

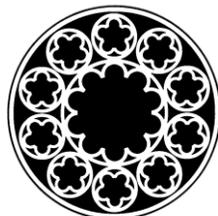
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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 31, 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 - Kinderwyk

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.

First Sunday After Christmas

December 31, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Prelude in D Johann Rinck
Arioso J. S. Bach
Toccata in D minor N.V. Wheeler

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

INTROIT #83

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

*HYMN *All Beautiful the March of Days* #292

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Almighty God, who sent a star to show the way to Jesus, we confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched to signs of your love or trusted good news to be good. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt and renew in us all fine desires so that we might find what is holy once again.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria* #576

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our only hope is Jesus Christ. After we refused to live in the image of God, He was born of the virgin Mary, sharing our genes and our instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of our God. Being united to Christ's humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in Him.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Sing For Joy* Henry Purcell
arr. Hal Hopson

Sing for joy, all earth sing for joy.
Praise the Lord; bless His name;
Come before Him with a song;
For He is God, and we are His,
The sheep of His own flock.

Go with songs, and enter His courts.
Go with thanksgiving, O come with a song;
For He is God, and we are His,
The sheep of His own flock.
The Lord is good, His love and truth
Endures forevermore.

FIRST LESSON Ellie Rowland

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

Amen. *Ecclesiastes 3:1-13* (pg 616)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Revelation 21:1-6a* (pg 259)

SERMON *All Things New* Bill Levering

*HYMN *God of Our Life* #275

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Laudamus Te (duet from the *Gloria*)

Antonio Vivaldi

Kate and Rachael Rose soloists

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father

*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 #265
Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Threefold Amen Danish

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:

Doris Willard, Mildred Altvater, Thomas Taft, Almy Coggeshall, Burton Dearing, Esther Eveleth, James Caufield

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.

Music Notes

Vivaldi (1678-1741) set this text from his *Gloria* a number of times but almost certainly composed this for a home for abandoned children in Venice in the early 18th century. It was rediscovered in the 1920's.

Restroom

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

Church School Notes

We encourage all of our families and youth to attend the Epiphany Party on Saturday, January 6 at the Mancuso's house.

After Christmas Hike Postponed

The hike to Bennett Hill was postponed due to dangerously low temperatures/high winds, its new date TBD. Please stay tuned. James Gonda 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Avery Presents: Violin Concert - Jan 5

On Friday, January 5 at 7pm, pianist Sofya Maryanova will accompany violinist Mariya Polishchuk in another fine concert featuring the works of Handel, Mozart, Chopin, Wieniawski and Dvorak. Reception to follow.

Saturday Breakfast Fellowship – Jan 6

The Saturday Breakfast for January will be held at 8am on January 6. As usual, we will serve a light breakfast followed by the day's program. All FRC members and guests are welcome. The speaker for January's program will be Walt Robb - here is Walt's description of his talk: "The story of how the Wright Brothers, owners of a bicycle shop, became the first developers of an airplane that could actually carry humans aloft is filled with lessons of perseverance and innovation. It is beautifully told by David McCullough, the author of *1776*, *Adams*, and *Truman*, to name a few of his masterful biographies. Walt will attempt to condense their history into 40 minutes, complete with pictures from the book. It is a wonderful story that America can be proud of."

Pastor's Open House - Jan 1

Abby and Bill Levering will host an open house at their place at 923 Northumberland Drive in Nisky from 4 to 8pm on New Year's Day. Stop by for a bit for a bonfire, pizza, coloring, live jazz, to watch a bowl game, or just to chat.

Epiphany Party - Jan 6

Celebrate the conclusion of Christmas at this intergenerational event next Saturday January 6 at 5pm in the home of the Tom, Barb, Olivia and Alex Mancuso at 1532 Keyes Ave in Niskayuna. We will fellowship, feast, and sing. We will discover magi in our midst who will lead us in a quest through the house following the "star of wonder, star of night." We will recall the story of Jesus being discovered by these stargazers, who will finally bless the home and lead us to a bonfire, where we will lift in prayer those upon whom we ask the light of Christ to shine. Please bring some of your favorite food or drinks to share. **We need volunteers willing to make galette cakes to contact Barbara Mancuso 518-269-9751 to confirm and to get the recipe. She is looking for 3-4 volunteers.**

Youth Group News

Youth group will start up again on Sunday, January 7, at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you all then! If you are interested in going on the mission trip (Feb. 18-22), there is still time to sign up, but let Pastor Jonathan know ASAP! Please note, we still need a female adult chaperone to go in order for the trip to happen!

Pigs-in-a-Blanket Sale for Mission Trip

After being such a popular hit last year, the youth group will again be selling authentic Dutch Pigs-in-a-Blanket called *Saucijzebroodjes*. These homemade treats of sausage wrapped in flakey pastry will be on sale **ONE DAY ONLY** after church on **Sunday, January 21**. One tray for \$12, two trays for \$20. Also, due to intense demand last year, we'll have more vegetarian pigs available – made of black beans. No advanced pre-order, sales until they are gone.

Undergarment Collection

The Youth Ed and Nurture Committee is continuing the collection of undergarments to send to hurricane victims in Puerto Rico. We will be collecting underwear and bras through the end of January. There will be a collection basket in the Dirck Romeyn room.

Interfaith Soup Shabbat/MLK Discussion

Join our pastors and the JAC at the 2nd Interfaith Soup Shabbat and MLK Lecture being held on **Friday, January 19**, at 6pm at Congregation Gates of Heaven. Sponsored by the *Schenectady Clergy Against Hate*, we'll enjoy soup with members of several other faith communities and hear a program with Dr. Steven Ainlay, outgoing president of Union College and other clergy around issues of diversity in Schenectady. Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck will be a part of the panel. Suggested donation for dinner is what you would pay to go out to eat, with all proceeds benefitting SICM. Also, each person is asked to bring a school supply donation for area schools in need.

FRC / UPC Unity Celebration - Jan 21

January 21, has been set aside to honor the coming together of Union Presbyterian Church and First Reformed just a few years ago. Everyone is invited to Dirck Romeyn room immediately following worship for refreshments to celebrate this annual event. If you would like to lend a hand, please contact Barbara Walton, Gay Doolittle, or Amy Brule.

Justice Action Council Collections for School

The students at Pleasant Valley Elementary School are in need of FRC support. The fall school-year-kick-off gets all the attention but the winter semester brings identical needs without the fanfare. The teachers at PVE need supplies to support nearly 375 students during this winter semester: Glue sticks, expo dry erase markers (the lower cost brands do not last), pencils, pencil top erasers, crayons, composition notebooks, construction paper, small-unlined dry erase boards, folders, craft supplies and hand wipes. Please provide what you can in the designated corner of the Dirck Romeyn room

JAC Collection for Pantry

We are also continuing to help support a new food pantry at Trinity Reformed with canned tuna, peanut butter and complete pancake mix. Please provide what you can in the designated corner of the Dirck Romeyn room.

Offering Envelopes

2018 offering envelopes are at the back of sanctuary. There are plenty of extras available for those who did not sign up for them.

Support and Care

Whenever you are ill, hospitalized, homebound, needing a meal, transportation to a doctor, or grieving a loss, we'd like to know...so we can do what our Committee is named: support and care! Please help us to help you when you are in need by calling Support and Care Chair, Barb Walton (518) 346-1943 or Rev. Daniel Carlson (518) 366-6416 so we can minister faithfully.

Mental Health First Aid

Your Support and Care committee is aware that while many know CPR or the Heimlich maneuver, few of us are equipped to administer first aid in a mental health crisis. That is why we are hosting a Mental Health First Aid course March 10. This 8-hour training, taught by a certified Mental Health First Aid instructor, lays out the basics of how to help someone experiencing a mental health crisis. Members and friends of First Reformed have a registration privilege until Feb 1, when open registration begins. To register go to 1streformed.com or contact Rev. Carlson or Laura Marx 518-791-1544 Area Director, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier'...”

— Alfred Tennyson

“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.”

— Edith Lovejoy Pierce

“I would say happy new year but it's not happy; it's exactly the same as last year except colder.”

— Robert Clark

“For last year's words belong to last year's language

And next year's words await another voice.

And to make an end is to make a beginning.”

— T.S. Eliot

“The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.”

— G.K. Chesterton, A Chesterton calendar

“We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential.”

— Ellen Goodman

“And now let us believe in a long year that is given to us, new, untouched, full of things that have never been, full of work that has never been done, full of tasks, claims, and demands; and let us see that we learn to take it without letting fall too much of what it has to bestow upon those who demand of it necessary, serious, and great things.”

— Rainer Maria Rilke

“Past and Present I know well; each is a friend and sometimes an enemy to me. But it is the quiet, beckoning Future, an absolute stranger, with whom I have fallen madly in love.”

— Richelle E. Goodrich, Slaying Dragons

“As the old year retires and a new one is born, we commit into the hands of our Creator the happenings of the past year and ask for direction and guidance in the new one. May He grant us His grace, His tranquility and His wisdom!”

— Peggy Toney Horton

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Dec 31	8:30am	Boundaries Adult Class	A study group on the book <i>Boundaries</i> .	Mohawk House Pres
Dec 31	9am	Chancel Choir	For singers who can't make Thursday rehearsals	Sanctuary
Dec 31	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
Dec 31	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers will be available to sit with, listen to, and pray for & with you.	Dykstra Chapel
Dec 31	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Sanctuary
Jan 1 – Office Closed				
Jan 1	4pm	Pastor's Open House	Abby & Bill Levering will host an open house from 4–8pm. Stop by for a bonfire, pizza, coloring, live jazz, or to watch a bowl game.	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, reception will follow.	Sanctuary
Jan 3	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Dirck Romeyn
Jan 4	7pm	Chancel Choir	Can't make it? Come to Sunday 9am rehearsals Contact Corine Salon csalon@nycap.rr.com.	Sanctuary
Jan 5	7pm	Avery Presents	Pianist Sofya Maryanova will accompany violinist Mariya Polishchuk.	Sanctuary
Jan 6	8am	Saturday Breakfast	The speaker will be Walt Robb on "The story of how the Wright Brothers.	Dirck Romeyn
Jan 6	5pm	Epiphany Party	Celebrate Christ's revealing to the Magi; bring food and/or drink to share. Mancuso's Home 1532 Keyes, Niskayuna.	1532 Keyes, Niskayuna.
Jan 7	8:30am	Boundaries Adult Class	A study group on the book <i>Boundaries</i>	Mohawk House Pres
Jan 7	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Jan 7	9am	Chancel Choir	For singers who can't make Thursday rehearsals.	Sanctuary
Jan 7	11:15am	First Forum	Poetry, stories, word service readings by Rudy & Kathy Petersen and James Gonda	Sanctuary
Jan 7	6pm	Youth Group	Regular meeting	Mohawk House

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
- 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, January 1**Office Closed****Tuesday, January 2**

- 10:00am..... Morning Prayer
- 11:00am..... Admin Meeting
- 7:00pm..... Short Short Writing

Wednesday, January 3

- 9:30am..... Kerygma
- 1:00pm..... Pastoral Meeting
- 3:00pm..... Norton Memorial Service
- 7:00pm..... Adult Ukulele

Thursday, January 4

- 7:00pm..... Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 5

- 9:30am..... Chancel Guild Clean Up
- 7:00pm..... Avery Presents

Saturday, January 6

- 8:00am..... Saturday Breakfast
- 5:00pm..... Epiphany Party

Sunday, January 7

- 8:00am..... Organ Practice
- 8:30am..... Adult Boundaries Class
- 9:00am..... Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00am..... Chords of Love
- 9:45am..... Kinderwyk
- 10:00am..... Worship
- 10:00am..... Communion
- 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

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, solo piano	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass
Bookshop	Bookshop Closed	
Counting Deacons	Matt Jones, Bill Rochelle	Gay Doolittle, Richard Gardner
Flower Delivery	No Flower Delivery	Bill Clock, Carol DeLaMarter
Greeters	Jim & Sharron McCullough Lisa Etkin	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, Arthur Casey, Jerry Griggs, Joyce Griggs, Walt Robb, Bill Rochelle	Birdie Blackmer, Jeanette Davidson, Eric Evans, Gay Doolittle, Liz Mastrianni, Keith Muse, Del Pierce, Susan Houpt
Reader	Ellie Rowland	Liz Mastrianni
Refreshments	Hicks & Ann Bish	Gay Doolittle, Sally Bestgen
Ushers	Del Pierce, Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Doug Todd, Tom Zych	Alden Brown, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin