

***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.



September 2, 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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 2, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Nat Phipps

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

*HYMN

O Perfect Love

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.

*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

Our Song of Hope (Introduction)

**We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Nat Phipps

FIRST LESSON

Carol Troost

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9* (pg 516)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Song of Songs 2:8-13 (pg 623)

SERMON

God and Romance

Bill Levering

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Nat Phipps

*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

*Come forward from the middle, take bread,
dip it in the cup of juice, and eat, returning
by the side aisle. Gluten free wafers are at
the middle station. Tell an usher if you need
to be served at your seat.*

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 Diving, All Loves Excelling* #376

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

+ + +

<p>Entered into Eternal Rest Hope Crutcher – August 25</p>

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.

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:

Jane & Clifford Bryant, Richard Zentmire

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.

**September Worship Emphasis:
The Season of Creation**

This September we will celebrate our commitment to care for creation by departing from our usual use of the Revised Common Lectionary in worship and join with an increasing number of congregations throughout the world in hearing Scripture readings that especially emphasize various aspects of God's handiwork. This year's themes are: Planet, Humanity, Sky, and Mountain.

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 & Church School Volunteers

Sign up with Dorothy or Liam 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 us know as we are working to create an alternating schedule to fit our volunteers availability!

Church School & Youth Music

All children in grades K-8 are welcome to join in our Sunday School activities by leaving immediately after the Children's Message. Parents can pick up their children at 12 noon in the Walton House (church office entrance.)

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.

Faith Book Shop

On the blue cart in the Book Shop/Heritage Room, you'll find free, recently donated books focusing on religious subjects. Come in, and also check on other items available.

Take a Bite of the Big Apple

The FRC Sole Searchers will head to Manhattan on Saturday, December 1, by train. This one-day trip will be hosted by two former residents of NYC. Depending on the size of our group, train ticket prices will range from \$44 to \$83. RSVP to James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com by **September 30**. More details will follow in the near future.

Prayers To Live By

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.

Music Notes

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Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Bill Clock	Sarah Howes
Counting Deacons	Dave Hjelm, Cynthia Gallagher	Kristin Lion, Joan Lindsay
Flower Delivery	Bill Clock Ellie & Gene Rowland	Claire Hughes-Sheremeta Lian Drisgula & Tom Zych
Greeters	Dave & Gabby Pizzolo Natalie & Gillian Pizzolo	Brad & Cathy Lewis Vicky McGowan-Horan
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Scott Bassinson, piano
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Barbara Walton, Amy Brule, Wayne Brule	Marilyn Leach, Norma Brown, Christine Daniels, Don Leach, Tom Lindsay, Margaret Schadler
Reader	Carol Troost	Christine Daniels
Ushers	Bill Clock, Christina & Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce, Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Tom Zych

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Sept 2	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
	3pm	What's What @ FRC	A relaxed, noncommittal, and interactive session for folks to learn more about First Reformed. It is also a time for us to get to know you and find out what you are looking for in a church family.	Church Office
	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
Sept 6	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
Sept 8	11am	Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice!	Join our Justice Action and Creation Care committees, other people of faith and those of good will to call on our elected officials to lead a just transition to 100% renewable energy, halt construction of fossil fuel infrastructure & make corporate polluters pay.	Governor's Mansion (contact Daniel Carlson for more info.)
Sept 9	10:15am	Church School	Children in grades K-5 are invited to go upstairs for church school after the Children's Message.	Schermerhorn & Walton
	11:15am	Fall Church Picnic	Bring a friend! Families with last names ending in A-Q are asked to bring a side dish or salad and families with last names ending in R-Z are asked to bring a dessert.	Outside of Church
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Scott Bassinson, piano	Mohawk House Lunn
Sept 11	6:30pm	Committee Meetings	Individual Committees meet on their own.	Various
	7:30pm	Consistory	Officers meeting	Dirck Romeyn
Sept 12	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	All are welcome to a new Bible study and discussion on God's command to speak out. Copies of our guide, <i>Interrupting Silence</i> , by Walter Brueggemann, are available in the Faith Bookshop. See Daniel Carlson, for details.	Mohawk House Pres
	2pm	Staff Meeting	All staff meeting.	Office
	6pm	Fellowship Meal	Complimentary dinner & informal conversations shared before Contemplative Worship.	Dirck Romeyn

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Sept 12	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 13	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Come finish a project or start a new one.	Mezzanine
Sept 16	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
	11:15am	First Forum	Making Room: Fred Daniels and Bill Levering	Sanctuary
	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
	6pm	Youth Group Launch Night	Meeting for all FRC Youth aged 6 th -12 th grade and their parents/guardians. 6-7:30pm	Mohawk House Lunn
Sept 17	10:30am	Stephen Ministry Glen Eddy Group	An informal get together to share our life experiences and enjoy Friends from FRC. The meeting takes place every 3rd Monday at 10:30am - 11:30am.	Fireside room at the Eddy
Sept 18	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Our study guide "God's Promise: I am with you," is \$10. Contact Barbara Walton, (518) 894-5021 or waltonbl@aol.com if you have questions.	Mohawk House Pres
	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
Sept 19	11:30am	First Things Volunteers	Help send off our Newsletter. Pizza will be provided. Anyone is welcome.	Mohawk House Lunn
Sept 20	6:30am	Stephen Ministry	All active Stephen gather for community building, continuing education & Small Group Peer Supervision.	Mohawk House
Sept 21	12pm	Group VII	We will meet for lunch at the Eddy. We hope some new women will join us as we begin a new year of fellowship.	Glen Eddy
	11:15am	First Forum	Meet Liam Battjes New Director of Christian Development.	Sanctuary
	1:30pm	Like to Bike?	Please join the Sole Searchers for a 19 mile bicycle excursion on the Erie Canal towpath from Amsterdam to Fultonville, NY. (Rain date, 9/30), RSVP to James Gonda, jgonda12309@gmail.com	Church Parking Lot
	5pm	Family Pot-Luck Dinners	Pot-Lucks are open to everyone. Bring a friend to join the fun and community fellowship. Bring your Favorite Dish to share. Beverages will be provided.	Dirck Romeyn
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Azzaam Hameed, piano	Mohawk House Lunn

“Life is too short for half-hearted connections and meaningless run-throughs.” — Karen Kingsbury

“Where are you going?”

"To get my Bible."

"Right now? You can't get your Bible out right now! I'm, I'm, we're just about to..."

She'd never be able to go through with this if he got out his Bible. She wiped all humor from her face.

"I believe you. Proverbs 5:18. Rejoice, relish, and romp with your husband."

He chuckled. "I'm serious, Connie, and I won't have you feeling ashamed or unclean over anything we do in that bed, tonight or any other night."

"I won't. I feel unashamed and very clean. I promise. But please don't get out that Bible."

"What? Think you that God can't see us right now?"

Groaning, she slid off his lap and covered her face with her hands. He sunk to his knees in front of her, drawing her hands down.

"I love you. You love me. We are man and wife. God is watching, Connie, and He is very, very pleased." — Deeanne Gist

“Raphael said, “There are no tears in Heaven, no chances of a broken heart. Maybe being witness to great love is why I love coming to Earth. And maybe true love is why some angels choose to stay.” — D.F. Jones, *Anna's Way*

“She had never been in love before. She'd tried to save herself the pain, but all her pretending and hiding the truth from herself had not saved her at all. And even though this love was painful, it was worth it to remember how the sight of him and the sound of his voice had made her heart beat faster, that feeling of wanting what was best for someone else, even if it broke her own heart.”

— Melanie Dickerson

“There are moments when your heart breaks and swells at the same time. When there is so much love flooding in and out of your soul that you wonder if the tide will whisk you along with it.”

— Tammy L. Gray, *Until I Knew Myself*