

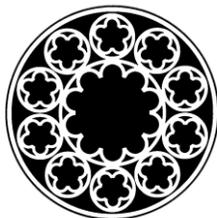
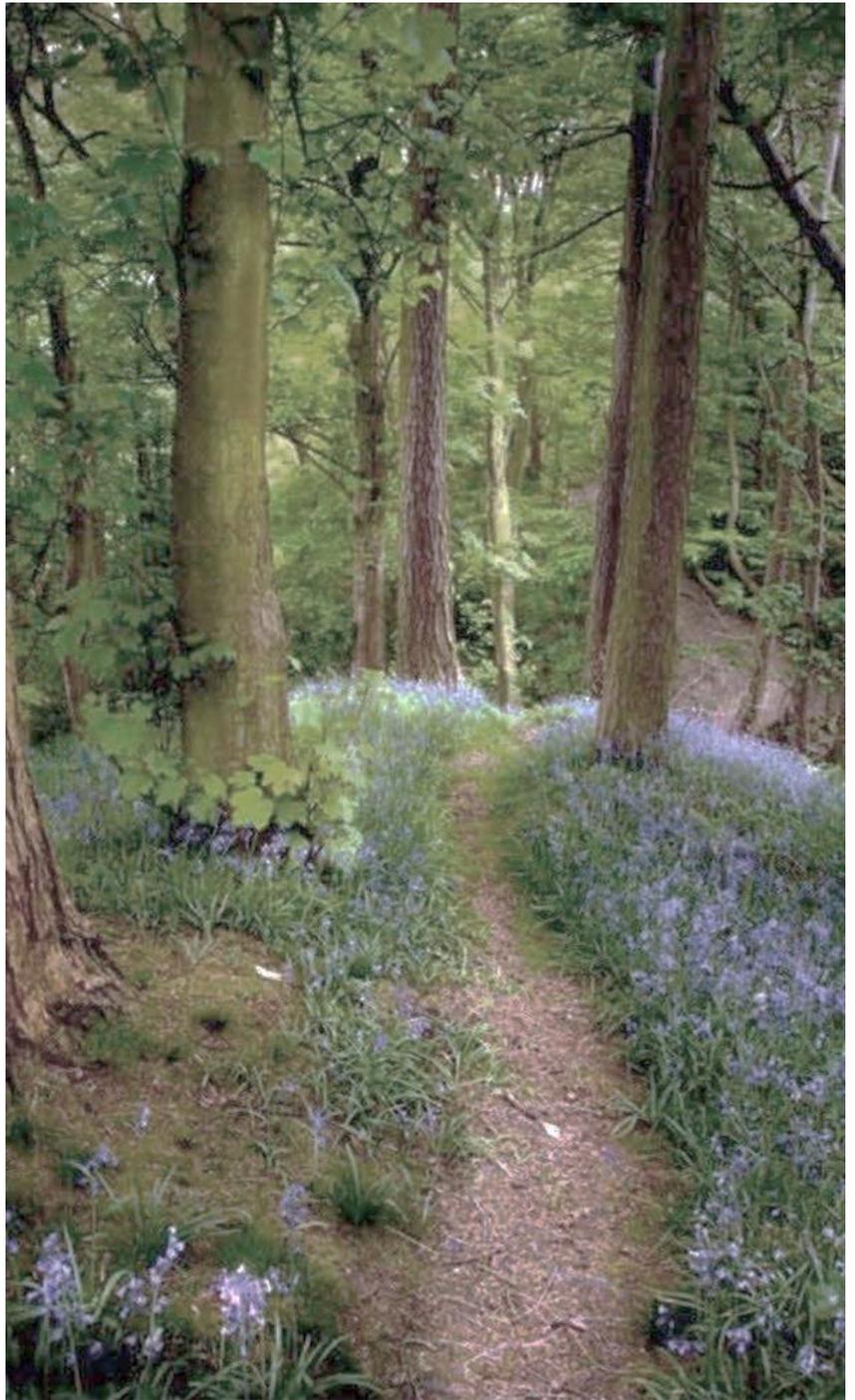
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



September 3, 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.

1st Sunday in Creation – Forest Sunday

September 3, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE John Norton, piano

Prelude No. 4 in C# minor

from Well Tempered Clavier Bk. 1

Fugue No. 24 in B minor J.S. Bach

from Well Tempered Clavier Bk. 1

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

*HYMN *The Earth Is Yours* Michael Gungor

**Your voice it thunders,
The oaks start twisting
The forest sounds with cedars breaking
The waters see You
and start their writhing
From the depths a song is rising.
Now it's rising from the ground**

*Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord
the earth is yours and singing
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord
The earth is yours.
The earth is Yours*

**Your voice it thunders
The ground is shaking
The mighty mountains now are trembling
Creation sees you
And starts composing
The fields and trees they start rejoicing.
Now it's rising from the ground (Chorus)**

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all
that is, seen and unseen: where we have
degraded or destroyed earth's bounty,
forgive us. Where we have taken beauty
and majesty for granted, have mercy upon
us. Where we have become estranged from**

**the creatures with whom we share this
planet, grant us your peace. Renew us in
the waters of baptism, refresh us with the
winds of your spirit, and sustain us with
the bread of life, we pray. Amen.**

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of
the skies, for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies. Lord of all, to you
we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FRC Creation Care Resolution)

**God, through Word and Spirit, creates,
sustains, loves, and owns the world. We
commit to the blessing of the world, the
strengthening of our lives, the
transformation of our communities,
and the glory of God.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Fugue No. 12 in F minor J.S. Bach
from Well Tempered Clavier Bk. 1

FIRST LESSON *Genesis 2:4b-22* (pg 2)

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. Norm Kuchar

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Act 17:22-28* (pg 137)

SERMON Bill Levering

Seeing the Forest and the Trees

*HYMN *All Things Bright and Beautiful* #267

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Improv No. 4* John Norton

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION and PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (unison) Carl Steubing

**Holy, holy Lord God of Hosts,
heav'n and earth are full of thy glory.**

Glory be to Thee O Lord, most high.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Hold until all are served.

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 *The Trees of the Field*

**You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!**

**The trees of the field
will clap their hands (clap, clap)
The trees of the field
will clap their hands (clap, clap)
The trees of the field
will clap their hands (clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.**

*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:

Mary Grupe, Richard Zentmire, Mary Jane Getty, James Pontius, Allen John Wood

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.

Support & Care

If you are able to provide a meal for members who are recuperating or who are homebound, contact Kim Burgoyne at 518-399-1337 or Vickie McGowan-Horan at 518-852-0113.

Bible Sunday – September 24

Any child in 3rd grade or higher that has not received a Bible, will be presented with one during worship on Sunday, September 24. Please let Dorothy Linder-Mitchell know.

New Member Class Today

**There is a class TODAY at 3pm for those
interested in joining the congregation.**

Church Picnic – September 10

All invited, please bring a dish to share, enough for 10 – 12 adults. Last names A – R side dish or salad, S – Z dessert. A signup sheet is on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and cold drinks. Also volunteers are needed for set-up before the picnic and breakdown /clean-up after the picnic. Sign-up at the church office.

Preparatory Communion Celebration Class

On Sunday, September 24, 11:15-12:15pm in the Walton House, Rev. Carlson will meet with our third graders and any older children who wish to learn about and prepare to share in the joyful feast of the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday, October 1 and beyond. Please contact the church office if you'd like your child to participate or if you have any questions.

Children, Youth & Family Kick-Off Dinner

All families with children and youth are invited to a FALL KICK-OFF dinner on September 17 at 6pm. Come meet the new staff and leaders, sign up for events, and hear about what we have planned for the year. The youth group will break off at 6:45pm for our annual photo-scamenger hunt, with the whole evening concluding around 7:30pm. Families with last name A-K, please bring a salad/side dish; L-Z please bring a dessert. Church will provide the main courses. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Jonathan or Dorothy Linder Mitchell.

Kinderwyk & Church School Volunteers

Come get to know the youth of our church by volunteering in Kinderwyk or Church School as a teacher or an assistant! Our church is your family, support the education of our youngsters. Senior High Youth are encouraged to volunteer too, just need to be at least 14 years old. Fill out your information on the sign-up forms in the Narthex, table by the Dirck Romeyn room, the church office or contact Dorothy Linder-Mitchell at 1stReformedEducation@gmail.com or 518-281-5673.

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.

Where Do I Put The Stuff?

There's now assistance in figuring out what goes where when you are done with it: three dimensional signage is affixed to the three distinct bins in the Dirck Romeyn room. The big green container is a compost bin; the medium blue container is a recycle bin, and the place of last resort is the smallest receptacle of all: a gray trash bin. Our Compo-pros are on hand each such Sunday to assist us in doing what is right with what we use when we're done with it. Thanks for doing your part in taking better care for God's creation.

Columbarium Accessible on Sundays

Those wishing to visit the columbarium during construction may do so on Sunday mornings from 11-11:30am. Our sexton, Tom Mahan will be stationed at the church office entrance to provide safe passage to the columbarium during this time.

Faith Bookshop

Copies still available...it's not too late to support our community and learn about a great piece of history with Ellen Apperson Brown's new book John Apperson's *Lake George*. This wonderful book, full of historic photographs, documents GE-man John Apperson's adventures in and advocacy for the Lake George area, including his extensive preservation efforts. Also read about your fellow FRC and UPC members that assisted him in these endeavors.

Volunteers Needed for Stockade Walkabout

Each Walkabout First Reformed Church opens its doors to the community during the Stockade Walkabout. This year's Walkabout is Saturday September 23. One theme of this year's event is "transformation". FRC has lots of stories to share including the history of six church buildings, founding of Union College and current building project to serve the future. We are in need of volunteers to greet and share stories in the sanctuary, Dirck Romeyn and Heritage room and Mohawk House. If you can participate for two hours between 11-5 pm, please sign-up in Dirck Romeyn room or by calling church office. Questions contact Carol DeLaMarter or Laura Lee.

Like to Hike?

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a hike on Saturday, September 30 to Moreau State Park in Saratoga County. This 5.5 mile trek is an easy loop past Lakes Bonita and Ann with an overlook of the Hudson River. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Casting Call

The Archives and Historical Concerns Committee is sponsoring a play reading on Sunday, Oct. 29 and needs voice actors. No memorization required! This post-Civil War drama calls for seven men and one woman. Please contact James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

An Opportunity To Serve

Snack Facilitator - duties include coordinating the after-worship treats in the Dirck Romeyn room. A tasty job that promotes fun and fellowship. Contact James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn" — Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year."
— Chad Sugg

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."
— Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky." — Kahlil Gibran, Sand and Foam

"For me, trees have always been the most penetrating preachers. I revere them when they live in tribes and families, in forests and groves. And even more I revere them when they stand alone. They are like lonely persons. Not like hermits who have stolen away out of some weakness, but like great, solitary men, like Beethoven and Nietzsche. In their highest boughs the world rustles, their roots rest in infinity; but they do not lose themselves there, they struggle with all the force of their lives for one thing only: to fulfil themselves according to their own laws, to build up their own form, to represent themselves. Nothing is holier, nothing is more exemplary than a beautiful, strong tree. When a tree is cut down and reveals its naked death-wound to the sun, one can read its whole history in the luminous, inscribed disk of its trunk: in the rings of its years, its scars, all the struggle, all the suffering, all the sickness, all the happiness and prosperity stand truly written, the narrow years and the luxurious years, the attacks withstood, the storms endured. And every young farmboy knows that the hardest and noblest wood has the narrowest rings, that high on the mountains and in continuing danger the most indestructible, the strongest, the ideal trees grow." — Hermann Hesse

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Today	9am	Cords of Love	Kids Ukulele will meet every Sunday. Open to kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Sept 4 Labor Day - Office Closed				
Sept 5	7pm	Short-Short	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Dirck Romeyn
Sept 6	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesday evenings till 8pm No experience is needed. Call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Sanctuary
Sept 7	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Contact Joan Lindsay for info.	Mezzanine
Sept 7	7:30pm	Chancel Choir Resumes	All singers & voice parts needed. If you can't make it, come to Sunday morning rehearsals at 9am. Questions? Contact Corine Salon, csalon@nycap.rr.com.	Sanctuary
Sept 10	11am	Church Picnic	All are welcome for a time of fun, food, and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share.	Church
Sept 13	9:30am	Kerygma	A perusal copy of <i>The Story of Christianity</i> is in Faith Bookshop; copies for purchase available 9/10.	Dirck Romeyn
Sept 13	6pm	Community Meal	A simple complimentary dinner.	Dirck Romeyn
Sept 13	7pm	Contemplative Worship	A quieter service including acoustic guitar-led singing, reflection on Scripture, communion and shared prayers.	Sanctuary
Sept 15	12pm	Group VII	We will meet for lunch at the Edison Club	Edison Club
Sept 17	11:15am	First Forum	Roots & Wisdom – Chris Lee, L. J. Hassleer	Sanctuary
Sept 17	11:15am	Living History, Family Fun	Trip to the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.	Offsite
Sept 17	6pm	Children, Youth & Family Dinner	Meet the new staff and leaders, sign up for events, and hear about what we have planned for the year.	Mohawk House
Sept 19	10am	Horizons Bible Study	<i>Cloud of Witnesses</i> study guide available from Peg Miller or Marilyn Leach for \$10.	Mohawk House
Sept 19	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	Meeting at Inge-Lise Pangburn's house at 2 St Jude Ct, Scotia. Call (518)399-1027 if you plan to come.	Inge-Lise Pangburn's
Sept 21	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	All active Stephen Ministers meet for continuing education and small group peer supervision.	Mohawk House
Sept 24	10am	Bible Sunday	Any child in 3rd grade+ that has not received a Bible, will be presented with one during worship.	Sanctuary
Sept 24	11:15am	First Forum	Records Preservation - Laura Lee	Sanctuary
Sept 24	11:15am	Children prepare for Communion	Preparatory class for sharing in Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday, October 1 and beyond.	Walton Conf.
Sept 28	10am	Prayer Shaw Knitting	Will meet every 4 th Thursday of the month in the home of Gini McDermott; 21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna	Gini McDermott's
Sept 29	12pm	Out To Lunch Bunch	Stella Pasta Bar & Bakery at Focastle Farms, 166 Kingsley Road in Burnt Hills	Focastle Farms

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 3

9:00am..... Cords of Love
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:00am..... Communion
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 3:00pm..... New Member's Class
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, September 4

9:00am..... Men's News Group

Tuesday, September 5

10:00am..... Morning Prayer
 11:00am..... Staff Meeting
 11:30am..... Support and Care
 7:00pm..... Short Short Writing

Wednesday, September 6

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

Thursday, September 7

10:00am..... Stitch Group

Sunday, September 10

9:00am..... Cords of Love
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:15am..... Fall Church Picnic
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Togio, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums	Mike Lamkin, solo piano
Bookshop	Christina Jones	
Counting Deacons	Tom Burgoyne, Joe Doolittle	Fred Daniels, Dave Hjelmar
Greeters	Bob Clark, Sally Clark	Tom Lindsay, Joan Lindsay
Flower Delivery	Norm & Chris Kuchar Kitty & George Trimarco	Tom & Joan Lindsay Joyce and Raymond Beland
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Jonathan Vanderbeck
Processing Elders	Brad Lewis, Darwin Brudos, Amy Brule, Norm Kuchar, Chris Kuchar, Del Pierce, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Jeanne Shoulder,	Liz Mastrianni, Audrey Bain, Mary Jewett, Walt Robb, Ellie Rowland, Margaret Schadler
Reader	Norm Kuchar	Liz Mastrianni
Ushers	Art Schultes, Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough	Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal