

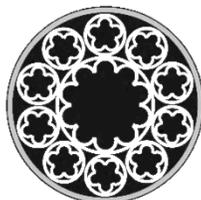
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



April 8, 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 of Easter

April 8, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Chords of Love

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Mark Sheppard

*HYMN *Thine Is the Glory* #122

*PRAYER (*unison*)

God of new life, we thank you for the hope you have given us through Jesus Christ. Help us to celebrate your Easter triumph with all of our life. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from Our Song of Hope)

Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world. In His death, the justice of God is established; forgiveness of sin is proclaimed. On the day of the resurrection, the tomb was empty; His disciples saw Him; death was defeated; new life had come. God's purpose for the world was sealed.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Behold the Lamb of God Craig Courtney

Behold the Lamb of God,
The Lamb for sinners slain.

A perfect sacrifice for all,
He died but lives again.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold His hands, His side.
The Son of God the sinless
Lamb for me was crucified.

He lives let Heav'n rejoice,
And earth her honors bring.
To Him, the everlasting God,
The great eternal King.
Oh, strike your harps of gold,
Ye ransomed host above.
Praise Him who bought you with His blood,
And saved you by his love.

FIRST LESSON

Norma Brown

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

Amen.

Psalm 133 (pg 575)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John 20:19-31 (pg 115)

SERMON

Bill Levering

Thomas!

*HYMN

#117

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Kate Rose, soloist

Know That My Redeemer Liveth

From *The Messiah*, G.F. Handel

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that He shall stand at the latter
day upon the earth.

And though worms destroy this body
yet in my flesh shall I see God.

For now is Christ risen from the dead,
the first fruits of them that sleep.

*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 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* #144

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen Traditional

POSTLUDE

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Laura Fitts – March 29, 2018

Service will be held May 5, 2018

Cards may be sent to her daughters

Cindy Merkel - 817 Kimball St, Sault Ste.

Marie, MI 49783 and Ellen Byrne - 808

Congress St., Portland Maine, ME 04102

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:

Roberta Hambleton, William Rickard, Duncan Mewherter, Ann Matthews, Madelyn Young, Garfield Williamson, Susan E. Shepherd

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.

Today's The Day

You can add your voice to thousands of Christians today by writing letters to your Congressional representatives to help stop hunger in America and the world. After worship materials and fact sheets will be available to you to write to our representatives to re-instate the bi-partisan Farm Bill, which in part, funds SNAP (previously food Stamps), WIC, school and summer lunch programs and other efforts to alleviate hunger. in the US.

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.

Consistory Nominations Requested

The Nominating Committee of First Reformed Church seeks recommendations from the congregation for Elder and Deacon Candidates from members of FRC. Candidates for Consistory should have a vision, leadership skills, and be active participants in the worship and activities of this church. Elders and Deacons will be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation on June 3. There are **yellow nomination forms** located at the various entrances of the church or you may write your suggestions on a white pew card.

Recommendations may be submitted to the church office or any member of the Committee: Ann Gotwals, Vernetta Thuener, Bill Rochelle, Caroline Welch, James Gonda, Jeanne Shoulder, Fred Daniels, Bill Levering, and Daniel Carlson.

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.

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.

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.

Earth Day Sunday

Every once in a while Earth Day and Sunday converge, and this year when they do we'll fully focus on this world of wonders! Join us for worship with the sizable symbol of our planet suspended above the chancel steps. Our Minute for Mission will illumine Compost/Recycle/Landfill best practices. Lower carbon/higher compassion treats will be provided for our refreshments amidst fellowship following the service. Our First Forum will feature the participants from the Lower Carbon Lent class guiding us through how to size up and shrink our respective ecological footprint – bring a smartphone, tablet or laptop to calculate your own amidst the conversation. Finally, you're invited on a short hike to Vale Park and Cemetery – picking up trash along the way to visit the Green Burial section and the FRC plot where rest the remains of our forbearers in the faith. Pack a lunch, bring a non-recyclable bag, and plan to leave directly after First Forum. Join us for a fun and festive Earth Day Sunday!

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.

Post-Worship Hospitality Needs

Please consider providing treats and hosting our post-worship fellowship by signing up for a couple of Sundays during the year. The sign-up sheet and instructions are in Dirck Romeyn room. Direct any questions you may have to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

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.

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
April 8	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	Update Activities at Camp Fowler by Kent Busman	Sanctuary
	11:15am	Growing Young Study	Join a new discussion of <i>Growing Young: how to help youth and young adults discover and love your church.</i> A couple extra copies available.	Mohawk House Pres
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano; Jim Corigliano, sax (courtesy union); Mike Lawrence, bass; Tim Coakley, drums.	Sanctuary
	6pm	Youth Group	Where is God in current events?	Mohawk House Lunn
April 9	11am	Group V	Questions contact Maria Todd at (518)882-6555.	Dirck Romeyn
April 10	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Guides are available from the church office, and the \$7 payment can be made to Peg Miller.	Dirck Romeyn
	6:30pm	Standing Committees	Individual Committees meet on their own.	Dirck Romeyn
	7:30pm	Consistory	Officers meeting	Various
April 11	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 34 in <i>The Story of Christianity</i> .	Mohawk House
	2pm	Staff Meeting	All staff meeting.	Office
	6pm	Fellowship Meal	Complimentary dinner & informal conversations shared before Contemplative Worship.	Dirck Romeyn
	7pm	Contemplative Worship	Reflective service of song, Scripture, communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.	Sanctuary
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Ukuleles play during Contemplative Worship.	Dirck Romeyn
April 12	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Come finish a project or start a new one.	Mezzanine
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
April 14	8am	Saturday Breakfast	“Poetry Shared: Words from the Heart of Memory” with David Walsh. There will be an opportunity for discussion, and for to share a favorite poem.	Arthur’s Market, 35 N Ferry Street
April 15	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	Masters Degree Project “Virtual World Designed for Teaching” by Wales Brown.	Sanctuary
	11:15am	Growing Young Study	Join a new discussion of Growing Young: how to help youth and young adults discover and love your church. A couple extra copies available.	Mohawk House Pres
	11:15am	Prayer and Support	Join us for a brief time of sharing concerns and praying in a confidential group on the third Sunday of each month. Please contact Karen Gonda with questions.	Mohawk House
	12pm	Confirmation Class		Bill’s Office
	5pm	History Potluck Dinner	Come and enjoy great company, good food, and learn some of the history of our church!	Mohawk House
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Brian Patneau, sax (courtesy union); Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D’Andrea, drums	Sanctuary
April 16	10:30am	Stephen Ministry offers Eddy group	Maria Todd is leading a new informal get together to share our life experiences and enjoy Friends from FRC. The meeting takes place the 3rd Monday.	Fireside room at the Eddy
April 14	8am	Saturday Breakfast	“Poetry Shared: Words from the Heart of Memory” with David Walsh. RSVP’s strongly encouraged; Joe Doolittle 518-588-2801 or aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com.	Arthur’s Market, 35 N Ferry Street
April 18	11am	First Things Volunteers	Help send off our Newsletter. Pizza will be provided. Anyone is welcome.	Mohawk House Lunn
	7:30pm	Evening Circle	We will discuss the book, <i>The Light In the Window</i> about the city Mission and its founder, Mike Saccocio.	Mohawk House
April 21	11am	Memorial Service	Eugene Zeltmann Memorial Service, a reception following at the Stockade Inn.	Sanctuary
April 27	12pm	Out to Lunch Bunch	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.	Round Lake

“I talk to God but the sky is empty.”
— Sylvia Plath

“We’ll never survive!”
“Nonsense. You’re only saying that because no one ever has.”
— William Goldman, *The Princess Bride*

“I like the scientific spirit — the holding off, the being sure but not too sure, the willingness to surrender ideas when the evidence is against them: this is ultimately fine—it always keeps the way beyond open—always gives life, thought, affection, the whole man, a chance to try over again after a mistake—after a wrong guess.”
— Walt Whitman

“Sometimes I think it is my mission to bring faith to the faithless, and doubt to the faithful.”
— Paul Tillich

“Doubt is an uncomfortable condition, but certainty is a ridiculous one.” — Voltaire

“I am all in a sea of wonders. I doubt; I fear; I think strange things, which I dare not confess to my own soul.” — Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

“Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.” — Paul Tillich

“Doubt ... is an illness that comes from knowledge and leads to madness.”
— Gustave Flaubert, *Memoirs of a Madman*

“You are never dedicated to something you have complete confidence in. No one is fanatically shouting that the sun is going to rise tomorrow. They know it's going to rise tomorrow. When people are fanatically dedicated to political or religious faiths or any other kinds of dogmas or goals, it's always because these dogmas or goals are in doubt.” — Robert M. Pirsig

“Doubt thou the stars are fire;
Doubt that the sun doth move;
Doubt truth to be a liar;
But never doubt I love .”
— William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

“We demand rigidly defined areas of doubt and uncertainty!” — Douglas Adams

“Friends ask you questions; enemies question you.” — Criss Jami, *Healology*

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Committee member
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Peter Ontkush	Dave Hjelm, Brad Lewis
Flower Delivery	Joanne & Kip Arnold Anne Gotwals	Vickie & Mike Horan Sharon McCullough
Greeters	Birdie Blackmer	Barbara Walton, Gini McDermott
Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano; Tim Coakley, drums; Jim Corigliano, sax; Mike Lawrence, bass	Peg Delaney, piano; Brian Patneaude, sax; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D’Andrea, drums
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Barbara Walton, Norma Brown, Art Casey, Phil Falconer, Tom Lindsay	Marilyn Leach, Don Leach, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Walt Robb, Maria Todd
Reader	Norma Brown	Therese McCarty
Ushers	Art Shultes, Hendrick & Joanne Arnold, Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay	Michael Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sara Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal