

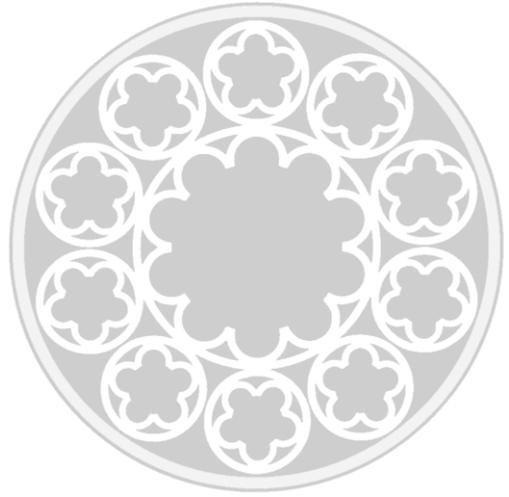
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



July 28, 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 pick up and fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate. After the service please join us for refreshments.

Child Care on Sunday - Kinderwyk

Childcare for infants through Pre-k is available from 9:45am until noon downstairs in the Education Level.

Summer Church School

On the first Sunday of July, August, and September children in grades K-2 share in a faith activity. After the Children's Message, they follow the leader to the Education Level; parents meet them there after worship.

Children's Music

Music for kids is offered in the upstairs music level between 11:15-12pm.

Elders in Worship

Past and current leaders we call 'Elders' walk in together at the beginning of worship and sit in the front seats. 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.

Non-Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-630-0911

Worshiping In Covenant Hall

For July and August we'll avoid the heat of the sanctuary and praise God in our new air-conditioned space.

After Worship

Typically, after worship, people stay for chat and a cookie in Covenant Hall. Visitors are warmly welcome to join in.

Communion

Our congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. All who seek to follow Christ are invited to share this meal.

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 Welcome Card.

Service Online

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



Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 28, 2019

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Andy Chestnut, Heather Chestnut, John Norton

Shallow

by Lady Gaga, Andrew Wyatt,
Anthony Rossomando, Mark Ronson

Wondering

Words and music by Andy Chestnut

What if this is love?
Gift of God above?
If this is love, then are we happy?
Cause it doesn't really seem that way to me.
If this isn't love
I wonder what it is that love could be?

I'm wondering, oh wondering
What will it take to reach our dreams?

What if this is truth?
Is there any proof?
If this is truth, then are we honest?
Cause it doesn't really seem that way to me.
If this isn't truth
I wonder what it is that truth could be?

What if this is life?
Poverty and strife?
If this is life, then are we living?
Cause it doesn't really seem that way to me.
If this isn't life
I wonder what it is that life could be?

I'm wondering, yes I'm wondering
Why nothing is as simple as it seems.

What if this is death?
Drawing our last breath?
If this is death, then is everything over?
Cause it doesn't really seem that way to me.
If this isn't death
I wonder what it is that death could be?

Choices

Words and music by Andy Chestnut

We have a love; we have a love
It may not be that easy to see
We have a love

That every day, we all find our way
We have a dream.

We have a home; we have a home
A special place where we each find our space
We have a home.

We have a Lord; we have a Lord
One day by grace, we'll look on his face
We have a Lord

We have a child; we have a child
We pray to know what (s)he needs to grow
We have a child

It may sound patronizing, but it shouldn't be
surprising
That with constant advertising, everybody's
supersizing
But instead of splurging on that latest version –
We could disregard those voices, and make our
own choices

It may sound patronizing, but it shouldn't be
surprising
That with constant advertising, everybody's
supersizing
The trouble with stuff – is it's never enough
We have a dream; we have a dream

Build a love; raise a child
Family seems to encourage our dreams
To serve the Lord.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Gonda

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

#464

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

O Blessed Trinity, we settle for so much less than the fullness of life you intend. Be Thou our vision, O Lord, that we may see and delight in your glory. Deepen us down, Christ Jesus, that we may be transformed by your grace. Revive and reconnect us, Spirit of life, that we may love you above all, one another as ourselves, and serve the world we touch. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

**Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Hallelujah! Halle, lu-jah!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed - Ecumenical version

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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

MUSICAL OFFERING Andy Chestnut, Heather Chestnut, John Norton

Could You?

Words and music by Andy Chestnut

What if God selected you to speak for him today?
Could you feel it in your heart to find the words to say?

To talk on the phone

To one alone

Is that something you could do?

Could you share God's love for you?

What if God selected yours to be his hands to heal?

Could you touch afflicted souls to ease the pain they feel?

To hold a friend

Nearing the end

As your heart is breaking too

Could you share God's love for you?

We think we're independent

But we're part of the transcendent

Once we take off that blinder

The world is so much kinder

Once we start believing

We also start perceiving

The grace which fills our holes

The God within our souls.

Who gives us strength to dare

To take the risk to share.

What if God selected yours to be his eyes to see?

Could you trust yourself to visualize just how the world could be?

And let your spirit grow

To help make it so

Spreading it far and wide

Could you feel his power inside?

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-13 (pg)

Barbara Walton

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

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (pg)

SERMON

The Gospel and Gardening

Lindsey DeKruif

*HYMN

Wherever I May Wander

#294

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Andy Chestnut, John Norton

This Land

words and music by Andy Chestnut

God bless this land on which we stand.
God bless the ones who passed it on.
How can we be sure it will endure
For our kids and their kids after we're gone.
Can we hear their voice as we make each choice?

When we build too fast it just don't last –
So let's choose another way.

As we use more care and say more prayers
We can make tomorrow better than today.

Lord help us understand that our fellow man
Is a part of ourselves and deserves our help
So that all can see helping him helps me.

Some say "let'em whine – 's long as I've got mine."

But can it really be

That one end of our boat can stay afloat

While the other end sinks beneath the sea?

Will the future say what we did today
Left a hideous trace that they can't erase?
Will they speak with shame when they say
our name?

If we go into a store and we pay a little
more
What if that's OK?
'Cause we know the extra cost ain't really
lost

When it pays our neighbor's way.
Can we hear their voice as we make each
choice?
Building connections in all directions
Helps us all to feel
That when someone takes a blow someone
else will know
And we can all reach out to heal.

***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** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* #343

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

+ + +

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

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

Summer Lunch Program

We still need people for the week of Aug. 5 – 9. Please sign up in Covenant Hall, call the church office or Ellie Rowland, 518-250-4302.

Wednesday Lunch

Every Wednesday 11:30 – 12:30pm in Covenant Hall. All are welcome to join, open to members and the public. Suggested donation is \$2 per person. Meal cards are available for \$20.

July 31: Loaded baked potatoes, salad

Aug 7: Soup, salad, fresh fruit

Aug 14: Greek salad, falafel, pita

Aug 21: Spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic rolls

Prayers of the People

As part of our prayers we remember members of our church who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Albert Demont, Jean Diesem, Robert Templeton, William Hubbard

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.

Fowler Open House - Aug 3

An annual festive opportunity to experience our denominational Camp in the ADKs suitable for those of all ages who've never been and those who attend every year or more often. Register at www.campfowler.org.

Green Steps

Can't compost at home? Don't want nasty chemicals in your garden? Solution: Locally sourced compost from facilities such as Schenectady County Yard Waste Composting on Hetcheltown Rd in Glenville. Or, try something really different. BioSoil Farms in Glenville processes food scraps into worm castings. Check them out at www.BioSoil.farm

Music Notes

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Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Committee Member
Counting Deacons	Brandon Stabler, Kim Burgoyne	Gay Doolittle, Vickie McGowan-Horan
Flower Delivery	Mark & Sutton Wemple, Lisa Etkin	
Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass
Kinderwyk	Peter Lion, Alexis Wisniewski	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Natalie Pizzolo, Alexis Wisniewski
Liturgist	James Gonda	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Lindsey DeKruif	Megan Hodgins
Processing Elders	Don & Marilyn Leach, Barbara Walton, Kitty Trimarco	Amy & Wayne Brule, Joanne Arnold, Kate Rose
Reader	Barbara Walton	Gene Rowland
Refreshments	Elaine and Vernetta Thuener	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta & Nat Phipps	Bill Clock, Christina & Matt Jones, Aline Stabler

Coming Up

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

Sun, Jul 28	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Education Level
	10am	Worship	Covenant Hall
	11am	Care & Prayer	Poling Chapel
	11:15am	Orff-estra	Music Level
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
Wed, Jul 31	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
Sun, Aug 4	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Education Level
	10am	Worship & Communion	Covenant Hall
	10:15am	Children's church for K-2	Education Level
	11:15am	Orff-estra	Music Level
	12pm	Google Training	Office
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCHENECTADY

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.

THE CURRENT CONSISTORY

Elders

Del Pierce, Senior Elder
Joanne Arnold, Senior Elder
Karen Gonda
Laura Lee
Brad Lewis
Barbara Mancuso
Liz Mastrianni
Vickie McGowan-Horan
Kate Rose
Kitty Trimarco

Deacons

Sarah Bachorik
Caroline Brooks
Andy Chestnut
Lian Drisgula
Dave Hjelmar
Christina Jones
Kristin Lion
Bill Rochelle
Ralph Rosenthal
Brandon Stabler

Ministers

Bill Levering, Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister

Other Officers

Catherine Lewis, Treasurer
Joanne Bedell, Clerk