

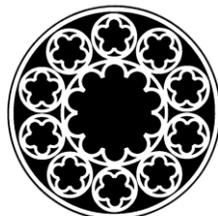
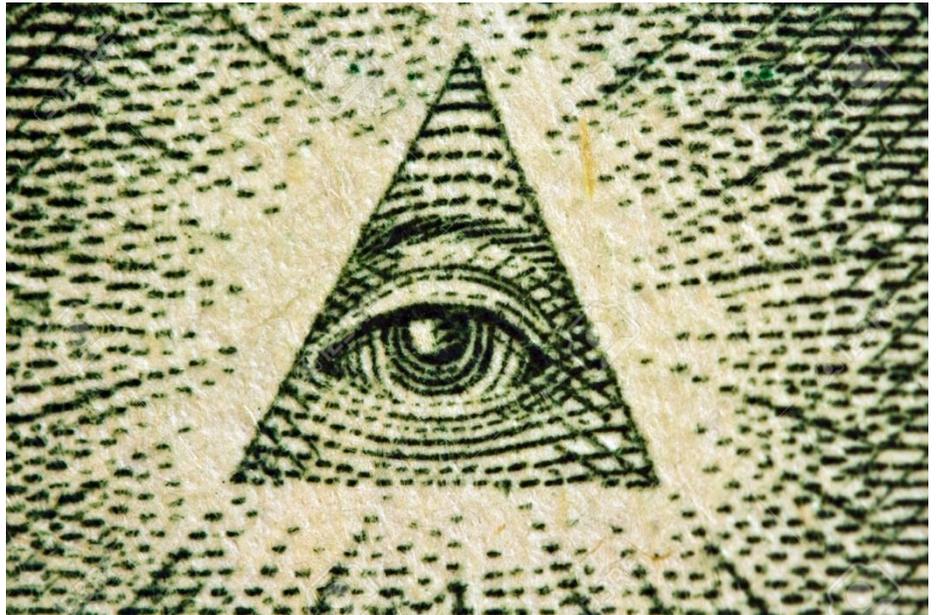
*The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962*

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.



June 25, 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 during asbestos mitigation.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Land of the Free Stephen Otis
Sunrise B.D. Ackley
Fantasia on "Diademata" John E. Boalt

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

*HYMN *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely
and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

Refrain:

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled,"
his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth
but one step I may see:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me. [Refrain]

Whenever I am tempted,
whenever clouds arise,
when song gives place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him,
from care he sets me free:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me. [Refrain]

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

God of Mercy, you call us to be your servant people, but too often we have gone our own way, hoping to avoid your claim on our lives. We have not always trusted your good news to be good for us. We have allowed the empty distractions of the world to draw us from our best efforts in life. Have mercy on us, O God, and in your love forgive us and set us free to respond to your call that brings out our best. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Hallelujah! Halle-lu-jah!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed - Ecumenical version

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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

MUSICAL OFFERING *The Moor* Hilary Tann
Kate and Rachel Rose, Sopranos

Laudate Dominum. Laudate Eum.
Montes et omnes colles laudent nomen Domini.

It was like a church to me. I entered it on soft foot.
Breath held like a cap in the hand. It was quiet.
What God was there made himself felt, not listened to,
made himself felt in clean colors
that brought a moistening of the eye
in wind over the movement of the grass.

Laudate Dominum. Benedic anima mea Domino
qui ambulat super pinnas ventorum.
Laudate Dominum in sanctis eius.

There were no prayers said.
But stillness of the heart's passions,
that was praise enough;
and the mind's cession of its kingdom.

Laudate Dominum de caelis
Laudate Dominum de terra

I walked on, simple and poor.
I walked on while the air crumbled
and broke on me gen'rously as bread.

Montes et omnes colles laudent nomen Domini.

It was like a church to me. It was quiet.
There were no prayers said, but stillness,
that was praise enough.

Laudate. Montes, colles, laudent nomen Domini

FIRST LESSON *Psalms 86:1-10* (pg 544)
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. Liz Mastrianni

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 10:29-31* (pg 10)

SERMON Bill Levering
How God Watches Us

*HYMN *All Night All Day*

Refrain:
All night, all day,
angels watching over me, my Lord.
All night, all day,
angels watching over me.

Now I lay me down to sleep.
Angels watching over me, my Lord.
Pray the Lord my soul to keep.
Angels watching over me. ([Refrain])

Lord, stay with me through the night.
Angels watching over me, my Lord.
Wake me with the morning light
Angels watching over me. [Refrain]

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Ave Maria* Franz Schubert
Rachel Rose, soprano

*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 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* #210

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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:

*Rev. Donald Troost, Sonia Lintner,
Glenn Roe, David Packard, Donald Kleiber,
Robert B. Gilbert, Richard McLane,
Robert Marshall, Peter J. VonHerrmann,
Dorothy Langdon, Linda Van Alstyne*

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 memory of Bruce Crandell, late husband of Janet Crandell, on his birthday by Linda, Sandra and Donna.

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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Support & Care

HELP! If you are able to occasionally provide a meal for members who are recuperating or who are homebound, please let us know. Contact: Kim Burgoyne at 399-1337 or Vickie McGowan-Horan at 852-0113.

Reminder

Greeting visitors to our church is joyful work. The apostle Paul wrote, "Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7) Thank you for showing kindness to strangers in our midst.

Kerygma Summer Talks and Treks

Join a jovial band of those committed to continuing to gather and grow year-round for any of the scheduled conversations and off-site explorations! The lineup includes: a day visit to New Skete Monasteries, July 12; a talk about Intentional Christian Communities, July 26, 9:30-11am; a visit to the Bruderhof, August 23. Contact Rev. Carlson to participate in one or more of these summer educational opportunities.

Youth Group

All youth entering sixth grade to those who just graduated twelfth grade are welcome to join us for any summer events. Our next event is on July 15. Join us for a trip up to Lake Placid for a day at the beach. We'll be cooking out and spending time on the water. We'll leave around 10am and be back around 5pm. Please RSVP soon so we can plan on drivers and food. Questions? Email Jonathan at RevJonathan16@gmail.com.

Thrills in the Catskills

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a hike to Mt. Windham on July 22. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am. This trek is a gentle climb with spectacular views of the Hudson River Valley. RSVP to James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com or 607-765-5349.

July and August Pot Luck Lunches

If you're open to hosting a potluck on Sundays directly after church at your home, let James Gonda know at jgonda12309@gmail.com Please also indicate which Sunday(s) you're available.

Sunday Refreshments

Please consider picking a Sunday in June, July or August to bring in treats of your choice for all to enjoy. Contact Gay Doolittle 399-0499 or Overdoo@msn.com with your choice of Sunday.

The available restrooms are now down one flight of steps at the rear of the sanctuary. There is a chair assist available there as well.

Coming Up				
See the newsletter or call the church office for more information				
Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
July 12	9:30am	Kerygma	Visit New Skete Monasteries; contact Rev. Carlson to participate.	Offsite
July 15	10am	Youth Group	Day Trip to Lake Placid	Offsite
July 22	9am	Thrills in the Catskills	The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a hike to Mt. Windham, RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.	Offsite
July 26	9:30am	Kerygma	A talk about Intentional Christian communities; contact Rev. Carlson.	Dirck Romeyn
Aug 23	9:30am	Kerygma	A visit to the Bruderhof; contact Rev. Carlson to participate.	Offsite

“All God does is watch us and kill us when we get boring. We must never, ever be boring.”
— Chuck Palahniuk, *Invisible Monsters*

“I think God, in creating man, somewhat overestimated his ability.” — Oscar Wilde

“We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be.” — C.S. Lewis

“If I should ever die, God forbid, let this be my epitaph: **THE ONLY PROOF HE NEEDED FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD WAS MUSIC**” — Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

“The darker the night, the brighter the stars, The deeper the grief, the closer is God!”
— Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*

“I have faith that God will show you the answer. But you have to understand that sometimes it takes a while to be able to recognize what God wants you to do. That's how it often is. God's voice is usually nothing more than a whisper, and you have to listen very carefully to hear it. But other times, in those rarest of moments, the answer is obvious and rings as loud as a church bell.” — Nicholas Sparks, *The Last Song*

“Owners of dogs will have noticed that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they will think you are god. Whereas owners of cats are compelled to realize that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they draw the conclusion that they are gods.”
— Christopher Hitchens, *The Portable Atheist: Essential Readings for the Nonbeliever*

“Parents are like God because you wanna know they're out there, and you want them to think well of you, but you really only call when you need something.” — Chuck Palahniuk, *Invisible Monsters*

“The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.” — Søren Kierkegaard



Sunday, June 25

10:00am Worship
 5:00pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, June 26

9:00am Men's News Group

Tuesday, June 27

10:00am Morning Prayer
 11:00am Admin Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 28

1:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting
 7:00pm Adult Ukulele

Sunday, July 2

10:00am Worship
 10:00am Communion
 10:15am Church School K-5
 5:00pm Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, solo piano	Mike Lamkin, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
Bookshop/Heritage	Sarah House	Christina Jones
Counting Deacons	Lyn Gordon, Kim Burgoyne	Therese McCarty, Brad Lewis
Greeters	Darwin & Ellie Brudos	
Flower Delivery	Bill Clock, Karen Gonda	Sally & Robert Clark, Christina & Matt Jones
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Birdie Blacker, Peggy King, Norm Kuchar, Liz Mastrianni, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose	Jeanette Davidson, Brad Lewis, Catherine Lewis
Reader	Liz Mastrianni	Therese McCarty
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

First Reformed Church

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.

THE CONSISTORY

MINISTERS

Bill Levering, Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister
Jonathan Vanderbeck, Interim Minister of Youth and Outreach

OFFICERS

James Gonda, Amy Brule, Senior Elders
Catherine Lewis, Treasurer
Joanne Bedell, Clerk

ELDERS

Joanne Arnold
Amy Brule
James Gonda
Marilyn Leach
Brad Lewis
Liz Mastrianni
Del Pierce
Jeanne Shoulder
Barbara Walton
Caroline Welch

DEACONS

Sarah Bachorik
Andy Chestnut
Fred Daniels
Lyn Gordon
Dave Hjelmar
Christina Jones
Matt Jones
Peter Ontkush
Richard Rose
Ralph Rosenthal

MISSIONERS

Isaiah Teeling, Home Furnishings
Anthony Turner, Habitat for Humanity
Nicole Margiasso, Patty's Place
Chris Li, Roots & Wisdom

CHURCH STAFF

Julie Panke, Music Director
Avery Tunngley, Organist
Corine Salon, Artistic Coordinator
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music
Dorothy Linder-Mitchell, Interim Children's Ministry Director
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator
Jani Pittman, Office Assistant
Nancy Marie Mohammadi, Evening Coordinator
Lyn Gordon, Sunday Receptionist
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor
Diana Wahid, Housekeeper
Isha Amzad, Housekeeper
Dave Bogatka, Maintenance
Tom Mahan, Sexton