

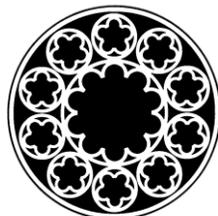
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



March 11, 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.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering

The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Jonathan Vanderbeck

INTROIT Agincourt Song

O Love How Deep How Broad, How High

*HYMN *God Welcomes All*

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends!**

*RITUAL OF THANKSGIVING

*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

Wondrous Love Paul Christiansen

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, o my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
That caused the Lord of life To bear the heavy cross,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, o my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
That Christ should lay aside His crown, for my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

FIRST LESSON George Trimarco

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Ephesians 2:1-10* (pg 192)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 3:14-21* (pg 94)

SERMON Jonathan Vanderbeck

A Call to LOVE.

*HYMN *Jesus Loves Me!* #304

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

God so loved the world ? John Stainer

God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that who so believeth in Him
should not perish but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world
to condemn the world;
but that the world through Him might be saved.

*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 *Lord, Make Us More Holy* #536

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen Traditional

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

In Celebration

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in celebration of Misha Marvel's Birthday given by her family.

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:

John Hillers, Eleanor Jenkins, Ann P. Strobell, Carolyn "Carol" Welch

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.

Give Easter Memorial Flowers

At Easter, members deliver beautiful Easter flowers to recently bereaved and home-bound church members. You can give in memory or honor of a loved one. Please send \$20 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309 and contact the church office with the name of the person the flowers are in honor or memory of. Even if you have donated in previous years, please call the church office at 518-377-2201 by March 26.

Director of Christian Development

We are seeking a long-term, full-time staff member to lead efforts in Christian development. Ordination as clergy is welcome but not required. Please submit resumes to search@1stReformed.com by May 1, 2018.

Seeking Sunday school Teachers

We are looking for a teacher for Spring Time (March thru May/beginning of June) to work with our Kindergarten through 2nd graders. If you are interested in teaching our young members, contact Dorothy.

Music Notes

God Welcomes All arranged by John Bell, WGRG, Iona Community 2008, GIA Pub, Inc, All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700 Kyrie 1987, Dinah Reindorf; arr. 2001 CRC Publications All rights reserved.

Faith Book Shop

Remember to check the Book Shop for CDs that folks have brought in and are available free of charge. More CD donations are appreciated. See March First Things for further explanation.

Union Presbyterian Mission Fund

The Union Presbyterian Mission Fund of the First Reformed Church was established to the glory of God and to give shape to a continuing memory and activity in mission from the former Union Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the Fund is to provide for mission causes.

- Distributions will be for no less than \$1,000.
- Distributions may be one-time or multi-year.
- Distributions will attempt to generally honor the mission directions of the former Union Presbyterian Church.
- Distributions will not normally fund the internal activities of the First Reformed Church, but may underwrite mission efforts funded in the budget.

The application form is available on the front page of our website 1stReformed.com.

Lenten Evening Program Through Mar 21

6:45pm Light refreshments and conversation in each classroom
7:00pm Classes will begin promptly
8:00pm Contemplative worship around the Communion table

This Year's Lenten Classes...

Lower Carbon Lent

Led by: Rev. Dr. Daniel Carlson
Location: Church Office

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

Led by: Dr. Carolyn Jones-Assini /Joe Doolittle
Location: Dirck-Romeyn Room

Ukulele for Lent

Led by: Local Ukulele Instigator, Jamie Ipsen
Location: Sanctuary

God in the News

Led by: Rev. Dr. Bill Levering
Location: Mohawk House Lunn Room

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 Halleluiahs Chorus in which **we will invite people to join in and sing with the choir.**

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Today	9am	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
	11:15am	First Forum Youth Group	Youth Report on Mission Trip by Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck	Sanctuary
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Tim Olsen, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Sanctuary
Mar 13	6:30pm	Standing Committees	Individual Committees meet on their own.	Dirck Romeyn
	7:30pm	Consistory	Officers meeting	Various
Mar 14	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 31 in <i>The Story of Christianity</i> .	Mohawk House
	2pm	Staff Meeting	All Staff	Office
	5:30pm	Justice Action Commission	Joe Paperone from the Labor-Religion Coalition will be at FRC to discuss next steps on the Poor People's Campaign. We'll have pizza!	Dirck Romeyn
	7pm	Lenten Classes	Our five-week study offering: Lower Carbon Lent, Conversations on Being Mortal and Care at the End-of-Life, Ukulele for Lent and God in the News.	Various
	8pm	Contemplative Worship	A brief, reflective communion service.	Sanctuary
Mar 15	10am	Stitch Group	Every Thursday. Finish a project or start a new one.	Mezzanine
	6:30pm	Healthy Boundaries	Lisa Etkin presents on the need, challenge, and benefit of establishing and maintaining good boundaries within our various relationships.	Mohawk House
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
	7:45pm	Stephen Ministry	All Stephen Ministers Meet for small group peer supervision.	Mohawk House
Mar 16	11:30am	Group VI	Group VI and friends will be having lunch at the Edison Club, call Connie Young at 393-7061 or cyoung50@nycap.rr.com	Edison Club

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Mar 18	11:15am	First Forum	Historical Society Tour of the Brouwer House next to FRC. Guide: Michael Diana	Sanctuary
	11:15am	New Prayer Group	Join us for a brief time of sharing concerns and praying in a confidential group on the third Sunday of each month. Contact Karen Gonda with questions.	Mohawk House
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Sanctuary
	6pm	Youth Group	Regular Meeting	Mohawk House
Mar 20	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
Mar 21	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 32 in <i>The Story of Christianity</i> .	Mohawk House
	11am	First Things Volunteers	Help send off our Newsletter. Pizza will be provided. Anyone is welcome.	Mohawk House Lunn
	7pm	Lenten Classes	Last day of classes: Lower Carbon Lent, Conversations on Being Mortal and Care at the End-of-Life, Ukulele for Lent and God in the News.	Various
	8pm	Contemplative Worship	A brief, reflective communion service.	Sanctuary
Mar 22	10am	Prayer Shawl Knitting	4th Thursday of every month in the home of Gini McDermott.	21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna
Mar 24	9am	Hiking and History	A hike to the Saratoga battlefield. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot. RSVP to James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com or 607-765-5349.	Church Parking Lot
	TBD	March For Our Lives	March to Washington DC in supporting the children from Florida. Contact Connie Young 5153937061 or cyoung50@nycap.rr.com	Home Depot parking lot
Mar 25	10am	Palm Sunday	This celebration of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem marks the beginning of Holy Week.	Sanctuary
	11am	Easter Egg Hunt		
	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers are available to sit with, listen to & pray for & with you.	Dykstra Chapel
	11:15am	First Forum	Marypat Ambrosino, Diabetic Educator Pre-Diabetic Program at Ellis Hospital	Sanctuary
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano	Sanctuary
	6pm	Youth Group	Pastor Jonathan's Farewell.	Mohawk House

“All you need is love...” – The Beatles

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” – 1 Corinthians 13:13

“In these bodies we will live, in these bodies we will die...Where you invest your love, you invest your life...” – Mumford and Sons

“Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead.” – Oscar Wilde

“The ones we love never truly leave us.” – Sirius Black *Harry Potter*

“I have decided to stick with LOVE.” – The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Christina Jones	Birdie Blackmer
Counting Deacons	David Bundy, Joan Lindsay	Christina Jones, Tom Burgoyne
Flower Delivery	Dave & Donna Bundy, Aline Stabler	Cynthia Hamilton, Judy Shopmyer
Greeters	Matt & Christina Jones Cheryl Zahner	James & Karen Gonda Ralph Rosenthal
Jazz Vespers	Tim Olsen, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Jonathan Vanderbeck	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton, Norma Brown, Peggy King, Thomas Lindsay, Margaret Schadler	Marilyn Leach, Art Casey, Phil Falconer, Don Leach, Ellie Rowland, Richard Rose
Reader	George Trimarco	Marilyn Leach
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps	Bill Clock, Julia Etkin, Lisa Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright