

***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.



August 12, 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.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 12, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE John Norton, piano
Prelude and Fugue #24 in B Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach
Improvisation on "Two Islands"
Basia Trzetrzelewska

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

*HYMN *How Firm A Foundation* #361

*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 Paroma Lahiri, flute
John Norton, piano
First movement of "Fantasie" Faure

FIRST LESSON Ellie Rowland
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Ephesians 4:25-30* (pg 194)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Ephesians 4:25-30* (pg 194)

SERMON *Positive Talk* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Help Us Accept Each Other* #358

OFFERING

OFFERTORY John Norton
Prelude #1 in C Johann Sebastian Bach
(from the *Well Tempered Clavier*, Bk. 1)

*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 *Love Divine, All Love Excelling* #376

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

+ + +

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Dorothy Davidson, given by Don and Jeanette Davidson.

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:

Marjorie Burke, Helen Huff Lord, Lorraine Ebeling, Linda Richards, Dorothy Davidson Elyne Schulte, Cameron Barrie Rowe

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.

Music Notes

The Prelude in C is considered a hallmark or “flagship” composition of the Well Tempered Clavier, and it has been used by composers over the centuries who wished to emulate the baroque style in their own creative endeavors.

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Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Sundays to deliver flowers to those who are homebound, hospitalized, ill or celebrating. Please sign up on the church website 1stReformed.com. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our care and support our fellow church members.

Kinderwyk & Sunday School Volunteers

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!

The Faith Bookshop, Prayers To Live By

“Now I lay me down to sleep...” 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 to Christina Jones cmjones514@gmail.com by September 30. The collection will be available before Thanksgiving.

Johnson Library

The library added three books to its shelf. The first, *The Fabulous Flemings of Kathmandu*, by Grace Nies Fletcher is about two medical missionaries who travel to Nepal in the 1950s to provide much needed medical care. The second, *The Chinese Ginger Jars*, by Myra Scovel is an autobiography of her missionary family's time in China during the Japanese occupation in WWII and later the Communist regime. The final book by Stanley Hauerwas, *The Character of Virtue* is a compilation of letters written to his godson on each birthday which discusses a virtue and its importance in living a Christian life.

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.

Creation Retreat at Camp Fowler

Registration is now open for our Creation Celebration and Preservation retreat in the Adirondacks at Camp Fowler October 5-7! Immersive, interactive and inspirational worship, hikes, paddles, meals, activities, presentations, and conversations are on the schedule. This time away is open to singles, couples, and families of all ages and stages who wish to grow in awareness, affection and appreciative stewardship of God's beloved world, our common home. To register use the link the Creation Celebration and Preservation link on our church website or visit: campfowler.org/creationcelebration

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 is in Dirck Romeyn room. Questions contact James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Bill Clock	Martha Winchester
Counting Deacons	Tom Burgoyne, Carol Troost	Sarah Bachorik, Vickie McGowan-Horan
Flower Delivery	Jeanette & Don Davidson, Kay Opdyke	Sarah Bachorik, Barbara Walton
Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Amy Brule, Wayne Brule, Del Pierce, Bill Rochelle, Kitty Trimarco, Barbara Walton	Birdie Blackmer, Gay Doolittle, Susan Hout, Norm Kuchar, Vickie McGowan-Horan
Reader	Ellie Rowland	Norm Kuchar
Ushers	Art Shultes, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay	Michael Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Aug 10	6pm	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
	11:30am	Youth Ed Committee	We will be having a mid-summer meeting to discuss the upcoming school year and work on planning. Lunch will be provided.	Mohawk House Lunn
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano	Mohawk House Lunn
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. Contact Daniel Carlson before noon, Monday, Aug. 13, to join the journey.	Mohawk House Pres.
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres
Aug 16	2pm	Planning Meeting	Dear Staff: This meeting is important as we plan event dates for the church calendar year.	Mohawk House Pres
Aug 17	11:30am	All Youth Families Picnic	Picnic at Collins Park. Everyone welcome! Enjoy the playground and new splash pad! Bring your frisbee, soccer ball, kite, or any other outdoor activity!	Schonowee Ave, Scotia, NY 12302
Aug 19	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	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Mohawk House Lunn

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Aug 20	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 21	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
Aug 22	11:30am	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.	Mohawk House Pres
Aug 25	9am	FRC Sole Searchers	We will head to the Taconic Crest Trail near the New York/Massachusetts border. Make sure to pack a lunch. RSVP to James at jgonda12309@gmail.com	Church Parking Lot
Aug 26	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	Tim Olsen, piano	Mohawk House Lunn
Aug 29	5:30pm	All Youth Families BBQ	BBQ potluck with grilled burgers & hotdogs. Bring your favorite board game or card games!	Mohawk House
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres
Sept 2	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	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Mohawk House Lunn
Sept 3 Labor Day – Office Closed				
Sept 4	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
Sept 5	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres

Notes

“Nobody gets praised for the right reasons.”
— Diana Wynne Jones, *Castle in the Air*

“Blessed is he who has learned to admire but not envy, to follow but not imitate, to praise but not flatter, and to lead but not manipulate.” — William Arthur Ward

“We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction.” — H.A. Ironside

“When virtues are pointed out first, flaws seem less insurmountable.” — Judith Martin

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle.” — Plato

“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.” — Henry James

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” — Desmond Tutu

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” — Mark Twain

“Be a little kinder than you have to.”
— E. Lockhart, *We Were Liars*

“Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people.” — Roy T. Bennett

“Treat everyone with politeness and kindness, not because they are nice, but because you are.” — Roy T. Bennett

“Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution.” — Kahlil Gibran

“Kindness is not a business. True kindness expects nothing in return and should never act with conditions.” — Roy T. Bennett