

***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.



November 18, 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 infants 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. Children participating in communion on the first Sunday of the month will return to service.

Beaver Bits Children's Bulletins

The Beaver Bulletin Bits includes key Bible verses, thoughts, coloring activity, announcements and a prayer for the coming week. Pick one up from an usher.

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.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

November 18, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Ukulele Players

Be Thou My Vision Traditional
Shall We Gather at the River Robert Lowry
Wade In the Water Traditional
10,000 Reasons Matt Redmond

GREETING Daniel Carlson

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

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Jubilate Deo*

*HYMN *Guide My Feet* #354

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

God of all connections, defender of our promises, keeper of our lives, we confess that we have been lazy and shortsighted in our love for one another. Call us again to the depth and dignity of the joy you wish for all of us. Move through churches and families and laws to bring about your cherished kingdom.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

Hallelujah Zimbabwe



*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(The Barmen Declaration)

The Church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM J-Walkers

I Will Follow Chris Tomlin

FIRST LESSON Norm Kuchar

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Hebrew 10:11-23* (pg 224)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 13:5-8* (pg 50)

SERMON Bill Levering

Calm Cataclysm

*HYMN *O Day of God, Draw Nigh* #452

MINUTE FOR MISSION Kathy Jensen

A Different Way In Reading

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Jeannette Storch, oboe

The Lord is My Shepherd John Rutter

The Lord is my Shepherd,
therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul and bring me forth
in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
For thou art with me; Thy rod and staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me
against them that trouble me:
Thou hast anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving kindness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND PLEDGES

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 #416
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Greek

POSTLUDE

+ + +

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Earl Wainwright from his family and In loving memory of Joseph Lovell from his family.

How to Give Memorial Flowers for Christmas

Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on December 16. The donation is \$20. Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2018. Please call 518-377-2201 or email, 1streformedpub@gmail.com the church office no later than Thursday, December 13, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 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:

Earl Wainwright, Jean Anderson, Norman Reed, Mary Jane Fleming, Violet Delack

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.

Calling All FRC and UPC Choral Alumni

This year for our 5pm Christmas Eve service we are looking to have as many First Reformed and UPC alumni who grew up in our choirs to stand and sing together. In past years, we have had a choir consisting of our recent alumni and we would like to expand our possibilities! This year we would like to include ALL of our past youth members in singing a song together. Please call Jamie Ipsen 518-399-6848 or let the church office know if you will be attending the 5pm service so she can get music to you and notify you of rehearsals. JamieIpsen88@gmail.com

Johnson Library

You will find two new books on the library's shelf. *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick will provide interesting background on the Pilgrims' history in Plymouth. Philbrick tells the story of an 55 year epic. The second book is *Parables* in which John MacArthur helps Christians understand the essential lessons Jesus had for us.

The library has been moving the catalog of its books into a computer program. It would be helpful if you could check your books at home to see if, lost among them, you might find a Johnson Library book you forgot about. Thank you for helping with our efforts.

Thanksgiving Offering

For the Thanksgiving offering next Sunday, monies collected at our church will be sent to Concerned for the Hungry and are used to purchase supplies in bulk at greatly reduced prices. Checks should be made payable to FRC, with Concerned for the Hungry in the memo line. GE matching make the payable to Concern for the Hungary with matching in the memo line.

Support and Care

We invite you to consider helping with a new supportive ministry. We are looking for those interested in grocery shopping for the homebound in our midst. Give Daniel Carlson, 518-346-6416 or Barbara Walton, 518-346-1943 a call if you feel moved to care in this way.

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.

Poinsettia Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, **December 16** to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our care and support to church members not able to join us for worship.

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 and instructions are in Dirck Romeyn room.

Please Let Us Know

Whenever you are ill, hospitalized, homebound, needing a meal, transportation to a doctor, or grieving a loss, we would like to know...so we can do what our Committee is named for: support and care! Please help us to help you when you are in need by calling Support and Care Chair, Barb Walton 518-346-1943 or Daniel Carlson 518-346-6416.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Martha Winchester	Birdie Blackmer
Church School	Mary Carlson, Dave Pizzolo	Mary Carlson, Dave Pizzolo
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes,	Carol Troost
Flower Delivery	Birdie Blackmer, Sandy Moynihan	Linda Ward, Vernetta Thuener
Greeters	Robert & Sally Clark	
Jazz Vespers	Thanksgiving Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano
Kinderwyk	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Peter Lion	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Lian Drisgula
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Bill Rochelle, Walt Robb, Richard Rose, Maria Todd, Phil Falconer, Norm Kuchar	Mary Jewett, Barbara Walton, James Gonda,
Reader	Norm Kuchar	Barbara Walton
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta & Nat Phipps	Bill Clock, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright
Sign up for any of these important jobs at 1streformed.com		

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Group	Description	Place
Sun Nov 18	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.	Walton
	11:15am	First Forum	Stewardship Celebration Luncheon at the Water's Edge Lighthouse Restaurant	Sanctuary
	11:15am	Sharing Sacred Stories	Let us grow together in faith and fellowship, sharing stories of God at work in our lives. Contact Aline Stabler for more info at 518-369-9275 or agianfagna@gmail.com.	Mohawk House Pres.
	11:15am	Open Hearts	Join us for a brief time of sharing concerns and praying in a confidential group every third Sunday. Please contact Karen Gonda with questions.	Mohawk House Lunn
	11:30am	Stewardship Luncheon	This will be an important review of our plans for 2019 and how we will be doing mission in the new building. Please RSVP to the church office by Nov 14.	The Water's Edge Lighthouse
	4pm	Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers	Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers will feature Wayne Hawkins Trio, Nat Phipps Group, Peg Delaney, Bill Delaney. Honoring Tom D'Andrea. Advance tickets are \$10; tickets at the door are \$12; \$5 for students and seniors.	Sanctuary
Mon Nov 19	10:30am	First Fellowship at the Eddy	Every 3rd Monday Maria Todd leads an informal get together to share life experiences & enjoy old FRC friends	Fireside room at the Eddy
	11:30am	First Things Volunteers	Help send off our Newsletter. Pizza will be provided. Anyone is welcome.	Mohawk House Lunn
Tues Nov 20	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
Wed Nov 21	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Fully subscribed Bible study and discussion of God's command to speak out.	Mohawk House Pres.
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres.

Date	Time	Group	Description	Place
Thurs Nov 22			Thanksgiving – Office Closed Nov 22 & 23	
Sat Nov 24	9am	FRC Sole Searchers	We will head to Indian Lake Village in Hamilton County to pick up the trail head for the OK Skip Falls. This six-mile round trip excursion will feature mostly level terrain. RSVP to James at jgonda12309@gmail.com .	Church Parking lot
Sun Nov 25	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers are available to sit with, listen to, and pray for you.	Dykstra Chapel
	11:15am	First Forum	Thanksgiving Weekend - Coffee and Conversation	Mohawk House Lunn
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	All generations are welcome, including children age 3 & up. No musical experience is necessary, just a willingness to sing and hit things!	Balcony
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano	Sanctuary
	5:30pm	J-Walkers Music	Youth Group J-Walkers Music	Mezzanine
	6:30pm	J-Walkers Youth Group	J-Walker will be going to Interfaith Thanksgiving, meet here at 6:30pm and we'll drive to Islamic Center.	Church Parking lot
	7pm	Interfaith Thanksgiving	Join us to acknowledge the gratitude of our lives, the complex grief of the history of Thanksgiving and how the legacy of how it continues to perpetuate harm & division.	21 Lansing Rd N, Sch'dy
Sun Dec 2	3pm	What's What @ FRC	This is a relaxed time to learn more about First Reformed and possible membership.	Church Office
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Sanctuary
	5pm	Advent Festival	Learn about Advent and prepare your heart and home with beautiful crafts and prayers.	Mohawk House
Mon Dec 3	11am	Group V	Questions contact Maria Todd at (518)882-6555.	Dirck Romeyn
Tues Dec 4	11:30am	Support & Care Committee	We meet the first Tuesday of each month.	Mohawk House Pres.
Sat Dec 8	8:30am	Saturday Breakfast	Introducing Wayne Hawkins, our Church Musician. He will tell us about himself and his prior experience, and he will play a short program of holiday music.	Mohawk House
Sun Dec 9	8:30am	St. Nicholas Breakfast	No matter your age or faith tradition, join us for a complimentary Dutch breakfast. Followed by a visit from Sinterklaas, telling stories and giving gifts!	Dirck Romeyn

Notes

“This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.” — T.S. Eliot

“To be Irish is to know that in the end the world
will break your heart.”
— Daniel Patrick Moynihan

“Sure, everything is ending,” Jules said, “but not
yet.” — Jennifer Egan, *A Visit from the Goon
Squad*

“Don't wake me for the end of the world unless it
has very good special effects.”
— Roger Zelazny, *Prince of Chaos*

“Songs remain. They last...A song can last long
after the events and the people in it are dust and
dreams and gone. That's the power of songs.”
— Neil Gaiman, *Anansi Boys*

“I sat in the dark and thought: There's no big
apocalypse. Just an endless procession of little
ones.” — Neil Gaiman, *Signal to Noise*

“I have heard the languages of apocalypse, and
now I shall embrace the silence.”
— Neil Gaiman, *The Sandman: Endless Nights*

“I want you here. I don't care if it's a hundred
degrees and every blade of grass dies. Without
you, none of that matters to me.”
— Kami Garcia

“When you expect the world to end at any
moment, you know there is no need to hurry.
You take your time, you do your work well.”
— Thomas Merton

“It happened that a fire broke out backstage in a
theater. The clown came out to inform the
public. They thought it was a jest and applauded.
He repeated his warning. They shouted even
louder. So I think the world will come to an end
amid the general applause from all the wits who
believe that it is a joke.” — Søren Kierkegaard