

**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.



January 12, 2020

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



First Sunday after Epiphany: Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2020

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Italian Concerto

I. Allegro

Max Caplan

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Daniel Carlson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

Gather Us In

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

#339

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Almighty God, who makes all things new, in this new year we need your help to heal our division, break bad patterns, and show us new ways of living that lead to a better life. Give us wisdom and courage, we pray.

*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 Our Song of Hope*)

Our only hope is Jesus Christ. After we refused to live in the image of God, He was born of the Virgin Mary, sharing our genes and instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of our God. Being united to Christ's humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in Him.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Sing Praises unto His Holy Name* J.S. Bach

Unto His holy name sing praises.
Praise Him with songs of great joy.
For His is the glory, and His is the honor.
For His is the glory, The honor and thanks.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 42:1-9 (*pg 670*) Ellie Rowland
Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mathew 3:13-17 (pg 3)*

SERMON *Serving God by Leading* Bill Levering

*HYMN *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* #70

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Flower Ministry* Vickie McGowan Horan

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Blest Are They Whose Spirits Long* G.F. Handel

Blest are they whose spirits long;
Whose trust is in the Lord;
And on whose lips is praise unending.
They shall mount up like eagles, lofty on high.
They, too shall walk and not be weary.

*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.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold

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:

Dr. Ming Lee, Virginia Atherton, Donald Middleton, Clairmont Herman, William O'Hare, William Atherton, Dorothy Dykeman Clock, Edna Wood

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

Sign up for flowers in the church office where you can 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.

Youth Group Mission Trip

Please supporting the Youth Group's Mission Trip to WV in one (or many) of these ways:

- 1) Attend the chili cook off & auction dinner on Sat 2/8 and bid on items
- 2) Supply a batch of chili for the cook-off
- 3) Supply a batch of corn bread for the bake-off
- 4) Donate an experience (preferable) or item (needs approval) for auctioning

Please contact Christina Jones at 1streformedyouth@gmail.com with how you can help.

Green Steps - Buying Healthy Rugs

When buying a new carpet, consider the rug's pad and choose natural fibers here too. Avoid pads containing petroleum-based products. "New carpet" smell is not a good thing!

Excursion at Vischer Ferry

On Saturday, January 25, the FRC Sole Searchers will head to the nearby Vischer Ferry Preserve for a 4- to 5-mile loop hike on completely flat terrain. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am. RSVP to James at jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Johnson Library

You can find a mixed collection of *The Great Courses offerings* to borrow in both CD and DVD form on the display area in the Johnson Library. Borrowing instructions are next to the box of CDs/DVDs. Other Great Courses offerings will be available soon.

Offering Envelopes

2020 Offering Envelopes are available in the church office. There are extra available if anyone needs them.

Meal Delivery Volunteers Needed

The Support and Care Committee is in need of volunteers to sign up to prepare meals for home delivery to members in need of meal assistance. Contact Kim Burgoyne, Joanne Arnold or Vickie McGowan Horan.

Support and Care

We invite you to consider helping with a new supportive ministry. We are looking for those interested in grocery shopping for the homebound in our midst. Daniel Carlson, 518-346-6416 or Barbara Walton, 518-346-1943.

Let Us Know

Whenever you are ill, hospitalized, homebound, needing a meal, transportation to a doctor, or grieving a loss, we would like to know...so we can do what our Committee is named for: support and care! Please help us to help you when you are in need by calling Support and Care Co-Chair's, Joanne Arnold (518)526-0480 and Vickie McGowan-Horan (518)852-0113 or Daniel Carlson 518-346-6416.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Jane Wilkinson	Sarah Howes
Children & Worship	Dave Hjelmar	Natalie Pizzolo
Counting Deacons	Bill Rochelle, Fred Daniels	Christina Jones, Richard Gardner
Dwell Kids Teacher	Bill Potter	Tom Mancuso
Flower Delivery	Christina Jones, Connie Young	Carol Troost, Lynn Wilkanowski
Forum	No First Forum	Union College Campus Protestant Ministry by Rev. Tim Coombs
Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano	Tim Olsen, piano
Kinderwyk	Alexis Wisniewski, Jaclyn Weber	Lian Drisgula, Ellie Rowland
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Preacher	Bill Levering	Abby Norton Levering
Processing Elders	Birdie Blackmer, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Laura Lee, Del Pierce, Richard Rose	Karen Gonda, Art Casey, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Walt Robb, Maria Todd
Reader	Ellie Rowland	Gene Rowland
Refreshments	2 nd Sunday Potluck	Membership and Fellowship
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Julia Etkin	Matt & Christina Jones, Florence Reed, Aline Stabler, Phillip Zollweg

Coming Up

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

Sun, Jan 12	9am	Choir Rehearsal	Music Level
	9am	Ukuleles For All Ages	Rooftop Room
	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	2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch	Covenant Hall
	11:15am	Children's Music	Rooftop Room
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
	5pm	Youth Group	Education Level
Mon, Jan 13	6pm	Community Yoga	Covenant Hall
Tue, Jan 14	11:30am	Support & Care	Mohawk – Pres.
	6:30pm	Standing Committees	Various
	7:30pm	Consistory	Covenant Hall
Wed, Jan 15	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	2pm	Staff Meeting	Church Office
	6pm	Compassionate Dinner	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Contemplative Worship	Poling Chapel
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Poling Chapel
Thu, Jan 16	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	10am	Stitch Group	Walton Room
	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	Mohawk – Lunn
	7pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sun, Jan 19	9am	Choir Rehearsal	Music Level
	9am	Ukuleles For All Ages	Rooftop Room
	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	Children's Music	Rooftop Room
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall

“It is a curious thing, Harry, but perhaps those who are best suited to power are those who have never sought it. Those who, like you, have leadership thrust upon them, and take up the mantle because they must, and find to their own surprise that they wear it well.” — J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

“To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.” — William Arthur Ward (Bill Ward!)

“It’s hard to lead a cavalry charge if you think you look funny on a horse.” — Adlai E. Stevenson

“Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others.” — Robert Louis Stevenson

“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.” — Ronald Reagan

“Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another.” — John Maxwell

“A noble leader answers not to the trumpet calls of self promotion, but to the hushed whispers of necessity.” — Mollie Marti

“To serve the many, you first serve the few.” — Ken Jennings, *The Serving Leader: Five Powerful Actions to Transform Your Team, Business, and Community*

“Exercising adaptive leadership is about giving meaning to your life beyond your own ambition.” — Ronald Heifetz, *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership: Tools and Tactics for Changing Your Organization and the World*

“Nous sommes des chrétiens faibles simplement parce que nous avons refusé d’être des serviteurs de Christ” — Dr Paul Gitwaza

“The theory of servant leadership is vital, but it’s the active Serving Leader that makes the critical difference.” — Ken Jennings

“Now you tell me, when a father goes ahead and washes diapers or performs some other mean task for his child, and someone ridicules him as an effeminate fool, though that father is acting in the spirit just described and in Christian faith, my dear fellow you tell me, which of the two is most keenly ridiculing the other? God, with all his angels and creatures, is smiling, not because that father is washing diapers, but because he is doing so in Christian faith.” — Martin Luther