

***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.



May 6, 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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 6, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE John Norton, piano
Sohan Kapila, piano

Gavotte J.S. Bach
Fugue #2 in C Minor
Fugue #6 in D Minor

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Friends in Faith* W. Walker

*HYMN *I've Got Peace Like a River* #368

*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 *Alleluia* Randall Thompson

FIRST LESSON Liz Mastrianni
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *1 John 4:7-21* (pg 240)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 15:9-17* (pg 109)

SERMON Bill Levering
As I Have Loved: Feed, Heal, Teach

*HYMN *O Perfect Love* (tune of 533)
edits by W.H. Levering

O perfect love, all human thought
transcending, Lowly we stand in prayer
before thy throne, That we may find a love
that knows no ending. Reflecting care and
peace that is your own.

O perfect life, bring forth our full
assurance. Of tender charity and steadfast
faith, Of patient hope and quiet brave
endurance. With childlike trust that fears
not pain nor death.

Grant us the joy that brightens earthly
sorrow. Grant us the peace that calms all
earthly strife. Be with us now; help us to
face tomorrow. Show us the way to
timeless love and life.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Speak, Oh Lord*
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Speak, O Lord, as we come to
You to receive the food of Your Holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the Light of Christ may be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all
Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak O Lord and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truth unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your Church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.
Speak, O Lord, as we come to
You to receive the truth of Your Holy Word.

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION and PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (unison) Carl Steubing

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts,
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

RECEPTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*Hold until all are served. Gluten free wafers
are available.*

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 *What Wondrous Love This Is* #85

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*

POSTLUDE

+ + +

Music Notes

Many thanks to all our guest singers who came today to sing the Randall Thompson *Alleluia*. This is Thompson's most famous work written in 1940 in only five days. It was commissioned by Serge Koussevitzky for the Berkshire Music Center when it opened for the first time. To this day, his *Alleluia*, is performed there every summer at the opening of the Tanglewood Music Festival.

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:

*Lloyd Johnston, Rev. Cornelius Van Leeuwen,
Albert Zink*

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.

Consistory Nominations Requested - Today

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 **by today**. 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.

New Edition

One, two, buckle my shoe, three, four, shut the door, five, six, pick up the Spring 2018 *Beverwyck Anthology* in the book store. Your free copy awaits your perusal.

Johnson Library

There are three new books, the first is *Wings of Spring*, by Tom Vezo and Chuck Hagner. Using beautiful illustrations, it describes the courtship, nesting, and fledging of birds that happens every spring. In the next book, Clare Sharp and Clare Foster describe with photos and words how flowers move from bud to seed each year. Finally Marilynne Robinson in *What Are We Doing Here?*, a collection of essays, shares her thoughts on modern politics and the mysteries of faith.

Healthy Women, Healthy Families

Mother's Day Project

The church has Mother's Day Cards available. Proceeds from your free-will purchase go to the Healthy Women Healthy Families project and they will inform the recipient of the gift in her honor. Please contact Lauren Cleworth at coachLT@nycap.rr.com.

Kinderwyk

We are looking for a new staff member to play and work with our youngest members. Our great Kinderwyk Assistant, Alexis Wisniewski, will be leaving us to continue her education at SUNY Oneonta! Alexis' last Sunday with us will be August 19.

In addition to finding a new staff for Kinderwyk, we are compiling a list of volunteers for Kinderwyk for the summer and school year. We need an extra adult (over 18) in Kinderwyk each Sunday to keep FRC's child protection policies valid. Please find at least one Sunday this year to devote to this important childcare. It is from 9:45am – 12pm, at the latest.

Faith Book Shop

A year-long, spiral Daily Devotional collection was put together by Group V and wrapped with a beautiful bow ready to give as a meaningful gift to someone else or to keep for nurturing your own spiritual journey. An unwrapped sample is available for perusing. Discounted price when you buy three.

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 for: 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.

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
May 6	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
	9am	Staffing Committee	Staffing Committee Meeting	Mohawk House Pres
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
	11:15am	First Forum	Master Bike Plan by Peter Knutson	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
	11:15am	UPC Mission Meeting	Mission Fund Meeting.	Mohawk House Lunn
	12pm	Confirmation Class		Bill's Office
	1pm	Crop Walk	5k beginning at Emmanuel Friedens Church.	218 Nott Terrace
	3pm	What's What @ FRC	A relaxed & interactive session to learn more about First Reformed. Let us to get to know you and find out what you are looking for in a church family.	Church Office
4pm	Synod Day of Mission and Ministry	Be inspired by the mission success of our Regional Synod family. Reserve your tickets at: https://tinyurl.com/smbcelebration for \$10/person	Delmar Reformed Church	
5pm	Jazz Vespers	Michael Roach, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums	Sanctuary	
6pm	Youth Group	Celebrating determined mothers with a discussion about Jesus and the Syrophoenician Woman.	Starbucks in Niskayuna	
May 7	11am	Group V	Questions contact Maria Todd at (518)882-6555.	Dirck Romeyn
May 8	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Guides are available from the church office for \$7.	Mohawk House Pres
	6:30pm	Standing Committees	Individual Committees meet on their own.	Dirck Romeyn
	7:30pm	Consistory	Officers meeting	Various
May 9	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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
May 9	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Ukuleles play during Contemplative Worship.	Dirck Romeyn
May 10	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
May 12	9am	FRC Sole Searchers Hike	We will be heading to southern Ulster County to visit the Red Hill Fire Tower. RSVP to James at jgonda12309@gmail.com or 607-765-5349.	Church Parking Lot
May 13	11:15am	First Forum	From Our Poetry/Prose Collection by James Gonda	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
	11:15am	Prayer and Support	Join us for a brief time of sharing concerns and praying in a confidential group every other Sunday. Please contact Karen Gonda with questions.	Mohawk House Lunn
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Scott Bassinson, piano; Ed Tourge, bass	Sanctuary
May 15		College Scholarships	Last chance to turn in applications for the Rev. Al Smith Education Scholarship.	
May 16	2pm	Staff Meeting	All staff meeting.	Office
May 17	5:30pm	Nominating Committee	Nominating Committee Meeting.	Mohawk House Pres
	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	Stephen Ministers meet for Continuing Education and Small Group Peer Supervision.	Mohawk House
May 20		Pentecost	Wear Red to Worship	
	11:15am	First Forum	Masters Degree Project "Virtual World Designed for Teaching" by Wales Brown	Sanctuary
	12pm	Bike Ride	A leisurely group ride from our church facility on the bike path about 5 miles west to Kiwani's Park. We will embark after First Forum and enjoy our packed lunches upon arrival. Everyone is welcome!	Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail
	5pm	History Potluck	Come and enjoy great company, good food, and the beginning history of our church. Everyone is welcome! RSVP to Dorothy Linder-Mitchell at 518-281-5673.	Mohawk House
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Sanctuary
May 23	11am	First Things Volunteers	Help send off our Newsletter. Pizza will be provided. Anyone is welcome.	Mohawk House Lunn
May 24	10am	Prayer Shawl Knitting	4th Thursday of every month in the home of Gini McDermott.	21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna
May 25	12pm	Out to Lunch Bunch	Lakeside Farms, located at 336 Schaumburg Road, Ballston Lake. Clue Gay 518-399-0499 if you're coming or just show up.	Lakeside Farms

How Do I Love Thee?

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.
— Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Love

All thoughts, all passions, all delights,
Whatever stirs this mortal frame,
All are but ministers of Love,
 And feed his sacred flame.
—Samuel Taylor Coleridge

“Agape” is loving a person for exactly who they are - not who we hope they'll become with enough fixing. It's this idea that every person has their layers, so you can never confine a person to only what you know about them from the first glance. It's stacked on the premise that to love anyone is to hope in them always.”
— Hannah Brencher

“Immature love seeks to change the beloved for its own benefit. Mature love seeks to see the beloved change for their benefit. Sacrificial love recognizes that there may be wounds so deep that their beloved may not be able to change. It is content to care, sometimes without the contentment which is to be found in being cared for.” — James Castleton, MD, Mending of a Broken Heart

I Wanna Know What Love Is
by Foreigner

I wanna know what love is
I want you to show me
I wanna feel what love is
I know you can show me

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Bill Clock
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Therese McCarty	Peter Ontkush, Cathy Lewis
Flower Delivery	Gay & Joe Doolittle, Del Pierce	Karen & James Gonda, Ellie & Gene Rowland
Greeters	Art & Millie Casey	Doug & Maria Todd
Jazz Vespers	Michael Roach, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea on drums	Scott Bassinson, piano; Ed Tourge, bass
Liturgist		Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Liz Mastrianni, Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton, Birdie Blackmer, Gay Doolittle, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Maria Todd	Darwin Brudos, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Walt Robb
Reader	Liz Mastrianni	Marilyn Leach
Ushers	Del Pierce, Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Doug Todd, Tom Zych	Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Alden Brown, Adam Kerwin