

***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.



Magnifying Glass, by Michael Coffey

We hear that down is up and up is down
rich empty and poor, poverty steeped with riches
and nothing will ever be the same

Our pride is exposed as shame and
shame inverted becomes pride
and nothing will ever be the same

The kings beg in the street for coins and
the street junkies take eucalyptus steam showers all day
and nothing will ever be the same

You come into this gunning, shot-up world
Mary sings of your power and peace
and your only weapon a willing womb

You magnify us with your round looking glass
and see our microscopic lives as large
and our greatness you smoke out with focused light

In turn our souls magnify you, you unexpected world flipper,
as we look up through the lens of goodness and mercy
and just your eye fills up the monacle of the sky

December 23, 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

Congrégation



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.

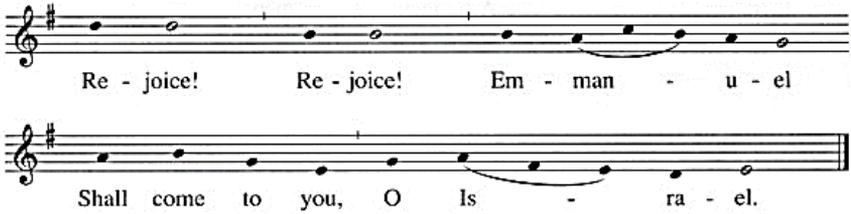
Church School

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.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)



*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

Look Toward Christmas!

FRC Youth Choir
Murray & Gibson

Look toward Christmas! Advent is here;
Welcome December, changing the year.
Whistle up shepherds! Saddle up kings!
Chorus up angels, flexing your wings

Set the world singing, make the world glad;
Now is good reason not to feel sad!
Hear John the Baptist shout to prepare;
Good news is coming, earth be aware – Chorus

Sing, Sing, sing alleluia!
Sing Sing, alleluia
Sing, sing, sing out the story;
sing about hope
and sing about peace

Mary and Joseph soon is the day;
ready the donkey, start on your way.
You are the chosen, willing to trust,
Joyful your burden, carrying Christ - Chorus

FIRST LESSON *Luke 1:39-45* (pg 57) Carol Troost
Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Liam Battjes

SECOND LESSON *Luke 1:46-55* (pg 57)

SERMON *Magnification Power* Abby Norton Levering

*HYMN *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph* #19

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'rr Blooming

Michael Praetorius

Lo how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung
It came a flow'r-et bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

*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

What Child Is This

#53

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

#583

POSTLUDE



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 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.

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.

Cookies on Christmas Eve

Please bring in your favorite holiday cookies or treats to share on Christmas Eve! Our Christmas Eve reception will be in our new Covenant Hall, after the 9pm service. Your cookies will be the star of our merry gathering! Drop off before any Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Offering:

The MoonCatcher Project

Education is the most effective means of improving the lives of girls in the world's poorest communities. However, these girls often drop out of school when they reach puberty because they have no access to hygiene products. This leads to early marriage and a lack of financial independence. The MoonCatcher Project was established to provide free reusable, washable hygiene products that provide a way for girls to stay in school, giving them a chance to complete their education.

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:

Clarence Gillespie, Shirley L. Rochelle, Helen H. Masjoan, R. Ned Landon, Fran Zentmire, Jean Collins

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.

New Beverwyck Book

The Seventh and newest edition of The Beverwyck Anthology is out! Your complimentary copy can be found in the bookstore.

FRC Sole Searchers

On Tuesday, January 1. We will embark on a two-mile guided tour of Saratoga Spa State Park, hosted by the parks department. This hike will commence 10am sharp. Afterwards, hot chocolate will be served. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 8:30am. Dogs are permitted and must be on a leash no more than six feet. Please RSVP to James at jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Faith Bookshop

Our collection of Prayers, Words to Live By, has been replenished in case you missed out on the first run and there are also prayer cubes for sale at a nominal price. Both could make a nice gift of spiritual nourishment and fit into stockings!

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Committee Member	Birdie Blackmer
Church School	Liam Battjes, Jamie Ipsen	
Counting Deacons	Sarah Bachorik, Ralph Rosenthal	Carol Troost, Fred Daniels
Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano	Peg Delaney Trio
Kinderwyk	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Alexis Wisniewski	Lian Drisgula
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Liam Battjes
Preacher	Abby Norton Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Keith Muse, Ellie Rowland, Barbara Walton	Joanne Arnold, Birdie Blackmer, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Walt Robb, Barbara Walton
Reader	Carol Troost	Christine Daniels
Ushers	Michael Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta & Nat Phipps

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 23	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall
	10:15am	Church School	Walton House
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	Balcony
	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		Office Closed	
	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk - Pres.
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Mohawk - Pres.
Thur, Dec 27	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Sun, Dec 30	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall
	10:15am	Church School	Walton House
	11am	Care & Prayer	Dykstra Chapel
	11:15am	First Forum - Worship	Mohawk - Lunn
	5pm	Pastor's Party	Covenant Hall
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
	5pm	All Families Christmas Party	YMCA
Tues, Jan 1		Office Closed – New Year's Day	
	7pm	Short Short Writing	Mohawk - Lunn
Wed, Jan 2	11am	Elder Diner Lunches	Covenant Hall
	6pm	Good Earth Band Rehearses	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Good Earth Café	Covenant Hall
	8pm	EPIC Conversation	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Mohawk - Pres.
Thurs, Jan 3	10am	Stitch Group	Mezzanine
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Sat, Jan 5	4:30pm	Epiphany Party	119 Park Pl, Schdy
Sun, Jan 6	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall