

**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.



March 1, 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 of Lent

March 1, 2020

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Intorno all'idol mio from Orontea

Max Caplan

Antonio Cesti (1623-1669)

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Daniel Carlson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

*HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

#280

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

(silent prayer)

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

*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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. William Dawson

Every time I feel the spirit,
Moving in my heart, I will pray,
Yes Every time I feel the spirit,
Moving in my heart, I will pray.

Looked all around me, It looked so fine,
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,
Out of his mouth came fire and smoke;

Jordan river is chilly and cold,
It chills the body, but not the soul;
There ain't but one train upon this track,
It runs to heaven and right back.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 32 (pg 506)

Liz Mastrianni

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11 (pg 3)

SERMON

Bill Levering

How Can We Avoid Temptation When It is Everywhere?

*HYMN

Lord, Who Thought These Forty Days

#81

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

It is Well with My Soul

arr. John Ness Beck

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll.
Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to say.
It is well with my soul.

My sin- O the joy of this glorious thought-
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more:

Praise the Lord,
praise the Lord O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day
when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll:
The trumpet shall sound
and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so" it is well with my soul.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

#592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION AND PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (*unison*)

Carl Steubing

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Gluten-free bread is available from the roving minister

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

What Wondrous Love This Is

#85

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

#583

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:

Mark Opdyke, James Scholtz, Carl Settle, Sally Murray, Sallie Wemple, Wales Brown, Peter Ipsen

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.

First Forum

Preview of Faith Forming Weekend Speaker and Lenten Classes by Adult Ed and Nurture Leaders.

Youth Group Mission Trip

Youth is headed to Summersville, West Virginia for a mission trip April 11-18. 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 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 their experience.

Interested in Joining?

Come to an informal time to learn more about First Reformed and possible membership. It is today at 3pm in the church office.

FRC Orff-estra

The Orff-estra will begin rehearsing today in anticipation of performing in service on Palm Sunday. Beginners and young musicians will meet at 11:15am, and there will be a later rehearsal for more advanced musicians. Rehearsals are in the choir room, all are welcome to come to just one or all rehearsals.

Garden as if life depends on it: Food

All living things need to eat to survive, so native plants are the foundation in supporting a wildlife-friendly environment, from berries to nuts to nectar. Dead trees can provide food by attracting insects, mosses, lichens and fungi; this deadwood becomes a cafeteria for wildlife looking for a snack. Look on the FRC website for more info.

Beginner Pysanky Workshop

Abby Norton-Levering is offering a beginner pysanky (Ukrainian egg decorating) workshop March 19 from 6 to 8:30pm --\$30, all proceeds go to CREATE Community Studios of Schenectady. She is also sponsoring a Pysanky Yoga Retreat March 20-21 it is \$75 which includes supplies and meals. Both events will be in Covenant Hall. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Email nortonlevering@gmail.com or call 518.694.6234 for more information.

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.

Wednesday Evenings in Lent

March 4 – April 1

Lenten Meal - 6pm

Mar 4: Chili, salad, bread

Mar 11: Lasagna, salad, bread

Mar 18: Soup, salad, bread

Mar 25: Casseroles/Mac 'n Cheese

Apr 1: Soup, salad, bread

Lenten Study Series - 7 pm

Call It Grace - Daniel Carlson will lead a class on the memoir and theological reflection, *Call It Grace* by Serene Jones, President of Union Theological Seminary, who will be coming to First Reformed May 2-3 to spend a teaching weekend with us.

Crisis in the Context of Faith

Mar 4: Sarah Howes; *“My Journey with God Through Cancer”*

Mar 11: Bill Levering; *“Faith and Future Crisis”*

Mar 18: Kitty Trimarco; *“Gods presence in a crisis of self confidence”*

Mar 25: Abby Norton-Levering; *“Faith and My Human Body”*

Apr 1: Chris Daniels; *“Faith and my Alcoholism”*

Centering Prayer... is a centuries old Christian meditation that leads to a more peaceful place. Whether renewing an old practice or starting a new one, you are invited to attend one or all sessions. This is an experiential opportunity with guidance provided by Mary Carlson and Cynde Schwartz.

Closing Worship - 8 pm

“Over the years, I have come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity, or power, but self-rejection. Success, popularity, and power can indeed present a great temptation, but their seductive quality often comes from the way they are part of the much larger temptation to self-rejection. Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved." Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence.” — Henri J.M. Nouwen

“Laws and principles are not for the times when there is no temptation: they are for such moments as this, when body and soul rise in mutiny against their rigour” — Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre

“Self-knowledge is better than self-control any day,” Raquel said firmly. “And I know myself well enough to know how I act around cookies.”
— Claudia Gray, Evernight

“No evil dooms us hopelessly except the evil we love, and desire to continue in, and make no effort to escape from.”
— George Eliot

“... the devil doesn't come dressed in a red cape and pointy horns. He comes as everything you've ever wished for ...” — Tucker Max

“The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking spaces.” — Will Rogers

“Which of us can resist the temptation of being thought indispensable?”
— Margaret Atwood, The Penelopiad

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Sarah Howes	Jane Wilkinson
Children & Worship	Mary Carlson	Sarah Bachorik
Counting Deacons	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Brad Lewis	Ralph Rosenthal, Joan Lindsay
Dwell Kids Teacher	Dave Pizzolo	Bill Potter
Flower Delivery	Marey Bailey, James & Karen Gonda	Gay & Joe Doolittle, Inge-Lise Pangburn
Forum	Preview of Faith Forming Weekend Speaker and Lenten Classes	2nd Sunday Luncheon
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Azzaam Hameed- piano
Kinderwyk	Liz Gleason, Jaclyn Weber	Alexis Wisniewski, Kristin Lion
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Brad Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Barbara Walton	Birdie Blackmer, Don & Marilyn Leach, Cathy Lewis, Richard Rose, Maia Todd
Reader	Liz Mastrianni	Anne Putnam
Refreshments	James & Karen Gonda	2nd Sunday Luncheon
Ushers	Sarah & Hannah Bachorik, Florence Reed, Aline Stabler, Phillip 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, 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	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
	3pm	Introductions to FRC	Church Office
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
Mon, Mar 2	6pm	Community Yoga	Covenant Hall
	6:30pm	Creation Care Committee	Library
Tue, Mar 3	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Mohawk – Pres.
	11:30am	Support & Care	Mohawk – Pres.
	7pm	Writers' Critique Group	Mohawk – Lunn
Wed, Mar 4	7:30am	Retirement Round Table	Mohawk House
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	1pm	Retirement Round Table	Mohawk – Lunn
	6pm	Lenten Meal	Covenant Hall
	6pm	Membership & Fellowship	Mohawk – Pres.
	7pm	Lenten Classes	Various Places
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Rooftop Garden
	8pm	Closing Worship	Poling Chapel
Thu, Mar 5	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	10am	Stitch Group	Walton Room
	7pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sat, Mar 7	8:30am	Saturday Breakfast	Covenant Hall
Sun, Mar 8	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	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
	3pm	Introductions to FRC	Church Office
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
5pm	Youth Group	Trinity Presb.	