

***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.

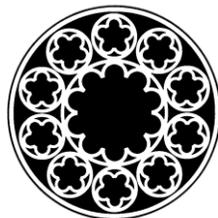
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



Artist: Vincent van Gogh



July 16, 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.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Helderberg Madrigal Singers

Chantez a Dieu

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth,
Sing to the Lord; bless his Name;
tell of his salvation from day to day

Alla riva del Tebro

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1526-1594)

Come away, come sweet love

John Dowland (1562-1626)

arr. TL Smith, 2016

Ain'-a that good news Trad. spiritual
arr. William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN *Morning Has Broken* #469

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**O bountifully gifting God, you seek to sow
in our hearts the word of your kingdom
for the nourishment and joy of the world.
Yet we have not always listened for your
voice in that which is inscribed, spoken,
and sensed. And when we do hear, you
alone know the ways we undercut our
understanding and restrict our responses
to your limitless love. Have mercy on us on
account of Christ our Lord and enrich the
soil of our souls that we might bear the
abundant fruit of the Spirit for your glory.
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

ANTHEM

Hosanna to the son of David

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 55:10-13* (pg 686)

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

Amen.

Brad Lewis

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-25*

(pg 13)

SERMON

Daniel Carlson

The Gift of Good Soil

***HYMN** *Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

Capo 1: (D) Eb (F#m) Gm (G) Ab (D/F#) Eb/G (Em) Fm (D) Bb

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your

(DM7) EbM7 (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (F#m7) Gm7 (G) Ab (D/F#) Eb/G

Word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where

(Em7) Fm7 (G/A) Ab/Bb (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb (Em7) (D/F#) (G) Eb/G Ab (D/F#) Eb/G

love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard,

(Em7) Fm7 (G/A) Ab/Bb (A) Bb (G) Ab (D/F#) Eb/G (Em7) Fm7 (G/A) Ab/Bb (A) Bb

break the stone a-way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

(Bb dim7) Bdim7 (Bm) Cm (G) Ab (Gm/Bb) Abm/Cb (D/A) Eb/Bb (G/A) Ab/Bb

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart,

(D) Eb (G/A) Ab/Bb (D/F#) Eb/G (G/A) Ab/Bb (Em/D) Fm/Eb (D) Eb

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Suscepimus Deus*
William Byrd (1543-1623)

We have received Thy mercy, O God,
in the midst of Thy temple;
according to Thy Name, O God,
so also is Thy praise unto the ends of the earth.
As we have heard, so have we seen,
in the city of our God, in his holy mountain.

***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** *This Is My Father's World* #293

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+++

Entered into Eternal Rest
Gayle Caufield
6/29/2017

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:

Sally Marshall, Marvin Humphrey, Ida May Bacon,

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.

Music Notes

Helderberg Madrigal Singers: Martha Bond, soprano; Dawn Dana, alto; Dick Dana, tenor; Beth Gurzler, alto; Dave Metz, bass; Sarah Johnsen Popiel, soprano; Tim Smith, bass. Halle, Halle. Marty Haugen, John Bell. GIA Publications. OneLicense #700-700. *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*. Handt Hanson. ©1985 Prince of Peace/Changing Church, Inc.

Baptismal Celebration Next Sunday

We look forward with joy to welcoming Ella Marie, daughter of James and Erika Pincher, into Christ's household of faith July 23.

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.

Vacation Bible School

Wednesdays August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th from 5-7 pm. Crafts, games, stories, music and more! Pizza dinner will be provided at 5:30. VBS is open to everyone ages 4 and older. Bring family and friends!

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.

Youth Group Event - July 23

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our trip to Lake Placid. Our next event will be a pizza and game night here at the church from 6-7:30 on July 23. Bring your favorite card game, board game, or whatever other type of game you have. We'll supply the pizza, drinks, and snacks. All youth (6th grade to those who just graduated high school) are welcome. Contact Pastor Jonathan with questions.

Youth Group Call for Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering for youth group this coming fall as a youth leader or would be willing to host the youth group for an evening or make snacks, please contact Pastor Jonathan. You will to be notified about a volunteer meeting to be held near the end of the summer.

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.

Kerygma Summer Talks and Treks

Join the jovial band of those committed to continuing to gather and grow year-round for our final conversation and off-site exploration! The remaining lineup includes: talk about Intentional Christian Communities, July 26, 9:30-11am and a visit to the Bruderhof, August 23. Contact Rev. Carlson to participate in either or both of these summer educational opportunities.

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.

Thrills in the Catskills – July 22

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.

Chords of Love – Beginning August 2

Ukulele for kids starts up again August 2 and will meet every Wednesday from 6-7pm. Kids ages 8-16 are welcome. No experience needed. As an added bonus, each week there will be a free pizza at 5:30pm. Please call the church office to RSVP for pizza and if you need to borrow a ukulele.

Adult Ukuleles

Adult Ukulele will meet Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm beginning August 2 from 7-8:15pm. No experience is needed. If you are new to our group, please call the church office if you need to borrow a ukulele.

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.

Ordination Service for Jeremy Bork – Aug 5

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.

Church Meeting - August 20

After worship, we will gather to talk in very broad terms about the next steps for our professional staff and our music program. All members are invited. No decisions will be made but committees might be formed.

Fall Picnic - September 10

All are invited to stay after church on September 10 for a time of fun, food, and fellowship! Please bring a dish to share. Volunteers are needed for set-up before the picnic and breakdown /clean-up after the picnic. Sign-up at the church office

Updated Church Directory

Updated issues of the directory will be coming out in September. Please submit a photo of yourself to 1streformedpub@gmail.com if we do not already have one or wanted to add an updated one. If you have had any address or phone number changes since prior years or wanted to make sure, something was changed please contact church office by August 27.

Sunday Refreshments

Many thanks to all of you, who so kindly baked, cut-up, unwrapped and in all ways helped provide sustenance and refreshments during post service. We need your continuous help. Please consider picking a Sunday to bring in treats of your choice for all to enjoy. A signup sheet is located in the Dirck Romeyn room.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

Beginning in September we will meeting on the 4th Thursday of every month at 10am in the home of Ginny McDermott at 21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna.

New Edition of Beverwyck

The fourth edition of The Beverwyck Anthology, First Reformed's literary magazine, is printed and bound and awaiting your perusal. Complimentary copies are in the Archives Room /Bookstore and on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

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.

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 peruse our collection of Bible offerings for all your gift giving needs.

Johnson Library

The Johnson Library has added several new books to its shelf. In *Crossing the waters*, Leslie Fields tells us how to better understand the biblical stories of the fishermen-disciples of the New Testament. Kenneth Woodward in *Getting religion* looks at how religion came to be a contentious factor in the twenty-first century. *Hidden Figures* by Margot Shetterly tells the story of the black female mathematicians who helped NASA send men into space. Elizabeth Rosenthal writes a history of the crisis of American health care in *An American Sickness*. Benjamin Doolittle (son of Joe & Gay Doolittle) shares a collection of sermons from the viewpoint of a Physician-Pastor in his book, *From the pulpit to the bedside*. Also, take home a copy of *The Christian Century*, a periodical whose mission statement is "Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully".

Coming Up				
See the newsletter or call the church office for more information				
Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
July 18	1pm	Stephen Leaders Meeting	Prayerful guidance of our church's ministry of compassionate care for those in need.	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 23	6pm	Youth Group	Pizza and game night here at the church	Walton Conference
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

We are all regionalists in our origins, however 'universal' our themes and characters, and without our cherished hometowns and childhood landscapes to nourish us, we would be like plants set in shallow soil. Our souls must take root - almost literally. — Joyce Carol Oates

My music had roots, which I had dug up from my own childhood, musical roots buried in the darkest soil. — Ray Charles

Strangely enough, they have a mind to till the soil, and the love of possessions is a disease in them. — Sitting Bull

I discovered that my own little postage stamp of native soil was worth writing about, and that I would never live long enough to exhaust it. — William Faulkner

Listen with ears of your heart. — Saint. Benedict

If we pollute the air, water and soil that keep us alive and well, and destroy the biodiversity that allows natural systems to function, no amount of money will save us. — David Suzuki

People in cities may forget the soil for as long as a hundred years, but Mother Nature's memory is long and she will not let them forget indefinitely. — Henry Cantwell Wallace

I thank you God for this most amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees, and for the blue dream of sky and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes. — E. E. Cummings

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. — Jesus of Nazareth

Give me understanding, that I may keep thy law and observe it with my whole heart. — Psalmist (119:34)

Sunday, July 16

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

Monday, July 17

9:00am Men's News Group

Tuesday, July 18

10:00am Morning Prayer
 11:00am Staff Meeting
 1:00pm Stephen Leaders Meeting
 7:00pm Short Short Writing

Wednesday, July 19

1:00pm Pastoral Team Meeting
 7:00pm Contemplative Worship

Thursday, July 20

7:45pm Stephen Ministry Supervision

Sunday, July 23

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

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day may, through your grace, be so grafted within our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruits of the Spirit, to the honor and praise of your name. Amen. — Prayer for Blessing on the Word, RCA Liturgy

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Peg & Bill Delaney, Tom D'Andrea	Azzaam Hameed, solo piano
Bookshop/Heritage	Christina Jones	Birdie Blackmer
Counting Deacons	Matt Jones, George Trimarco	Andy Chestnut, Carol Troost
Greeters	Barbara Walton, Vernetta Thuener	Lisa Etkin, Julia Etkin & Jacob Etkin
Flower Delivery	Julie Panke, Berta & Nat Phipps	Marey Bailey, Kitty and George Trimarco
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Gregg Mast
Processing Elders	Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis	Joanne Arnold, Liz Mastrianni, Jeanne Shoulder, Ellie Rowland
Reader	Brad Lewis	Kristin Lion
Ushers	Alden Brown, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin	Art Shultes, Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough