

**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.



Transfiguration

Artist Lewis Bowman

Painting - Oil On Canvas: Palette Knife

February 23, 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



Transfiguration Sunday

February 23, 2020

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

John Norton, piano

Prelude and Fugue #21 in B-flat

The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2
Johann Sebastian Bach

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Daniel Carlson

*HYMN

Light the Fire

Bill Maxwell

**I stand to praise You,
but I fall to my knees.
My spirit is willing,
but my flesh is so weak.**

Refrain:

**Light the fire (Light the fire)
In my soul (In my weary soul)
Fan the flame (Fan the flame)
Make me whole. (Make my spirit whole)
Lord, You know (Oh Lord You know)
Just where I've been (Where I've been)
So light the fire in my heart again.
Light the fire in my heart again.**

**I feel Your arms around me,
As the power of Your healing begins.
You breathe new life right through me,
Like a mighty rushing wind. *Refrain***

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

O holy God, we are divided, distracted, and distraught. By your Spirit heal, focus, and strengthen us to live as those united in Christ, bearing witness to your glorious grace in the world you love. Amen.

*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

The Transfiguration

Sufjan Stevens

When he took the three disciples
To the mountainside to pray,
His countenance was modified,
his clothing was aflame.
Two men appeared:
Moses and Elijah came;
They were at his side.
The prophecy, the legislation spoke of
whenever he would die.
Then there came a word
Of what he should
accomplish on the day.
Then Peter spoke,
to make of them a tabernacle place.
A cloud appeared
in glory as an accolade.
They fell on the ground.
A voice arrived, the voice of God,

The face of God, covered in a cloud.
What he said to them,
The voice of God: the most beloved son.
Consider what he says to you,
consider what's to come.
The prophecy was put to death,
Was put to death, and so will the Son.
And keep your word, disguise the vision
'till the time has come.
Lost in the cloud, a voice.
Have no fear! We draw near!
Lost in the cloud, a sign. Son of man!
Turn your ear.
Lost in the cloud, a voice. Lamb of God!
We draw near!
Lost in the cloud, a sign. Son of man!
Son of God

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 24:12-18 (pg 70)

Barbara Walton

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 17:1-9 (pg 18)

SERMON

Listen to Him

Daniel Carlson

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

We Are Called

Brian Haas

Come! live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the
Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!
Refrain

Refrain:
We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to
walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love!

*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 *Speak, O Lord* (See back)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen* #585

POSTLUDE

+ + +

First Forum

Today's First Forum is Retirement Round Table Book Review and Retirement by Rev. Dr. Bill Levering.

Mardi Gras Jazz Vespers – Today

Featuring the Wayne Hawkins Trio with Mike Lawrence on bass, Pete Sweeney on drums and Wayne Hawkins, piano.

Prayers of the People

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:

Mary Harter, Mary MacKinnon, Dr. Eugene Zeltmann, Marjorie Reid, Robert Traxler, Georgeina Kellam, Marjorie Todd, Dr. Joseph Burke

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

Donate 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.

Ash Wednesday - Feb 26

We usher in the season of Lent with our traditional lentil soup supper at 6pm and a family-friendly service in Poling Chapel at 7pm will include opportunity for the imposition of ashes.

Four Chaplains Service - Today

55th Annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award & Remembrance at 2:30pm in Poling Chapel.

Youth Group Mission Trip

Youth is headed to Summersville, West Virginia for a mission trip April 11-18, 2020. During this trip, we will be working to help families negatively impacted by severe flooding in this area of WV in 2016; they are still recovering after 3 long years. We are partnering with an organization called the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy & Workcamps, Inc. (WVMAW) Our host will be Summersville Presbyterian Church. You can support this trip by purchasing a mission share for \$25 from Christina Jones. All mission shareholders are invited to attend a lunch on Sunday, April 26 at 11:15am and hear the youth tell stories about what they experienced and how they have been impacted.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Martha Winchester	Committee Member
Children & Worship	Dave Hjelmar	Mary Carlson
Counting Deacons	Christina Jones, Kim Burgoyne	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Brad Lewis
Dwell Kids Teacher	James Gonda	Dave Pizzolo
Flower Delivery	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Carol Troost	Marey Bailey, James & Karen Gonda
Forum	Retirement Round Table Book Review and Retirement by Dr. Bill Levering	Preview of Faith Forming Weekend Speaker and Lenten Classes
Jazz Vespers	Mardi Gras Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Liz Gleason, Jaclyn Weber
Liturgist	Mary Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Del Pierce, Art Casey, Mary Jewett, Don & Marilyn Leach	Brad Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Barbara Walton
Reader	Barbara Walton	Liz Mastrianni
Refreshments	Becky Draffen-Grande	James & Karen Gonda
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda	Matt & Christina Jones, Florence Reed, Aline Stabler, Phillip Zollweg

Coming Up

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

Sun, Feb 23	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	Care & Prayer	Dykstra Chapel
	11:15am	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	11:15am	Children's Music	Rooftop Room
	2:30pm	Four Chaplains Service	Poling Chapel
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
5pm	Youth Group	Trinity Presb.	
Mon, Feb 24	6pm	Community Yoga	Covenant Hall
Tue, Feb 25	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Mohawk – Pres.
	6:30pm	Finance Committee	Mohawk – Pres.
Wed, Feb 26	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	6pm	Ash Wednesday Meal	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Poling Chapel
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Rooftop Garden
Thu, Feb 27	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	10am	Stitch Group	Walton Room
	7pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sun, Mar 1	9am	Choir Rehearsal	Music Level
	9am	Ukuleles For All Ages	Rooftop Room
	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	Children's Music	Rooftop Room
	3pm	Introductions to FRC	Church Office
5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall	

We of the Taize Community look upon the transfiguration above all as the celebration of that presence of Christ which takes charge of everything in us and transfigures even that which disturbs us about ourselves...those hardened, incredulous, even disquieting regions with us, about which we do not know what to do. – Kathryn Spink

Speak O Lord

Moderately slow



Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to re - ceive the food of Your
 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu -
 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds. Help us grasp the heights of Your



Ho - ly Word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us. Shape and
 mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 plans for us, truths un - changed from the dawn of time that will



fash - ion us in Your like - ness, that the light of Christ might be
 ra - di - ance of Your pu - ri - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
 ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on Your



seen to - day in our acts of love and our deeds of — faith.
 eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
 prom - is - es, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with — us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us all Your pur - pos - es for Your glo - ry.
 Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail; let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 Speak, O Lord, till Your Church is built and the earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

Music Notes

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