

**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.*



**November 17, 2019**

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

*First Reformed Church  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518)377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://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.

### **Childcare on Sunday**

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

### **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



**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

November 17, 2019

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

*Préludes*, Book I

Max Caplan

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

*1. Danseuses de Delphes*

*8. La fille aux cheveux de lin*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Levering

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

INTROIT

*I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

\*HYMN

*Colossians*

Stockade Strummers

Let the words of the Lord Jesus Christ dwell in you (echo)

And whatever you say and whatever you do (echo)

**Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ**

**Who rose from the dead and gives you new life in Him.**

Let the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ fill your heart (echo)

And whatever your gift and whatever your part (echo)

**Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ**

**Who rose from the dead and gives you new life in Him.**

Let the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ guide your way (echo)

Whether walking at night or walking in day (echo)

**Walk in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ**

**Who rose from the dead and gives you new life in Him.**

*(Repeat first verse)*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD

**Gracious God, our mistakes are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Set us free from a past that we cannot change and open to us a future in which we can be changed, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

\*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends!**

\*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.**

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Ben Drisgula & Lori Defonce, Kathy & Rudy Petersen

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES

\*BLESSING AND WELCOME

We are ambassadors for Christ.

We are the salt of the earth;  
we are the light of the world.

Welcome our sisters and brothers in Christ.

**Joyfully we receive you. Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.  
Alleluia!**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

*Sing to the Lord*

Alice Parker

Sing to the Lord, ye heav'nly hosts,  
And thou, O earth adore,  
Let Death and Hell throughout their coasts  
Stand trembling at His power.

His sounding chariot shakes the sky;  
He makes the clouds His throne;  
There all the stores of lightning lie,  
Till vengeance darts them down.

Hi nostrils breathe out fiery streams,  
And from His awful tongue

A sov'reign voice divides the flames  
And thunder roars along.

Think, O my soul the dreadful day,  
When this incensed God  
Shall rend the sky and burn the sea  
And fling His wrath abroad.

Let all that dwell above the sky,  
And air and earth and seas  
Conspire to lift Thy glories high  
And speak Thine endless praise

FIRST LESSON                      *Psalm 98 (pg 551)*                      Amy Brule  
    Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON                      *Luke 21:5-19 (pg 85)*

SERMON                                      *Perspective*                                      Bill Levering

\*HYMN                                      *O Day of God, Draw Nigh*                                      #452

MINUTE FOR MISSION                                      Alan Schick  
    *Thanksgiving Offering for The Concern For The Hungry*

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY                      *Speak O Lord*                                      Keith Getty/Stuart Townend

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the Light of Christ may be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.

Words of pow'r that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak O Lord and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us. Truth unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity. And by grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your Church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.  
Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the truth of Your Holy Word

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)                                      ecumenical version

**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 for ever. Amen.**

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

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:

*Richard (Dick) Blackmer, H. Gilbert Harlow Earl Wainwright, Jean Anderson, Norman Reed, Mary Jane Fleming, Violet Delack*

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.

**In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marilyn Wemple by Mark & Sutton Wemple.

**Green Steps: Thoughtful Travel**

Look close to home! We live in a stunning, varied, and diverse area. Look with fresh eyes while treading lighter and quite possibly spending fewer dollars. For more info, check out the FRC website.

**Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers - Nov 24**

Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers will be from 4-6pm. We will feature two all star groups - Keith Pray's Quartet and Peg Delaney's Quartet with vocalist Colleen Pratt. John Hines will be featured on trumpet and Bob Halek on drums; Mike Lawrence and Bill Delaney will hold down the bass. The concert is being produced on with support from Afm local 85-133. Tickets are \$12 at the door (\$5 for students and seniors) or \$10 in advance.

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

Sunday November 24, 6-8pm at Unitarian Universalist Society at 1221 Wendell Ave, Schenectady, NY 12308.

**Books and Gifts**

The Faith Bookshop has set up a member to member gift recommendation opportunity: come in and write out or tell us about your favorite holiday book, film or gift for children and adults and help your fellow members get meaningful gift ideas for their loved ones. We also have books-by-Bills: Bill Levering's Travels with Levering and Bill Buell's George Lunn: the 1912 Socialist Victory in Schenectady. George Lunn was minister at First Reformed from 1904 to 1910. An ever-flowing stream of donated items re-sold at minimal prices also make for pleasant surprises.



# Together for Good

## This Year's Emphasis:

### Every Member Planned Giving

This year, we are not asking for any percentage increase from those who are accustomed to pledging. **We are asking everyone to consider an intentional goal for their gifts for next year.** We hope this gift would go beyond what we might contribute when we attend worship, but even an estimate of that would be helpful. No one will berate you if your life changes. Simply help us develop a responsible plan for the church budget. Together.

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.” — Abraham Lincoln

“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.”  
— Maya Angelou

“Never lose hope. Storms make people stronger and never last forever.” — Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

“Never to suffer would never to have been blessed.” — Edgar Allan Poe

“These are the times that try men's souls.”  
— Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis*

“I love those who can smile in trouble...”  
— Leonardo da Vinci

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Full Committee	Martha Winchester
Children & Worship	Sarah Bachorik	Liz Mastrianni
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes, Doug Todd	Caroline Brooks, Therese McCarthy
Dwell Kids Teacher	Dave Pizzolo	Bill Potter
Flower Delivery	Kip & Joanne Arnold, Kitty & George Trimarco	Marey Bailey, James & Karen Gonda
Forum	Community Choice Aggregation by Jeff Corbin from Union College	TBD
Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano	Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers
Kinderwyk	Alexis Wisniewski, Natalie Pizzolo	Lian Drisgula, Natalie Pizzolo
Liturgist		Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Maria Todd	Laura Lee, Roberta Blackmer, Peggy King, Marilyn & Don Leach,
Reader	Amy Brule	Norman Kuchar
Refreshments	Rose Family	Diane Lewis, Sue Zeltmann
Ushers	Art Shultes, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Jeanette Davidson, Joan Lindsay	Mike Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal

## Coming Up

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

<b>Sun, Nov 17</b>	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Music Level
	9:45am	Kinderwyk Childcare	Forest Nursery
	10am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Dwell Kids' Class	Mountain room
	10:15am	Young Children and Worship	River room
	11:15am	Children's Music	Roof Top room
	11:15am	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
5pm	Youth Group	Trinity Pres.	
<b>Mon, Nov 18</b>	10:30am	The Glen Eddy Group	Glenn Eddy
	6pm	Community Yoga	Covenant Hall
<b>Tue, Nov 19</b>	10am	Horizon's Bible Study	Mohawk – Pres.
	7pm	Writers Critique Group	Mohawk – Lunn
<b>Wed, Nov 20</b>	11:30am	First Things Volunteers	Mohawk – Lunn
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Film: Imprisoning a Generation	Covenant Hall
<b>Thu, Nov 21</b>	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	10am	Stitch Group	Walton Room
	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	Mohawk – Lunn
	7pm	Chancel Choir	Choir room
<b>Sun, Nov 24</b>	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Music Level
	9:45am	Kinderwyk Childcare	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	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	11:15am	Children's Music	Roof Top room
	11:15am	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
12pm	Naming Meeting	Library	
4pm	Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall	