

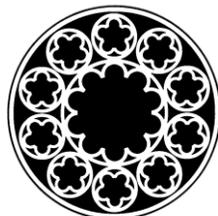
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



December 3, 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.

First Sunday In Advent

December 3, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Chords of Love

Soon and Very Soon Andrae Crouch
Lord Jesus Come Richard Cootes

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
The Pizzolo Family

Capo 1

① Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) ② Ab(G) Eb(D) ③

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and

Ab(G) Eb(D) ④ Ab(G) Eb(D)

all peo-ple will see the sal-va - tion of our God. Pre -

*HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* #2

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

God of all time, we are stuck in empty patterns of our past and long to embrace new insights, hope, and joy. God of right now, move us beyond petty distractions, and focus us on your presence in our lives.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria* #576

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(*From the Brief Statement of Faith*)

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Tom D'Andrea

Jamie Ipsen, percussion

Benjamin Harlan

African Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus

Heaven and earth are filled with Thy glory,
Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is He who comes from the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in excelsis,
Blessed is He who comes from the Lord!

FIRST LESSON

George Trimarco

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.

Amen. *1 Corinthians 1:3-9* (pg 166)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Mark 13:24-37 (pg 50)

SERMON

Waiting Up

Bill Levering

*HYMN *Watchman Tell Us of the Night* #20

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Carol of Joy

poet Eileen Berry

Dan Forrest

Green leaves have fallen, withered and dry,
Brief sunset fading, dim winter sky;
Lengthening shadows, dark closing in;
Then through the stillness, carols begin.

O fallen world, to you is the song!
Death holds you fast and night tarries long.
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy;
Sweet to your ears, a carol of joy.

Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow;
Cold barren hillside shrouded in snow.
Deep empty valley, veiled by the night;
Hear angel music, hopeful and bright.

O fearful world, to you is the song!
Peace with your God, and pardon from wrong.
Tidings for sinners burdened and bound.
Carol of joy, a Savior is found!

Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes!
Thrill to the chorus filling the skies.
Look up, and sad-hearted! Witness God's love;
Join in the carol swelling above!

O friendless world, to you is the song!

All heaven's joy to you may belong!
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn,
Now unto you, a Savior is born!

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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, 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.

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 *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers* #15

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen

Greek

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:

*Robert Bruce Crandell, Katherine Rozendaal,
Arthur E. Peterson, Sally Hahn*

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.

Church School Notes

Today: Advent I: Grades K – 6 regular church school; Important Youth Music rehearsal 11:15 – noon; Advent Festival 5 – 7pm

Youth Group

Today: All youth are encouraged to attend the All-Church Advent Festival from 5–7pm. We'll have specific activities for the youth group.

Sunday Dec. 10: End of the year holiday party from 6-7:30pm. We'll have dinner together and play some holiday games. Join us!

Annual Troy Victorian Stroll – Today

Celebrate Christmas with your FRC family and friends today, 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 at 12pm. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

JAC Book Club and Lunch – Today

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 at 12pm in the Mohawk House for discussion, reflection and consideration of how we can support the light in the window.

Advent Festival – Today

Gather with people of all ages on the evening of the first Sunday of Advent in the Mohawk House from 5-7pm for a covered dish dinner and seasonal activities. For the meal, bring food to share that begins with the letter A (for Advent) or food that is purple or blue (contemporary Advent colors). After our dinner, crafts will include making Advent wreaths from natural materials. We will conclude with a brief liturgy around our candlelit wreaths.

WORD Service – Dec 8

Ashok Ramasubramanian, featured on the Moth Radio Hour, will lead off the story telling in this quiet worship setting, 7pm in the sanctuary.

Breakfast with Saint Nicholas - Dec 10

No matter your age, join us Sunday, Dec 10 from 8:30-9:45am in the Dirk Romeyn room for a complimentary Dutch breakfast. We will have chocolate sprinkle sandwiches, strong coffee, oatmeal, and speculaas cookies, followed by a visit from the just and generous Sinterklaas, telling stories, and giving gifts!

Special Music Dates - Dec 17

The FRC Choir and Union College Orchestra will join together for the Morton Lauridsen *O Magnum Mysterium* and the anthem *How Great the Joy*.

Faith Bookshop/Heritage Room

Today, on the blue cart in the Book Shop there are some Advent Calendars longing to have their little boxes opened. You can enjoy the tradition for only one dollar. Open every Sunday after worship.

Christmas Displays in Narthex

"And a little child shall lead them"

Take a moment to view this Advent season's Narthex displays. See the beautifully hand carved ARI Kuolt wooden figures of the David Coons Van Voast Memorial Crèche and other special Christmas items.

Gifts for the Men of City Mission

Now is the time you can bring Christmas gifts of new warm clothing the manger for the Men of City Mission. Pick up a suggested gift tag from the basket located next to the manger. Gifts can be brought unwrapped to the manger through **Sunday, December 17. NOTE: The manger is located in the Dirk Romeyn room.**

Johnson Library

There is a collection of Christmas books in the Heritage Room which are for both adults and children. Some of the larger children's books are placed on the racks outside the door of the Heritage room. Most are from the library's collection of Christmas books but some are new. You can find a list of the books with a description of their contents placed on the table near the Dirk Romeyn room.

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.

Restroom

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

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24

10:00am Christmas Worship

Join our regular celebration with the choir.

5:00pm..... Intergenerational Service

This interactive early service celebrates the astounding arrival of the Christ and is especially fitting for children and their families, though all are invited to the miracle and mystery of God with us.

8:30pm..... Music of the Season

Harpist Lydia Zotto is playing *A Ceremony of Carols*, with the choir.

9:00pm..... Carols and Candles Service

Find the beauty of hundreds of small candles and majesty of the Christmas story. This year we are featuring violinist Ann Marie Barker Schwartz and a beautiful anthem *Come to Where the Shepherds Kneel*.

11:00pm Christmas Jazz Vespers

This year our late service will feature Nat Phipps with Pete Toigo on bass. Quiet Communion will be celebrated too.

“It's hard being left behind. (...) It's hard to be the one who stays.” — Audrey Niffenegger

“I've learned that waiting is the most difficult bit, and I want to get used to the feeling, knowing that you're with me, even when you're not by my side.” — Paulo Coelho

“Waiting hurts. Forgetting hurts. But not knowing which decision to take can sometimes be the most painful...” — José N. Harris

“Then I thought, boy, isn't that just typical? You wait and wait and wait for something, and then when it happens, you feel sad.” — Sharon Creech, *Absolutely Normal Chaos*

“For a long time, she held a special place in my heart. I kept this special place just for her, like a "Reserved" sign on a quiet corner table in a restaurant. Despite the fact that I was sure I'd never see her again.” — Haruki Murakami

“We never live; we are always in the expectation of living.” — Voltaire

“After you find out all the things that can go wrong, your life becomes less about living and more about waiting.” — Chuck Palahniuk

“Are you ready?” Klaus asked finally.

“No,” Sunny answered.

“Me neither,” Violet said, “but if we wait until we're ready we'll be waiting for the rest of our lives, Let's go.” — Lemony Snicket

“I have noticed that the people who are late are often so much jollier than the people who have to wait for them.” — Edward Verrall Lucas

“Waiting on God requires the willingness to bear uncertainty, to carry within oneself the unanswered question, lifting the heart to God about it whenever it intrudes upon one's thoughts.” — Elisabeth Elliot

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	9am	Chancel Choir	For singers who can't make Thursday rehearsals	Sanctuary
Today	11:15am	First Forum	Staffing Discussions with Congregation Staffing Planning Committee & Rev. Bill Levering	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	12pm	Victorian Stroll	Meet in the parking lot at 12pm. RSVP to James Gonda, jgonda12309@gmail.com 607-765-5349.	Offsite
Today	3pm	New Members Class	Interested folks are invited to a membership orientation that includes a tour of the church.	Church Office
Today	5pm	Advent Festival	Inter-generational gathering featuring a covered dish dinner, seasonal crafts, and devotions.	Mohawk House
Today	5pm	Youth Group	Attending at Advent Festival	Mohawk House
Dec 4	11am	Group V	Contact Maria Todd with any questions (518)882-6555.	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 5	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writer's Group of 1,000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
Dec 6	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 13 & 14 in <i>The Story of Christianity.</i>	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 7	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Contact Joan Lindsay.	Mezzanine
Dec 8	7pm	Word Service	Ashok Ramasubramanian, featured on the Moth Radio Hour, will lead off the story telling.	Sanctuary
Dec 10	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
Dec 10	8:30am	Breakfast with Saint Nicholas	No matter your age, join us for a complimentary Dutch breakfast, followed by a visit from the just and generous Sinterklaas, telling stories & gifts!	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 10	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Dec 12	6:30pm	Standing Committees	Individual Committees meet on their own.	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 12	7:30pm	Consistory	Officers meeting	Various

Sunday, December 3

8:00am..... Organ Practice
 8:30am..... Boundaries Adult Class
 9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am..... Chords of Love
 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:0am..... Communion
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:00am..... Bookshop/Library
 11:15am..... Forum
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers
 12:00pm..... JAC Book Club
 12:00pm..... Troy Victorian Stroll
 3:00pm..... New Members Class
 5:00pm..... Advent Festival
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, December 4

9:00am..... Men's News Group
 11:00am..... Group V
 7:00pm..... Adult Ukulele

Tuesday, December 5

10:00am..... Morning Prayer
 10:00am..... Horizons
 11:00am..... Admin Staff Meeting
 11:30am..... Support & Care
 7:00pm..... Short Short Writing

Wednesday, December 6

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

Thursday, December 7

7:30am..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00am..... Stitch Group
 2:00pm..... Covenant Fund Meeting
 7:30pm..... Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 8

7:00pm..... WORD Service

Sunday, December 10

8:00am..... Organ Practice
 8:30am..... Boundaries Adult Class
 8:30am..... Breakfast w/ Saint Nicholas
 9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am..... Chords of Love
 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:00am..... Bookshop/Library
 11:15am..... Forum
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers
 6:00pm..... Youth Group Party

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, Pete Togio, Tom D'Andrea	Dave Gleason, piano
Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Committee Member
Counting Deacons	Lyn Gordon, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Dave Hjelm, Lisa Etkin
Flower Delivery	Dick & Natalie Davis, David & Elsa Hjelm	Dick & Judy Arthur Pat Melita
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Art Casey, Liz Mastrianni, Jeanne Shoulder, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Walt Robb, Barbara Walton	Marilyn Leach, Audrey Bain, Peggy King, Don Leach, Richard Rose, Margaret Schadler
Reader	George Trimarco	Gene Rowland
Ushers	Michael Horan (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps