

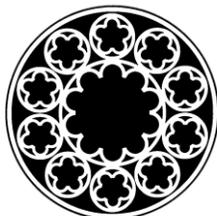
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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 10, 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.



2nd Sunday in the Season of Creation – Land

September 10, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Let All Rejoice George Blake
Canon in D Johann Pachelbel
To God Be the Glory William H. Doane

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Jonathan Vanderbeck

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Hallelujah* Zimbabwe

*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)

Scripture reveals that God, through Word and Spirit, creates, sustains, loves, and owns the world. We commit to make care of creation a central priority in our congregation, for the blessing of the world, the strengthening of our lives, the transformation of our communities, and the glory of God.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Daniel Carlson

PRESENTATION OF PARENTS & CHILD
Justine and Neil Ochal; Brody James Ochal

PROMISES OF PARENTS

*PROMISE OF CONGREGATION

Do you promise to love, encourage and support this brother by teaching the gospel of God's love, by being an example of faith and character by giving the strong support of God's family in fellowship, prayer and service?
We do.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BAPTISMAL COVENANT

*BLESSING AND WELCOME

Welcome our new sister in Christ.
Joyfully we receive you into the body of Christ. Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Misty Morning* Carl J. Nygard Jr

It was a misty morning on the top of a hill
With all the trees below me standing quiet and still.
When in a distant voice I thought I heard someone say.

“It’s just a misty morning thanking God for today.”
In all the spiders’ web I saw the glistening haze,
And all the butterfly tents were dressed in silver glaze
And in a distant voice I thought I heard someone say,
‘It’s just the morning’s way of thanking God for today.’

Misty morning of a greener dawn, your day is here,
Misty morning I can hear your song,
The sound is quiet but the song is clear.

Another misty morning may awaken my hill,
when it comes I hope I can remember still.
How on this misty morning from a valley of gray
I heard the voice of creation thanking God for today

FIRST LESSON *Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16* (pg 3)
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. Liz Mastrianni

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Psalms 139:7-12* (pg 577)

SERMON *Dirt Poor* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Earth and All Stars* #458

OFFERING

OFFERTORY John Rudder
For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the Skies
For the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise,
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day
and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower.
Sun and moon and stars of light.
Lord of all, to thee we raise,
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above.

For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise,
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heav’n
Lord of all, to thee we raise,
this our joyful hymn of praise.

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Julia Etkin

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 *O God of Earth and Space* #274

*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:

Richard L. Shuey, Charlotte Ramsey

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.

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.

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.

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 as a youth leader or would be willing to host the youth group for an evening or make snacks, please contact Pastor Jonathan.

Horizons Bible Study

The "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" study guide is available from Peg Miller or Marilyn Leach for \$10. The study will be held on Tuesday Mornings at 10am in the Mohawk House Pres., from September 19-November 14. In nine lessons, the study invites us to "explore major themes found in Hebrew, relate these themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community." Anyone interested is welcome to participate, speak to Peg so we have study guides for everyone, including those who follow us from home.

Like to Hike? - September 30

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

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.

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.

Who Art Thou?

To help your brothers, sisters and siblings better know your name, please remember to wear your name tag. If you don't have a name tag, fill out a white pew card and with the tag line NAME TAG REQUEST and one will appear on the name tag board next Sunday.

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.

Where Do I Put This?

There's now more help 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 taking better care of God's creation in this end-of-use way!

Faith Bookshop

Stop in now to pick up the latest book, *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2*, for the upcoming session of Kerygma classes starting 9/13. But...be early...the Bookshop will only be open till 11:20am today to encourage and provide everyone the opportunity to attend the church picnic. Literary lovers need to eat too.

Casting Call

The Archives and Historical Concerns Committee is sponsoring a play reading on Oct. 29 and needs voice actors. No memorization required! This post-Civil War drama calls for seven men & one woman. 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.

Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest.
Say that the leaves are harvested
when they have rotted into the mold.
Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.
Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees
every thousand years.
—Wendell Berry, from *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front*

“We are all dust passing through the air, the difference is, some are flying high in the sky, while others are flying low. But eventually, we all settle on the same ground.”
— Anthony Liccione

“The way I see it, the difference between farmers and suburbanites is the difference in the way we feel about dirt. To them, the earth is something to be respected and preserved, but dirt gets no respect. A farmer likes dirt. Suburbanites like to get rid of it. Dirt is the working layer of earth, and dealing with dirt is as much a part of farm life as dealing with manure. Neither is user-friendly but both are necessary.”
— E.L. Konigsburg, *The View from Saturday*

“You dirty rat...”
— James Cagney

“Every flower must grow through dirt”
— Laurie Jean Sennott

“Before you look for dirt in people, look for treasure.”
— Matshona Dhliwayo

“Use the dirt life throws at you to plant the seeds of your success.”
— Matshona Dhliwayo

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
Today	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 Conversations	Copies of <i>The Story of Christianity</i> are in Faith Bookshop; participants should read pp. 1-18 for September 13.	Dirck Romeyn
Sept 13	6pm	Community Meal	Complimentary dinner and informal conversations shared before Contemplative Worship. No sign up or cost; all welcome.	Dirck Romeyn
Sept 13	7pm	Contemplative Worship	A quieter service including guitar-led singing, reflection on Scripture, communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.	Sanctuary
Sept 13	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesday evenings till 8pm No experience is needed. Call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Sanctuary
Sept 14	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Contact Joan Lindsay for more information.	Mezzanine
Sept 14	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	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 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 Pres.
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 19	7pm	Short-Short	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Dirck Romeyn
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 10

8:30am..... Stephen Leaders
 9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am..... Cords of Love
 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:15am..... Fall Church Picnic
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, September 11

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

Tuesday, September 12

10:00am..... Morning Prayer
 11:00am..... Staff Meeting
 6:00pm..... Adult Education & Nurture
 6:30pm..... Standing Committees
 7:30pm..... Consistory

Wednesday, September 13

9:30am..... Kerygma Conversations
 1:00pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting
 1:00pm..... Archives
 6:00pm..... Community Meal
 7:00pm..... Contemplative Worship
 7:00pm..... Adult Ukulele

Thursday, September 14

7:30am..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00am..... Stitch Group
 7:30pm..... Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 17

9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am..... Cords of Love
 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers
 6:00pm..... Children & Youth Dinner

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Mike Lamkin, solo piano	Peg & Bill Delaney, Tom D'Andrea
Bookshop	Bill Clock	Birdie Blackmer
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Dave Hjelm	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Bill Rochelle
Greeters	Tom Lindsay, Joan Lindsay	Tom Mancuso, Barbara Mancuso
Flower Delivery	Tom & Joan Lindsay Joyce and Raymond Beland	Barbara Matthews, Helle Moore and Ralph Rosenthal
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Liturgist	Jonathan Vanderbeck	
Processing Elders	Liz Mastrianni, Audrey Bain, Mary Jewett, Walt Robb, Ellie Rowland, Margaret Schadler	Birdie Blackmer, Jeanette Davidson, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Cathy Lewis, Bill Rochelle
Reader	Liz Mastrianni	Cathy Lewis
Ushers	Michael Horan (head ushers), Crystal Mongillo, Ralph Rosenthal, Sarah Bachorik, Hannah Bachorik	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps