

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Restroom

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

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.

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.

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.



Hearing Assistance

We have a hearing aid loop system that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

January 28, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

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
O Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down
Michael D. Tebbano

*HYMN *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* #482

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)
**God of all people and nations, we confess
that we are often shortsighted and selfish.
We need your help to understand who is
our neighbor and how we can live together
in peace. Broaden our vision and deepen
our compassion, we pray.**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*



① Dm Round Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F
Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
(from the Belhar Confession)
**Unity must become visible so that the
world may believe that separation, enmity
and hatred between people and groups is
sin which Christ has already conquered,
and accordingly that anything which
threatens this unity may have no place in
the church and must be resisted.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *We Believe The Apostles' Creed*
John Purifoy

We believe in God the Father, Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, and was born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, He rose again
and ascended into heaven.

He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and He will come again to judge the living
and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit and the worldwide
Church, the communion of all the saints, the
forgiveness of every sin, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

FIRST LESSON Barbara Walton
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalms 111* (pg 562)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON
1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (pg 171)

SERMON Bill Levering
What Is More Important?

*HYMN *Seek Ye First* #333

OFFERING
OFFERTORY
Blest Are They Whose Spirits Long
G.F. Handel

Blest are they whose spirits long; whose trust is in the Lord;
And on whose lips is praise unending.
They shall rise up like eagles lofty on high.
They too shall walk and not be weary

*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 #538
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
God Be With You Till We Meet Again
Ralph Vaughan Williams

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Ann L. Walraven – January 21, 2018

A service will be held on February 10 at 11am.

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:

*William Tucker, Herbert Strong,
Emily Nagamatsu, Matilda Fontaine,
Ellsworth Langdon, Rev. Bertram D. Atwood,
George Stroebel*

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

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Mission Shares

You can be a part of the Youth Group mission trip to Philadelphia by helping to underwrite the costs. For \$25 you can purchase a mission share which helps youth serve people in need, broaden their cultural perspectives, and become better equipped to see and address similar needs in their own communities.

Bottles & Cans Collection

Here's another way to underwrite the Youth Mission Trip. Turn in your redeemable recyclables at Creating Change Redemption Center at 309 Saratoga Rd. in Glenville. Tell them to donate the deposit to the First Reformed Church of Schenectady Youth Mission Trip. The youth group has an account there and will collect donations until the mission trip in February.

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 **Sanctuary**.

Camp Fowler Registration is Open!

Yes, it is already that time, so be sure to reserve your spot for a week or more at Camp Fowler this summer. Senior high campers are especially encouraged to sign up early, as those weeks fill up quickly. Schedules, rates, registration, and other information are available online at campfowler.org. Let the church office know if you are attending. Scholarships from the FRC Tercentenary Fund are available.

Care & Prayer – Today

Need a moment for prayerful support after worship? Trained Stephen Ministers are available in the Dykstra Chapel right after the service on the last Sunday of each month to sit with, listen to, and pray for and with you. Please stop by if this sounds like just what you need.

Caring for Creation Story Time – Today

Join us for fellowship, stories & encouragement on our goal to improve our care for creation. Our region's most whimsical storytellers, Rev. Kent Busman, Joe Doolittle & Rev. Harlan Ratmeyer, along with host Rev. Daniel Carlson and guest Gay Doolittle will spin tales of "green" and wonder. The evening will build upon our Creation Care Resolution, our implementation efforts and of our learning experience this fall at Camp Fowler. Pie a la mode and a donation basket available. It begins at 6pm at Scotia's First Reformed Church, 245 Ballston Avenue, RSVP 518-588-2801 or aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com

Evening circle – Jan 31

Debbie Fowler will be our guest to tell us her work with Eyes Wide Open, NYNE. Inc. The agency provides sanctuary, healing and hope for victims of Human Trafficking. She manages a craft shop to support her work. Any craft items you have will be gratefully received.

Avery Presents – Feb 2

On Friday at 7pm, "The Usual Suspects" band will perform. With their rich and eclectic mix of contemporary pop, country, classic rock, blues, jazz and all-time favorite oldies. They delight in entertaining audiences with original music and uniquely interpreted covers. An evening of downright enjoyable music with something for everyone! Reception to Follow.

Heritage Sunday – Feb 4

Each year the Archives and Historical Concerns Committee sponsors a First Forum covering historical topics of interest to the membership of the First Reformed Church. Heritage Sunday is February 4 and for this day we have a real treat. Two members of FRC will talk about their experiences in World War II. Bill Rochelle will speak about his training and deployment as a flyer; and Ralph Rosenthal will speak about his experiences growing up in Nazi occupied Holland and his role as a child in the underground. Please join us for this fascinating chance to hear their experiences.

New Members Class – Feb 4

We invite interested folks to a membership orientation meeting on February 4 that includes a tour of the church and a chat about who we are. It lasts 90 minutes and meets in the church office at 3pm on the first Sunday of the month.

History Potluck Dinner – Feb 11

On February 11, from 5-7pm Youth Ed and Nurture Committee will be hosting a History potluck dinner. This will be the first in a series of 4 Pot-lucks with a presentation of the history of our church. Come and enjoy great company, good food, and the beginning history of our church. This is the beginning of a series of History potlucks. Everyone is welcome to attend! RSVP to Dorothy Linder-Mitchell at 518-281-5673 with number of family members attending and the dish you will bring to pass. We ask that the dish you bring be a part of your family's history or heritage, whether it be an appetizer, main dish, or dessert. Series dates: March 4, April 15, and May TBD. All potlucks will be from 5-7pm.

Mission Trip Parents Meeting – Feb 4

All mission trip participants and their families: there will be a BRIEF info meeting at noon next Sunday following First Forum. Please let Pastor Jonathan know if you are unable to attend.

Ash Wednesday Service – Feb 14

On Ash Wednesday, join with others seeking to grow in faith and faithfulness hearing of the Word and marking our mortality and God's mercy in the sign of an ashen cross. Our service will be held in the sanctuary on February 14 at 7pm. With advanced notice, childcare can be offered. Children are also welcome to participate.

Collection for Pantry

Help support a new food pantry at Trinity Reformed with canned tuna, peanut butter and complete pancake mix. A collection box is located in the **Dirck Romeyn room**.

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.

Justice Action Council Collections for School

The students at Pleasant Valley Elementary School are in need of FRC support. The fall gets all the attention but the winter semester brings identical needs without the fanfare. The teachers need supplies to support nearly 375 students: 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**.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Your Support and Care committee is aware that while many know CPR or the Heimlich maneuver, but 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 on 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 FRC have an early 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.

Parking Reminder

Our handicap parking lot is designated for contractors Monday-Friday. Please park in our other two available lots. Also, please leave the spaces in front of the church open on Sundays for drop off.

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 by contacting the church office.

“It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important.”
— Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” — A.W. Tozer

“One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important.” — Bertrand Russell

“The art of war is of vital importance to the State. It is a matter of life and death, a road either to safety or to ruin. Hence it is a subject of inquiry which can on no account be neglected.” — Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

“I'd rather make a show 100 people need to see, than a show that 1000 people want to see.”
— Joss Whedon

Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? —Matthew 6”

“Self-love is a good thing but self-awareness is more important..” — Louis C.K.

“Because, as we all know, it's easier to do trivial things that are urgent than it is to do important things that are not urgent, like thinking. And it's also easier to do little things we know we can do than to start on big things that we're not so sure about.” — John Cleese

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Jan 28	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Jan 28	9am	Chancel Choir	Rehearsals start at 9am.	Sanctuary
Jan 28	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
Jan 28	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers are available to sit with, listen to & pray for & with you.	Dykstra Chapel
Jan 28	11:15am	First Forum	Medical Ethics – Dr. George Giokas	Sanctuary
Jan 28	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Azzaam Hameed, piano	Sanctuary
Jan 28	6pm	Youth Group	Regular Meeting. Dinner will be provided.	Mohawk House
Jan 28	6pm	Caring for Creation	Our region’s most whimsical storytellers, will spin tales of “green” and wonder.	FRC Scotia
Jan 30	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Nine-week study of the book of James, using a study guide by N.T. Wright.	Mohawk House Pres.
Jan 31	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 27 in <i>The Story of Christianity</i> .	Dirck Romeyn
Jan 31	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Dirck Romeyn
Jan 31	7pm	Evening Circle	Guest speaker Debbie Fowler will tell us about Eyes Wide Open, NYNE. Inc.	Mohawk House Pres.
Feb 1	Mental Health First Aid Training on March 10		Last call for early register is Feb 1, at 1streformed.com or contact Rev. Carlson or Laura Marx 518-791-1544.	
Feb 1	10am	Stitch Group	Meets on Thursdays. Joan Lindsay 518-399-3153.	Mezzanine
Feb 1	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Like to sing? Please consider joining our chancel choir. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30pm. Contact Corine at csalon@nycap.rr.com .	Sanctuary
Feb 2	7pm	Avery Presents	The Usual Suspects will perform an eclectic mix of contemporary pop, country, classic rock, blues, jazz & oldies.	Sanctuary
Feb 3	8am	Saturday Breakfast	Nat Phipps sharing reflections on music, his role as an educator and advocate for social justice.	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 4	9am	Chancel Choir	Rehearsals start at 9am.	Sanctuary
Feb 4	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Feb 4	11:15pm	Forum	For Heritage Sunday, two members of FRC, Bill Rochelle and Ralph Rosenthal will talk about their experiences in World War II.	Sanctuary
Feb 4	12	Mission Trip Info Meeting	A brief mission trip information meeting. All trip participants & parents are required to go. If you have a conflict, let Pastor Jonathan know ASAP.	Mohawk House Lunn

Sunday, January 28

8:00am.....Organ Practice
 9:00am.....Choir Rehearsal
 9:00am.....Chords of Love
 9:45am.....Kinderwyk
 10:00am.....Worship
 10:15am.....Church School
 11:00am.....Bookshop/Library
 11:00am.....Care & Prayer
 11:15am.....Forum
 11:15am.....Kirk Ringers
 12:00pm.....Elders Meeting
 5:00pm.....Jazz Vespers
 6:00pm.....Youth Group

Monday, January 29

9:00am.....Mens New Group

Tuesday, January 30

10:00am.....Morning Prayer
 10:00am.....Horizons Bible Study
 11:00am.....Admin Meeting

Wednesday, January 31

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

Thursday, February 1

7:30amBreakfast Bible Bunch
 11:00amStitch Group
 7:30pmChancel Choir

Friday, February 2

7:00pmAvery Presents

Saturday, February 3

8:00amSaturday Breakfast

Heritage Sunday, February 4

8:00am Organ Practice
 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
 11:15am Finance Meeting
 3:00pm New Members Class
 5:00pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Christina Jones	Nancy Wainwright
Counting Deacons	Cathy Lewis, Therese McCarthy	Sarah Bachorik, Ralph Rosenthal
Flower Delivery	Brad Lewis, Bill Ward	Inge-Lise Pangburn, Joanne Arnold
Greeters	Christina Lund, James Gonda, Lisa Etkin	Jack & Sally Bestgen
Jazz Vespers	Azzaam Hameed, solo piano	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Brad Lewis, Joyce Griggs, Jerry Griggs, Cathy Lewis, Tom Lindsay, Walt Robb	Joanne Arnold, Liz Mastrianni, Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton, Birdie Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Keith Muse
Reader	Barbara Walton	Gene Rowland
Refreshments		
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Karen Gonda, Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps	Bill Clock, Julia Etkin, Lisa Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright