

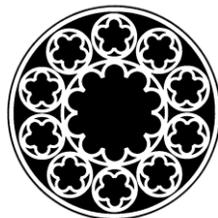
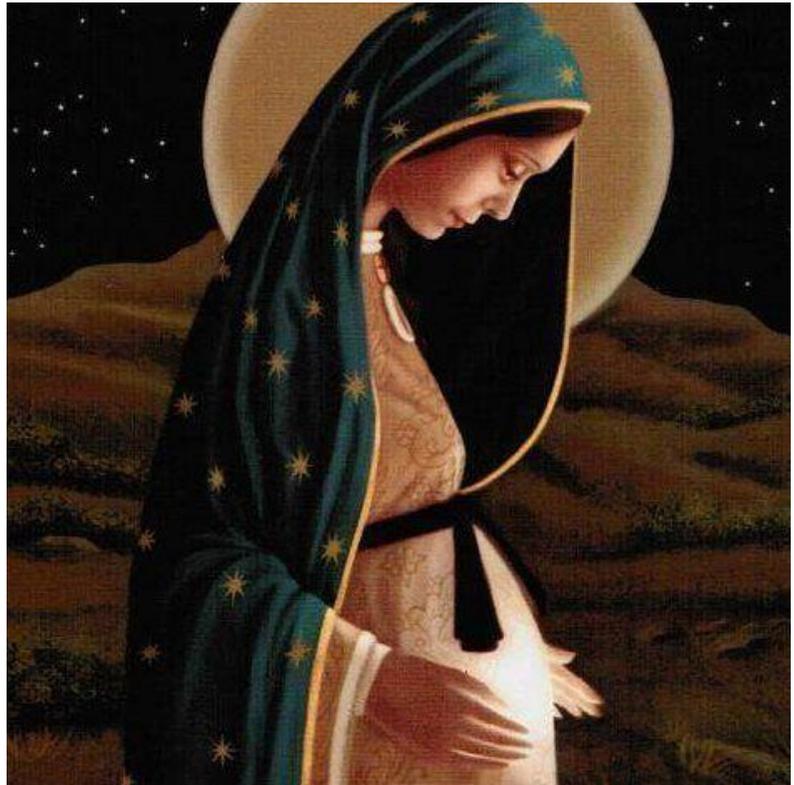
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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 24, 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.

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

*PASSING THE PEACE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Psalmodia Evangelica
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
15th Century French Carol
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Rowland H. Prichard

ANTHEM
Adam Lay Ybounden Boris Ord

Adam Lay Ybounde, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written in their book

10:00 a.m.

Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady a been heavene queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

FIRST LESSON Barbara Walton
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Luke 1:47-55* (pg 57)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
The Muse-Crusan 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 -

SECOND LESSON *Luke 1:26-38* (pg 56)

SERMON *Expecting* Bill Levering

*HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #9

*HYMN *Song of Mary* #600

*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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming,

Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming,
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria* #576

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Saviour
When half-spent was the night.

*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

*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 *In the Bleak Midwinter* #36

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen Traditional

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:

*Helen H. Masjoan, R. Ned Landon,
Fran Zentmire, Jean Collins, Jean Bowman*

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

Peg Norton – Dec 15, 2017

Memorial service is on January 3 at 3pm.

Restroom

If you are looking for a first floor handicap accessible restroom the Mohawk House is open.

Church School Notes

Today: 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!

Christmas Offering

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"**. Both programs connect at-risk youth with adult mentors in settings intended to foster the young people's belief in themselves and their abilities.

TONIGHT

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 undergarments during our 5pm Christmas Eve service. The undergarments received will go to those effected by the recent hurricane in Puerto Rico.

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 Corner of the sanctuary.

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.

After Christmas Hike – Dec 30

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring an easy excursion to Bennett Hill near Feura Bush, NY, (Albany County) on December 30. This trek is a 2.6 mile loop with a gentle ascent to 662 feet. Pack a lunch and dress for cold, perhaps snowy conditions; meet in the church parking lot at 9am. RSVP to James Gonda 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Music Notes

Both of the texts from the two anthems today have been set by many different composers. Prepare the Way Jacques Berthier 1984 GIA Pub. Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

"You are the closest I will ever come to magic."
— Suzanne Finnamore, *The Zygote Chronicles*

"When you're pregnant, you can think of nothing but having your own body to yourself again, yet after having given birth you realize that the biggest part of you is now somehow external, subject to all sorts of dangers and disappearance, so you spend the rest of your life trying to figure out how to keep it close enough for comfort. That's the strange thing about being a mother: until you have a baby, you don't even realize how much you were missing one."
— Jodi Picoult, *Vanishing Acts*

"When you moved, I felt squeezed with a wild infatuation and protectiveness. We are one. Nothing, not even death, can change that."
— Suzanne Finnamore, *The Zygote Chronicles*

"Remember this, for it is as true as true gets: Your body is not a lemon. You are not a machine. The Creator is not a careless mechanic. Human female bodies have the same potential to give birth well as aardvarks, lions, rhinoceri, elephants, moose, and water buffalo. Even if it has not been your habit throughout your life so far, I recommend that you learn to think positively about your body."
— Ina May Gaskin

"That first pregnancy is a long sea journey to a country where you don't know the language, where land is in sight for such a long time that after a while it's just the horizon - and then one day birds wheel over that dark shape and it's suddenly close, and all you can do is hope like hell that you've had the right shots."
— Emily Perkins, *Novel About My Wife*

"Pregnancy seems designed to prepare you for life as a mother. You start making sacrifices nine months before the child is born, so by the time they put in an appearance you are used to giving things up for them."
— Brett Kiellerop-Morris

The sanctuary and chapel is adorned to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

- Margaret (Peg) Shultes by her family
- Our parents Alice & Russell Jones and Dr. Charles Assini by Drs. John & Carolyn Assini
- David Bain by Audrey Bain & family
- Dick Blackmer by his family
- Julie Lawton who loved Christmas by Vicki Brooks and John Lawton
- Dorothy Davidson, Donna Porter, George and Pauline Gaige by Jeanette and Don Davidson
- Parents and siblings by Gay & Joe Doolittle
- Bill Dotter by his wife Elsie & children
- Warren D. & Ethel F. Barrett by their children, grandchildren, and great grandson
- Sylvia & Dolph Ebeling, Lorraine Ebeling and Elyne Shultes by Scott & Bev Ebeling and Dianne Schwartz
- Carlton W. Dyer by his wife, Janice B. Dyer
- Rudolph & Therese Mahlberg, and Paul Erickson by the Erickson family
- William & Louise Stange & Sam Croce by Marlene Risseeuw & the Erickson family
- Janet R. Crandell and Bruce Crandell by their daughters Donna, Sandy and Linda Fentiman
- Janet Gardner and Gardner Families by Richard
- Merry Christmas by Marjorie Geiger
- Loved ones by Cynthia Hamilton
- Leroy Jewett by his family
- Scott Jewett by his family
- Tom & Viola Ruckman, Tom Ruckman Jr. and Ross & Hazel Marrs by the Kiesow & Tobin families
- R. Ned Landon by his wife, Barbara
- Harold Lapham by his family
- Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Lovell Sr. and Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Cox by Joseph and Theo Lovell
- Neil W. Moynihan by Sandy Moynihan & family
- Dorothy & Edmund Sanderson by Neil & Sandy Moynihan
- Dr. Henry & Emily Nagamatsu by Nancy, Brian, Felicia and Tim
- Loved ones by Anne Peterson
- Loved ones by Richard and Kate Rose
- To honor our family by Ellie & Gene Rowland
- Dr. Alfred Tuttle and Louise Scholl Tuttle, Corine's parents
- Eldon Springsted by his wife, Elaine
- Daniel J. Thuener by his wife, Vernetta and family
- Donald Troost and Dena Van Heynigen by Carol, Deborah & Matt
- Earl Wainwright by Nancy, Jeff, Tim, Dori, Leanne, Jon, Nick, Tom and Katie
- Anne Shepherd Wemple, Robert V. Shepherd & Susan Shepherd by the Welch family
- Palmer V. Welch, Marian A. Welch, Mary C. Welch by the Welch family
- Carolyn Shepherd Welch by the Welch family
- Glenn Winchester by his family and loved ones



| Date | Time | Event | Description | Place |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Dec 24 | 9am | Chords of Love | We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed. | Mezzanine |
| Dec 24 | 9am | Chancel Choir | For singers who can't make Thursday rehearsals. | Sanctuary |
| Dec 24 | 10am | Worship Service | Join our regular celebration with the choir. | Sanctuary |
| Dec 24 | 11am | Christmas Eve Rehearsal | Every participant in the 5pm service must be in the sanctuary at 4pm sharp for instructions. Please do not be late! | Sanctuary |
| Dec 24 | 5pm | Intergenerational Service | An interactive service, fitting for children and 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. 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 |
| Dec 25 & 26 – Office Closed | | | | |
| Dec 28 | 7pm | Chancel Choir | Can't make it? Come to Sunday 9am rehearsals Contact Corine Salon csalon@nycap.rr.com. | Sanctuary |
| Dec 30 | 9am | Fellowship Hike | Pack a lunch and dress for cold, perhaps snowy conditions. RSVP to James Gonda 607-765-5349, jgonda12309@gmail.com. | Church parking lot |
| Dec 31 | 8:30am | Boundaries Adult Class | Study group on <i>Boundaries-When to Say Yes, How to Say No, to Take Control of Your Life</i> | Mohawk House Pres |
| Dec 31 | 9am | Chancel Choir | For singers who can't make Thursday rehearsals | Sanctuary |
| Dec 31 | 11am | Care & Prayer | Trained Stephen Ministers will be available to sit with, listen to, and pray for & with you. | Dykstra Chapel |
| Jan 1 – Office Closed | | | | |
| Jan 1 | 4pm | Pastor's Open House | Abby and Bill Levering will host an open house at their place from 4 - 8pm. | 923 Northumberland Niskayuna |
| Jan 2 | 7pm | Short Short Writing | Writing group for 1000 words or less. | Mohawk House Lunn |
| Jan 3 | 9:30am | Kerygma Conversations | Discussion of chapter 21 & 22 in <i>The Story of Christianity</i> . | Dirck Romeyn |
| Jan 3 | 3pm | Memorial Service | Peg Norton Memorial Service | Sanctuary |
| Jan 6 | 5pm | Epiphany Party | Celebrate Christ's manifestation to the Magi | Mancuso's Home |

Sunday, December 24**Christmas Eve**

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

Monday, December 25**Tuesday, December 26****Office Closed****Wednesday, December 27**

1:00pm..... Pastoral Meeting

Thursday, December 28

7:30am..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
 7:00pm..... Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 31**New Year's Eve**

8:00am..... Organ Practice
 8:30am..... Adult Boundaries Class
 9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
 10:00am..... Worship
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:00am..... Care & Prayer
 11:00am..... Bookshop/Library
 11:15am..... Forum
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

| | December 24, 10am | December 31, 10am |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Jazz Vespers | Christmas Jazz Vespers at 11pm | Wayne Hawkins, solo piano |
| Bookshop | Bookshop Closed | Bookshop Closed |
| Counting Deacons | Gay Doolittle | Matt Jones, Bill Rochelle |
| Flower Delivery | No Flower Delivery | No Flower Delivery |
| Greeters | Sarah Bachorik | Jim & Sharron McCullough Lisa Etkin |
| Preacher | Bill Levering | Bill Levering |
| Liturgist | Daniel Carlson | Daniel Carlson |
| Processing Elders | Barbara Walton, Darwin Brudos, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Mary Jewett | Birdie Blackmer, Arthur Casey, Jerry Griggs, Joyce Griggs, Walt Robb, Bill Rochelle |
| Reader | Barbara Walton | Ellie Rowland |
| Refreshments | Membership & Fellowship | Hicks & Ann Bish |
| Ushers | Sarah Bachorik, Harlene Bachoric, Hannah Bachorik | Del Pierce, Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Doug Todd, Tom Zych |