

***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.

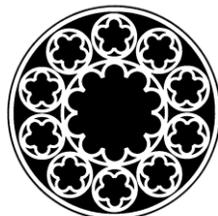
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



November 12, 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.

Mohawk House Coffee Area

Open from 9am-3pm on Monday-Friday

Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for children through Pre-k 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 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.

Stewardship Sunday

November 12, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

All Glory Be To Thee

Gertrude Haupt Richolson

For Thy Name's Sake Bertha R. Frick

Fanfare For A Ceremony Jane Carrier

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT Jubilate Deo

*HYMN *God of Our Life* #275

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bare, and
what has become for us a lonely burning.
Set us free from a past that we cannot
change and open to us a future in which
we can be changed.**

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

**Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed – Traditional version
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus**

**Christ his only Son our Lord; who was
conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell; the third day he rose
again from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from thence he
shall come to judge the quick and the
dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy
catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of
the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *I Wanna Be Ready*
Spiritual Arr. by Rosephanye Powell
Marjorie Rush, soprano soloist

I wanna be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John
My feet stand ready, to walk in Jerusalem just like John
My feet stand steady to walk in Jerusalem just like John

John said that Jerusalem was foursquare.
I hope, good Lord, to meet you there.
If you get to heaven before I do,
Tell all of my friends I'm coming too.

O John, O John now didn't you say
That you'd be there on that great day.
Now some came crippled and some came lame,
And some came walking in Jesus name.

FIRST LESSON Cathy Lewis
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalms 78:1-7* (pg 538)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Joshua 24:14-15* (pg 216)

SERMON *Choose Sacrifice* Bill Levering

*HYMN #369
I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Stewardship*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Steal Away
Spiritual Arr. by Daniel Kallman

Steal Away, steal away, steal away to Jesus!
Steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.
My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the thunder,
The trumpet sounds within- a my soul!
I ain't got long to stay here.

Green trees are bend-in', Poor sinner stands a tremblin'
The trumpet sounds within -a my soul!
I ain't got long to stay here.
My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the lightning,
The trumpet sounds within -a my soul!
I ain't got long to stay here.

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING OF THE PLEDGES

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 #422
God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*
Traditional

POSTLUDE *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dick Blackmer by his family.



It's Stewardship Sunday

Today is the day that we celebrate the faithful giving of this gathering of God's people. Giving of ourselves in this way is a challenge. But we do it out of gratitude for all that God has given us. Your faithful giving opens up opportunities for this church to serve our programs of education and fellowship and of outreach to community and the world. Thank you for giving your first and your best to God. Your sacrifice is noticed and works for the bringing of the Good News of God's welcoming love to all.

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:

Marilyn Wemple, Richard McCary, Alan D. Attanasio, George Graham, Dolph G.P. Ebeling, Josephine Van Nest, Albert Holland, Richard Roberts, John "Jack" Fitts, H. Gilbert Harlow

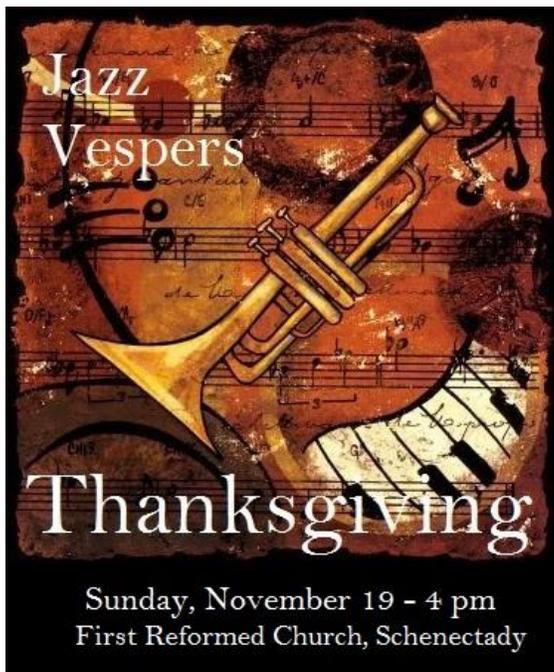
If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please contact the church office.

Jazz Thanksgiving – Nov 19

On Sunday, November 19, we celebrate Thanksgiving with a special Jazz Vespers from 4-6pm with many talented musicians. Presented with help from The American Federation of Musicians Union Local 85-133. **Featured Performers:** Nat Phipps, Keith Pray, Tom D'Andrea, Peg Delaney, Jim Corigliano, Tim Coakley, Bill Delaney, Pete Toigo, Colleen Pratt, Dave Gleason, Mike Lawrence, Pete Sweeney. Admission is \$10, \$5 students and retirement community residents.

Restroom

If you are looking for a first floor handicap acceptable rest room the Mohawk House is open.



Thanksgiving Offering – Nov 19

Monies collected at our church will be sent to Concerned for the Hungry and are used to purchase supplies in bulk at greatly reduced prices. Checks should be made payable to FRC, with *Concerned for the Hungry* in the memo line. See First Things article.

Water Filters for Puerto Rico

Elder Del Pierce has initiated a small effort to supply water filters to people still without drinking water in Puerto Rico. Del has connected with Lou Haveman, who many of you know, to purchase and send filters to a reliable recipient on the island, who will distribute them. To date he has funding and orders to send 44 filters. That will supply enough water for drinking, cooking, and washing dishes for 44 families. All this is possible through the generosity of people in FRC and the community. If you can help send more filters, please contact Del.

Faith Bookshop

Several books for children and books about grief are still available in the Bookshop. Books with pink dots on the spine have been further reduced in price. Stop in and look around; there's more than books in the shop.

Justice Action Committee New Book Club and Lunch - Sundays Nov. 19, Dec. 3

"*A Light in the Window: The City Mission Of Schenectady.*" Please join the JAC as we discuss Chris Graf's book. We are meeting on 3 Sundays at 12pm in the Mohawk House for discussion, reflection and consideration of how we can support the light in the window. Books are available in the book shop. Please contact Liz Mastrianni, lzmstro@gmail.com, for more information.

Family Harvest Time Potluck – Nov 19

Next Sunday, 5-6pm, in the Mohawk House. We welcome families with children of any age as well as anyone in the church who is interested in some good food and fellowship. RSVP to Dorothy 1stReformedEducation@gmail.com or 518-281-5673. We are asking families with last name beginning with A-L to bring Desserts: apple, pumpkin or other harvest themed desserts. Those ending with M-Z to bring Appetizers/Side Dishes: corn dishes, cranberry sauce, stuffing, green beans, vegetables. Beverages and turkey will be provided.

Double Feature – Nov 25

The Fellow Committee is sponsoring two back-to-back hikes on Saturday, November 25, the first to the Northville-Placid Trail and the second a few miles away to the Auger Falls. Both hikes are near Benson, NY, each about three miles long, and both have **NO ELEVATION**. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at **8am** [earlier start than usual]. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Care and Prayer

Need a moment for prayerful support after worship? Trained Stephen Ministers will be available in the Dykstra Chapel after the service on the last Sunday of each month to sit with, listen to, and pray for & with you. Please stop by if this sounds like it may be just what you need.

Boundaries Sunday AM Adult Class

This study offers help, encouragement, insight and wisdom to all who struggle with their inability to say no, as well as to anyone who seeks to live a healthy and balanced life. Based on the book *Boundaries – When to Say Yes, How to Say No, to Take Control of Your Life* by Cloud & Townsend this class is led by Lisa Etkin, one of our Stephen Leaders, Sundays at 8:30am. For info. contact Lisa at lisa@paintingbylisa.com (518)631-4410.

Justice Action Council Food Drive

We are collecting **peanut butter & canned tuna** throughout the month of November, please bring in any brand as these are in great demand. JAC is sponsoring this targeted food drive to help one of our sister churches in classis, Trinity Reformed Church, launch their very own food pantry in Rotterdam, which has very few pantries of their own. There is a box in the Dirck Romeyn room for your donations or you can bring them to Pastor Jonathan's office.

Memorial Flowers for Christmas

Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on December 18. The donation is \$20. Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2017. Please call (518)377-2201 or 1streformedpub@gmail.com the church office no later than Thursday, December 14, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

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.

“Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you. Choose wisely.” — Roy T. Bennett

“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, determines your destiny.” — Aristotle

“He loved her, of course, but better than that, he chose her, day after day. Choice: that was the thing.” — Sherman Alexie

“Beliefs are choices. First you choose your beliefs. Then your beliefs affect your choices.” — Roy T. Bennett

“Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide.”
— Napoléon Bonaparte

“Most people, faced with two difficult choices, prefer not to choose at all.”
— Kenneth Eade

“If you are not comfortable with a decision, chances are high that it's not the right one for you. — Rossana Condoleo, Happy Divorce

“We're making our decisions ... or so we think. Yet in truth, ignorance, greed, and the scourge of immediate gratification are often the things that are making them. So if we're going to truly live well, maybe the first thing we need to decide is who's deciding.”
— Craig D. Lounsbrough

“The trouble with making an important decision was that you never had enough information to do it without hesitating. And it's the hesitation that gnawed at you and never helped you to make the decision.”
— Kenneth Eade, Predatory Kill

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Today	8:30am	Boundaries Adult Class	A new study group on <i>Boundaries – When to Say Yes, How to Say No, to Take Control of Your Life.</i>	Mohawk House - Pres
Today	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Today	11:15am	First Forum	Pictures and Perspectives of Our Creation Retreat at Fowler - Daniel Carlson and other participants	Sanctuary
Nov 14	10am	Horizons Bible Study	We will continue as usual on 11/7 & 11/14, then hold our last class for this study on 12/3.	Mohawk House Pres.
Nov 14	6:30pm	Standing Committees	Individual Committees meet on their own.	Various
Nov 14	7:30pm	Consistory	Officers meeting	Dirck Rom.
Nov 15	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesday evenings. No experience is needed. Call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Sanctuary
Nov 15	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 12 in <i>The Story of Christianity.</i>	Dirck Romeyn
Nov 16	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Contact Joan Lindsay.	Mezzanine
Nov 16	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Can't make it, come to Sunday 9am rehearsals Contact Corine Salon csalon@nycap.rr.com.	Sanctuary
Nov 16	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	Continuing Ed. for some Stephen Ministers; Small Group Peer Supervision for all.	Mohawk House Lunn
Nov 17	11:30am	Group VII & Group V	Let Connie Young know by Nov 15 if you're coming (518)393-7061 cyoung50@nycap.rr.com	Edison Club Boardroom
Nov 19	11:15am	First Forum	History of Moses Viney and Eliphalet Nott Speaker - Gretchel Hathaway	Sanctuary
Nov 19	4pm	Jazz Vespers Thanksgiving	Presented with help from The American Federation Musicians Union Local 85-133.	Sanctuary
Nov 19	5pm	Family Harvest Potluck	Welcome all families with children of all ages interested. RSVP to Dorothy at (518)281-5673.	Mohawk House Lunn
Nov 19	6pm	Youth Group	Meeting at Guru Nanak Darbar for interfaith Thanksgiving service. Families encouraged to attend. Pick-up from the Sikh temple at 7:30pm.	1944 Union St. Schenec.
Nov 21	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	Meeting at Connie Young's. (518)393-7061	Connie Young's
Nov 25	8am	Fellow Committee Hike	Separate hikes one on Northville-Placid Trail & second at Auger Falls, RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.	Church Parking lot
Nov 30	10am	Prayer Shaw Knitting	Meeting in the home of Gini McDermott; 21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna. Not meeting in Dec.	Gini McDermott

Stewardship Sunday, November 12

- 8:00am..... Organ Practice
- 8:30am..... Boundaries Adult Class
- 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

Monday, November 13

- 9:00am..... Men’s News Group

Tuesday, November 14

- 10:00am..... Morning Prayer
- 10:00am..... Horizons Bible Study
- 11:00am..... Admin Staff Meeting
- 6:00am..... Adult Education & Nurture
- 6:00pm..... Archives & Historical
- 6:30pm..... Standing Committees
- 7:30pm..... Consistory

Wednesday, November 15

- 9:30am..... Kerygma Conversations
- 1:00pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting
- 7:00pm..... Adult Ukulele

Thursday, November 16

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

Sunday, November 19

- 8:00am..... Organ Practice
- 8:30am..... Boundaries Adult Class
- 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
- 4:00pm..... Jazz Vespers Thanksgiving
- 5:00pm..... Family Harvest Potluck
- 6:00pm..... Youth Group

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Tim Olsen, Piano	Thanksgiving Vespers
Bookshop	Sarah Howes	Bill Clock
Counting Deacons	Cathy Lewis, Joan Lindsay	Fred Daniels, Richard Gardner
Greeters	Gini McDermott, Gay Doolittle	Bill & Carrie Brooks
Flower Delivery	Doug & Ann Phillips Adam & Rebecca Mason	Lynn Wilkanowski, Joyce Griggs
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Marilyn Leach, Brad Lewis, Don Leach, Cathy Lewis, Thomas Lindsay, Margaret Schadler	Joanne Arnold, Jeanne Shoulder, Jeanette Davidson, Phil Falconer, Norm Kuchar, Bill Rochelle
Reader	Cathy Lewis	Norman Kuchar
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Doug Todd, Tom Zych	Alden Brown, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin