

***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.

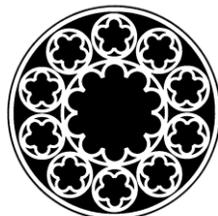
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



Thomas Cole, Sunny Morning on the Hudson River, 1827



September 24, 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.



4th Sunday in the Season of Creation – River

September 24, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Sortita Chester Norman
It Is Well With My Soul Philip P. Bliss
Prelude and Fugue in F major J. S. Bach

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

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 (*Refrain*)**

*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**

**he 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 *The River is Here* Andy Park

Down the mountain the river flows
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes.
Through the valleys and over the fields
The river is rushing and the river is here.

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer.
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
And we rejoice, for the river is here

The river of God is teeming with life
And all who touch it can be revived.
And those who linger on this river's shore
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord
Up to the mountain we love to go
To find the presence of the Lord;
Along the banks of the river we run,
We dance with laughter, giving praise to the Son.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 8:20-22; & 9:12-17 (pg 6)
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. Christine Daniels

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Revelations 22:1-5* (pg 260)

SERMON *Peace Like A River* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Out of Deep, Unordered Water* #494

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Down the River to Prayer Sheldon Curry
(from *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*)

As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good old way and who shall
Wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.
Oh sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down,
O sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray

*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 *Sovereign Lord of All Creation* #136

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold amen Traditional

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

Music Notes

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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:

Patricia Herman, David Erwin Bain, Jean Morgan, Janet Crandell, Elizabeth Nicholson

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 Class - Today

Today, 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.

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.

Fall Arts Fun! – Oct 29

Sunday, October 29 at 4pm-5pm in the Mohawk House. Dorothy will have some Fun Fall Crafts and activities for our younger members. Come on out and have some fun mingling and getting to know all of the other youngsters of our church family! Homemade fall themed snacks will be provided!

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.

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.

Blessing of the Beasts - October 1

In gratitude to God for every living thing, and in the spirit of St. Francis, who loved and welcomed all creatures, we gather to bless the animals who are a cherished part of our lives. Finned, feathered, or furry pets of members and friends are invited to the church lawn on Oct. 1 at 3pm for this annual celebrative service. Feel free to bring a picture or memento of your beast if they do not travel well.

Thrills in the Catskills Reprise – Oct 7

The Fellowship Committee is headed back to the Catskills on Saturday, October 7, to Overlook Mountain near Woodstock to climb the Fire Tower and visit the ruins of the old Catskill Mountain House. Don't miss your chance to see and photograph colorful Fall foliage on this 7.8 mile hike over moderate terrain! Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Saturday Breakfast Fellowship – Oct 7

The first meeting of the Saturday Breakfast (formerly Men's Breakfast) will be held on Saturday, October 7 at 8am in the Dirck Romeyn. A light breakfast will be served, followed by the morning's program. All FRC members and guests are welcome (male and female). We are looking for a few volunteers to help with the program, which will be a **Photo Day**. Come and bring a few of your favorite pictures (preferably on a USB thumb drive) and tell us about them. RSVP by signing up in the Dirck Romeyn, and calling Gene Rowland (518-250-4302) or Joe Doolittle (518-588-2801).

Creation Celebration & Preservation Retreat

On Saturday, October 21, come join us in the ADK Wilderness as we discover and delve into more fully enjoying and protecting God beloved world, our common home! Register at <https://campfowler.wufoo.com/forms/rtx68hl14c8djm/> Those attending may choose to make a contribution to support future retreats as this one. For full information about this interactive, immersive, educational, and inspirational event visit: <http://campfowler.org/creation-celebration>

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 is on Tuesdays at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn, from till 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

“Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters.”

— Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*

“May what I do flow from me like a river, no forcing and no holding back, the way it is with children.” — Rainer Maria Rilke

“Have you also learned that secret from the river; that there is no such thing as time? That the river is everywhere at the same time, at the source and at the mouth, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the current, in the ocean and in the mountains, everywhere and that the present only exists for it, not the shadow of the past nor the shadow of the future.” — Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*

"Do I change like a river, widening and deepening, eddying back on myself sometimes, bursting my banks sometimes when there's too much water, too much life in me, and sometimes dried up from lack of rain? Will the I that is me grow and widen and deepen? Or will I stagnate and become an arid riverbed? Will I allow people to dam me up and confine me to wall so that I flow only where they want? Will I allow them to turn me into a canal to use for their own purposes? Or will I make sure I flow freely, coursing my way through the land and ploughing a valley of my own?"
— Aidan Chambers

“Life is like the river, sometimes it sweeps you gently along and sometimes the rapids come out of nowhere.” — Emma Smith

“We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations.” — David Brower

“A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.”
— Laura Gilpin

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Today	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any to kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Today	11:15am	First Forum	FRC Records Preservation - Laura Lee	Sanctuary
Today	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 26	10am	Horizons Bible Study	<i>Cloud of Witnesses</i> study guide available from Peg Miller or Marilyn Leach for \$10.	Mohawk House Pres.
Sept 27	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Please continue to read <i>The Story of Christianity</i> pg. 36-56	Dirck Romeyn
Sept 27	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesday evenings till 8pm No experience is needed. Call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Sanctuary
Sept 28	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Contact Joan Lindsay for more information.	Mezzanine
Sept 28	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	If you can't make it, come to Sunday morning rehearsals at 9am. Questions? Contact Corine Salon csalon@nycap.rr.com.	Sanctuary
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
Sept 29	12pm	Out To Lunch Bunch	Stella Pasta Bar & Bakery at Focastle Farms, 166 Kingsley Road in Burnt Hills	Focastle Farms
Oct 1	3pm	Blessing of the Beasts	All pets of members and friends are invited to the church lawn for this annual celebrative service. Feel free to bring a picture or memento of your beast if they do not travel well.	Church Lawn
Oct 1	3pm	New Members Class	Interested folks are invited to a membership orientation meeting that includes a tour of the church. Last about 90 min.	Church Office
Oct 4	7pm	Theology of Race & Racism	Join Rev. Jonathan as we unpack the theology and history behind racism in the church.	Mohawk House Pres.
Oct 6	7pm	Avery Presents	We will show the silent romantic melodrama "Beyond the Rocks" in the Sanctuary. Live piano accompaniment by Avery Tunningley. Reception to follow.	Sanctuary
Oct 7	8am	Saturday Breakfast	We are looking for a few volunteers to help with the program, Gene Rowland (518-250-4302) or Joe Doolittle (518-588-2801).	Dirck Romeyn
Oct 7	9am	Thrills in the Catskills	Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com	Church Parking lot

Sunday, September 24

8:00am..... Organ Practice
 9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am..... Chords of Love
 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:15am..... Prep. Communion Class
 11:15am..... Forum
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, September 25

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

Tuesday, September 26

10:00am..... Morning Prayer
 10:00am..... Horizons Bible Study
 11:00am..... Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 27

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

Thursday, September 28

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

Sunday, October 1

8:00am..... Organ Practice
 9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am..... Chords of Love
 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:00am..... World Communion Sunday
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:15am..... Forum
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers
 12:00pm..... Consistory On Site Retreat
 3:00pm..... New Members Class
 3:00pm..... Blessing of the Beasts
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Togio, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
Bookshop	Sarah Howes	Nancy Wainwright
Counting Deacons	Matt Jones, Richard Rose	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Christina Jones
Greeters	Jack Bestgen & Sally Bestgen	
Flower Delivery	Kate and Richard Rose Jeanne Shoulder	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Norma Brown, Christine Daniels, Jerry Griggs, Joyce Griggs, Del Pierce, Richard Rose,	Birdie Blackmer, Liz Mastrianni, Walt Robb, Joanne Arnold, Gay Doolittle
Reader	Christine Daniels	Liz Mastrianni
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Christine Lund, Doug Todd,