

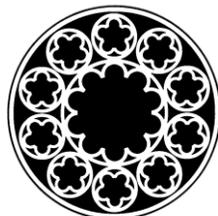
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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 17, 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.



**3rd Sunday in the Season of Creation –
Wilderness/Outback**

September 17, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Ann-Marie Baker Schwartz

*Brahms Waltz in A arr by David Hochstein
Prelude, Gavotte, Waltz and Polka from 5
pieces for two violins and piano*

Shostakovich

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

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.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Canticle of Creation* Mark Burrows

Benedicite, omnia Domini opera
Great are the works of the Lord!
Let all the earth praise the Lord
Mountains and hills; Flowers and forests:
All things that grow on the earth.

Rivers and streams praise the Lord;
Birds of the air, flocks of the field,
Whales of the sea;
Sun, moon and stars praise the Lord.
Heaven and earth, sunlight and shadows,
All give their praise to the Lord.

FIRST LESSON (pg)

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. Liz Mastrianni

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON (pg)

SERMON Daniel Carlson

*HYMN *Rock of Ages*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Shostakovich
Elegy from 5 pieces for two violins and piano

*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 *This is My Fathers World* #293

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Onefold Amen Geneva

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:

*George Vlahides, Loisanna Hager Veeder,
Thomas Teichner*

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.

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-scamper 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.

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 noon in the Walton House

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.

Music Notes

Musicians: Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin and Director of Ma'alwyck, with guest artists Theodore Arm, violin and Palma Catravas, pianist. The Earth is Yours, Michael Gungor. (c)worship together.com songs. Used by permission under CCLI #11256325. GIA Publications. OneLicense #700-700.

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.

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.

FRC Youth Group Plan for Fall

We're excited for the launch of youth group for the fall. We will be alternating between youth group and Saturday service projects, for those who are looking for service hours. Our theme for this fall is "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself." Several of Pastor Jonathan's friends from the community will come in and share their experiences being someone who society might deem as "different," and we'll learn more about the different culture and communities that make our world the best place it can be. All youth group nights will be at church in the new Mohawk House unless otherwise announced. See you there.

Post Worship Care and Prayer

Need a moment after church? Trained Stephen Ministers will be available in the Dykstra Chapel right after worship the last Sunday of each month to sit with, listen to, and pray for and with you. Please stop by.

Creation Retreat at Fowler

Pre-registration for our Oct. 20-22 Creation Celebration & Preservation Weekend Retreat ends Wednesday, Sept 20. Register at <https://campfowler.wufoo.com/forms/rtx68hl14c8djm/> All meals, lodging, and activities during this time away in the Adirondack Wilderness, sponsored by our Adult Education and Nurture committee, are fully covered for singles, couples and families of all ages and stages--all who desire more fully enjoy, explore and protect God's beloved world, our common home. Those attending may choose to make a contribution, which will help cover future events as this one. For comprehensive information about this interactive, immersive, educational, and inspirational event visit: <http://campfowler.org/creationcelebration> Contact Rev. Carlson, Bill Clock, or Lisa Etkin, for further information.

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? - 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.

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.

Faith Bookshop - Call for Volunteers

Have you thought about volunteering in the church but were afraid to feel overcommitted? Looking for a low-key way to help out? Consider volunteering in the Faith Bookshop! Duties include manning the desk ‘til noon on Sundays once every six weeks and attending quarterly meetings. Easy peasy, right? If you’re interested, please email Christina Jones, cmjones514@gmail.com.

Out to Lunch Bunch

On the last Friday of the month any and everyone is invited to discover small, ethnic, locally owned restaurants in the surrounding area and share in warm fellowship with each other while doing so. Stella Pasta Bar and Bakery at Focastle Farms, 166 Kingsley Road in Burnt Hills is our pick for September 29 at noon. Please join your friends and make some new ones. Let Gay know you are coming (overdoo@msn.com) or just show up.

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.

“Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed ... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.” — Wallace Stegner

“We need the tonic of wildness...At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be indefinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature.” — Henry David Thoreau

“It had nothing to do with gear or footwear or the backpacking fads or philosophies of any particular era or even with getting from point A to point B. It had to do with how it felt to be in the wild. With what it was like to walk for miles with no reason other than to witness the accumulation of trees and meadows, mountains and deserts, streams and rocks, rivers and grasses, sunrises and sunsets. The experience was powerful and fundamental. It seemed to me that it had always felt like this to be a human in the wild, and as long as the wild existed it would always feel this way.” — Cheryl Strayed

“To be commanded to love God at all, let alone in the wilderness, is like being commanded to be well when we are sick, to sing for joy when we are dying of thirst, to run when our legs are broken. But this is the first and great commandment nonetheless. Even in the wilderness - especially in the wilderness - you shall love him.” — Frederick Buechner

“The whole concept of 'wild' was decidedly European, one not shared by the original inhabitants of this continent. What we called 'wilderness' was to the Indian a homeland, 'abiding loveliness' in Salish or Piegan. The land was not something to be feared or conquered, and 'wildlife' were neither wild nor alien; they were relatives.” — Doug Peacock,

“It is a commonplace of all religious thought, even the most primitive, that the man seeking visions and insight must go apart from his fellows and love for a time in the wilderness.” — Loren Eiseley

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	11:15am	First Forum	Roots & Wisdom – Chris Lee, L. J. Hassleer	Sanctuary
Today	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
Today	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 20	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 20	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesday evenings till 8pm No experience is needed. Call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Sanctuary
Sept 21	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Contact Joan Lindsay for more information.	Mezzanine
Sept 21	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 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 17

9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am..... Cords of Love
 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:15am..... Forum
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers
 6:00pm..... Children & Youth Dinner

Monday, September 18

9:00am..... Men's News Group
 5:30pm..... Fostering Futures

Tuesday, September 19

10:00am..... Morning Prayer
 10:00am..... Horizons Bible Study
 11:00am..... Staff Meeting
 7:00pm..... Short Short Writing

Wednesday, September 20

9:30am..... Kerygma Conversations
 11:30am..... First Thing Volunteers
 1:00pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting
 7:00pm..... Adult Ukulele

Thursday, September 21

7:30am..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00am..... Stitch Group
 6:30pm..... Stephen Ministry
 7:30pm..... Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 24

11:00am..... Stockade Walkabout

Sunday, September 24

Bible Sunday

9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am..... Cords of Love
 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:15am..... Forum
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Peg & Bill Delaney, Tom D'Andrea	Dave Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Sarah Howes
Counting Deacons	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Bill Rochelle	Matt Jones, Richard Rose
Greeters	Tom Mancuso, Barbara Mancuso	Jack Bestgen & Sally Bestgen
Flower Delivery	Barbara Matthews, Helle Moore and Ralph Rosenthal	Kate and Richard Rose Jeanne Shoulder
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, Jeanette Davidson, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Cathy Lewis, Bill Rochelle	Norma Brown, Christine Daniels, Jerry Griggs, Joyce Griggs, Del Pierce, Richard Rose,
Reader	Cathy Lewis	Christine Daniels
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