

***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.



January 13, 2019



*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 Covenant Hall 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.



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 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.

First Sunday After the Epiphany

January 13, 2019

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE *Give Me Jesus* Marjorie Rush

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Excerpts of Psalm 29* Liam Battjes

INTROIT *Wade In The Water* African-American spiritual

*HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West* #440

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

We sing of joining hands with each other, whatever our race may be, for all children of the living God are part of our family. We sing this, and yet, we often join hands with people who are a similar age, race, interests or politics. May we remember our baptism, for we have been baptized into the colorful and diverse body of Christ, and in this re-membering may we reconnect with members who are different in age, race, interests or even politics.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*) *Amen, Amen* *Black Spiritual*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from The Belhar Confession*)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made real in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation . . . this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin . . . and has no place in the church.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

I Want to Be Ready
African-American Spiritual

soloist Marjorie Rush
arr by Rosephanye Powell

Refrain:

I want to be ready, I want to be ready,
I want to be ready
to walk in Jerusalem just like John.

My feet stand steady, my feet stand steady,
my feet stand steady
to walk in Jerusalem just like John.

John said that Jerusalem was just foursquare.
I hope good Lord to meet you there.

If you get to heaven before I do
Tell all of my friends I'm coming too.

Oh John, Oh John now didn't you say
That you'd be there on that great day.

FIRST LESSON

Marilyn Leach, Christina Jones

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

Isaiah 43:1-7 (pg 672)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Liam Battjes

Two Voices Dreaming by Water

SECOND LESSON

Luke 3:3-8, 10-15, 21-22 (pg 60)

Gillian and Gabby Pizzolo, James and Karen Gonda

(John the Baptist's Message integrated with MLK's Dream Speech)

SERMON

Baptized into a Wild River

Liam Battjes

*HYMN

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

#409

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

From O Brother, Where Art Thou?

Down to the River to Pray

Traditional arr. Sheldon Curry

As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way
and who shall wear the starry crown,
good Lord, show me the way.

Oh sisters, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down,
Oh sisters, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* #592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Ecumenical) (*unison*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN

Spirit

#319

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

#583

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:

Virginia Atherton, Donald Middleton, Clairmont Herman, William O'Hare, William Atherton, Dorothy Dykeman Clock, Edna Wood, Dorothy Murray, James Stevenson, Marion Clapsaddle

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.

Recycle and Refurbish for January

Creative help is needed to make the Kinderwyk / Forest Nursery an inviting, safe and creative place to care for our youngest members/visitors. Thursday from 6-9pm and Saturday from 10-1pm Liam will be available to explain projects and help with the transition from Friendship Hall to the new Forest Nursery. We need a wood worker to build flower window-sill boxes, an artist to help design and paint a tree mural, a carpenter to create a hallway painting easel, child care volunteers who can work out changing table needs, and volunteers to clean and organize toys. Let him know he's got a team of friends to work with. Call or text 616-856-3611 or email LiamBattjes@gmail.com.

Offering Envelopes

2019 Offering Envelopes are available in the church office.

Lenten Devotional Submissions

You are invited to make a contribution to the 2019 Lenten Devotional booklet. The deadline is February 3, sign-up in Covenant Hall. Please contact Bill Clock, 518-641-2585, or Karen Gonda, karengonda6@gmail.com, with questions.

FRC Sole Searches

On Saturday, January 19, We will embark on an easy excursion to Bennett Hill near Feura Bush, NY, (Albany County). This trek is a 2.6 mile loop with a gentle ascent to 662 feet. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am. Please RSVP to James at jgonda12309@gmail.com.

J-Walkers and JAC

J-Walkers and JAC members invite you to join us for the movie Selma after worship today in the Mohawk House. This is an excellent drama of the Civil Rights Marches led by Martin Luther King Jr. Lunch will be served. Next week we will be preparing signs for our own Civil Rights March in Albany on MLK Day, January 21.

Good Earth Café

The Good Earth Café will feature Wayne Hawkins and the music of Lois Armstrong this Wednesday, starting at 7pm. Next week, the artist Tina Johnston will be sharing her silk paintings and leading us in food art.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Martha Winchester	Bill Clock
Church School	Natalie Pizzolo, Tom Mancuso	Mary Carlson, Tom Mancuso
Counting Deacons	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd	Christina Jones, George Trimarco
Flower Delivery	Sally & Jack Bestgen, Brad & Cathy Lewis	Bess Taft, John Chequer, Elizabeth Gleason
Greeters	Fred & Christine Daniels	Peggy King, Christina Jones
Jazz Vespers	Wayne Hawkins, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass
Kinderwyk	Dorothy Linder-Mitchell, Peter Lion	Dorothy Linder-Mitchell, Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Liam Battjes	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Maria Todd, Bill Rochelle, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Don & Marilyn Leach	Walt Robb, Phil Falconer, Gay Doolittle, Norm Kuchar, Bill Rochelle, Barbara Walton
Reader	Marilyn Leach	Norm Kuchar
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne, Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Doug Todd, Tom Zych	Jim & Sharron McCullough, Alden Brown, Adam Kerwin
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

Jan 13	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall
	10:15am	Church School	Walton House
	11:15am	First Forum - Final Tour of Construction	Mohawk - Lunn
	12pm	J-Walkers Youth Group	Mohawk - Lunn
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
Jan 14	10:30am	The Glen Eddy Group	Glen Eddy
Jan 15	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Mohawk - Pres.
	7pm	Short Short Writing	Mohawk - Lunn
Jan 16	11:30am	Elder Diner Lunches	Covenant Hall
	6pm	Good Earth Band Rehearses	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Good Earth Café	Covenant Hall
	8pm	EPIC Conversation	Covenant Hall
	6pm	Synod Hymn Sing	Wolf Hollow
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Mohawk - Pres.
Jan 17	10am	Stitch Group	Mezzanine
	6pm	Recycle and Refurbish	Friendship Hall
	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	Mohawk House
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Jan 19	9am	FRC Sole Searches Hike	Parking Lot
	10am	Recycle and Refurbish	Friendship Hall
Jan 20	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall
	10am	Unity Sunday	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Church School	Walton House
	11:15am	First Forum - Unity Sunday FRC/UPC	Mohawk - Lunn
	11:15am	Open Hearts	Mohawk - Lunn
	12pm	J-Walkers Youth Group	Mohawk - Lunn
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
Jan 21		Office Closed - Martin Luther King	
Jan 22	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Mohawk - Pres.
	7pm	MoonCatcher Work Time	Union College
Jan 23	11:30am	Elder Diner Lunches	Covenant Hall
	11:30am	First Things Volunteers	Mohawk - Lunn

THE CONSISTORY

MINISTERS

Bill Levering, Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister
Liam Battjes, Director of Christian Development

OFFICERS

Amy Brule, Del Pierce, Senior Elders
Catherine Lewis, Treasurer
Joanne Bedell, Clerk

ELDERS

Joanne Arnold
Amy Brule
Marilyn Leach
Brad Lewis
Barbara Mancuso
Liz Mastrianni
Vickie McGowan-Horan
Del Pierce
Kitty Trimarco
Barbara Walton

DEACONS

Sarah Bachorik
Andy Chestnut
Bill Clock
Dave Hjelmar
Christina Jones
Matt Jones
Kristin Lion
Justine Ochal
Peter Ontkush
Ralph Rosenthal

CHURCH STAFF

Corine Salon, Director of Music
Wayne Hawkins, Church Musician
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music
Dan Gleason, Orff Director
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator
Jani Pittman, Office Assistant
Nancy Marie Mohammadi, Mission Host
Mary Collins, Accounts Payable Clerk
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor
Diana Wahid, Housekeeper
Hope Lavery, Housekeeper
Tom Mahan, Sexton
Andrew Wiltz, Maintenance
Daniel Shoulder, Maintenance