

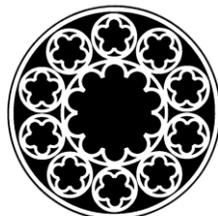
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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 19, 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 office entrance.)

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 the 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.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 19, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Bruce Holden
Let There Be Peace on Earth Sy & Jill Miller
Simple Gifts Shaker Hymn
Ashokan Farewell Jay Unger

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT Jubilate Deo

*HYMN *Simple Gifts* Joseph Brackett

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free
'Tis a gift to come down where I ought to be
And when I am in the place just right
I will be in the valley of love and delight
When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend I will not be ashamed
To turn, to turn will be my delight
'Til by turning, turning, I come 'round right.

*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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pat Melita, Cheryl and Rick Zahner

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES OF
CONFESSING MEMBERS

*PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION

*BLESSING AND WELCOME

We are ambassadors for Christ
We are the salt of the earth;
we are the light of the world.
Welcome our sisters and brothers in Christ.
**Joyfully we receive you. Join with us as we
give witness in the world to the good news,
for we are all one in Christ Jesus.
Alleluia!**

ANTHEM *Empty of Me* David Lantz III

I hunger in the morning for a taste of Your grace.
I thirst for your spirit full and free.
You promised You would fill me with Your power divine
But first I must be empty of me.

There is room in my vessel for the world and its gold,
I gather and embrace the things I see.
But for Your Holy Spirit not a corner remains:
I know I must be empty of me.

Fill me up Lord, I want to overflow:
Fill me up with Your Spirit full and free.

Turn me upside down, pour me on the ground.
Fill me up and keep me empty of me.

So make my heart Your vessel Lord, my soul Your very own.
Full of You is what I long to be
A life that's overflowing with Your mercy and grace.
Fill me up and keep me empty of me.

FIRST LESSON Norm Kuchar
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *1 Thessalonians 5:9-11* (pg 205)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 25:14-30* (pg 28)

SERMON *Mining Meaning* Bill Levering

*HYMN #457
I Greet, Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Come Flood this Heart of Mine
David Lantz III

Come flood this heart of mine with Your great love divine.
Come Spirit make Your home, my heart is Yours alone.
Come flood this heart of mine with Your great love divine.
My eve'ry sin forgive as one with You I live,

Come fill my heart I am longing for Your power.
Your presence and peace will be mine this very hour.
Come fill my heart with Your Spirit in this place
Let my heart overflow with the fullness of Your grace

Make of this heart of mine a vessel wholly Thine.
Drive dark and doubt away O fill me Lord I pray
Come flood this heart of mine with Your true light divine.
Come flood this heart of mine, this heart of mine.

*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 #551
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*
Traditional

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

+ + +

<p>Entered Into Eternal Rest Ruth E. George – 11/15/17 Service TBD</p>

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Janet and Bruce Crandell on thier Wedding Anniversary by their daughters, Donna, Linda and Sandy.

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:

Earl Wainwright, Jean Anderson, Norman Reed, Mary Jane Fleming, Violet Delack, Richard (Dick) Mathews

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.

Restroom

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

Thanksgiving Offering – Today

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. GE matching make the payable to Concern for the Hungary with matching in the memo line.

JAC Book Club and Lunch – Today, 12pm

Please join the JAC as we discuss Chris Graf's book "*A Light in the Window: The City Mission Of Schenectady.*" We are meeting today and on Dec 3 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 info.

Jazz Thanksgiving – Today, 4pm

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.

Family Harvest Time Potluck – Today, 5pm

From 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. 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.

Youth Group – Today, 5pm

The Youth Group is attending the Family Harvest Potluck at 5pm in the Mohawk house. At approximately 5:45pm, the youth group will be heading over to the Interfaith Thanksgiving service at the Sikh temple in Schenectady where Pastor Jonathan will be helping lead worship. Families are invited to this event as well. There will be limited carpooling available from church to the service. The event will be over at 7:30pm and all youth will need to be picked up there. Please see the article about the service in the bulletin for more information, particularly in regards to head-coverings. Please contact Pastor Jonathan with any questions.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – Today, 6pm

Sponsored by the "Schenectady Clergy Against Hate Coalition," members of First Reformed are invited to the first annual "Interfaith Thanksgiving Service" to be held at Guru Nanak Darbar (the Sikh temple) Tonight, located at 1944 Union St., Schenectady NY 12309. Join Pastor Jonathan and other local clergy as we give thanks in this holiday season and celebrate our common goals to seek justice, love, kindness, and to walk humbly together. The event is from **6pm – 7pm** with a time of fellowship and delicious food provided. A love offering will be taken to support the SICM food pantry. Please note that all guests will be asked to remove their shoes and to cover their heads. Coverings will be available for both men and women but you are encouraged to bring your own coverings (scarfs, bandanas, pashminas, and the like).

Double Feature – Nov 25

The Fellow Committee is sponsoring two back-to-back hikes on Saturday, Nov 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.

Advent Festival – Dec 3

Plan now to attend this beloved inter-generational gathering from 5-7pm featuring a covered dish dinner and seasonal activities-- including making Advent wreaths to take home! Those wishing to share a favorite Advent craft or activity may contact Dorothy Linder-Mitchell. Sign up soon in the Dirk Romeyn room, narthex, sanctuary, or the church office.

Annual Troy Victorian Stroll – Dec 3

Celebrate Christmas with your FRC family and friends on Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Annual Troy Victorian Stroll, the Northeast's largest free holiday festival with more than 100 live performances; eat, drink and be merry at dozens of cafes, restaurants and food vendors and wrap up your Christmas shopping at more than 35 clothing, jewelry and gift boutiques. Bundle up and meet in the parking lot directly after church. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

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.

Justice Action Council Food Drive

We are collecting **peanut butter & canned tuna** throughout November. 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. There is a box in the Dirck Romeyn room or you can bring them to Pastor Jonathan's office.

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.

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 17. 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.

“Games are won by players who focus on the playing field -- not by those whose eyes are glued to the scoreboard.” — Warren Buffett

“If you aren't thinking about owning a stock for ten years, don't even think about owning it for ten minutes.” — Warren Buffett

“Investing money is the process of committing resources in a strategic way to accomplish a specific objective.” — Alan Gotthardt,

“Most Americans and Canadians (& earthlings) can save thousands annually with smarter energy choices. That's a lot of bucket list vacations, while providing far better for your own future and living a richer life today.”
— Natalie Pace

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 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	History of Moses Viney and Eliphalet Nott Speaker - Gretchel Hathaway	Sanctuary
Today	12pm	JAC Book Club	"A Light in the Window: The City Mission Of Schenectady." By Chris Graf's book.	Mohawk House Lunn
Today	4pm	Jazz Vespers Thanksgiving	Presented with help from The American Federation Musicians Union Local 85-133.	Sanctuary
Today	5pm	Family Harvest Potluck	Welcome all families with children of all ages interested. RSVP to Dorothy at (518)281-5673.	Mohawk House Lunn
Today	5pm	Youth Group	Attending the Family Harvest Potluck then heading to interfaith Thanksgiving service at 5:45pm. Limited carpooling. Pick-up from the Sikh temple at 7:30pm.	1944 Union
Today	6pm	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	Members of First Reformed are invited to the first annual "Interfaith Thanksgiving Service" to be held at Guru Nanak Darbar (the Sikh temple).	1944 Union
Nov 21	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	Meeting at Connie Young's (518)393-7061.	Connie Young's
Nov 22	11:30am	First Things Volunteers	Help get the Newsletter out on time! Pizza is provided afterwards.	Mohawk House
Nov 22	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Can't make it? Come to Sunday 9am rehearsals Contact Corine Salon csalon@nycap.rr.com.	Sanctuary
Nov 22	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesday evenings. No experience is needed. Call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Sanctuary
Nov 25	8am	Fellowship 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 26	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers will be available to sit with, listen to, and pray for & with you.	Dykstra Chapel
Nov 26	11:15am	First Forum	Coffee and conversation	Sanctuary
Nov 29	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 13 & 14 in <i>The Story of Christianity.</i>	Dirck Romeyn
Nov 30	10am	Prayer Shawl Knitting	Meeting in the home of Gini McDermott; 21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna. Not meeting in Dec.	Gini McDermott
Nov 30	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Contact Joan Lindsay.	Mezzanine
Dec 1	7pm	Avery Presents	"Friendship Singers" will present a program of Christmas music. Located in Delmar, this is an all-woman chorus directed by Marie Liddle.	Sanctuary

Stewardship 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
 10:00am..... Welcome New Members
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:15am..... Forum
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers
 12:00pm..... Staffing Meeting
 12:00pm..... JAC Book Club
 4:00pm..... Jazz Vespers Thanksgiving
 5:00pm..... Family Harvest Potluck
 5:00pm..... Youth Group
 6:00pm..... Youth Group at Sikh temple

Monday, November 20

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

Tuesday, November 21

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

Wednesday, November 22

11:30am..... First Things Volunteers
 1:00pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting
 7:00pm..... Adult Ukulele
 7:00pm..... Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving - Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Office Closed

Sunday, November 26

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
 11:00am..... Care & Prayer
 11:15am..... Forum
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers
 6:00pm..... Youth Group

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Thanksgiving Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano
Bookshop	Bill Clock	Birdie Blackmer
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Richard Gardner	Ellie Brudos, Cynthia Gallagher
Greeters	Bill & Carrie Brooks	Don & Jeanette Davidson, Laura Lee
Flower Delivery	Lynn Wilkanowski, Joyce Griggs	Dorothy Linder-Mitchell, Lynn Wilkanowski
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Jeanne Shoulder, Jeanette Davidson, Phil Falconer, Norm Kuchar, Bill Rochelle	Norma Brown, Darwin Brudos, Jerry Griggs, Joyce Griggs, Del Pierce, Ellie Rowland
Reader	Norman Kuchar	Peg Miller
Ushers	Alden Brown, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough