

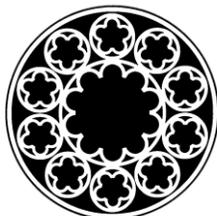
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



October 1, 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.



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Day

October 1, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Leonid Polishchuk, violin

Handel. Violin Sonata in F major (HWV 370)
Adagio (3'30")
Allegro (2'35")

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Jubilate Deo* Praetorius

*HYMN #138
Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)
God of the world, we confess that our selfishness and shortsightedness has spoiled our relationships and our environment. Our inaction has allowed greed and hate to poison world peace and planetary health. Help us to hear and follow your call to wholeness. Forgive us, we pray, and motivate us again to work for what is right.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)
**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
(*from the Accra Confession*)

We believe in God, Creator and Sustainer of all life, who calls us as partners in the creation and redemption of the world. We live under the promise that Jesus Christ came so that all might have life in fullness. Guided and upheld by the Holy Spirit we

open ourselves to the reality of our world. We believe that God is sovereign over all creation. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Creation Will be at Peace*
Anna Laura Page

In the holy mountain of the Lord,
all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord,
creation will be at peace.

The wolf will lie down with the lamb,
the cow and bear will feed,
their young will play together;
a little child will lead.

The leopard and goat will graze,
the lion will feed on straw,
They will war no more,
they will war no more,
a child will lead them all.

J. Paul Williams poet

FIRST LESSON Liz Mastrianni
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Philippians 2:1-13* (pg 197)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 21:23-32* (pg 23)

SERMON Bill Levering
Getting To Yes

*HYMN *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* #504

MINUTE FOR MISSION Andrew Chestnut
Hurricane Relief

OFFERING
OFFERTORY Leonid Polishchuk, violin
Bach. Partita for violin solo in d minor
BVW 1004, Allemanda

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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

*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 *O for a World* #386

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold amen Danish

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+++

Special Offering - Today

This week's special offering is to benefit survivors of this summer's hurricanes: Harvey, Irma and Maria. The funds will be channeled through Reformed Church World Service, and will be matched dollar for dollar from our Mission & Benevolence committee's disaster relief budget up to a maximum of \$3,000. Please give generously.

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:

*Ethel Kiess Betka, Claribel Wescott Linder,
Bernard Cain, Tom Norton, David Collins*

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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane and Clifford Bryant, by their children: Clifford, Barbara, Laura, and their families.

Blessing of the Beasts - Today

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.

New Member Class Today

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

Reaching Wider, Growing Deeper

After worship today please feel free to visit with a congregational ministry that may inspire you.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. Isaiah 61:3

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 had a great time celebrating Pastor Jonathan's birthday yesterday! Our next youth group night will be Sunday, October 8. 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. On the October 8, several of Pastor Jonathan's friends from the LGBTQ community will be coming to share their experiences. Join us for a great discussion, great food, and great fellowship!

Thrills in the Catskills Reprise – Oct 7

The Fellowship Committee is headed back to the Catskills on October 7, to Overlook Mountain near Woodstock to climb the Fire Tower and visit the ruins of the old Catskill Mountain House. 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.

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.

Group V – Oct 2

Group V will meet tomorrow at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn room to talk about the coming year. Contact Maria Todd for questions.

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

Although lodging for this weekend is fully subscribed, there's still opportunity to join us on Saturday, October 21 to discover and delve into more fully enjoying and protecting God beloved world, our common home! To get a day pass for this event--which includes lunch - visit: <http://campfowler.org/creation-celebration>, click the Saturday link, and fill out info on pages 1 and 2. Contact Daniel Carlson or Lisa Etkin (not the Fowler Office) for further assistance.

Johnson Library

There are several new books on the library shelf in the Heritage Room. Among them are *The light shines through*, by Carole A. Wageman in which she uses stories from Scripture to encourage the reader to reflect and interact with the material in a deep and satisfying way. Phil Dwyer, a Palliative-care pioneer, proves that "the good death" isn't a myth as he tells the story of how he faced his own death in his book, *Conversations on dying*. In *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy* by Nicholas Reynolds, he tells us how Ernest Hemmingway was shaped by his secret adventures as a spy (American and Soviet).

Narthex and Heritage Room Exhibits

New exhibits in the Narthex Cases and Heritage room show treasures from our archives. Learn of Transitions, the Vroomans and the John J. Vrooman Collection.

This Thurs., Oct. 5, 12:50-1:50pm, Reformation, Restoration and Romeyn: Faith and the Founding of Union College, Shaffer Library, Lally Reading Room. Posters in our info racks. Romeyn, our 7th minister; his Bible has been restored.

Bookshop / Heritage Room

A small, framed picture of FRC makes a nice gift for a church member who can no longer attend services. The frames vary; all can stand on a table or shelf. Another gift idea: a daily devotional compiled by Women's Group V. Both are available in the Bookshop, which is now located beside the Dirck Romeyn room.

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.

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.

“[To have Faith in Christ] means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you.” — C.S. Lewis

Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty. The obedient must be slaves.”
— Henry David Thoreau

“The greatest crimes in the world are not committed by people breaking the rules but by people following the rules. It's people who follow orders that drop bombs and massacre villages.” — Banksy

What God says is best, is best, though all the men in the world are against it.”— John Bunyan

Choices will continually be necessary and -- let us not forget -- possible. Obedience to God is always possible. It is a deadly error to fall into the notion that when feelings are extremely strong we can do nothing but act on them.”
— Elisabeth Elliot, Discipline: The Glad Surrender

You will know as much of God, and only as much of God, as you are willing to put into practice.” — Eric Liddell

Men are free when they are obeying some deep, inward voice of religious belief. Obeying from within. Men are free when they belong to a living, organic, believing community, active in fulfilling some unfulfilled, perhaps unrealized purpose. Not when they are escaping to some wild west. The most unfree souls go west, and shout of freedom.” — D.H. Lawrence

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	Composting for Creation with Sonia Sandoval.	Sanctuary
Today	3pm	Blessing of the Beasts	All pets of members and friends are invited.	Church Lawn
Today	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 2	11am	Group V	Contact Maria Todd with Questions.	Dirck Romeyn
Oct 3	10am	Horizons Bible Study	<i>Cloud of Witnesses</i> study guide available from Peg Miller or Marilyn Leach for \$10.	Mohawk House Pres.
Oct 4	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapters 4 and 5 in <i>The Story of Christianity</i> .	Dirck Romeyn
Oct 4	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesday evenings till 8pm No experience is needed. Call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Sanctuary
Oct 5	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Contact Joan Lindsay for more information.	Mezzanine
Oct 5	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
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
Oct 9 - Office Closed				
Oct 11	6pm	Fellowship Meal	Complimentary dinner and informal conversations shared before Contemplative Worship. No sign up or cost; all welcome.	Dirck Romeyn
Oct 11	7pm	Contemplative Worship	A quieter service including guitar-led singing, reflection on Scripture, communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.	Sanctuary

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
 3:00pm..... New Members Class
 3:00pm..... Blessing of the Beasts
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, October 2

9:00am..... Men's News Group
 11:00am..... Group V

Tuesday, October 3

10:00am..... Morning Prayer
 10:00am..... Horizons Bible Study
 11:00am..... Staff Meeting
 11:30am..... Support & Care
 1:30pm..... Worship Planning
 7:00pm..... Short Short Writing

Wednesday, October 4

9:30am..... Kerygma Conversations
 1:00pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting
 7:00pm..... Adult Ukulele
 7:00pm..... Theology of Race & Racism

Thursday, October 5

7:30am..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00am..... Stitch Group
 11:30am..... Support & Care
 7:30pm..... Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 6

7:00pm..... First Friday Performance

Saturday, October 7

8:00am..... Saturday Breakfast

Sunday, October 8

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..... Forum
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Togio, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums	Wayne Hawkins, piano
Bookshop	Bill Clock	Nancy Wainwright
Counting Deacons	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Christina Jones	Joan Lindsay, Richard Rose
Greeters	James & Karen Gonda	Tom & Barbara Mancuso
Flower Delivery	Sandy Moynihan, Ann & Walt Robb	Harlene Bachorik, Christine & Vilhelm Lund
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, Birdie Blackmer, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Walt Robb Gay Doolittle, Liz Mastrianni, Maria Todd	Darwin Brudos, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Peggy King, Thomas Lindsay, Margaret Schadler,
Reader	Liz Mastrianni	Marilyn Leach
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Christine Lund, Doug Todd,	Alden Brown, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin