

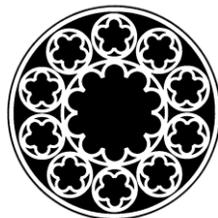
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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 17, 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 live stream of the worship service as well as some of the past services can be found at 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.

Third Sunday In Advent

December 17, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Air for Alto and Soprano from the Messiah

George Frederick Handel

He shall feed his flocks like a Shepherd

Kate Rose

Come unto him all ye that labour

Lisa Backman

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 Linder-Mitchell Family

Capo 1

① Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) ② Ab(G) Eb(D) ③

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare 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

Prepare the Way

#13

*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

O Magnum Mysterium Morton Lauridsen

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy
to bear our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

FIRST LESSON

Nancy Wainwright

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

Amen. *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11* (pg 691)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John 1:1-6, 19-28 (pg 91)

SERMON

Bill Levering

The Ministry of Proclamation

*HYMN

#8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

How Great Our Joy

Craig Courtney

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright,
How great our joy, how great our joy.

There shall be born in coming days,
In Bethlehem a Child they say.
How great our joy, how great our joy.

There shall a Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem us all.
This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That every joy our hearts shall fill.

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
How great our joy, How great our joy.

*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 *Comfort, Comfort You My People* #3

*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:

*Paul L. Abbey, John Young, Robert Brown,
Clarence Gillespie*

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.

Entered into Eternal Rest

Robert Ward – July 8, 2017

Janet Veal – Dec 13, 2017

Music Notes

Morton Lauridsen wrote *O Magnum* in 6 months on an island in a cabin with no electricity. He was inspired by Zubaran's still life painting from 1633 of citrons, orange blossoms, a cup of water and a rose, religious symbols of his time. He sought to convey God's grace to the meek and the veneration of Mary and to relate history and religion. Musically this piece is related to high renaissance composers like Josquin des Prez and Palestrina with music coming out of Gregorian chant.

We are grateful for the participation in worship Orchestra Members: Teresa Norton, Virginia Boyle Traver, Carol Blom, Jennifer Cornell, Violin; Edith Kliman, Karl Brosch, Viola; Ralph Thomas, Bassoon; Cathie-Jo Brun, Olivia Cox, Cello. Guest Singers: Matthew Hacker, Celia Murray, Janet Stasio, Tom Johnson, Marjorie Rush.

Prepare the Way Jacques Berthier 1984 GIA Pub. Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

Church School Notes

Today: Grades K–6 church school; Christmas Rehearsal at 12pm, lunch will be served.

Dec 24: Grades K–6 church school; Christmas Rehearsal at 11am. Every participant in the 5pm service must be in the sanctuary at 4pm sharp for instructions. Please do not be late!

Youth Group

No Youth Group. We'll start back up next year. If you are still interested in the Philadelphia mission trip (Feb. 18-22), there is still room but we need to know soon! Please contact Pastor Jonathan ASAP.

Carol Sing-A-Long

Today, 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.

Poinsettia Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed **Today** 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.

Gifts for the Men of City Mission

Today is the last day to bring Christmas gifts unwrapped to the manger located in the Dirck Romeyn room.

Calling all FRC & UPC Youth Choir Alumni

This year for our 5pm Christmas Eve service we are looking to have as many First Reformed and UPC alumni who grew up in our churches to stand and sing together. In past years, we have had a choir consisting of our recent alumni and we would like to expand our possibilities! This year we would like to include ALL of our past youth participants in singing a song together. Email Jamie Ipsen to let her know if you will be attending the 5pm service so she can plan a rehearsal if needed! JamieIpsen88@gmail.com.

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.

Just In Time For Christmas

The fifth and newest edition of *The Beverwyck Anthology* is OUT! Your complimentary copy of First Reformed's literary journal can be found in the bookstore, awaiting your pickup.

Restroom

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

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.

Follow that Star!

Mark your 2018 calendars now for the culminating celebration of Christmastide Epiphany! This year, on January 6, 5-7:30pm we'll be celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi with a Epiphany Party at the Mancos's. All welcome - see First Things for further details.

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 mentors in settings intended to foster the young people's belief in themselves and their abilities.

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 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 with the choir is Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* with some tradition carols and anthems.

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 with the choir on the beautiful anthems *On This Still and Silent Night* and the *Caccini /Navilov Ave Maria*.

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.

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.

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 and reasonably priced. Please stop in the shop, which is just beyond Dirck Romeyn room.

"It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. A number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their [the communists'] terms. It was a deal; we preached and they beat us. We were happy preaching. They were happy beating us, so everyone was happy." — Richard Wurmbrand, Tortured for Christ

"A man who first tried to guess 'what the public wants,' and then preached that as Christianity because the public wants it, would be a pretty mixture of fool and knave" — C.S. Lewis, Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer

"We must seize every opportunity we can to speak the truth and proclaim peace. Especially now. There's so little time for many." — Francine Rivers, A Voice in the Wind

"To be the salt, you also need to be the shaker. To shake the world. Shake the truth. Shake the people. Shake the word. Have it sprinkle, melt and preserve humanity." — Anthony Liccione

"Don't let the muggles get you down." — J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

"Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Instruction does much, but encouragement everything." — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Dec 17	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 17	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Dec 17	9am	Chancel Choir	For singers who can't make Thursday rehearsals.	Sanctuary
Dec 17	10am	Special Music	The FRC Choir and Union College Orchestra will join together during Worship.	Sanctuary
Dec 17	11am	Flower Delivery	Deliver Poinsettias and cards to home-bound members and friends.	Sanctuary
Dec 17	11:15am	First Forum	Christmas Carol Sing with Jamie & the Ukuleles.	Sanctuary
Dec 19	7pm	Chancel Choir	Additional rehearsal to get ready for eve services.	Sanctuary
Dec 19	7pm	Tuesday Ladies	We will meet at Connie Young's place. Call her if you are coming (518)393-7061.	Connie Young's
Dec 19	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
Dec 20	11am	First Things Volunteers	Help send off our Newsletter. Pizza will be provided.	Mohawk House Lunn
Dec 20	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 19 & 20 in <i>The Story of Christianity.</i>	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 20	6pm	Consistory Training Class	Email Jonathan at revjonathan16@gmail.com or call the church office.	Mohawk House Pres
Dec 20	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed. Call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 21	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	All active Stephen Ministers meet for continuing education & small group peer supervision.	Mohawk House
Dec 21	7pm	Chancel Choir	All Choir attend for Christmas.	Sanctuary
Dec 22	9:30am	Chancel Guild	Vesting of Sanctuary	Sanctuary
Dec 24	10am	Worship Service	Join our regular celebration with the choir.	Sanctuary
Dec 24	5pm	Intergenerational Service	An interactive service, especially fitting for children & their families though all are invited.	Sanctuary
Dec 24	8:30pm	Music of the Season	Harpist Lydia Zotto is playing A Ceremony of Carols, with the choir.	Sanctuary
Dec 24	9pm	Carols and Candles Service	Find the beauty of hundreds of small candles and majesty of the Christmas story. We are featuring violinist Ann Marie Barker Schwartz.	Sanctuary
Dec 24	11pm	Christmas Jazz Vespers	This year our late service will feature Nat Phipps with Pete Toigo on bass. Quiet Communion will be celebrated too.	Sanctuary

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
 12:00pm.....Christmas Eve Rehearsal
 5:00pm.....Jazz Vespers

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

10:00am.....Morning Prayer
 11:00am.....Admin Staff Meeting
 7:00pm.....Choir Rehearsal
 7:00pm.....Short Short Writing

Wednesday, December 20

9:30am.....Kerygma
 11:00am.....First Things Volunteers
 1:00pm.....Pastoral Meeting
 6:00pm.....Consistory Training
 7:00pm.....Adult Ukulele

Thursday, December 21

7:30amBreakfast Bible Bunch
 6:30pmStephen Ministry
 7:00pmChoir Rehearsal

Friday, December 22

9:30amChancel Guild Vesting

Christmas Eve**Sunday, December 24**

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
 11:00am Christmas Eve Rehearsal
 11:00am Bookshop/Library
 11:15am Kirk Ringers
 5:00pm Intergenerational Service
 8:30pm Music of the Seasons
 9:00pm 9pm Christmas Service
 11:00pm Christmas Jazz Vespers

Jazz Vespers	Peg & Bill Delaney, Tom D'Andrea	Christmas Jazz Vespers at 11pm
Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Bookshop Closed
Counting Deacons	Sarah Bachorik, Richard Rose	Christina Jones, Gay Doolittle
Flower Delivery	Willing and able members deliver Poinsettias to home-bound.	No Flower Delivery
Greeters	Ralph Rosenthal, Helle Moore Peggy King	Sarah Bachorik
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Del Pierce, Norma Brown, Phil Falconer, Thomas Lindsay, Eleanor Rowland	Barbara Walton, Darwin Brudos, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Mary Jewett, Maria Todd
Reader	Nancy Wainwright	Barbara Walton
Refreshments	Vernetta Thuener, Karen Norton	Membership & Fellowship
Ushers	Bill Clock, Julia Etkin, Lisa Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce, Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Doug Todd, Tom Zych