

*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.

*stressed
BUT
blessed*



February 17, 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.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 17, 2019

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Wayne Hawkins

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Levering

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT

We Are One In The Spirit

*HYMN

Lord, Diving, All Love Excelling

#376

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*from the French Reformed Church*)

O God, forgive our pride and our lack of faith, which are the causes of our divisions. Deliver us from narrow-mindedness, from our bitterness, from our prejudices. Save us from considering as normal that which is a scandal to the world and an offence to your love. Teach us to recognize the gifts of grace among all.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

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

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* (traditional version)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Blest Are They Whose Spirits Long

G.F. Handel

Blest are they whose spirits long
Blest are they whose spirits long;
Whose trust is in the Lord;
And on whose lips is praise unending.
They shall mount up like eagles, lofty on high.
They, too shall walk and not be weary.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 1 (pg 489)

Ellie Rowland

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Luke 6:17-26 (pg 64)

SERMON

Is Goodness Rain or Meal?

Bill Levering

*HYMN

There Is a Balm in Gilead

#394

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Schenectady County Jail

Mary Boomhauer

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lily of the Valley

arr. By Robert Cromier

He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.
King Jesus in the chariot rides, Oh my Lord.
With four white horses side by side, Oh my Lord.

What kind of shoes are those you wear, Oh my Lord.
That you can ride up in the air? Oh my Lord.
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.

These shoes I wear are gospel shoes, Oh my Lord,
And you can wear them if you choose, Oh my Lord.
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh my Lord.
He's the Lily of the Valley, Oh yes, He's my Lord.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 *Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing* #538

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen* #585

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:

*Margaret Sager, F. David Sheldon,
Mary Bee, J. Marie Herman*

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.

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Ruth Brondel – February 6, 2019

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jean Kemp Bundy and George Bashor by David & Donna Bundy.

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.

Johnson Library News

We should be ready to begin to start moving the books to the shelves by Feb 25. Look for a schedule of times that that we will need help with putting books back on the shelves. It will take a few weeks to complete. There are two new books in the new library area. The first is by Stephen Hawking. In Brief answers to big questions, Hawking answers questions like; Will humanity survive? Does God exist? In the second book, Bryson's dictionary of troublesome words; a writer's guide to getting it right, Bryson gives the reader just that in his often witty way.

Resisting Structural Evil

A few copies of this book that is the basis of weekly discussions led by Rev. Carlson (beginning Wednesday, 9:30-11am; and next Sunday, 12-2pm) are available today in the Johnson Library/Faith Bookshop. Also, contact Daniel if you want to participate.

Union Presbyterian Mission Fund

The Union Presbyterian Mission Fund Committee has \$25,000 remaining available in 2019 to fund not-for-profit mission projects. It has already distributed \$6,000 to the Schenectady Community Ministries, Summer Lunch Program. The committee requests project proposals from the congregation. The project may be local, regional, national / international; and valued \$1,000 to \$5,000. Please submit the proposed project(s) no later than April 30 to Liz Mastrianni, lzmaestro@gmail.com or the FRC office. The UP Mission Fund Committee has adopted the FRC "Unified Mission Funding Request Form" for not-for-profit agencies to use for project proposals. The form can be found on the FRC website 1stReformed.com under Activities / Union Presbyterian Fund or in the church office.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Bill Clock	Martha Winchester
Church School	Natalie & Dave Pizzolo	Natalie & Dave Pizzolo
Counting Deacons	Bill Rochelle, Carol Troost	Joan Lindsay, Vickie McGowan-Horan
Flower Delivery	Brad & Cathy Lewis, Laura Lee	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Sue Zeltmann
Greeters	Cathy & Brad Lewis	Peggy King, Sue Zeltmann
Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Skip Parsons (Dixieland) Wayne Hawkins, Pete Toigo, Tim Coakley, Crick Diefendorf
Kinderwyk	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Liz Gleason	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Alexis Wisniewski
Liturgist		Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Phil Falconer, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Tom Lindsay, Walt Robb, Bill Rochelle	Darwin Brudos, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Tom Lindsay, Richard Rose, Maria Todd
Reader	Ellie Rowland	Gene Rowland
Ushers	Bill Clock, Matt & Christina Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright	Tom Burgoyne, Joe Brown, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Doug Todd, Tom Zych
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, Feb 17	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Roof Top
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Education Level
	10:15am	Church School	Education Level
	11:15am	First Forum	Sanctuary
	11:15am	Open Hearts	Mohawk - Lunn
	12pm	J-Walkers Youth Group	Mohawk - Lunn
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
Mon, Feb 18	Office Closed – Presidents Day		
	10:30am	The Glen Eddy Group	Glen Eddy
Tues, Feb 19	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Mohawk - Pres.
	7pm	Short Short Writing	Mohawk - Lunn
Wed, Feb 20	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk - Pres.
	11:30am	First Things Volunteers	Mohawk - Lunn
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	6pm	Good Earth Band Rehearses	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Good Earth Café	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Roof Top
Thru, Feb 21	10am	Stitch Group	Mezzanine
	6pm	Recycle and Refurbish	Friendship Hall
	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	Mohawk House
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Sat, Feb 23	2pm	NATS Concert	Sanctuary
Sun, Feb 24	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Roof Top
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Education Level
	10:15am	Church School	Education Level
	11:15am	First Forum	Sanctuary
	11am	Care & Prayer	Dykstra Chapel
	12pm	Resisting Structural Evil Book Group	Library
	11:30am	Growing Young	Sky room
	2:30pm	Four Chaplains Remembrance	Poling Chapel
	5pm	J-Walkers Youth Group	Sky room

“More smiling, less worrying. More compassion, less judgment. More blessed, less stressed. More love, less hate.” — Roy T. Bennett

“Blessed are the hearts that can bend; they shall never be broken.” — Albert Camus

“There will always be someone willing to hurt you, put you down, gossip about you, belittle your accomplishments and judge your soul. It is a fact that we all must face. However, if you realize that God is a best friend that stands beside you when others cast stones you will never be afraid, never feel worthless and never feel alone.” — Shannon Alder

“You are not what others think you are. You are what God knows you are.” — Shannon Alder

“Sometimes, you will go through awful trials in your life and then a miracle happens—God heals you. Don't be disheartened when the people you love don't see things like you do. There will be Pharisees in your life that will laugh it off, deny that it happened, or will mock your experience based on righteousness they think you don't possess. God won't deny you a spiritual experience because you are not a spiritual leader. He loves everyone equal. The only people that really matter in life are the people that can “see” your heart and rejoice with you.” — Shannon L. Alder

“You create silent enemies by revealing how much God had blessed you.” — Michael Bassey Johnson

“If you find yourself about to complain, think of your many blessings and rejoice! Don't give the devil a ride today, because then he'll want to drive full-time. So, kick his attitude of complaining spirit out of your blessed zone. Don't give the devil NOTHING!!” — Anita R. Sneed-Carter

“Let your life reflect the faith you have in God. Fear nothing and pray about everything. Be strong, trust God's word, and trust the process.” — Germany Kent

“When I think of how many people in this world have it worse than I do, I realize just how blessed I really am... .. and I have to give thanks ...” — Shannan Lea, Eish! London

“A man who can laugh at himself is truly blessed, for he will never lack for amusement.” — James Carlos Blake

“Spiritual joy is what you experience when you choose to give thanks to God no matter what happens—even when things go wrong.” — Jim George

“People want to have your blessings, but they are not willing to serve the God that gave you the blessings they desire.” — Jeanette Coron

“Some people see their blessings as curses. Some see their curses as blessings.” — Mokokoma Mokhonoana

“If you are blessed with a soul that loves every living being, whether it be human, animal or plant, then you are truly blessed!” — Mehmet Murat ildan