

***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 10, 2017***



***First Reformed Church  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://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 live stream of the worship service as well as some of the past services can be found at [1stReformed.com](http://1stReformed.com).

### **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.

## Second Sunday In Advent

December 10, 2017

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Johnny Willis

*Of the Father's Lover Begotten* Plainsong  
*All Kinds of Roses* Yusuf Islam  
*Peace Train* Cat Stevens

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  
Stephanie and Atlas Parker

Capo 1

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

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

\*HYMN *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* #5

\*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 *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*  
David Clydesdale

The voice of one crying in the wilderness,  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
Ev'ry valley shall be filled, and ev'ry mountain be  
made low.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness,  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

The crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough places plain.  
And all flesh shall see, and all flesh shall see  
The salvation of our God!

*Isaiah 40:3 – 5*

FIRST LESSON Gene Rowland  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** *Isaiah 40:1-11* (pg 667)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 1:1-8* (pg 32)

SERMON *Getting Ready* Bill Levering

\*HYMN *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* #11

MINUTE FOR MISSION Christmas Offering

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Celtic Advent Carol*  
Angerman and Barrett

Be not afraid, I bring you good news.  
The Savior is coming in glory to you.  
He shall be called "God's Holy One."  
Will you be ready for Him when he comes?

Light the candle, Jesus is coming,  
Open your hearts, prepare ye the way.  
Sleepers awake, for soon is the dawning.  
He will turn night into glorious day.

Be of good cheer and put away fear,  
the light now is coming to dry ev'ry tear.  
Love now with us, God's perfect Son.  
Will you be ready for Him when he comes?

Veni, Emmanuel.  
Come now and ransom Israel.  
Veni, Emmanuel. Jesus is coming.  
Could He be coming today?

\*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 *People, Look East* #12

\*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:

*Marguerite Carr, Ethel Avery, Harold W. Lapham, Dee Gravink, Adeline Graham, Ruth Arthur*

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.

**Music Notes**

Abby Levering, violin; Ellie Kamph, flute; Johnny Willis, mandolin; David Cotter, guitar; Tom D'Andrea and Jamie Ipsen, Percussion; All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700. Used by permission under CCLI #11256325.

**Church School Notes**

**Today:** Advent II: Grades K – 6 regular church school; important Youth Music rehearsal 11:15 – 12pm.

**Dec 17:** Advent III: Grades K – 6 regular church school; important Youth Music rehearsal 11:15 – 12pm.

**Youth Group**

**Today:** End of the year holiday party from 6-7:30pm. We'll have dinner together and play some holiday games. Join us! No Youth Group December 17, We'll start back up next year.

**Poinsettia Flower Delivery**

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, **December 17** to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our care and support to church members not able to join us for worship.

**Christmas Offering 2017**

Unfortunately, many of Schenectady's children have trouble connecting with people who believe in them. This year's Christmas offering will benefit two local programs which support Schenectady youth, the **Working Group on Girls' "Girl Circles"** activities and the **"Boy's Day Out"** program coordinated by Dennis Green. Both programs connect at-risk youth with adult muses/mentors in settings intended to foster the young people's belief in themselves and their abilities.

**Restroom**

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

### **PHD Stitch Group**

The last meeting for the year of the PHD\* Stitch Group will be on December 14. We will start meeting again on Thursday, January 11 from 10 to noon. (\*Projects Half Done)

### **On Dec 17 Special Music**

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

### **Carol Sing-A-Long**

On December 17, after worship, Jamie and the Ukuleles will lead us in the cutest sing along you have ever been a part of. Right after worship and hot chocolate, we will gather back in the sanctuary for a wonderful time.

### **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 Dirck Romeyn room.

### **Faith Bookshop/Heritage Room**

Three books to delight children (and adults) are available they are *The Giving Tree*, *The Poet's Dog* and *Miss Fannie's Hat*. For adults, *Watch For The Light* a book of readings for Advent and Christmas by renown writers is on sale. Please stop in the shop, which is just beyond Dirck Romeyn room. Browsers welcome! Open every Sunday after worship.

### **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 Dirck Romeyn room.

### **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 contact 1streformedpub@gmail.com (518)377-2201 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.

### **The Chrismon Tree**

Chrismons are a type of Christmas tree decoration used in many churches and often in the homes of Christians. They were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957. Chrismons are white with gold decorations of beads and ribbon. "Chrismon" is a word comprised of Christ and monogram. The symbols represent a variety of Biblical concepts that are well known to most believers. Mrs. Harrison Todd made the first Chrismon tree for a tree decoration festival at the Schenectady Museum. After the festival, she donated the ornaments to the First Reformed Church. Take a moment to enjoy the Chrismon Tree displayed in the Dirck Romeyn room.

### **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.

### **Undergarment Collection at 5pm Service**

We are collecting new underwear and socks during our 5pm Christmas Eve service. If you wish to donate undergarments and will not be attending the 5pm service, just drop them off at the front of the sanctuary at any service.

## **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.

## **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.



“Healthy discontent is the prelude to progress.” — Mahatma Gandhi

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” — Albert Einstein

“Love can change a person the way a parent can change a baby- awkwardly, and often with a great deal of mess.”  
— Lemony Snicket,

“Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.” — George Bernard Shaw

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” — Benjamin Franklin

“I will prepare and some day my chance will come.” — Abraham Lincoln

“All things are ready, if our mind be so.”  
— William Shakespeare, Henry V

“Champions do not become champions when they win the event, but in the hours, weeks, months and years they spend preparing for it. The victorious performance itself is merely the demonstration of their championship character.” — Alan Armstrong

“Organize, don't agonize.” — Nancy Pelosi

“There is always a part of my mind that is preparing for the worst, and another part of my mind that believes if I prepare enough for it, the worst won't happen.”  
— Kay Redfield Jamison

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Place</b>
Dec 10	8:30am	<b>Boundaries Adult Class</b>	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	<b>Breakfast with Saint Nicholas</b>	No matter your age join us for a complimentary Dutch breakfast, visit Sinterklaas, stories & gifts!	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 10	9am	<b>Chords of Love</b>	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Dec 10	9am	<b>Chancel Choir</b>	For singers who can't make Thursday rehearsals.	Sanctuary
Dec 10	11:15am	<b>First Forum</b>	Christmas Offering - Working Group on Girls' "Girl Circles" and "Boy's Day Out".	Sanctuary
Dec 10	6pm	<b>Youth Group</b>	End of the year holiday party.	Mohawk House
Dec 11	7pm	<b>Adult Ukulele</b>	Additional Rehearsal	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 12	6:30pm	<b>Standing Committees</b>	Individual Committees meet on their own.	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 12	7:30pm	<b>Consistory</b>	Officers meeting	Various
Dec 13	9:30am	<b>Kerygma Conversations</b>	Discussion of chapter 18 in <i>The Story of Christianity.</i>	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 13	6pm	<b>Fellowship Meal</b>	Complimentary dinner & informal conversations shared before Contemplative Worship.	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 13	7pm	<b>Contemplative Worship</b>	Reflective service of song, Scripture, communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.	Sanctuary
Dec 13	7pm	<b>Adult Ukulele</b>	Ukuleles play during Contemplative Worship.	Sanctuary
Dec 14	10am	<b>Stitch Group</b>	Our last meeting for the year. Will start back up on Jan 11.	Mezzanine
Dec 14	6:30pm	<b>Chancel Choir</b>	Can't make it? Come to Sunday 9am rehearsals Contact Corine Salon csalon@nycap.rr.com.	Sanctuary
Dec 17	8:30am	<b>Boundaries Adult Class</b>	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 17	9am	<b>Chords of Love</b>	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Dec 17	9am	<b>Chancel Choir</b>	For singers who can't make Thursday rehearsals.	Sanctuary
Dec 17	10am	<b>Special Music</b>	The FRC Choir and Union College Orchestra will join together during Worship.	Sanctuary
Dec 17	11am	<b>Flower Delivery</b>	More mobile members deliver poinsettias and cards to home-bound members and friends.	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 17	11:15am	<b>First Forum</b>	Christmas Carol Sing with Jamie & the Ukuleles.	Sanctuary
Dec 19	7pm	<b>Chancel Choir</b>	Additional rehearsal to get ready for eve services.	Sanctuary

**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  
 12:00pm..... Staffing Committee Meeting  
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers  
 6:00pm..... Youth Group Party

**Monday, December 11**

9:00am..... Mens News Group  
 7:00pm..... Adult Ukulele

**Tuesday, December 12**

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

**Wednesday, December 13**

9:30am..... Kerygma  
 1:00pm..... Archives  
 1:00pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting  
 2:00pm..... Staff Meeting  
 6:00pm..... Fellowship Meal  
 7:00pm..... Contemplative Worship

**Thursday, December 14**

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

**Sunday, December 17**

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..... Flower Delivery  
 11:00am..... Bookshop/Library  
 11:15am..... Forum – Carol Sing-A-Long  
 11:15am..... Kirk Ringers  
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Jazz Vespers</b>	Dave Gleason, piano	Peg & Bill Delaney, Tom D'Andrea
<b>Bookshop</b>	Christina Jones	Nancy Wainwright
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Dave Hjelm, Lisa Etkin	Sarah Bachorik, Richard Rose
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Dick & Judy Arthur Pat Melita	Any willing and able members deliver poinsettias
<b>Greeters</b>	Christina & Matt Jones	
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Marilyn Leach, Audrey Bain, Peggy King, Don Leach, Richard Rose, Margaret Schadler	Joanne Arnold, Del Pierce, Norma Brown, Phil Falconer, Thomas Lindsay, Eleanor Rowland
<b>Reader</b>	Gene Rowland	Nancy Wainwright
<b>Refreshments</b>	Sarah Howes	Vernetta Thuener, Karen Norton
<b>Ushers</b>	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps	Bill Clock, Julia Etkin, Lisa Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright