

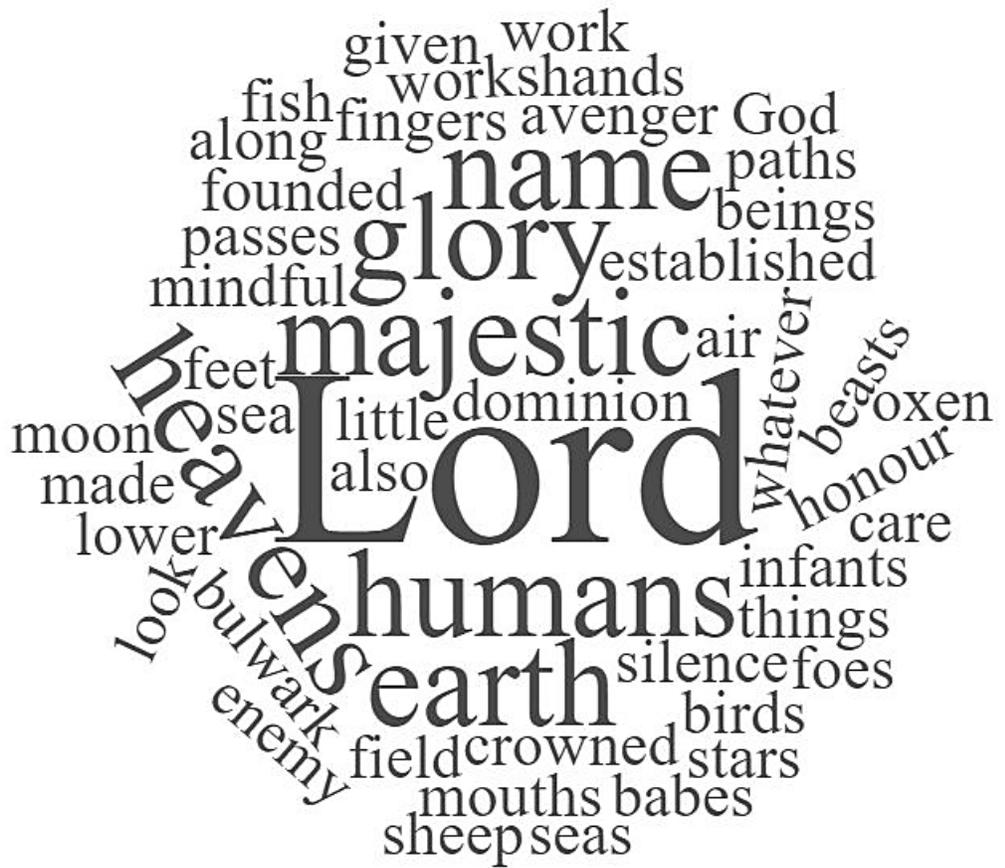
***The Covenant of Our  
Congregation  
Adopted in 1962***

*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 16, 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.

## Third Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 16, 2018

\*The congregation may stand.

### PRELUDE

Adult Ukuleles

*Down By the Riverside*

Traditional

*Gather Us In*

Marty Haugen

*Let's Get Together*

Chet Powers

Please sing the chorus with us:

**Come on people now, smile on your  
brother, everybody get together, try to love  
one another right now.**

*I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing*

W. Backer

**I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect  
harmony. I'd like to hold it in my arms  
and keep it company.**

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

#345

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

### \*OUR NEED FOR GOD

**Creator of all, we confess that we have  
polluted and overpopulated your beloved  
world, our common home. Through what  
we have done and what we have left  
undone, we have increased the distress of  
creation. We ask your forgiveness. Teach  
and transform us, we pray, to care for all  
you have made.**

### \*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

*Majesty and Glory of Your Name* Tom Fettke

When I gaze into the night sky  
and see the work of your fingers;  
The moon and stars suspended in space.  
Oh, what is man, that You are mindful of him?

You have given man a crown of glory and honor,  
And have made him a little lower than the angels,  
You have put him in charge of all creation:  
The beasts of the field, the birds of the air,  
The fish of the sea. But what is man  
That you are mindful of him?

O Lord our God  
the majesty and glory of Your name  
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens,  
O Lord our God,  
little children praise You perfectly,  
And so would we. Alleluia, Alleluia,  
The majesty and glory of Your name.

### FIRST LESSON

Barbara Walton

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

**Amen.**

*Genesis 1:26-28* (pg 1)

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SECOND LESSON

*Psalm 8* (pg 492)

SERMON *Created Good* Bill Levering

\*HYMN *We Are Your People* #436

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee* Jean Berger

The eyes of all wait upon thee;  
And thou givest them their meat in due season.  
Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire  
Of eve'ry living thing, of ev'ry living thing.

The eyes of all wait upon thee;  
And thou givest them their meat in due season.  
The eyes of all wait upon thee; wait upon thee.

\*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 #343

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Threefold Amen* Traditional

## POSTLUDE

+ + +

## Music Notes

*When I gaze on Creation Delores Dufner, OSB*  
2016 Copyright GIA Pub. Inc Music, *Beautiful Treasures*, American Shaker melody 1849  
*Onelicense.net*

## 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:

*George Vlahides, Thomas Teichner,  
Loisanna Hager Veeder*

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.

## Children's Bulletins

The Beaver Bulletin Bits are available as bulletins for children, youth and their families. These bulletins have scripture, songs and prayers connecting to worship this week, and announcements that help families connect to the people of First Reformed Church. There are coloring pages for people of all ages who want to doodle while listening to the service.

## 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!

## 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.

## Emergency Contact Info

It has been very helpful to have the emergency contact information for members, especially--but not limited--to those who live alone. If you would like us to keep track of this for you, fill out a white card in worship or call or visit the church office.

## Johnson Library

There are several new books on the shelf in the Heritage Room. The first is, "Friends Divided", a dual biography of Adams and Jefferson by Gordon S. Wood that tells the story of their sometimes stormy and eventually very close relationship. The second, "The Road to Character", by David Brooks focuses on the deeper values that should inform our lives. He uses great thinkers and leaders to show the struggle it takes to build character. Finally, "The Gospel of Trees", is a memoir by Apricot Irving that retraces the story of her family, missionaries in the north of Haiti, and the shattered history of colonization.

## Volunteers Needed

The Chancel Guild is looking for volunteers to prepare Sunday Flowers for home delivery after Worship and vesting for the upcoming Christmas season. Please call Marlene Risseuw at 518-372-1710 to learn more or sign up. If you would like to help deliver flowers please sign up on the church website 1stReformed.com.

### "New Life" Stewardship

Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights; with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning.

– James 1:17

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Martha Winchester
Counting Deacons	Matt Jones, Peter Ontkush	Christina Jones, Brad Lewis
Flower Delivery	Rebecca Grande, Cynthia Hamilton	Sharon Gazin, Lois Stickney
Greeters	Matt Jones, Tom & Lian Zych	Claire and Tess Hughes
Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Azzaam Hameed, piano
Kinderwyk	Dorothy Linder Mitchell Leah Kidwell-Fernandes	Dorothy Linder Mitchell
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Barbara Mancuso, Birdie Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Jeanette Davidson, Mary Jewett, Bill Rochelle	Del Pierce, Norma Brown, Peggy King, Thomas Lindsay, Margaret Schadler, Jeanne Shoulder
Reader	Barbara Walton	Norma Brown
Ushers	Jim & Sharron McCullough, Alden Brown, Adam Kerwin	Art Shultes, Hendrick & Joanne Arnold, Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay

## Coming Up

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

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
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
	9am	Youth Group Leaders Meeting	Youth Group Leaders Meeting.	Mohawk House Pres
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
	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	First Forum	A tour of the new space by 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 Launches Tonight	We will play games, choose a new name for the group, and listen to what young people are concerned about in our community. As we plan service projects and activities, we want to build on concerns of young people.	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	"God's Promise: I am with you," will take us on a journey from Genesis through the end of the Gospels. The cost of the study guide 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	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	All are welcome to a bible study and discussion on God's command to speak out. Copies of our guide, Interrupting Silence, by Walter Brueggemann, are available in the Faith Bookshop. See Daniel Carlson, for details.	Mohawk House Pres
	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	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Come finish a project or start a new one.	Mezzanine

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Sept 20	6:30am	Stephen Ministry	All active Stephen gather for community building, continuing education & Small Group Peer Supervision.	Mohawk House
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
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 22		Christian Education Seminar	You can join a wide range of Christian Educators for a morning and afternoon seminar. Contact Liam Battjes at 616-856-3611 if you would like to join him at this event.	Fort Plain Reformed Church
Sept 23	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
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
	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	First Forum	Meet Liam Battjes New Director of Christian Development.	Sanctuary
	1:30pm	Sole Searchers Like to Bike?	Please join us for a 19 mile bicycle excursion on the Erie Canal towpath from Amsterdam to Fultonville, NY. RSVP to James Gonda, jgonda12309@gmail.com	Church Parking Lot
	5pm	Fowler Finger Food Family Fun Night	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 25	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Our study guide <i>God's Promise: I am with you</i> is available in the church office for \$10. Contact Barbara Walton, (518) 894-5021 or waltonbl@aol.com if you have questions.	Mohawk House Pres
Sept 26	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	All are welcome to a 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
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres
Sept 27	10am	Prayer Shawl Knitting	4th Thursday of every month in the home of Gini McDermott.	21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna
	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Come finish a project or start a new one.	
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
Sept 29	10am	Youth Apple Picking	The youth will be picking apples at Riverview Orchards and caramelizing them. These will be available for sale on September 30 as we raise funds for our service project.	Church Parking Lot

“We do not have to be ashamed of what we are. As sentient beings we have wonderful backgrounds. These backgrounds may not be particularly enlightened or peaceful or intelligent. Nevertheless, we have soil good enough to cultivate; we can plant anything in it.”  
— Chögyam Trungpa

“We are not as some people like to assume nowadays 'just being real' by embracing passively the sinful, fallen versions of ourselves. Quite the opposite really: our true selves were, from the beginning, intended to resemble the example which was then set by Christ Jesus; hence God wants to restore us to how we would have been had original sin never once befell.”  
— Criss Jami, *Healology*

“We've heard them all talk about Dust, and they're so afraid of it, and you know what? We believed them, even though we could see that what they were doing was wicked and evil and wrong... We thought Dust must be bad too, because they were grown up and they said so. But what if it isn't? What if it's—'  
She said breathlessly, 'Yeah! What if it's really good...'” — Philip Pullman

“It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.” — Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*

“Man is the only creature who refuses to be what he is.” — Albert Camus

“There is some kind of a sweet innocence in being human- in not having to be just happy or just sad- in the nature of being able to be both broken and whole, at the same time.”  
— C. JoyBell C.

“On the whole human beings want to be good, but not too good, and not quite all the time.”  
— George Orwell