

***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.

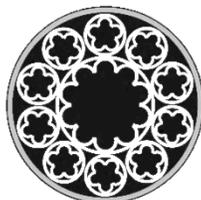
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



What might God
Need from us
Something
Fishy
Food
From Human Hands
For Jesus
Is Hungry
For our hungers
For connection



April 15, 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.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Chords of Love

The congregation is invited to sing along at any time.

Amazing Grace Traditional
He's Got the Whole World
Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho

Air on Open Strings Anne Ku
Michael Row the Boat Ashore Traditional
Swing Low

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT W. Walker

Friends in Faith

*HYMN *The Strife Is O'er* #119

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**O God beyond our wildest expectations,
you have given us and all creation new life
through Jesus Christ. We often fail to trust
the foundation of this miracle and instead
are deadened by anxiety and apathy,
distraction and despair. Forgive us again
and empower us to live this resurrection
fully. Amen.**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

**Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Hallelujah! Halle, lu-jah!**

*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

The Holy Heart Barbour/Skidmore

The Holy Heart was broken,
sent from the Father's side;
The Son of God forsaken,
The Holy Sacrifice.

For me He was forsaken.
For me He died alone,
My sin forever taken,
that I might be His own.

The Holy Lamb was stricken,
abandoned and alone,
He bore the world's affliction,
He bore it as His own.

And when my heart is broken,
Torn by my sin and pride,
The Son of God now risen,
now risen will draw me to His side.

FIRST LESSON Therese McCarty
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *1 John 3:1-7* (pg 240)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 24:36-48* (pg 91)

SERMON Bill Levering
Feeding Jesus

*HYMN #115
Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

An Offertory

Dan Forrest

O Christ, Who spared not any cost,
Nor any grace withheld
But poured forth Your redeeming
blood In love unparalleled;
What would you have me offer Lord?
What must I count as loss
That I may taste the fellowship
That brings me near the cross?

Why should I cling to gifts You give?
Why grasp in foolish pride
What You who gave Yourself for me
Now bid me lay aside?
To know You is my highest gain,
Worth any sacrifice,
A Treasure worthy to possess
At any earthly price.

Yet if behind my open hands,
My heart shrinks from the cost,
Teach me nothing offered You
Is ever truly lost.
A hundredfold reward awaits
In one glimpse of Your face,
My sacrifice forgotten in the riches of Your grace.

*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 #540
God Be with You Till We Meet Again

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Traditional

POSTLUDE

+ + +

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Scott Robert Jewett by his 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:

Barbara Weber, Iris Read, Kouan Fong, Margaret (Peg) R. Miller, Kathryn Pontius, Lewis Carosella, Charlotte Hubbard, Marcia Todd, Reynold Downing, Margaret Powers

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.

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.

Music Notes

Our guest pianist is Palma Catravas, a Union Professor in the Electrical Computer and Biomedical Engineering Dept. A graduate of MIT she has received a patent on a spectral analysis technique derived from music visualization. Palma is part of a duo piano ensemble with her brother Nicolas with a recent recital broadcast on WMHT.

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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 (April thru May/beginning of June) to work with our Kindergarten through 2nd graders. If you are interested in teaching our young members, contact Dorothy.

Earth Day Sunday

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!

Faith Book Shop

The blue cart is currently a free CD station! Take any disk that appeals to you; bring in any you no longer want in your own collection.

Post-Worship Hospitality Needs

Consider hosting our post-worship fellowship, the sign-up sheet and instructions are in Dirck Romeyn room. Questions go to James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com or 607-765-5349.

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 our website 1stReformed.com and are due by April 27.

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, 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 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	Join a new discussion of Growing Young: how to help youth and young adults discover and love your church. Chapters 1 and 2 will be our focus.	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 Lunn
	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 Patneaude, sax (courtesy union); Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums	Sanctuary
April 16	10:30am	Stephen Ministry Eddy group	Maria Todd leads 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 17	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Guides are available from the church office, and the \$7 payment can be made to Peg Miller.	Mohawk House Pres
	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
April 18	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Discussion of chapter 35 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	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Dirck Romeyn
	7:30pm	Evening Circle	Evening Circle will discuss the book, <i>The Light In the Window</i> about the city Mission and its founder, Mike Saccocio. All women are invited to join us.	Mohawk House Lunn

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
April 19	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Come finish a project or start a new one.	Mezzanine
	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	Stephen Ministers meet for continuing education small group peer supervision.	Mohawk House
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
April 21	11am	Memorial Service	Eugene Zeltmann Memorial Service, a reception following at the Stockade Inn.	Sanctuary
	9am	Soul Searchers Hike	Schodack Island State Park Hike. This 5.1-mile loop trek is dog friendly with excellent views. Pack a lunch. RSVP to James Gonda jgonda12309@gmail.com or 607-765-5349.	Church Parking Lot
April 22	11:15am	First Forum	Exploring of your Ecological Footprint with Daniel Carlson and friends.	Sanctuary
	11:15am	Growing Young	Join a new discussion of Growing Young: how to help youth and young adults discover and love your church.	Mohawk House Pres
	12pm	Earth Day Hike	A walk through the Stockade to Vale Cemetery's Green Burial section and FRC's plot - picking up recyclables, compostables, and rubbish en route.	Vale Cemetery
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Mike Lamkin, piano; Steve Lambert, trumpet (courtesy union); Pete Toigo, bass; Tim Coakley, drums	Sanctuary
	6pm	Youth Group	Earth Day and the next generation.	Mohawk House Lunn
April 26	10am	Prayer Shawl Knitting	4th Thursday of every month in the home of Gini McDermott.	21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna
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
April 28	9am	Bird-Watching Excursion	The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a "bird hike" to Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, led by local bird expert Jamie Taft. RSVP to James Gonda jgonda12309@gmail.com or 607-765-5349.	Church Parking Lot
April 29	11:15am	First Forum	Union College Protestant Ministry Celebration of Rev. Viki Brooks.	Sanctuary
May 5		Guess who is coming to dinner	The Membership and Fellowship Committee is hosting a dinner at members' homes where all of the participants are a mystery to one another.	Various Homes

“It was no accident, no coincidence, that the seasons came round and round year after year. It was the Lord speaking to us all and showing us over and over again the birth, life, death, and resurrection of his only begotten Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. It was like a best-loved story being told day after day with each sunrise and sunset, year after year with the seasons, down through the ages since time began.” — Francine Rivers, *The Last Sin Eater*

“Life [had] replaced logic.” — Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*

“For me the most radical demand of Christian faith lies in summoning the courage to say yes to the present risenness of Jesus Christ.”
— Brennan Manning

“It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It’s the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. Wonder can’t be packaged, and it can’t be worked up. It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement.”
— Eugene H. Peterson

“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. — John 11:25-26”

“The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom. . . . It is the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven.”
— N.T. Wright

“Optimism hopes for the best without any guarantee of its arriving and is often no more than whistling in the dark. Christian hope, by contrast, is faith looking ahead to the fulfillment of the promises of God, as when the Anglican burial service intones the corpse 'in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ.' Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God's own commitment, that the best is yet to come.” — J.I. Packer

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Christina Jones	Birdie Blackmer
Counting Deacons	Dave Hjelm, Brad Lewis	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Joan Lindsay
Flower Delivery	Vickie & Mike Horan Sharon McCullough	Ruth & Ken Roinos Rick & Cheryl Zahner
Greeters	Barbara Walton, Gini McDermott	David & Donna Bundy
Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Brian Patneude, sax; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D’Andrea, drums	Mike Lamkin, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Steve Lambert, trumpet; Tim Coakley, drums
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Marilyn Leach, Don Leach, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Walt Robb, Maria Todd	Gay Doolittle, Peggy King, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose, Ellie Rowland, Margaret Schadler
Reader	Therese McCarty	Amy Brule
Ushers	Michael Horan, Lisa Etkin, Julia Etkin, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps