

***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.



The Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh

Because we put God first, we are dedicated to caring for creation, for human diversity, for the next generations, and for each other.

September 29, 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 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.

Parking

You may park right out in front of the church in the 'no parking' area' (only) if you have trouble getting around. There is an inclination to worship through the office entrance as well.

Child Care on Sunday

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

Youth Ed & Nurture

Following the Children's Message all children are invited downstairs to the Youth Ed & Nurture Level to participate in Dwell Kids Class (3rd-8th grade) or Young Children and Worship (K-2nd grade); parents pick up their children there at 11:15am.

Children's Music After Worship

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

Elders in Worship

Past and current leaders called 'elders' walk in together and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

Helping Others Focus

It will be easier for God to get through if we silence our cell phones. God can always call you later.

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. All are welcome.

Open 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.

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.



Hearing Assistance

We have a hearing aid loop system that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

Non-Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-630-0911



Season of Creation: Universe Sunday

September 29, 2019

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Wayne Hawkins

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daniel Carlson

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

God Who Built This Wondrous Planet

John Ferguson

*HYMN

For The Beauty

#473

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

O Lord of heaven and earth: we ask your forgiveness for degrading and destroying earth's bounty. Have mercy on us when we fail to enjoy this world of wonders and marvel at the complexity of your cosmos. Give us a broader vision to see our connection to the creatures who share this planet. Renew us in the waters of baptism, revive us with the winds of your Spirit, and redeem us through Christ the firstborn of all creation. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
Lord of all, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from our Creation Care Resolution*)

Scripture reveals that God, through Word and Spirit, creates, sustains, loves, and owns the world. We commit to make care of creation a central priority in our congregation, for the blessing of the world, the strengthening of our lives, the transformation of our communities, and the glory of God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Creation Hymn

Craig Courtney

His praise appears in all I see,
The stars declare His hands to be;
Creation speaks in sky
and sea and shore,
Proclaiming forth their sov' reign
Maker, "Lord".

High mountains rising to the sky,
Bow down before their Author's eye;
Sea depths now echoing
the land's refrain,
Their vast expanse too small
to hold His name; He is Lord.

But though I see, my heart cries out,
"So great a God, cares He for me?"

Yes, He who rules the hosts above,
Surrendered, yet, His life in Love,
Embraced me on a mountain full of pain,
Released me from an ocean's debt of
shame; He is Lord.

Yes, now I see, my heart cries out,
"So great a God, He cares for me!
He cares for me!"
And, thus, a new creation made,
I see Him more and more each day;
With all the wonders that
His hands have laid,
I rise to glory in the Son, and say,
"He's my Lord!"

FIRST LESSON

Colossians 1:15-20 (pg 200)

Christine Daniels

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John 6:41-51 (pg 98)

SERMON

Losing Sight of the Stars

Bill Levering

*HYMN

Earth and All Stars

#458

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Like a River In My Soul

arr. Tim Osiek

Edited Dan Forrest

I've got peace like a river,
like a river in my soul.
I got peace like a river,
soothing river, calmly flow
When the world closes in,
feel the stillness within.
I've got peace like a river,
like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, like an
ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean,
endless ocean deep and full.

When you're lost and alone,
let the waves bring you home.

I've got love like an ocean,
like an ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,
like a fountain in my soul.
When your hope nearly dies, just
remember you shall rise!

I've got joy like a fountain, love
like an ocean,
peace like a river in my soul.

*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 *God You Spin the Whirling Planets* #285

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen* Traditional

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:

Elizabeth Nicholson, Ethel Kiess Betka, Claribel Wescott Linder, Bernard Cain Tom Norton

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.

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.

World Communion Sunday Offering

The Mission & Benevolence Committee has decided to dedicate our special offering on World Communion Sunday, October 6, to Hurricane Dorian relief, focusing on the most seriously damaged parts of the Bahamas. Your financial gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar by M & B out of its disaster relief funds, and forwarded to Presbyterian World Service and Development. Please mark your donation “Hurricane Dorian.”

Wayne Hawkins Reception

Join us after church as we say farewell to Wayne Hawkins who will be leaving us to work with a congregation much closer to his home. We will still hear Wayne at Jazz Vespers on occasion, so this is thanks, but not goodbye.

Green Steps

Your voice matters in the produce section! Thank store managers & make sure they know how important it is to you to be able to buy produce not wrapped in plastic. For more details, look on the FRC website.

Concert of Thanksgiving

The music Company Orchestra presents a benefit concert to support SiCM on Oct. 20 at 3pm. Join us for an afternoon of light classical repertory from. Collection of canned/nonperishable items to benefit the SiCM food program.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6 at 2pm, bring your furry, finned, or feathered friends to the front lawn for Daniel to administer God's blessing. We will celebrate God's care for all living creatures and the relationships we have with our animal companions. If your pet is sick, difficult to transport, or uncomfortable around other animals, feel free to bring a picture or just the name. In the past, we have blessed dogs, cats, a ferret, and even a snake.

Community Yoga at FRC

Every Monday, starting Oct 7 from 6-7pm. We will have Yoga for all levels. Wear comfortable clothing and please bring a mat. If you have never done yoga this is a great opportunity to learn more. Classes will be led by ever-popular Douglas Goodbee.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Martha Winchester	Committee Member
Counting Deacons	Kristin Lion, Fred Daniels	Lian Drisgula, Richard Gardener
Flower Delivery	Marey Bailey, James & Karen Gonda	Jeanette Davidson, Vernetta Thuener
Forum	Stories from Sabbatical by Bill Levering	Atrium Artist Talk by Luke Carlson
Jazz Vespers	Tim Olsen, piano; Eric Walentowicz, sax; Rick Rosoff, drums; Mike Lawrence, bass	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass
Kinderwyk	Lian Drisgula, Natalie Pizzolo	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Liz Gleason
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Brad & Cathy Lewis, Christine Daniels, Phil Falconer, Keith Muse, Margaret Schadler	Joanne Arnold, Laura Lee, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Del Pierce, Gay Doolittle
Reader	Christine Daniels	Therese McCarty
Refreshments	Wayne Reception	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Art Shultes, Joan Lindsay, Renate Reeves-Ellington, Amanda & Bill Potter	Art Shultes, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Jeanette Davidson, Joan Lindsay

Choose Something Like a Star
by Robert Frost

O Star (the fairest one in sight),
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud—
It will not do to say of night,
Since dark is what brings out your light.
Some mystery becomes the proud.
But to the wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed.
Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says, 'I burn.'
But say with what degree of heat.
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
Use language we can comprehend.
Tell us what elements you blend.
It gives us strangely little aid,
But does tell something in the end.
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,
Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.

"Magic exists. Who can doubt it, when there are rainbows and wildflowers, the music of the wind and the silence of the stars? Anyone who has loved has been touched by magic. It is such a simple and such an extraordinary part of the lives we live." — Nora Roberts

"Yours is the light by which my spirit's born: - you are my sun, my moon, and all my stars." — e. e. cummings

"A philosopher once asked, "Are we human because we gaze at the stars, or do we gaze at them because we are human?" Pointless, really..."Do the stars gaze back?" Now, that's a question."
— Neil Gaiman, Stardust

"Do not complain beneath the stars about the lack of bright spots in your life."
— Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson

"The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself." — Carl Sagan
"What Is Love? I have met in the streets a very poor young man who was in love. His hat was old, his coat worn, the water passed through his shoes and the stars through his soul" — Victor Hugo, Les Misérables

"Dwell on the beauty of life. Watch the stars, and see yourself running with them." — Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

"When it is dark enough, you can see the stars." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of starstuff." — Carl Sagan, Cosmos

Coming Up

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

Sun, Sept 29	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Music Level
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Forest Nursery
	10am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Dwell Kids' Class	Mountain room
	10:15am	Young Children and Worship	River room
	11am	Care & Prayer	Dykstra Chapel
	11:15am	Children's Music	Music Level
	11:15am	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
Tue, Oct 1	10am	Horizon's Bible Study	Mohawk – Pres
	11:30am	Support & Care	Mohawk – Pres
	7pm	Short Short Writing	Johnson Library
	7pm	Book Study on Racism	Mohawk – Lunn
Wed, Oct 2	7:30am	Retirement Round Table	Mohawk – Lunn
	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk – Pres
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	1:30pm	Retirement Round Table	Mohawk – Lunn
	7pm	Membership & Fellowship	Mohawk – Pres
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Music Level
Thu, Oct 3	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	10am	Stitch Group	Walton Room
	7pm	Chancel Choir	Choir room
Sun, Oct 6	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Music Level
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Forest Nursery
	10am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10am	World Communion Sunday	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Dwell Kids' Class	Mountain room
	10:15am	Young Children and Worship	River room
	11:15am	Children's Music	Music Level
	11:15am	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	11:15am	Youth Education Meeting	Education Level
		2pm	Blessing of the Animals
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Poling Chapel
	5pm	Youth Group	Covenant Hall