

**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.



December 8, 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



Second Sunday In Advent

December 8, 2019

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

O Come O Come Emmanuel
When A Child Is Born
Lord Jesus Come
Soon and Very Soon

Stockade Strummers
John Mason Neale
Dammicco
Cootes
Crouch

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Daniel Carlson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Jaclyn, Kevin, Dylan & Carson Weber, Carol & George Leitze

Capo 1

① Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) ② Ab(G) Eb(D) ③

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and

Ab(G) Eb(D) ④ Ab(G) Eb(D)

all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

*HYMN

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

Somebody's calling out your name (echo)
Somebody's calling out your name (echo)
Oh, sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's calling out Your name (echo)

Somebody knows what's in your heart (echo)
Somebody knows what's in your heart (echo)
Oh, sinner why don't you answer?
Somebody's calling out Your name (echo)

Somebody's ready to forgive (echo)
Somebody's ready to forgive (echo)
Oh, sinner why don't you answer?
Somebody's ready to forgive (echo)

Somebody's calling out your name (echo)
Somebody's calling out your name (echo)
Oh, sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's calling out Your name (echo)

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

God of all time, we confess we are stuck in empty patterns of our past. God of the future, we long to embrace new insights, hope, and joy. God of right now, move us beyond petty distractions, and focus us on your presence and purpose in our lives.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

Gloria, Gloria

#576

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From *the Brief Statement of Faith*)

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Prepare Ye the Way for the Lord* David Clydesdale
Dan Gleason, Percussion; Don Lester, Bass

The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way for the Lord,
Ev'ry valley shall be filled,
Ev'ry mountain be made low.
The voice of one crying in the wilderness,

Prepare ye the way for the Lord!
The crooked shall be made straight,
And the rough places plain.
And all flesh shall see,
and all flesh shall see
The salvation of our God!

FIRST LESSON *Romans 15:4-13(pg 163)* Gene Rowland
Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Daniel Carlson

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 3:1-12 (pg 2)*

SERMON *Winnowing* Bill Levering

*HYMN On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry #10

MINUTE FOR MISSION Ellie Rowland
Lasagna Dinner benefitting the Mooncatcher Project

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Come Flood this Heart of Mine* David Lantz

Come flood this heart of mine with your
great love divine.
Come quickly Lord I pray,
abide with us today.
Come flood.
Come flood this heart of mine.
Come flood with your great love divine.

God's Son, who will come in a humble,
lowly birth.
Prepare my heart for
his presence in this place.
May my heart overflow
with the fullness of His grace.

Give to the earth this night
Your everlasting light.
Come flood this heart of mine
with your pure joy divine.

Come flood this heart of mine with
Your true light divine.
O come, Emmanuel,
the darkness now dispel.
Come flood,
Come flood this heart of mine.
Come flood with your true light divine.

Prepare my heart for the
One who will come to earth,

*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

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

#11

*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:

*Sally Hahn, Marguerite Carr, Ethel Avery,
Harold W. Lapham, Dee Gravink*

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

Robert Clark – December 3, 2019

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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

Christmas Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, December 15 to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service.

Johnson Library

Christmas Books are on display in the library.

Benefit Dinner for MoonCatcher Project

You are invited to a Lasagna Dinner to benefit the MoonCatcher project on Dec 11 at 6pm. Cost is a free-will donation. Please email erowland@nycap.rr.com or call the church office to make reservations.

Alumni Choir

Anyone who has sung in a choir is invited to participate in the 'alumni choir' for the 5pm Christmas Eve Service. Rehearsals are Dec 20 at 5:30pm, Dec 22 at noon, Dec 23 at 7pm. If you'd like to receive music in advance, please email 1streformed@gmail.com.

Green Steps: Happy Holiday Habits

When purchasing an item this holiday, think about the real person who made it by seeking fair trade options. Your sustainable choice will positively impact a life and a community.

"A continual fellowship with God gives us His wisdom to properly evaluate the events that are occurring"— Sunday Adelaja

"You need to see time correctly for you not to waste your life"— Sunday Adelaja

"Thoughts, quotes, and philosophies— good or bad—cause us to evaluate ourselves. And that is good."— Richell E. Goodrich, Smile Anyway

"In (hyper-loyal) cultures, loyalty is so highly prized that it covers a multitude of leadership sins. I've seen numerous bad leaders cover their ineptitude by stressing the importance of loyalty over competence. They teach that loyalty is more important than excellence and they use that idea to distract the team from their own inability to perform."— Phil Cooke

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Sally Bestgen	Martha Winchester
Candle Lighters	Jaclyn, Kevin, Dylan, and Carson Weber, Carol and George Leitze	Cheryl Zahner and Vernetta Thuener
Children & Worship	Jeanette Davidson	Jeanette Davidson
Counting Deacons	Sarah Bachorik, Dave Hjelmar	Fred Daniels, Joan Lindsay
Dwell Kids Teacher	Dave Pizzolo	Dave Pizzolo
Flower Delivery	Cynde Schwartz, Christina Jones	Lynn Wilkanowski, Christina Jones
Forum	2 nd Sunday Potluck	Christmas Offering, Mayogou Clean Water Project by Andy Chestnut
Jazz Vespers	Tim Olsen, solo piano	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Nathan Schied, drums
Kinderwyk	Alexis Wisniewski, Natalie Pizzolo	Christina Jones, Natalie Pizzolo
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Laura Lee, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Tom Lindsay, Bill Rochelle, Ellie Rowland, Barbara Walton	Karen Gonda, Christine Daniels, Peggy King, Tom Lindsay, Walt Robb
Reader	Gene Rowland	Christine Daniels
Refreshments	Bring a dish to share	Helle Moore, Inge-Lise Pangburn
Ushers	Matt & Christina Jones, Florence Reed, Aline Stabler, Philip Zollweg	Del Pierce, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Doug Todd, Tom Zych

Coming Up

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

Sun, Dec 8	8:30am	Breakfast With Saint Nicholas	Covenant Hall
	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Ukuleles For All Ages	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	2 nd Sunday Potluck	Covenant Hall
	11:15am	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
Mon, Dec 9	6pm	Community Yoga	Covenant Hall
Tue, Dec 10	11am	Support & Care	Mohawk – Pres.
	6pm	M & B	Mohawk - Lunn
	6:30pm	Standing Committees	Various
	7:30pm	Consistory	Covenant Hall
Wed, Dec 11	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk – Pres.
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	1pm	Archives	Archives room
	2pm	Staff Meeting	Church Office
	6pm	MoonCatcher Benefit Dinner	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Stockade Strummers	Poling Chapel
Thu, Dec 12	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	10am	Stitch Group	Walton room
	7pm	Chancel Choir	Choir room
Sat, Dec 14	8:30am	Saturday Breakfast	Covenant Hall
	4:30pm	Youth Group Overnight Caroling	Scotia Reformed
Sun, Dec 15	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Ukuleles For All Ages	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	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	11:15am	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary