

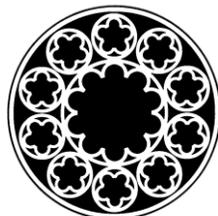
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



February 25, 2018

***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.

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.



Hearing Assistance

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



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.

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.

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 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 Agincourt Song
O Love How Deep How Broad, How High

*HYMN *Friends in Faith*

Friends in faith who follow Jesus, hear the message of the cross: Worldly wisdom now is folly; world riches count as loss.

Friends who strive to follow Jesus, walk the way that Jesus trod: Spirit filled, in human weakness, cast you cares upon our God.

Friends who dare to follow Jesus, trust and pray through darkest night: Christ has conquered death and evil; Christ is Joy and life and light.

Firm in faith, now following Jesus; live the gospel you have heard: Be good news to all who know you, loving doers of the Word.

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Beginning with silent prayer...

Greek Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son.
English Lord, — have mer - cy. Lord, — have mer - cy.

Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son.
Lord, — have mer - cy. Lord, — have mer - cy.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

#579

Glory Be to the Father

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (traditional version)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

By Faith and Not by Sight Lloyd Larson

We walk by faith and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke;
but we believe him near.
We may not touch His hands, his side,
nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

We walk by faith and not by sight,
empow'ered by resurrection might;
Touched by the Christ, our given Lord,
cleansed by the water and the Word.
Help us to walk by faith and not by sight!

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound,
To call on You when You are near,
and seek where You are found;
That when our life of faith is done.
In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are,
with full and endless sight.

We walk by faith and not by sight,
empow'ered by resurrection might;
Touched by the Christ, our given Lord,
cleansed by the water and the Word.
Help us to walk by faith and not by sight!

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away
O let me from this day be wholly Thine,
be wholly Thine. Amen

FIRST LESSON Amy Brule
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16* (pg 13)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 8:31-38* (pg 44)

SERMON Bill Levering
The Obstructions of Selfishness

*HYMN *Christ of the Upward Way* #344

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep John Rutter

Loving shepherd of thy sheep,
keep thy lamb in safety keep;
Nothing can the power withstand,
None can pluck me from thy hand.
I would praise thee ev'ry day,
Gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessed ones above,
Happy in thy perfect love.

Loving shepherd ever near,
Teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
Suffer not my steps to stray,
From the straight and narrow way.
Where thou leadest I would go,
Walking in thy steps below,
Till before my Father's throne,
I shall know as I am known.

*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 #343
Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Threefold Amen

Traditional

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Music Notes

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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:

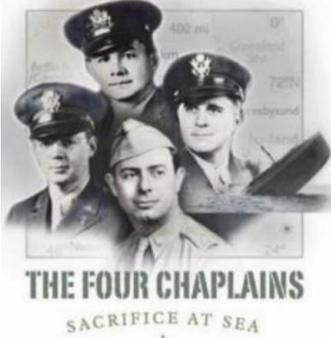
Marjorie Reid, Robert Traxler, Georgeina Kellam, Marjorie Todd, Dr. Joseph Burke, Mark Opdyke, James Scholtz, Carl Settle

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.

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 Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr. , Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Jewish War Veterans of the USA Albany Post 105
Invites you to our 53rd Annual



Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award & Remembrance Ceremony

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018 2:30 p.m.
First Reformed Church

Confirmation Class Begins – Mar 4

Folks in grades 7-12 are invited to participate in the spring confirmation class. We have about 7 in the class right now and Dr. Viki Brooks is helping teach the class with Dr. Levering. The first class will Sunday, March 4 at noon. Pizza is served. A part of the program is a mentoring relationship with a church member. If you would like to help, contact Dr. Levering.

Saturday Breakfast – March 10

The next Saturday Breakfast will be held at 8am on **March 10** in the Mohawk House. **Please note: this is a Different Day and a Different Room** from our usual practice. We have an interesting program to share with you, so please try to make it. Bob and Pat Lillquist will spin hundred-year-old Cylinder records on equally old phonographs while telling the story of what Thomas Edison called “his favorite invention” and others called his most original invention. We will share in the earliest history of recorded music for the American home. For questions, please contact Gene Rowland at erowland@nycap.rr.com or 518-250-4302.

Faith Book Shop

The Book Shop has a copy of "No Greater Glory" by Dan Kurzman which tells of the sinking of the Dorchester in WW11, available for purchase. Our own Clark Poling was one of the clergymen who gave his life so another could live. The cost is \$8.

Picture Stories in the Narthex

Making Room: See the progress of our First Futures building construction. The empty interior of Poling House, Covenant Hall before and after, the baffle ceiling and interior steel frame. Photographs by Ralph Rosenthal and Gary Nelson.

Annual Unity Celebration: Honoring the legacy of United Presbyterian Church. A Photographic History of Members.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

March 25 – 10am

This celebration of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem marks the beginning of Holy Week. This year the day includes the **Easter Egg Hunt** that begins about 11am.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 29 – 7:30pm

First Reformed has long celebrated a service of darkening on Maundy Thursday that includes the Lord's Supper. A series of readings and a darkening sanctuary create a somber and reflective remembrance of the trials of Jesus.

Good Friday

Friday, March 30 – 12pm

This service is unlike any other of the year. A large hand-hewed cross will stand at the center of the chancel. The Passion of Jesus will be proclaimed by gospel readers, periods of silence, and holy songs. Finally, we will lift prayers before departing in quiet to consider the depth of God's self-giving love for all creation.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 1 – 10am

Music for Easter Sunday will be featuring a brass quartet and the Halleluiah Chorus in which **we will invite people to join in and sing with the choir.**

Lenten Evening Program Feb 21 – Mar 21

This year's mid-week education and worship options will take place on five consecutive Wednesdays during Lent.

6:45pm Light refreshments and conversation in each classroom

7:00pm Classes will begin promptly

8:00pm Contemplative worship around the Communion table

After Class Glow

A brief contemplative service with Communion will be held at 8pm in the sanctuary.

This Year's Lenten Classes...

You are invited to join the class of your choice in its particular location at 7pm (come earlier for refreshments). Here's a brief preview:

Lower Carbon Lent

Led by: Rev. Dr. Daniel Carlson

Location: Mohawk House Pres Room

In response to our Creation Care Resolution, we have taken steps as a congregation to decrease our greenhouse gas emissions. This class offers an informative and supportive opportunity for individual members to discover the size and shape of their respective household carbon footprint. We will use National Grid statements, best-guess travel, food, entertainment estimates, and an on-line carbon calculator, among other insight-generating tools. We will brainstorm various options for shrinking the size of our respective footprints and be invited to prayerfully discern those changes each of us feels moved to make in our own lives in order to better serve the world we touch. This discernment will lead us to devising a doable plans and specific practices to live more faithfully with God's creation so that others may fully live!

Conversations on Being Mortal and Care at the End-of-Life

Led by: Dr. Carolyn Jones-Assini /Joe Doolittle

Location: Dirck-Romeyn Room

A discussion of the best-selling book *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atwal Gwande, MD, using a discussion guide developed by *The Conversations Project*. The discussions focus on aspects of aging and dying, including:

- What is important to us as we age
- Understanding our choices (medical and otherwise)
- Facing our mortality

Carolyn brings perspectives from working with the Palliative Care Service at Ellis Medicine and Joe has had much experience with families facing health challenges as a volunteer Chaplain at Albany Medical Center. Our Series hopes to have several representatives from these groups join our discussion. Our Faith Bookshop has the book available for purchase.

Ukulele for Lent

Led by: Local Ukulele Instigator, Jamie Ipsen

Location: Sanctuary

Everyone ages 8-98 is invited to learn how to play songs on the ukulele that will keep us mindful of the season of Lent, the time we 'get ready' for Easter. This little instrument will bring joy to your day, every day. No prior experience is needed! If you have a ukulele please bring it. If you do not yet own one, we have some for you to use. Please register with the church office so we can prepare enough materials. Contact Jamie Ipsen with questions.

God in the News

Led by: Rev. Dr. Bill Levering

Location: Mohawk House Lunn Room

This drop-in class will look at the headlines of the last week and try to discern our considered response. No Homework is necessary.

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Feb 25	9am	Chancel Choir	Choir Rehearsals	Sanctuary
Feb 25	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Feb 25	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
Feb 25	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers are available to sit with, listen to & pray for & with you.	Dykstra Chapel
Feb 25	11:15am	First Forum	SEAT Program by Jennifer Lawrence	Sanctuary
Feb 25	2:30pm	Ceremony	Four Chaplains Award & Remembrance Ceremony	Sanctuary
Feb 25	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano	Sanctuary
Feb 27	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Nine-week study of the book of James, using a study guide by N.T. Wright. Last Class March 6.	Mohawk House Pres
Feb 28	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 30 in <i>The Story of Christianity</i> .	Dirck Romeyn
Feb 28	7pm	Lenten Classes	Our traditional five-week study offering four classes.	Various
Feb 28	8pm	Contemplative Worship	A brief, reflective communion service following Lenten classes.	Sanctuary
Mar 1	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday.	Mezzanine
Mar 1	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Like to sing? Please consider joining our chancel choir. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30pm, good music & good fellowship	Sanctuary
Mar 2	7pm	Avery Presents	Avery will present the 1914 silent movie "Son of Man" with live piano accompaniment.	Sanctuary
Mar 4	9am	Chancel Choir	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Mar 4	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
Mar 4	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
Mar 4	11:15am	First Forum	Bill Levering: Hiring Update	Sanctuary
Mar 4	12pm	Confirmation Class Begins	Folks in grades 7-12 are invited to participate in the spring confirmation class. Pizza is served.	Mohawk House Lunn
Mar 4	3pm	New Members Class	Interested folks are invited to a membership orientation that includes a tour of the church.	Church Office
Mar 4	5pm	History Potluck Dinner	Come and enjoy great company, food, and learn some of the history of our church! RSVP to Dorothy 518-281-5673.	Mohawk House

Sunday, February 25

- 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.....Bookshop/Library
- 11:00am.....Care & Prayer
- 11:15am.....Forum
- 11:15am.....Kirk Ringers
- 2:30pm.....Four Chaplains Remembrance
- 5:00pm.....Jazz Vespers

Monday, February 26

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

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28

- 9:30am.....Kerygma Conversations
- 11:00am.....First Things Volunteers
- 1:00pm.....Pastoral Team Meeting
- 7:00pm.....Lenten Classes
- 8:00pm.....Contemplative Worship

Thursday, March 1

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

Friday, March 2

- 7:00pmAvery Presents

Sunday, March 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
- 12:00pm Confirmation Class
- 3:00pm New Members Class
- 5:00pm Jazz Vespers
- 5:00pm History Potluck Dinner

“Considering the notion that the spiritual battlefield is infinitely greater than the physical, perhaps God is more willing to bless with a sort of divine ecstasy those who see the devil as the enemy rather than those who see other people as the enemies.” — Criss Jami, Killosophy

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Bill Clock	
Counting Deacons	Andy Chestnut, Kim Burgoyne	Fred Daniels, Peter Ontkush
Flower Delivery	Ellie Rowland, Christine Lunn	Joanne Bedell, Liz Mastrianni
Greeters	Tom Lindsay	
Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Nat Phipps, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joyce & Jerry Griggs, Peggy King, Richard Rose	Joanne Arnold, Liz Mastrianni, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Keith Muse
Reader	Amy Brule	Norma Brown
Ushers	Art Shultes, Joan Lindsay Kip & Joanne Arnold, Jeanette & Don Davidson,	Michael Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal