

***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 25, 2018***

*First Reformed Church  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://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](http://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.

## Palm Sunday

March 25, 2018

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

\*HYMN *All Glory Laud and Honor* #88  
*Refrain & Vs 1,2,4 Congregation V 3 choir only*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**Merciful God, in exuberance and apathy we have fallen short in what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and give us courage to choose what we will be.**

\*GODS FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna!**

\*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 Chords of Love  
*Hallelujah! Sing Hosanna!* Glenn Eernisse

FIRST LESSON Kristin Lion  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** *Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29* (pg 565)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 11:1-11* (pg 47)

SERMON Bill Levering  
*The Problem with Parades*

\*HYMN *Hope of the World* #360  
To the tune of "O Perfect Love"

MINUTE FOR MISSION Easter Offering

OFFERING

OFFERTORY  
*Hosanna to the King* Craig Courtney

Hosanna to the King of kings, Hosanna to the Lord of lords,  
Hosanna to the the great I Am who reigns forevermore.  
If you will feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty  
And welcome any strangers then you may call him Lord.  
O brother if you keep silent, O sister if you keep silent,  
O brother if you keep silent the rocks and stones will cry out.

\*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 *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!* #91

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Twofold Amen*

Dresden

POSTLUDE

*The Palms*

J. Faure

+ + +

### **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:

*Sylvia Ebeling, Leroy Jewett, Elenora Schweizer, Richard S. Arthur, Kenneth Mathes*

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 Risseuw, 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 Risseuw, 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.

### **Eco-Palms for God's Glory and Creation**

Today we are waving sustainable palm fronds. These palms come from an agricultural school focused on sustainability. The goal of this partnership has been to carefully cultivate the palm trees and tropical ecosystems in which they grow as well as pay a living wage to the palm frond harvesters in Mexico and Guatemala.

### **Easter Offering - One Great Hour of Sharing**

This cause, beloved by Union folks, is directed to 3 important areas. The **Hunger Program** works to alleviate hunger throughout the world and supports ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing. The **Disaster Assistance Program** provides disaster response locally, nationally, and throughout the world. **Self-development of People** collaborates with groups that assist those oppressed by poverty or social systems to help people take charge of their lives. Please share your resources to change lives with this offering on Easter Sunday, April 1.

### **Flower Delivery - Help Share the Easter Joy**

We need volunteers on Easter Sunday to deliver flowers to recently bereaved and home-bound church members. The flowers, an addressed card for each recipient, and a bulletin will be available for pick up after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will assist. Please plan on participating in this ministry of delivering, to those in need, a fragrant symbol of God's faithfulness and a warm greeting on behalf their family of faith.

## **College Scholarships**

Applications for the Rev. Al Smith Education Scholarship are available through the church office. Please submit your completed application to the church office by Tuesday, May 15. Questions can be directed to the church office.

## **Offering of Letters**

Through Bread for the World, church members & friends are asked to participate in an Offering of Letters to Congress urging them to protect Federal Programs that now help to alleviate hunger in the United States. Materials and sample letters will be available on April 8 during Coffee Hour. Ellie Rowland 518-250-4302.

## **Our Church's Mission**

### **to the Community with Our Building**

In the last two months, our building has provided well over 400 hours of meeting and activity space for all kinds of programs:

A Different Way in Reading Dyslexia Tutoring, Community Band Practice, Music Lessons, Gamblers Anonymous, Gam Anon, Life Line Medical Screening, Room For All, Regional Synod, Creating Cultures of Generosity Regional Synod, SAFE Event, Schenectady Community College Organ Rehearsals, Musicians of Ma'alwyk, Electric City Food Co-op, Gardner's Workshop, Antique Group CHA, Stakeholders Meeting, Schenectady Art Society, Fostering Futures Foster Parent Support, Women League of Voters, Samaritan Counseling, Labor and Religion Coalition of New York

## **Johnson Library**

Check the library shelf in the Heritage Room for Lent and Easter books.

## **Faith Book Shop**

Check the Book Shop for CDs that are available for free. More CD donations are appreciated.

## **Holy Week**

### **Palm Sunday**

**Today – 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**: There will be one for the younger youth in Kinderwyk during the service and one for the School-Aged Youth at 11 am (depending on weather, either outside or in).

### **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. Child Care will be available from 11:45am through end of service.

### **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.**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Place</b>
Mar 25	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
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>This celebration of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem marks the beginning of Holy Week.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>	<b>There will be one for the younger youth in Kinderwyk during the service and one for the School-Aged Youth at 11am.</b>	<b>Outside or inside Church</b>
	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers are available to sit with, listen to, pray for and 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
Mar 28	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Dirck Romeyn
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
Mar 29	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Come finish a project or start a new one.	Mezzanine
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>A series of readings and a darkening sanctuary create a somber and reflective remembrance of the trials of Jesus.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
Mar 30	12pm	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>The Passion of Jesus will be proclaimed by gospel readers, periods of silence, and holy songs. We will lift prayers before departing in quiet to consider the depth of God's self-giving love for all creation.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
April 1	10am	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>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.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	11:15am	First Forum	<b>Coffee &amp; Conversation</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps Trio with Pete Toigo and Tom D'Andrea	Sanctuary

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
April 3	10am	Horizons Bible Study	We will resume meeting on Tuesdays. Guides are available from the church office, and the \$7 payment can be made to Peg Miller when class resumes.	Mohawk House Pres
April 4	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 32 in <i>The Story of Christianity</i> .	Mohawk House
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Dirck Romeyn
<b>April 6</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Avery Presents</b>	<b>Soprano Jean Leonard presents "Spring Serenade," a program with vocal selections for the season. Accompanied by Avery Tunningley at the piano.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
April 7	8am	Saturday Breakfast	Our Program is "Poetry Shared: Words from the Heart of Memory" with David Walsh. There will be an opportunity for discussion, and for those attending to share a favorite poem, their own or from another poet.	Dirck Romeyn
<b>April 8</b>	<b>11:15am</b>	<b>First Forum</b>	<b>Update Activities at Camp Fowler by Kent Bushman</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano; Jim Corigliano, sax (courtesy union); Mike Lawrence, bass; Tim Coakley, drums.	Sanctuary
April 9	11am	Group V	Questions contact Maria Todd at (518)882-6555.	Dirck Romeyn
<b>April 14</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Saturday Breakfast</b>	<b>Our Program is "<i>Poetry Shared: Words from the Heart of Memory</i>" with David Walsh.</b>	<b>Dirck Romeyn</b>
April 15	11:15am	First Forum	<b>Masters Degree Project "Virtual World Designed for Teaching" by Wales Brown.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	5pm	History Potluck Dinner	<b>Come and enjoy great company, good food, and learn some of the history of our church!</b>	<b>Mohawk House</b>
April 22	11:15am	First Forum	<b>Earth Day Exploration of Your Ecological Footprint by Rev. Dr. Daniel Carlson and Friends.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	12pm	Earth Day Hike	<b>A walk through the Stockade to Vale Cemetery's Green Burial section and FRC's plot - picking up recyclables, compostables, and rubbish en route.</b>	<b>Vale Cemetery</b>
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Mike Lamkin, piano; Steve Lambert, trumpet (courtesy union); Pete Toigo, bass; Tim Coakley, drums	Sanctuary
April 27	12pm	Out to Lunch Bunch	<b>Lake Ridge Restaurant in Round Lake is one of the finest restaurants in Saratoga County. Let Gay (518-399-0499) know if you are planning on coming.</b>	<b>Round Lake</b>
April 29	11:15am	First Forum	<b>Union College Protestant Ministry Celebration of Rev. Viki Brooks retirement</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>



I want to join the great parade  
 I want to join the happy caravan  
     Of God's people  
     God's own people  
 Marching round the world  
 — Avery and Marsh

“It is not for nothing that an ominous feeling often attaches itself to a procession. In films and stories we see spectacles forming in the street and parades coming from around the corner, and we know to greet them with distrust and apprehension: their intent is still to be revealed.”  
 — Eudora Welty, On Writing

“Live your truth. Express your love. Share your enthusiasm.  
 Take action towards your dreams. Walk your talk. Dance and sing to your music.  
 Embrace your blessings. Make today worth remembering.”  
 — Steve Maraboli, Unapologetically You:  
 Reflections on Life and the Human Experience

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Bill Clock	Birdie Blackmer
Counting Deacons	Ellie Brudos, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Carrol Troost, Kim Burgoyne
Flower Delivery	Dorothy Linder-Mitchell, Phil & Jane Falconer	Easter Flower Delivery
Greeters	Mike & Vickie Horan Peggy King	Gay Doolittle, Mary Jewett
Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, solo piano	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Norma Brown, Walt Robb, Bill Rochelle, Maria Todd, Joanne Arnold, Darwin Brudos	
Reader	Kristin Lion	Christine Daniels
Ushers	Del Pierce, Joe Brown, Christine Lund, Doug Todd, Christine Jones, Matt Jones	Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Alden Brown, Adam Kerwin