

***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.



December 16, 2018

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

Welcome to First Reformed

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.

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.

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

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Congregation



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 please fill out a white pew card.

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.

Service Online

A live stream of the worship service as well as some of the past services can be found at 1stReformed.com.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Wayne Hawkins, piano

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Parker Family

Capo 1

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, and
all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

*HYMN

Comfort, Comfort You My People

#3

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

God of all time, we are stuck in empty patterns of our past and long to embrace new insights, hope, and joy. God of right now, move us beyond petty distractions, and focus us on your presence in our lives. Help us act to bring about your peace.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(From the *Brief Statement of Faith*)

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

The Huron Carol

Jean de Brebeuf c. 1643
arr by Dan Forrest

Jesous Ahatonhia. Gloria.
'Twas in the moon of wintertime
when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Citchi Manitou (God the
Creator) sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandr'ring hunters heard the hymn:
"Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born in excelsis gloria"

Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin en-wrapp'd
His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the
angel song rang loud and high,
"Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born in excelsis gloria"

The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before Him knelt,
with gifts of fur and beaver pelt,
"Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born in excelsis gloria"

O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and
heav'n is born this day for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy who
brings you beauty, peace and joy.
"Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born in excelsis gloria"

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:7-18 (pg 876)

Cynde Schwartz

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

How Great Our Joy

Craig Courtney

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright,
How great our joy, how great our joy.

There shall be born in coming days,
In Bethlehem a Child they say.
How great our joy, how great our joy.

There shall a Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem us all.
This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That every joy our hearts shall fill.

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
How great our joy, How great our joy.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Liam Battjes

SECOND LESSON

Luke 3:7-18 (pg 60)

SERMON *John's Words to Power and Privilege* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Prepare the Way* #13

MINUTE FOR MISSION Ellie Wellshein
Christmas Offering, MoonCatcher Project

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Magnum Myterium

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
That animals should see the new-born
Lord, lying in a manger!

Morten Lauridsen

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was
worthy to bear our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

*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 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* #8

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Dresden

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:

Ruth Arthur, Paul L. Abbey, John Young, Robert Brown

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.

Poinsettia Flower Delivery

Today - Volunteers are needed to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards, 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.

All FRC/UPC Choral Alumni

For our 5pm Christmas Eve service we are looking for 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE Monday, December 24

5pm - Intergenerational Service

This interactive early service is especially fitting for children and their families, though all are invited to the miracle and mystery of God with us.

8:30pm - Music of the Season

Harpist Lydia Zotto is playing carols and some selections from *A Ceremony of Carols*, with the choir.

9pm - Carols and Candles Service

Come home. Light a candle and sing *Silent Night* again. This year we are featuring violinist Ann Marie Barker Schwartz and two beautiful anthems: *Ave Maria* and *On this Still and Quiet Night*.

11pm - Christmas Jazz Vespers

This year our late service will feature a local duo and quiet communion.

Narthex Display Cases

The Narthex display cases during Advent and Christmas will feature two beautiful displays of nativity scenes. One, will contain the Van Voast family crèche which has been displayed during past advent seasons. The other display case will contain a display designed by Kathy Petersen. Kathy has a vast collection of miniatures depicting the holy land that tell the whole story of the nativity. She has a family tradition of turning a room in her house over to the display of the nativity during advent and Christmas. The Narthex display case will feature a smaller version of her collection. Please take the time to view both beautiful displays during advent and Christmas.

Music Notes

The Huron Carol is a re-telling of the *Christmas Story* by Jean de Brebeuf, one of the earliest French Missionaries in North America. Written for the Huron tribes that he lived among, it uses a French Canadian melody and their Wendat language translated here by J. E Middleton in 1926.

Guest Singers:

Ellen Foster, Laurie Lester, Sophie Mathis, Celia Murray, Cathy Roberts, Marissa Scotti, Gabby Pizollo, Rachel Rose, Elena Grande.

Orchestra Members:

1st Violin: Ann Marie Barker Schwartz, Teresa Norton, Virginia Boyle Traver
2nd Violin: Carol Blom, Ann Seidman, Abby Norton Levering;
Edith Kliman, Karl Brosch, viola; Olivia Cox, Cello; Don Lester, bass; Dan Gleason, Percussion.

Christmas gifts for the Men of City Mission

Today is the last day to drop off new gifts and bring them back unwrapped and place them by the tree. Warm clothing and coats are suggested. Contact Amy Brule with any questions. amy1941castle@gmail.com

Johnson Library

There are two new books on the library shelf in the Heritage Room. The first is an addition to the Advent and Christmas collection. *Awaiting the already*, by Magrey R. deVega helps prepare us for Christ one gospel at a time. The second, *Love wins*, is by Ron Bell who is an influential pastor known for challenging traditional views of heaven, hell, and eternal damnation.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Martha Winchester	Committee Member
Church School	Liam Battjes, Tom Mancuso	Liam Battjes, Jamie Ipsen
Counting Deacons	Joan Lindsay, Christina Jones	Sarah Bachorik, Ralph Rosenthal
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Keith Pray, sax	Wayne Hawkins, piano
Kinderwyk	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Elsa Hjelmar	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Alexis Wisniewski
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Preacher	Bill Levering	Abby Norton Levering
Processing Elders	Gay Doolittle, Phil Falconer, Peggy King, Tom Lindsay, Don & Marilyn Leach	Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Keith Muse, Ellie Rowland, Barbara Walton
Reader	Cynde Schwartz	Carol Troost
Ushers	Art Shultes, Joan Lindsay, Joanne & Hendrick Arnold, Jeanette & Don Davidson	Michael Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal
Sign up for any of these important jobs at 1streformed.com		

Coming Up

More information is in the newsletter at the back of the sanctuary

Sun, Dec 16	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall
	10:15am	Church School	Walton House
	11:15am	Church Poinsettia Delivery	Mohawk - Lunn
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	Balcony
	11:15am	Open Hearts	Mohawk - Lunn
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
	6pm	J-Walkers Christmas Party	Mohawk - Lunn
Mon, Dec 17	10:30am	The Glen Eddy Group	Glen Eddy
Tues, Dec	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Mohawk - Pres.
	6pm	Committee Chair Meetings	Mohawk - Lunn
	6:30pm	Creation Care Committee	Hope Room
	7pm	Short Short Writing	Mohawk - Lunn
Wed, Dec 19	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk - Pres.
	11:30am	First Things Volunteers	Mohawk - Lunn
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Mohawk - Pres.
Thurs, Dec	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	Mohawk House
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Sun, Dec 23	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall
	10:15am	Church School	Walton House
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
Mon, Dec 24	5pm	Intergenerational Service	Sanctuary
	8:30pm	Music of the Season	Sanctuary
	9pm	Carols and Candles Service	Sanctuary
	11pm	Christmas Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
Wed, Dec 26	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk - Pres.
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Mohawk - Pres.
Thurs, Dec	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Sun, Dec 30	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	11am	Care & Prayer	Dykstra Chapel
	11:15am	First Forum - Sermon Talk Back	Mohawk - Lunn
	5pm	Pastor's Party	Covenant Hall