

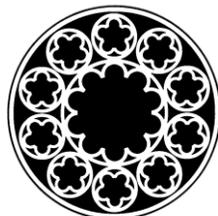
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



July 9, 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.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 9, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Abby Norton-Levering

*HYMN #356
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*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 *Speak O Lord*
Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

FIRST LESSON *Jeremiah 28: 5-9* (pg 730)
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. Peg Miller

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Genesis 22: 1-14* (pg 17)

SERMON *Questions* Abby Norton-Levering

*HYMN *How Clear is Our Vocation Lord* #419

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*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 *Go, My Children, With My Blessing*

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story; Here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me; Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace; I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace; I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother. Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.

*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:

Roy Hershey, Susan Staffa, John Metcalf III, Elmer Baldwin, Anne Shepherd Wemple, Jim Shapland, Jean Buchanan, Mary Jane Hasler

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 Glenn Winchester by his family.

Memorial Service

A memorial service for Ronnie Bartholic will be held on July 15 at 10am. Her son David Bartholic address is 15 Talcott Notch Rd, Avon, CT 06001.

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 Trip - Next Week

Join the youth group for a day trip to Lake Placid THIS COMING Saturday, July 15. We'll be leaving from the N. Church St. Parking Lot at 9:30am and carpooling up. We'll spend the day on the beach, grilling out for lunch, and exploring the shops downtown. We'll be back to church around 6:30pm. Please RSVP with Jonathan so we can plan for food and drivers!

Summer Lunches

1st Reformed members will be serving lunches to children at the Yates Housing Community the month of August. The SICM lunch menu will be different this year in hopes of better serving the needs of the children. The sign-up schedule for helpers is in the Dirck Romeyn room or you can call the church office at 377-2201.

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.

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.

Ordination Service for Jeremy Bork

Former covenanter and member Jeremy Bork will be ordained to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, August 5 at 3pm at Camp Fowler. Jeremy has been working as the Middle School Ministries Coordinator at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids while a student and will be joining their pastoral staff. Come celebrate this momentous occasion with Jeremy and wish him the best as he continues on in his ministry.

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.

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.

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.

Faith Bookshop

Need a great baptism gift? Consider a Bible designed for just this purpose! Come to the Faith Bookshop (in the Archives/Heritage room) and pursue our collection of Bible offerings for all your gift giving needs.

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 18	1pm	Stephen Leaders Meeting	Questions Contact Daniel Carlson	Hope Room
July 19	7pm	Contemplative Worship	Guitar-accompanied songs, guided meditation on Scripture, communion & prayers.	Sanctuary
July 20	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry Supervision	Informal summer supervision for Stephen Ministers with Care Receivers.	Dirck Romeyn
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 5	3:00pm	Jeremy Bork Ordination	Come celebrate former covenanter Jeremy Bork as he is ordained as a Minister.	Camp Fowler
Aug 17	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry Supervision	Informal summer supervision for Stephen Ministers with Care Receivers.	Dirck Romeyn
Aug 23	9:30am	Kerygma	A visit to the Bruderhof; contact Rev. Carlson to participate.	Offsite
Aug 23	7pm	Contemplative Worship	Guitar-accompanied songs, guided meditation on Scripture, communion & prayers.	Sanctuary

“To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.” — Albert Einstein

“If you are going to ask yourself life-changing questions, be sure to do something with the answers.” — Bo Bennett

“Can a mortal ask questions which God finds unanswerable? Quite easily, I should think. All nonsense questions are unanswerable.”
— C. S. Lewis

“So long as you have food in your mouth, you have solved all questions for the time being.”
— Franz Kafka

“Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers.” — Voltaire

“Questions are never indiscreet, answers sometimes are.” — Oscar Wilde

“I'm a gangster, and gangsters don't ask questions.” — Lil Wayne

“When you stop learning, stop listening, stop looking and asking questions, always new questions, then it is time to die.” - Lillian Smith

“No one is dumb who is curious. The people who don't ask questions remain clueless throughout their lives.” — Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Sunday, July 9

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

Monday, July 10

9:00am Men's News Group

Tuesday, July 11

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

Wednesday, July 12

11:00am First Things Volunteers
 1:00pm Archives
 1:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting
 2:00pm Staff Meeting

Saturday, July 15

10:00am Bartholic Service

Sunday, July 16

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

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano; Linda Brown, bass	Peg & Bill Delaney, Tom D'Andrea
Bookshop/Heritage	Bill Clock	Christina Jones
Counting Deacons	Sarah Bachorik, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Matt Jones, George Trimarco
Greeters	Ken Roinos, Ruth Roinos	Barbara Walton, Vernetta Thuener
Flower Delivery	Lauren Cleworth, Daryl & Cathleen Wisniewski	Julie Panke, Berta & Nat Phipps
Preacher	Abby Norton-Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, Peggy King, Kitty Trimarco, Barbara Walton	Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis
Reader	Peg Miller	Brad Lewis
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Christine Lund, Carol Troost	Alden Brown, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin

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 Tunningley, 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