offers us 'food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace' and who is the origin of our whole existence: 'source of every breath, my rain, my wind, my sun.'

Gather Us In. Marty Haugen. ©1982, GIA Publishing. All rights reserved. OneLicense #700-700.

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

Who's Graduating?

We compile a list of those who are graduating to celebrate them in the June edition of the newsletter. Please let us know.

Bike to Church in May

Join the fun, get your blood flowing, lower your carbon foot-print: cycle to services any or every Sunday in May! Lock up inside our gate, enter the Lord's courts with praise--and a good pulse.

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 May 15. Questions can be directed to Sara Erickson at 374-4161 or ericksonhs@aol.com.

Eastertide Kerygma Explorations

There's still opportunity to join one of two groups considering Christ's resurrection and our living in light of this reality. Groups meet Wednesday, 9:30-11am; Sundays, 9-9:45am. The book, *Bread and Wine*, & assigned readings are available in the Faith Bookshop.

Midmonth Contemplative Worship - May 17

At 7pm in the quiet and beauty of our sanctuary, illumined by the fading daylight through stained glass, come attend to the love of God for all creation via guitar accompanied songs, guided scriptural mediation, communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.

Long-Term Care Talk – May 18

This Thursday, 6:30-7:30 come hear Judith Duma, RN a seasoned local clinical evaluator, address various aspects of Long-Term Care in our area. Sponsored by our Stephen Ministry, connecting those going through a difficult time with a compassionate Christian friend.

Questions: contact Daniel Carlson another of our Stephen Leaders: Lisa Etkin, Joanne Arnold, Maria Todd, Vernetta Thuener.

Consistory Nominations Requested

The Nominating Committee of First Reformed Church seeks recommendations from the congregation for Elder and Deacon Candidates from members of FRC. Candidates for Consistory should have vision, leadership skills, and be active participants in the worship and activities of this church. Elders and Deacons will be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation on June 4. There are yellow nomination forms located at the various entrances of the Sanctuary or you may write your suggestions on a white pew card. Recommendations may be submitted to the church office or any member of the Committee: Sally Bestgen, Ann Gotwals, Vernetta Thuener, Peggy King, Bill Rochelle, Gay Doolittle, George Trimarco, Bill Levering, and Daniel Carlson.

Eastertide Bike Ride - Sunday, May 21

After First Form we'll ride the Mohawk Hudson Bikeway to the Nisky Train Station for lunch. Some will frolic further to Cohoes Falls. A final cycle south to Albany will be offered; returning by Bus Plus or atop one's steel steed. Questions: contact peddling pastor Daniel.

**Our sound system is worst in
the center of the Sanctuary.**

Union Presbyterian

Mission Fund Project Solicitation

The Union Presbyterian Mission Fund Committee has \$22,400 remaining available in 2017 to fund not-for-profit mission projects. It has already distributed \$5,600 to the Schenectady Inner City Mission Summer Intern Program. The committee requests project proposals from the congregation. The project may be local (within Schenectady County); regional (within the boundaries of Albany Presbytery & Regional Synod of Albany); national / international; and valued \$1,000 to \$5,000. Please submit your proposed project by June 10 to Liz Mastrianni lzmaster@gmail.com or the FRC office. Your suggested project must include: Project or Organization Information (Name, Address, Phone, E-mail & Person to Contact). Your Information (Name, Address, Phone Number and/or E-mail). Description of the Project/Organization and why it should be considered.

Johnson Library

The Library's shelf in the Heritage Room contains some additional new books. You will find Ethics in the real world by Peter Singer a well-known philosopher. It contains provocative essays on important current events.

There is also a copy of *The letters of Vincent Van Gogh*, which provides a window into the mind of the artist. You will find the international best seller, *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben, which introduces us to the social life of trees. Ed Young, the author of *I Contain Multitudes: The microbes with us and a grander view of life* tells us how valuable the microbes are to our health and us.

The journals the Johnson Library subscribes to can now be found on the periodical shelves on either side of the Heritage Room. The April 26 issue of *The Christian Century* tells us why we need Mary Oliver's poetry. All books can be returned using a box placed next to the library's bookshelf.

Evening Circle – May 24

Evening circle will meet at Sally Bestgen's home, 2517 Antonia Dr., Niskyuna at 6pm for a pot luck dinner. Please bring a dish to share; dessert will be provided. If you plan to attend, please call Ellie Rowland, 250-4302 or email erowland@nycap.rr.com

“When introverts go to church, we crave sanctuary in every sense of the word, as we flee from the disorienting distractions of twenty-first-century life. We desire to escape from superficial relationships, trivial communications and the constant noise that pervade our world, and find rest in the probing depths of God's love.”

— Adam S. McHugh, *Introverts in the Church: Finding Our Place in an Extroverted Culture*

“There was one sure way to avoid being assigned an impromptu chore in our house - be it taking out the trash or cleaning your room - and that was to have your face buried in a book. Like churches during the Middle Ages, books conferred instant sanctuary. Once you entered one, you couldn't be disturbed. They didn't give you immunity from prosecution if you'd done something wrong - just a temporary reprieve. But we quickly learned you had to both look and be completely engrossed - just flipping pages didn't count.” — Will Schwalbe, *The End of Your Life Book Club*

“To build refuges of my own making is to construct fortresses of sand at ocean's edge, where the relentless tides of time will leave my most magnificently constructed walls as perfectly flat sand. And now that I am subject to the very tides that destroyed these walls of mine, I am left with the reality that my single and sole refuge can only be the God who created both tides and sand.”
— Craig D. Lounsbrough, *Flecks of Gold on a Path of Stone: Simple Truths for Profound Living*

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
May 14	9am	Eastertide Explorations	Discussion of intriguing seasonal readings.	Hope Room
May 14	11:15am	First Forum	Tell your Mother's Story - Led by Joe Doolittle.	Sanctuary
May 16	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less	Church Office
May 16	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	All ladies welcome to get to know each other. Call Connie Young for any questions 393-7061	1400 Keyes Avenue
May 17	9:30am	Eastertide Explorations	Discussion of intriguing seasonal readings.	Dirck Romeyn
May 17	7pm	Mid-Month Worship	Guitar-accompanied songs, guided meditation on Scripture, communion, prayers & Christ's peace.	Sanctuary
May 18	6:30pm	Long-Term Care Talk	All are welcome to presentation and Q&A on Long-term care.	Sanctuary
May 19	1:30pm	Group VII Trip	Going to St. Anthony Church.	
May 21	9am	Eastertide Explorations	Discussion of intriguing seasonal readings.	Dirck Romeyn
May 21	11:15am	First Forum	Lauren Bailey – Mobility Manager CDTA – Free Bikes to Ride	Sanctuary
May 21	12pm	Eastertide Bike Ride	A relaxed and variable length outing with others from FRC.	MohawkHudson Bikeway
May 24	9:30am	Eastertide Explorations	Discussion of intriguing seasonal readings.	Dirck Romeyn
May 24	6pm	Evening Circle	If you plan to attend, please call Ellie Rowland, 250-4302 or erowland@nycap.rr.com	2517 Antonia Dr., Niskayuna
May 26	12pm	Out To Lunch Bunch	Tesoros Café specializing in a Spanish Flare.	1712 Union St.
May 28	9am	Eastertide Explorations	Discussion of intriguing seasonal readings.	Dirck Romeyn
May 28	11:15am	First Forum	Memorial Day Weekend – Coffee & Conversation	Sanctuary

“The whole value of solitude depends upon oneself; it may be a sanctuary or a prison, a haven of repose or a place of punishment, a heaven or a hell, as we ourselves make it.”
 — John Lubbock, Peace and Happiness

“Music I discovered that night, was a sanctuary, a safe place to hide, a place where scars didn't matter, they didn't exist.”
 — Len Vlahos, The Scar Boys

“Finding a sanctuary, a place apart from time, is not so different from finding a faith.”

“Love is sanctuary, a safe haven and place to rest.” — Theodore Volgoff, The Backpack

“I thought he'd run if he knew. Instead, he offered help, not that I believed he could possibly help.
 I thought he'd turn his back, close his heart, slink away. Instead, he promised sanctuary.”
 — Ellen Hopkins, Burned

“In a way, the books were protection. An escape she would always have access to. A sanctuary, there for when she needed it.”
 — C.M. Spivey, From Under the Mountain

“Each positive thought is your refuge and your sanctuary, where in that thoughtful moment, you are safe.” — Bryant McGill, Simple Reminders: Inspiration for Living Your Best Life

Sunday, May 14

9:00am Eastertide 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

Monday, May 15

9:00am Men's Newsgroup

Tuesday, May 16

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

Wednesday, May 17

9:30am Eastertide Kerygma Explorations
 1:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting
 7:00pm Midmonth Contemplative

Thursday, May 18

7:30am Breakfast Bible Bunch
 6:30pm Stephen Ministry
 7:00pm Ensemble Practice
 7:00pm Stockade Association
 7:30pm Chancel Choir
 7:45pm Small Group Peer Supervision

Sunday, May 21**Bike To Church**

9:00am Eastertide 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
 12:00pm Eastertide Bike Ride
 5:00pm Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Azzaam Hameed, solo piano	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass Tom D'Andrea, drums;
Bookshop/Heritage	Bill Clock	Nancy Wainwright
Counting Deacons	Tom Burgoyne, Bill Rochelle	Lyn Gordon, Richard Gardener
Greeters	Ralph Rosenthal, Hella Moore	Laura Lee, Martha Winchester
Flower Delivery	Phil & Jane Falconer, Gene & Ellie Rowlands	John & Jeanette Davidson, Joanne Bedell
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Phil Falconer, James Gonda, Joan Lindsay, Tom Lindsay, Walt Robb, Will Rochelle	Peggy King, Del Pierce, Norma Brown, Jeanette Davidson, Norm Kuchar, Ellie Rowland
Reader	Ellie Rowland	Norman Kuchar
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