

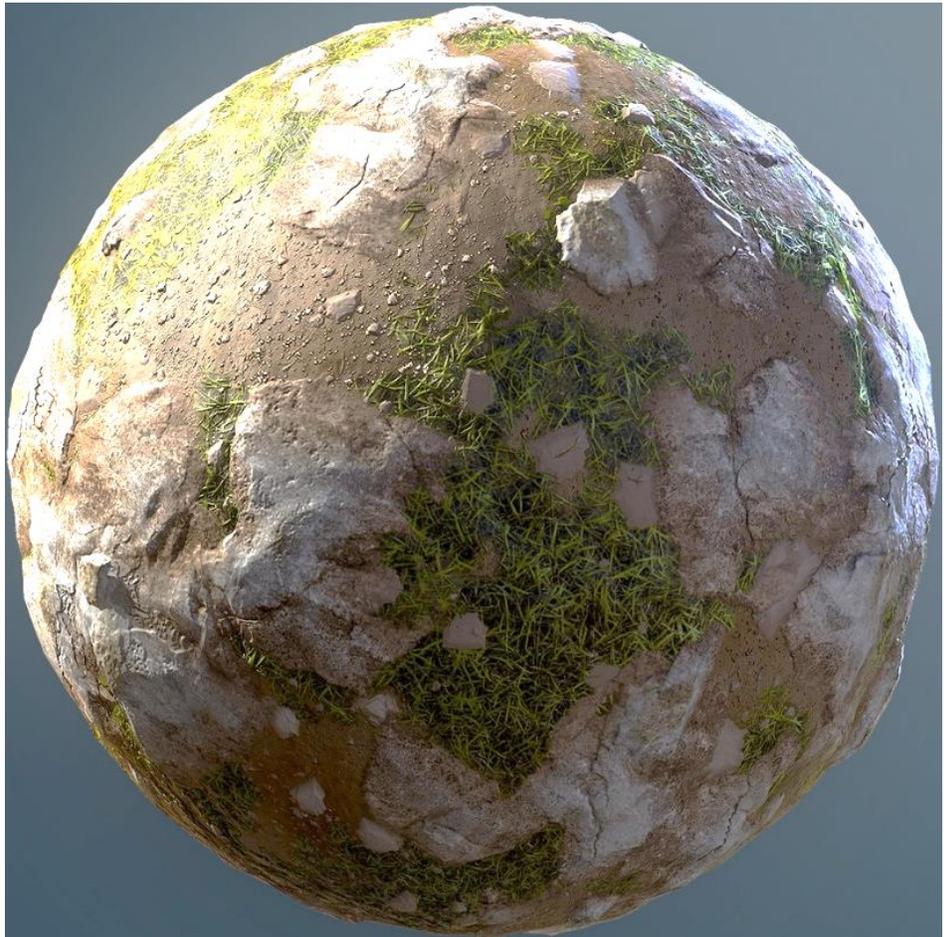
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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 9, 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.

Second Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 9, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Wayne Hawkins

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT American Shaker Melody
When I Gaze On Creation Dolores Dufner

*HYMN *The Earth Is Yours* Michael Gungor

Your voice it thunders,
The oaks start twisting
The forest sounds with cedars breaking
The waters see You
and start their writhing
From the depths a song is rising.
Now it's rising from the ground

***Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord
the earth is yours and singing
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord
The earth is yours.
The earth is Yours***

Your voice it thunders
The ground is shaking
The mighty mountains now are trembling
Creation sees you
And starts composing
The fields and trees they start rejoicing.
Now it's rising from the ground (*Chorus*)

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

O Creator of all, we humbly confess we have degraded and diminished, polluted and overpopulated your beloved world, our common home. Through what we have done and what we have left undone, we have increased the groaning of creation. In your abundant mercy, we ask your forgiveness. And by your Spirit, thoroughly teach and transform us to reverently know, love and protect all you

have made. In the name of Christ, the creative impulse of all creation, we pray.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies. Lord of all, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FRC Creation Care Resolution)

Scripture reveals that God, through Word and Spirit, creates, sustains, loves, and owns the World.

We therefore commit ourselves to make the care of creation a central priority, for the blessing of the world, the strengthening of our lives, and the transformation of our communities, to the glory of God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies
For the love which from
our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise,
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower.
Sun and moon and stars of light.
Lord of all, to thee we raise,
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above.
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise,
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
Lord of all, to thee we raise,
this our joyful hymn of praise.

FIRST LESSON Christine Daniels
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Genesis 1:1-25 (pg 1)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Psalm 33:1-9 (pg 507)*

SERMON Bill Levering
The Little Challenges of Big Problems

*HYMN *For The Beauty of the Earth* #473

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Look at the World John Rutter

Look at the world, everything all around us:
Look at the world, and marvel ev'ry day.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,
So many miracles along our way.

Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation.
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,
All things come of thee. (Refrain)

Look at the world bringing forth fruit and flower;
Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,
Valley and flowing river, field and plain:

Ev'ry good gift, all that we need and cherish
Comes from the Lord in token of his love;
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty;
His is the earth, and his the heav'ns above. (Refrain)

*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 *This Land Is Your Land*

This land is your land
and this land is my land
From California to the New York island
From the Redwood Forest,
to the gulf stream waters
This land was made for you and me

As I went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
And saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island
From the Redwood Forest,
to the gulf stream waters
This land was made for you and me

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Traditional

POSTLUDE

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Beverly McLane – September 2

A memorial service was held on September 8

Alun Pritchard – September 5

A memorial service will be held today at 1pm
at Daly Funeral Home

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:

Mary Jane Getty, James Pontius, Allen John Wood, Richard L. Shuey, Charlotte Ramsey

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.

Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Sundays to deliver flowers to those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or celebrating. Please sign up on the church website 1stReformed.com.

Music Notes

The Earth is Yours, Michael Gungor. (c)worship together.com songs. Used by permission under CCLI #11256325.

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!

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.

“New Life” Stewardship

"The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord." (Psalm 24:1) Generosity is our response to knowing our place in creation.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Sarah Howes	Nancy Wainwright
Counting Deacons	Kristin Lion, Joan Lindsay	Matt Jones, Peter Ontkush
Flower Delivery	Claire Hughes-Sheremeta Lian Drisgula & Tom Zych	Rebecca Grande, Cynthia Hamilton
Greeters	Brad & Cathy Lewis Vicky McGowan-Horan	
Jazz Vespers	Scott Bassinson, piano	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Marilyn Leach, Norma Brown, Christine Daniels, Don Leach, Tom Lindsay, Margaret Schadler	Barbara Mancuso, Birdie Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Jeanette Davidson, Mary Jewett, Bill Rochelle
Reader	Christine Daniels	Barbara Walton
Ushers	Bill Clock, Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Tom Zych	Jim & Sharron McCullough, Alden Brown, Adam Kerwin

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Sept 9	9am	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
	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	Everyone's invited to join us after service today for great food and plenty of fun!	Outside of Church
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Scott Bassinson, piano. Due to scheduling, Vespers is back in the Sanctuary beginning this Sunday.	Sanctuary
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 Bookshop. See, Daniel Carlson, for further details.	Mohawk House Pres
	2pm	Staff Meeting	All staff meeting.	Office
	6pm	Fellowship Meal	Complimentary dinner & informal conversation 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 13	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Finish a project or start a new one.	Mezzanine
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
Sept 16	9am	Youth Group Leaders Meeting	Youth Group Leaders Meeting.	Mohawk House Pres
	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	Sanctuary
	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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Sept 18	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Our Study guide "God's Promise: I am with you," cost 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
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres
Sept 20	6:30am	Stephen Ministry	All active Stephen Ministers 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
Sept 23	11:15am	First Forum	Meet Liam Battjes New Director of Christian Development.	Sanctuary
	1:30pm	Like to Bike? FRC Sole Searchers	Please join us for a bicycle excursion on the Erie Canal towpath from Amsterdam to Fultonville, 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	Sanctuary
Sept 27	10am	Prayer Shawl Knitting	4th Thursday of every month in the home of Gini McDermott.	21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna
	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers are available to sit with, listen to & pray for & with you.	Dykstra Chapel
	11:15am	First Forum	Meet Wayne Hawkins New FRC Musician.	Sanctuary
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Mike Lamkin, piano	Sanctuary
			Last Day to Sign-up	Take a Bite of the Big Apple – FRC Sole Searchers will head to Manhattan on December 1, by train. This will be a one-day trip, please RSVP to James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com by today.
Oct 1	11am	Group V	Questions contact Maria Todd at (518)882-6555.	Dirck Romeyn
Oct 5		Creation Retreat at Camp Fowler	Worship in the woods, paddle the lake, walk the trails, carve a pumpkin, gaze at the stars and much more.	Camp Fowler
Oct 7	10am	World Communion Sunday	We collect an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing, who support projects that break the cycles of poverty, hunger, and thirst, as well as providing aid in times of crisis.	Sanctuary
	2pm	Blessing of the Beasts	All are welcome to bring their pet to be blessed on the church lawn. If your pet is sick, difficult to transport, or uncomfortable, feel free to bring a picture or just the name.	Church Lawn

Notes

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.” — Rachel Carson

“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.” — Franklin D. Roosevelt

“The Holy Land is everywhere” — Black Elk

“We have become, by the power of a glorious evolutionary accident called intelligence, the stewards of life's continuity on earth. We did not ask for this role, but we cannot abjure it. We may not be suited to it, but here we are.” — Stephen Jay Gould,

“We are, quite literally, gambling with the future of our planet- for the sake of hamburgers” — Peter Singer

"unless there is some kind of spiritual revolution that is able to keep abreast of our technological genius, we will not save our planet.” — Karen Armstrong

“These folk are hewers of trees and hunters of beasts; therefore we are their unfriends, and if they will not depart we shall afflict them in all ways that we can.” — J.R.R. Tolkien

“Having a place means that you know what a place means...what it means in a storied sense of myth, character and presence but also in an ecological sense...Integrating native consciousness with mythic consciousness” — Gary Snyder

“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect” — Aldo Leopold