

**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 24, 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*

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



Reign of Christ

November 24, 2019

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Gavin Zollweg & Noah Fernandes

He's Got the Whole World In His Hands

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

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

*HYMN

Bring Forth the Kingdom

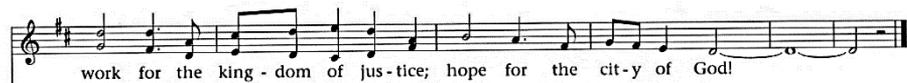


1 You are— salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!
2 You are a light on a hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!
3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: live for the king-dom of God!



Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the king-dom of God!
Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the king-dom of God!
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the king-dom of God!

Descants



work for the king-dom of jus-tice; hope for the cit-y of God!

*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

We believe that God works through us for the healing of the natural and human world. While we believe in the ultimate triumph of God and goodness, we understand that our brokenness will cause distress and destruction that will only be overcome by grace. We are heartened and humbled by the Word of God who walks with us through the storms of life to the Day of Peace.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

I Lift My Eyes

John Carter

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
In the press of a busy day;
As green hills stand in a dusty land
So God is my strength and stay.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
With a prayer as I turn to sleep;
By day by night through the dark and light
My Shepherd will guard his sheep.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
To a calm that is mine to share;
Secure and still in the Father's will
And kept by the Father's care.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
And my heart to the Father's throne;
In all my ways to the end of days
The Lord will preserve his own.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 46 (pg 517)

Norman Kuchar

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 1:11-20 (pg 200)

SERMON

Choosing the End

Bill Levering

*HYMN

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

#457

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Carol Troost

Thanksgiving Offering for The Concern For The Hungry

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Be Thou My Vision

Rachael Rose, soprano

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

#592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

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

Lead On, O King Eternal

#447

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

#585

POSTLUDE

+ + +

**Today’s Thanksgiving Offering:
Concerned for the Hungry**

Our 2019 Thanksgiving Offering is a way to make sure all families in our community will enjoy a bountiful feast on Thanksgiving. Monies collected will be sent to Concerned for the Hungry to assist in this massive effort. This drive, with contributors from throughout the community, results in thousands of families receiving all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers – Today

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).

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) Mathews, Leroy Brandt, Elsie Anderson Emory, Virginia Cain, Rev. Edwin McLane, Harvey Schadler, Jean Sands Brown

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.

Giving Memorial Flowers for Christmas

Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. To remember your loved ones in the bulletin on December 15 the donation is \$20. Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for 2019. Call the church office or 1streformedpub@gmail.com no later than December 11 to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309

Green Steps: Thoughtful Travel

Step into Green Travel with a lighter environmental footprint by intentionally eating and shopping at places dedicated to fair trade. For example, use independently owned hotels, and homestays. For more info, check out the FRC website.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Today

Today from 6-8pm at Unitarian Universalist Society at 1221 Wendell Ave, Schenectady, NY 12308.

Advent Festival - Dec 1

On the evening of the first Sunday of Advent, all ages gather in Covenant Hall for a covered dish dinner, fellowship, and crafts. For dinner at 5pm, bring a seasonal favorite food to share. After our meal, we will make advent wreaths from natural materials and hand dipped candles! We will conclude at 7pm with a brief liturgy around our candlelit wreath.

Breakfast with Saint Nicholas - Dec 8

No matter your age or faith tradition, join us Sunday, December 8 from 8:30-9:45am for a complimentary Dutch breakfast of pancakes, oatmeal, fruit, and chocolate sprinkle sandwiches followed by crafts and a visit from the just and generous Sinterklaas, telling stories and giving gifts!

FRC Sole Searchers – Nov 30

The FRC Sole Searchers will head to Schodack Island State Park to walk in the footsteps of native people who lived there 4,000 years ago. This 5.1-mile loop trek is level, dog friendly, and offers excellent views of the Hudson River and the Schodack Creek. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am.

FRC Orff-estra

The Orff-estra will begin rehearsing today in anticipation of performing in service on Dec 22. There will be two rehearsal times: a short rehearsal at 11:15am for young children and beginners, followed by a longer one from 11:30-12pm for more experienced performers. Rehearsals are held in the Choir room.

“You cannot control the behavior of others, but you can always choose how you respond to it.” — Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

“Life is partly what we make it, and partly what it is made by the friends we choose.” — Tehyi Hsieh

“Every decision you make, makes you. Never let other people choose who you’re going to be.” — Cassandra Clare, *The Lost Herondale*

“To choose not to choose is still a choice for which you alone are responsible.” — Gary Cox, *How to Be an Existentialist*
 “You will make better decisions once you begin thinking long-term rather than short-term.” — Adam Smith

“When you make a choice, you change the future.” — Deepak Chopra

“What you choose also chooses you.” — Kamand Kojouri

“Who you are is not determined by what you wear, the money in your wallet, nor how you look. Who you are is simply determined by who or what you follow. If you follow money you will only seek after such, giving your all for it. If you seek after what they call, 'fun,' your life will be aimed towards finding a way to fame, or a new way to party. If you follow the Lord Jesus your life will be given to Him, and the hopes and dreams you have will be in pleasing Him!! Everyone follows someone or something. Who will it be? Choose wisely- you are important!!” — Mary Kate

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Martha Winchester	Birdie Blackmer
Children & Worship	Liz Mastrianni	Jeanette Davidson
Counting Deacons	Caroline Brooks, Therese McCarthy	Lian Drisgula, Vickie McGowan-Horan
Dwell Kids Teacher	Bill Potter	James Gonda
Flower Delivery	Marey Bailey, James & Karen Gonda	Connie Young, Marilyn & Don Leach
Forum	Epiphany Reed, Director of Patty's Place	Coffee and Conversation
Jazz Vespers	Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass
Kinderwyk	Lian Drisgula, Natalie Pizzolo	Liz Gleason, Claire Hughes
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Laura Lee, Roberta Blackmer, Peggy King, Marilyn & Don Leach,	Joanne Arnold, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Art Casey, Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton
Reader	Norman Kuchar	Cathy Lewis
Refreshments	Diane Lewis, Sue Zeltmann	Amanda Potter
Ushers	Mike Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Gabby Pizzolo, Julia Etkin

Coming Up

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

Sun, Nov 24	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	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
	12pm	Naming Meeting	Library
	4pm	Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
	Mon, Nov 25	6pm	Community Yoga
Wed, Nov 27	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk – Pres.
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Chancel Choir	Choir room
	7pm	Stockade Strummers	Poling Chapel
Thu, Nov 28 & 29		Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed	
Sun, Dec 1	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Music Level
	9:45am	Kinderwyk Childcare	Forest Nursery
	10am	Worship/Communion	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Dwell Kids' Class	Mountain room
	10:15am	Young Children and Worship	River room
	11:15am	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	11:15am	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
	3pm	Introductions to the FRC	Church Office
5pm	Advent Festival	Covenant Hall	
5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary	



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.