

***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.*



***May 21, 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.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

May 21, 2017

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Nat Phipps

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Jubilate Deo* Michael Praetorius

\*HYMN *Where the Spirit Is* Per Harling

**Refrain:**

***Where the Spirit is, there's freedom.***

***Where the Spirit is, there is life!***

**Not by this age can our freedom be nourished**

**not by our things, only by Spirit.**

**Practice my children to live by the Spirit,**

**drop all your masks, take freedom's clothing!**

**(Refrain)**

**Kingdom of God present among us,**

**gives to us all strength for the journey.**

**Practice my children to live by the Spirit,**

**tasting today hope for God's future!**

**(Refrain)**

**Wounds will be healed, eyes will be opened,**

**imaging God reflecting Jesus.**

**Practice my children to live by the Spirit;**

**heaven is here, time made eternal!**

Jonas Jonson

\*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

*Canon of Praise*

Johann Pachelbel, arr. Hopson

All within me bless the Lord,

All within me bless his holy name.

O hear, you righteous, know that the Lord is good.

He crowns our lives with hope and truth.

God the Lord is gracious, his mercy is the same  
forever.

Those who know the Lord shall claim his ever-  
present help.

O bless the Lord, O all within me bless his holy  
name.

*Psalm 103 adapted*

FIRST LESSON

Norm Kuchar

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

**Amen.**

*1 Peter 3:13-22 (pg 234)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*John 14:1-14 (pg 109)*

SERMON

Bill Levering

*Spirit of Truth*

\*HYMN

*Spirit of the Living God*

#322

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Nat Phipps

\*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 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* #315

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Fourfold Amen* Ken Barker

### POSTLUDE

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*  
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

### 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:

*Katherine W. Williams, Hazel A. Feiker,  
Martha Wallender, Arthur Lord, Judith Bresler  
William George, Ricard Lawton, Jane Fisher,  
Edmund Sanderson, Frederick Junker,  
Virginia Stare*

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.

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

### 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.

### 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 Sunday in May! Lock up inside our gate, enter the Lord's courts with praise--and a good pulse.

### 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

### Eastertide Bike Ride - Today

After First Forum 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.

### Adult Ukulele

The adult ukulele group meets Wednesday evenings from 7-8:15. No experience is needed and we have a few ukuleles that can be loaned on a temporary basis. Come and join the fun! Questions? Contact Jamie Ipsen 399-6848.

## **Evening Circle – May 24**

Evening circle will meet at Sally Bestgen's home, 2517 Antonia Dr., Niskayuna 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 erowland@nycap.rr.com.

### **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.

## **Johnson Library**

The Library's shelf contains some additional new books. You will find *Ethics in the Real World* by Peter Singer 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 or *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben which introduces us to the social life of trees.

The journals the Johnson Library subscribes to can now be found on the 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 the box placed next to the library's bookshelf.

## **Ushers & Greeters Breakfast – June 4**

There is an Ushers and Greeters breakfast meeting on June 4 at 9am in the Dirck Romeyn room. We are looking for help with both jobs each Sunday. If interested, please attend. For further info please contact the church office.

## **Annual Meeting and Picnic - June 4**

Immediately following worship, there will be a meeting of the congregation. At this meeting, we will receive annual reports, elect officers, elect the nominating committee. Following the meeting we will have our spring picnic.

## **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 SICM 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 lzmastro@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.

## **Archives and Historical Concerns**

Please stop by the Heritage Room/Faith Bookshop to see the first exhibit in our new display cases, Bible Images of Eastertide. The display uses bibles in our collection dating back to 1885.

## **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.

# Quotes

“Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” — Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*

“The moment God is figured out with nice neat lines and definitions, we are no longer dealing with God.” — Rob Bell, *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith*

“The irony is that while God doesn’t need us but still wants us, we desperately need God but don’t really want Him most of the time.” — Francis Chan

“Jesus promised his disciples three things that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble.” — William Barclay, *The Gospel of Luke*

“Jesus tends to his people individually. He personally sees to our needs. We all receive Jesus’ touch. We experience his care.” — Max Lucado, *Experiencing the Heart of Jesus: Knowing His Heart, Feeling His Love*

“The world takes us to a silver screen on which flickering images of passion and romance play, and as we watch, the world says, “This is love.” God takes us to the foot of a tree on which a naked and bloodied man hangs and says, “This is love.” — Joshua Harris, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye: A New Attitude Toward Relationships and Romance*

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” — Corrie ten Boom

“Just keep asking yourself: What would Jesus not do?” — Chuck Palahniuk, *Choke*

“Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.” — Steve Maraboli, *Unapologetically You: Reflections on Life and the Human Experience*

“Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus!” — Neal A. Maxwell

“Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all. Amen, and come Lord Jesus.” — Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry: Writings on Faith and Fiction*

“For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes (*Matthew 5*). But, often with tears in their eyes, the demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course, that’s Moses, not Jesus. I haven’t heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere. “Blessed are the merciful” in a courtroom? “Blessed are the peacemakers” in the Pentagon? “Give me a break!” — Kurt Vonnegut Jr., *A Man Without a Country*

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Place</b>
Today	9am	Eastertide Explorations	Discussion of intriguing seasonal readings.	Hope Room
Today	11:15am	First Forum	Lauren Bailey – Mobility Manager CDTA – Free Bikes to Ride	Sanctuary
Today	12pm	Eastertide Bike Ride	A relaxed and variable length outing with members and friends from FRC.	Mohawk Hudson Bikeway
May 24	9:30am	Eastertide Kerygma 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 24	7pm	Adult Ukulele	No experience needed to borrowed a ukulele call church office or Jamie Ipsen 399-6848.	Sanctuary
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.	Hope Room
May 28	11:15am	First Forum	Memorial Day Weekend – Coffee & Conversation	Sanctuary
May 31	9:30am	Eastertide Kerygma Explorations	Discussion of intriguing seasonal readings.	Dirck Romeyn
May 31	7pm	Adult Ukulele	No experience is needed and we have a few ukuleles that can be borrowed temporarily. Call the church office or Jamie Ipsen 399-6848.	Sanctuary
June 2	7pm	Avery Presents	Leonid Polishchuk will play a classical violin recital accompanied by Sofya Maryanova on the piano	Sanctuary
June 3	12pm	Chords of Love	The children's ukulele group will be teaching and performing at the Kid's Arts Festival.	Jay Street
June 4	9am	Eastertide Explorations	Discussion of intriguing seasonal readings.	Hope Room
June 4	9am	Ushers & Greeters Breakfast	We are looking for help with both jobs each Sunday. If interested please attend.	Dirck Romeyn
June 4	11am	Annual Meeting	At this meeting, we will receive annual reports, elect officers, elect the nominating committee	Sanctuary
June 4	12pm	Picnic	Our annual spring picnic	Outside

**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

**Monday, May 22**

- 9:00am ..... Men's Newsgroup

**Tuesday, May 23**

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

**Wednesday, May 24**

- 9:30am ..... Eastertide Kerygma Explorations
- 1:00pm ..... Pastoral Team Meeting
- 7:00pm ..... Adult Ukulele

**Thursday, May 25**

- 7:30am ..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 10:00am ..... Stitch Group
- 2:00pm ..... Nominating Committee
- 7:30pm ..... Chancel Choir

**Sunday, May 28**

- 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

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Jazz Vespers</b>	Peg Delaney, piano; Linda Brown, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums	Scott Bassinson, solo piano
<b>Bookshop/Heritage</b>	Nancy Wainwright	Christina Jones
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Lyn Gordon, Richard Gardener	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Cynthia Gallagher
<b>Greeters</b>	Laura Lee, Martha Winchester	Scott Ebeling, Nancy Wainwright
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Don & Jeanette Davidson, Joanne Bedell	Ann Gotwals, Dave & Donna Bundy
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Peggy King, Del Pierce, Norma Brown, Jeanette Davidson, Norm Kuchar, Ellie Rowland	James Gonda, Marilyn Leach, Brad Lewis, Don Leach, Cathy Lewis, Walt Robb
<b>Reader</b>	Norman Kuchar	Gene Rowland
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Christine Lund, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd, Carol Troost