

***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.



July 22, 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.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 22, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Leah Kidwell-Fernandes

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP James Gonda

*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* #339

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Merciful God, we confess that we have fallen short of your vision for us in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, soul, or strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We ask that you forgive what we have been and help us amend what we are, so that we may lead the full life you desire for us. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*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

The Apostles' Creed - Ecumenical version

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he

ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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

MUSICAL OFFERING Kitty Trimarco, soprano

Pie Jesu

Gabriel Faure

Pie Jesu Domine, Dona eis requiem

Sempiternam requiem

Pious Jesus, Grant them rest.

Grant them everlasting rest.

FIRST LESSON

Kristin Lion

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

Amen.

Matthew 13:33-35 (pg 15)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dave Pizzolo

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 13:1-4a (pg 494)

SERMON

Escape

James Gonda

*HYMN

How Great Thou Art

#467

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Avery Tunningley

*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 *How Firm A Foundation* #361

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

+ + +

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:

Marvin Humphrey, George Feiker, Richard Gordon, Alice Junker, Rhonda Phillips, Leonard B. Vandenberg, Albert Demont, Jean Diesem

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.

Music Notes

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! text Marty Haugen, copyright GIA Pub. Inc.; music Caribbean; arr. John Bell and Graham Maule copyright 1990, WGRG the Iona Community; GIA Pub. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

Kinderwyk Staff Needed

With Alexis' departure, we are in need of a new Kinderwyk Staff member! If you, or anyone you know is interested in working with young children and are 18 or over, contact Dorothy! We are looking for someone to be dedicated to work Sunday's from 9:30-12 and as needed for special youth events. Kinderwyk is a fun place to be with a wonderful group of little ones who are all growing up too fast and eager to learn about God and the bible!

Kinderwyk and Sunday School Volunteer Nurturers Needed

Sign up with Dorothy and reserve your time to nurture our growing youth. If you are interested in Teaching Sunday School Classes, but can't commit to a full 3 month block, let Dorothy know as we are working to create an alternating schedule to fit our volunteers availability!

Prayers To Live By

"Now I lay me down to sleep..." "...and we thank you for this food" The Faith Bookshop committee will publish a collection of our church family's prayers to live by—prayers used at mealtime, bedtime or any other time. With your submission, please share author attribution if you know it or a brief message about who introduced you to the prayer. Please send any prayers you are willing to share for this purpose to Christina Jones at cmjones514@gmail.com by September 30. The collection will be available before Thanksgiving and in our new location.

Support and Care

Whenever you are ill, hospitalized, homebound, needing a meal, transportation to a doctor, or grieving a loss, we would 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.

Schenectady/Nijkerk Exchange

FRC helped found the Schenectady/Nijkerk Exchange in 1984 and has participated in each exchange since. On Friday night, 10 Nijkerk youth and 2 chaperones arrived and some are visiting with us this Sunday and next. Next year, Schenectady adults will go to Nijkerk. Nijkerk was the birthplace of Arendt Van Curler, founder of Schenectady. Settlers who came with Van Curler were founders of FRC. Several FRC members are actively involved in their visit, including 4 families who are hosting: Etkin's, Pizzolo's, Doolittle's, and Trimarco's. For more information, contact Laura Lee.

Post-Worship Hospitality Needs

Please consider 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. Questions you may have to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Empty Pill Bottle Donations

We are collecting empty pill bottle donations to be sent to places where medical supplies are needed. Look for donation boxes in Dirck Romeyn room, Lobby of Mohawk House, and outside the church office. For questions, contact Scott Ebeling at (518)424-2813 or sebeling8954@gmail.com.

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.

Help with Communion Preparations

The Worship Committee is looking for volunteers to help with communion preparations. Gerry Meyers and Amy Brule are now preparing communion and we would like to add others to our team. Contact Amy Brule at 518-785-8201 if you can help.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Committee Member
Counting Deacons	Bill Clock, Dick Gardener	Ralph Rosenthal, Ellie Brudos
Flower Delivery	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Karen & John Norton	Marey Bailey, James & Karen Gonda
Jazz Vespers	Mike Lamkin, piano	Dave Gleason, piano
Liturgist	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes	Bill Levering
Preacher	James Gonda	J.M.
Processing Elders	Brad Lewis, Del Pierce, Christine Daniels, Cathy Lewis, Walt Robb, Jeanne Shoulder	Darwin Brudos, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Peggy King, Bill Rochelle, Ellie Rowland
Reader	Kristin Lion	Ellie Rowland
Ushers	Bill Clock, Julie Etkin, Lisa Etkin, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce, Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Carol Troost, Tom Zych

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
July 22	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	Children ages 4 and older and adults are welcome to join. No experience is necessary!	Sanctuary Balcony
	11:15am	Open Hearts	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	Mike Lamkin, piano. We are now in the Mohawk House until the construction is complete. It has air conditioning!	Mohawk House
July 23	6pm	NAMI Course	The local chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness offers this free course in caring for a loved one with mental illness. Email namischenectady@gmail.com	Mohawk House Lunn
July 24	6:30pm	Youth Group	Evening at Jumpin' Jack's. Meet up for dinner around 6:30pm and water ski show at 7pm	5 Schonowee Ave, Scotia
July 28	10am	Youth Group Breakfast	Please join us for breakfast at Puzzles Cafe in Schenectady. This will be a great chance to meet some new people and get connected. Any questions? Email cmjones514@gmail.com.	Puzzles Cafe 515 State St
July 29	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers are available to sit with, listen to & pray for & with you.	Dykstra Chapel
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	Children ages 4 and older and adults are welcome to join. No experience is necessary!	Sanctuary Balcony
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano. We are now in the Mohawk House until the construction is complete. It has air conditioning!	Mohawk House
July 30	6pm	NAMI Course	The local chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness offers this free course in caring for a loved one with mental illness. Email namischenectady@gmail.com	Mohawk House Lunn
Aug 1	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres
Aug 5	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Aug 5	11am	Consistory Retreat	Getting to know one another and strengthening relationships in a variety of ways.	Mohawk House
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	Children ages 4 and older and adults are welcome to join. No experience is necessary!	Sanctuary Balcony
	11:15am	Open Hearts	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	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Mohawk House
Aug 6	6pm	NAMI Course	The local chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness offers this free course in caring for a loved one with mental illness. Email namischenectady@gmail.com	Mohawk House Lunn
Aug 7	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
Aug 8	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.	Mohawk House Pres
Aug 10	10am	BBQ Potluck for Youth Families	Hosted by the Pizzolo Family,. RSVP to Natalie Pizzolo 518-867-6502 by 8/7 and let her know what side dish, salad or dessert you will be bringing!	Pizzolo's 1682 Providence, Niskayuna
Aug 12	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	Children ages 4 and older and adults are welcome to join. No experience is necessary!	Sanctuary Balcony
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano	Mohawk House
Aug 13	6pm	NAMI Course	The local chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness offers this free course in caring for a loved one with mental illness. Email namischenectady@gmail.com	Mohawk House Lunn
Aug 15	9:30am	Kerygma Summer Adventure	Road Trip to grave of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and lunch at Culinary Institute.	Mohawk House
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres

Notes

“How did I escape? With difficulty. How did I plan this moment? With pleasure.”

— Alexandre Dumas

“Desperation is the raw material of drastic change. Only those who can leave behind everything they have ever believed in can hope to escape.” — William S. Burroughs

“I wish I could fly like that hawk, rising and falling with the still spaces in the air, far above all this sickness and death and evil.”

— Heather Day Gilbert

“I wanted freedom in the same way I wanted my next breath: an unspoken but constant desire.” — Jodi Meadows

“Escape is a process, not a pill.”

— Beth Kempton

“God always makes a way of escape from complicated situations” — Sunday Adelaja

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”

— Maya Angelou

“Stories of imagination tend to upset those without one.” — Terry Pratchett

“If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people.”

— Virginia Woolf

“Stories can conquer fear, you know. They can make the heart bigger.” — Ben Okri

“Perhaps some day I'll crawl back home, beaten, defeated. But not as long as I can make stories out of my heartbreak, beauty out of sorrow”

— Sylvia Plath

“We're all stories, in the end.”

— Steven Moffat