

***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 19, 2018***

*First Reformed Church  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://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](http://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.

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

August 19, 2018

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Paroma Lahiri, flute  
John Norton, piano

*Syrinx* Debussy  
*Fugue #15 in G* Johann Sebastian Bach  
from the *Well Tempered Clavier, Book 1*  
*Bergère Captive* Pierre Octave Ferroud

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering  
The grace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

\*HYMN *Take My Life* #391

\*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

*Spirit of the Living God*

Francis Patrick O'Brien

Spirit of the living God,  
born of passion and delight,  
melting hearts of stone,  
guiding lost ones home,  
child of wind and flame and light.

Spirit moving in our days,  
breaking through all that divides,  
claiming what is just,  
calling all to trust,  
presence in which God resides.

Breathe in us your breath of life,  
life from God which has no end.  
Raise us from the grave,  
ev'ry soul to save,  
Spirit, God and gentle friend.

Be our home at journey's ending,  
Spirit in a world that waits,  
Be the one for whom we long.  
Hurry to our side;  
be our heav'n-ly guide.  
Place us in Creation's song.

Spirit, teach us now your way;  
break the circle of our pain.  
Open up our eyes;  
come, renew our lives.  
Stir in us your holy flame!

Breathe in us your perfect peace,  
peace that conquers all our fear;  
teach us to forgive;  
in your love we live.  
Spirit, God, be present here;  
you, our joy from year to year.

Veni Sancte, Sancte Spiritus.

FIRST LESSON Norm Kuchar  
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
Amen. *Psalm 111* (pg 562)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Ephesians 5:15-20* (pg 194)

SERMON Bill Levering  
*The Song of God*

\*HYMN *O for a World* #386

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Lily of the Valley* arr. By Robert DeCromier

He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.  
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.  
King Jesus in the chariot rides, Oh my Lord.  
With four white horses side by side, Oh my Lord.

What kind of shoes are those you wear, Oh my Lord.  
That you can ride up in the air? Oh my Lord.  
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.  
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.

These shoes I wear are gospel shoes, Oh my Lord,  
And you can wear them if you choose, Oh my Lord.  
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.  
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh yes, He's my Lord.

\*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 #387  
*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

\*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:

*Anne Marie Buchanan, John Herring, Beth Herring, Frances Shuey*

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.

**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!

## Creation Retreat at Camp Fowler

There's still free cabins 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 who wish to grow in awareness, affection and appreciative stewardship of Gods 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](http://campfowler.org/creationcelebration)

## Summer Lunch Program Volunteers

All, who helped with the Summer Lunch program, are invited to a Thank You Brunch at St Stephens Church, on The Plaza, Tuesday, August 21 from 9am -11:30am. Event is catered by Home Style Pizza. Do come.

## Music Notes

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**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](mailto: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.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Martha Winchester	Sarah Howes
Counting Deacons	Sarah Bachorik, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Kim Burgoyne, George Trimarco
Flower Delivery	Sarah Bachorik, Barbara Walton	Kim & Tom Burgoyne, Kitty & George Trimarco
Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, Gay Doolittle, Susan Houpt, Norm Kuchar, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Brad Lewis, Barbara Mancuso, Cathy Lewis, Walt Robb, Keith Muse
Reader	Norm Kuchar	George Trimarco
Ushers	Michael Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps

## Coming Up

**See the newsletter or call the church office for more information**

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
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
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 <a href="mailto:namischenectady@gmail.com">namischenectady@gmail.com</a>	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
<b>Aug 25</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>FRC Sole Searchers</b>	<b>We will head to the Taconic Crest Trail near the New York/Massachusetts border. Make sure to pack a lunch. RSVP to James at <a href="mailto:jgonda12309@gmail.com">jgonda12309@gmail.com</a></b>	<b>Church Parking Lot</b>
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	9:30am	<b>Kerygma Summer Adventure</b>	<b>Take 2! Here's another chance to join the Road Trip to grave of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and lunch at Culinary Institute. Contact Daniel Carlson to join.</b>	<b>Mohawk House Pres.</b>
	5:30pm	<b>All Youth Families BBQ</b>	<b>BBQ potluck with grilled burgers &amp; hotdogs. Bring your favorite board game or card games!</b>	<b>Mohawk House</b>
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Place</b>
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	Scott Bassinson, piano	Mohawk House Lunn
<b>Sept 3 Labor Day – Office Closed</b>				
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
Sept 9	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	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Mohawk House Lunn
Sept 11	6:30pm	Standing Committees	Individual Committees meet on their own.	Various
	7:30pm	Consistory	Officers meeting	Dirck Romeyn
Sept 12	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
Sept 16	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

## Notes

“If I cannot fly, let me sing.”

— Stephen Sondheim

“Words make you think. Music makes you feel.

A song makes you feel a thought.”

— E.Y. Harburg

“There is another alphabet, whispering from every leaf, singing from every river, shimmering from every sky.”

— Dejan Stojanovic

“If everyone started off the day singing, just think how happy they'd be.”

— Lauren Myracle, Shine

“Love, I find, is like singing.”

— Zora Neale Hurston

“Then the singing enveloped me. It was furry and resonant, coming from everyone's very heart. There was no sense of performance or judgment, only that the music was breath and food.”

— Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*

“Those who wish to sing always find a song.”

— Swedish Proverb

“Are you asking me if there is a god?' he said, still in that soft voice. 'All I can say is, I believe there is. I feel him when I sing. He has responded to my prayers countless times. He guides my actions and he dwells in my heart. I know he is there.”

— Sharon Shinn, *Archangel*

“And all meet in singing, which braids together the different knowings into a wide and subtle music, the music of living. ”

— Alison Croggon, *The Naming*