



## 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 of Lent

March 8, 2020

\*The congregation may stand.

### PRELUDE

Stockade Strummers

*Friends In Faith, Rain Down*

*What a Wonderful World, Amazing Grace*

### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Levering

The grace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### CALL TO WORSHIP

#### \*HYMN

*To God Be the Glory*

#485

#### \*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

*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 121 (pg 571)* Anne Putnam  
Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 3:1-17 (pg 93)*

SERMON *God's Love* Bill Levering

\*HYMN *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* #314

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY Lisa Etkin

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY *God So Loved the World* John Stainer

God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that who so believeth in Him should not  
perish but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son  
into the world to condemn the world;  
but that the world through  
Him might be saved.

\*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 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* #538

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen* #585

## 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:

*Linda Witkowski, Daniel Thuener, Roy Stratton, Len Garver, John Hillers*

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**

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.

## **2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch**

All are invited for fantastic food and fellowship the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11am in Covenant Hall. Please bring a plentiful dish or dessert to share as you are able.

## **FRC Orff-estra**

Beginners and young musicians 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.

## **Green Steps**

Garden as if life depends on it: Water: Wildlife needs clean drinking water to survive. Birds need to bathe in order to keep their feathers in good working order, while other species including some amphibians, insects and other wildlife actually live in water. Look on the FRC website for more info.

## **Atrium Art**

Come Hang With Kitty - A new display of artwork has just been hung in our atrium. After church come chat with our featured artist, our own Kitty Trimarco. We all know of Kitty's beautiful singing voice that graces our choir every week, now come enjoy yet another of her talents, painting.

## **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.

## **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](mailto:nortonlevering@gmail.com) or call 518.694.6234 for more information.

## **Church Rummage Leftovers**

Many thanks to those who donated items or bought things at the Chili Cook Off. We still have several items that are now available to take away in Friendship Hall. Anything that is not against the eastern wall (the Sunday school material and choir files) can be hauled off. Please.

## **Give Easter Memorial Flowers**

Each Easter, members of Chancel Guild adorn our church with beautiful Easter flowers. Your family can contribute to remember a loved one or honor a loved one. Please send your suggested donation of \$20 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309 and contact the church office with the name of the person the flowers are in honor or memory of. Even if you have donated in previous years, please place an order by April 7.

## **Wednesday Evenings in**

### **Lent**

**March 4 – April 1**

### **Lenten Meal - 6pm**

**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 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. This is an experiential opportunity with guidance provided by Mary Carlson and Cynde Schwartz.

### **Closing Worship - 8 pm**

“Though we are incomplete, God loves us completely. Though we are imperfect, He loves us perfectly. Though we may feel lost and without compass, God's love encompasses us completely. ... He loves every one of us, even those who are flawed, rejected, awkward, sorrowful, or broken.”— Dieter F. Uchtdorf

“Legalism says God will love us if we change. The gospel says God will change us because He loves us.”  
— Tullian Tchividjian

“Like when you sit in front of a fire in winter — you are just there in front of the fire. You don't have to be smart or anything. The fire warms you.”  
— Desmond Tutu

“It's not about finding ways to avoid God's judgment and feeling like a failure if you don't do everything perfectly. It's about fully experiencing God's love and letting it perfect you. It's not about being somebody you are not. It's about becoming who you really are.” — Stormie Omartian

“Even Kings and emperors with heaps of wealth and vast dominion cannot compare with an ant filled with the love of God.”— Guru Nanak

“If you have never known the power of God's love, then maybe it is because you have never asked to know it - I mean really asked, expecting an answer.” — Frederick Buechner

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Next Week</b>
<b>Bookshop</b>	Jane Wilkinson	Birdie Blackmer
<b>Children &amp; Worship</b>	Sarah Bachorik	Liz Mastrianni
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Ralph Rosenthal, Joan Lindsay	Tom Burgoyne, Justine Ochal
<b>Dwell Kids Teacher</b>	Bill Potter	Tom Mancuso
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Gay & Joe Doolittle, Inge-Lise Pangburn	Karen & James Gonda, Vickie & Mike Horan
<b>Forum</b>	2nd Sunday Luncheon	Stories from Writers Group
<b>Jazz Vespers</b>	Azzaam Hameed, piano	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tim Coakley, drums
<b>Kinderwyk</b>	Alexis Wisniewski, Kristin Lion	Lian Drisgula, Natalie Pizzolo
<b>Liturgist</b>		Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Birdie Blackmer, Don & Marilyn Leach, Cathy Lewis, Richard Rose, Maia Todd	Karen Gonda, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Gay Doolittle, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Jeanne Shoulder
<b>Reader</b>	Anne Putnam	Carol Troost
<b>Refreshments</b>	2nd Sunday Luncheon	Stephen Ministers
<b>Ushers</b>	Del Pierce, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Doug Todd, Tom Zych	Jim & Sharron McCullough, Amanda & Bill Potter

## Coming Up

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

<b>Sun, Mar 8</b>	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	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck	Covenant Hall
	11:15am	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Youth Group	First Scotia
<b>Mon, Mar 9</b>	6pm	Community Yoga	Covenant Hall
	6pm	Technology & Communication	Office
<b>Tue, Mar 10</b>	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Mohawk – Pres.
	11:30am	M&B	Mohawk – Lunn
	6:30pm	Standing Committees	Various
	7:30pm	Consistory	Covenant Hall
<b>Wed, Mar 11</b>	9:30am	Kerygma	Mohawk – Pres.
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	2pm	Staff Meeting	Church Office
	6pm	Lenten Meal	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Lenten Classes	Various Places
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Rooftop Garden
	8pm	Closing Worship	Poling Chapel
<b>Thu, Mar 12</b>	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	10am	Stitch Group	Walton Room
	7pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	7pm	Growing Young Coalition	Mohawk – Pres.
<b>Sun, Mar 15</b>	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
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall