

Welcome to First Reformed Church

Absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.

If you are a first time visitor we hope you feel at home here. Please fill out a little white pew card and place it in the offering plate and join us in the room to the left of the front of the sanctuary after the service for coffee and refreshments.

Parking

You may park in **any** of the lots around the church or the Stockade Inn on Sunday mornings.

Need Help?

Large print bulletins and audio receivers are available to assist you. Please ask an usher. Special bulletins for children are also available. Restrooms are located out the front right doorway of the sanctuary.

Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for babies through age four is available between 10am and noon in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

Church School

On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of the month) youth in grades 3-8 remain in the service to participate in Communion while those in grades K-2 are welcome to go upstairs after the Children's Message for music and crafts. Other Sunday's all children are welcome to join in our Church School activities by leaving immediately after the Children's Message. Parents can pick up their children at 11:15am on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs.

Elders in Worship

Past and current leaders we call 'elders' walk in together at the beginning of worship and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the mission of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

Communion

Our congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sundays of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

After Worship

Typically after worship, people stop for a chat and a cookie in Assembly Hall before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. Visitors are welcome to join in and are particularly encouraged to visit the Dirck Romeyn Room to the left of the sanctuary for five or ten minutes.

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 in the next orientation please fill out a white pew card.

Service Online

A recording of each of our worship services is at 1stReformed.com one or two days following the service.

First Sunday In Lent
March 13, 2011
Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Lamb of God – Lenten Hymn Settings (1989)

David Cherwien

1. *Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless*
2. *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*
3. *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*
4. *Go to Dark Gethsemane*
5. *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

10:00 a.m.

+ + + **The Approach to God** + + +

GREETING

Bill Levering

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Daniel Carlson

INTROIT

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Anonymous

***HYMN #260**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

***OUR NEED FOR GOD**

Beginning with prayerful silence...

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are provided in both Greek and English. The first system includes the lyrics: 'Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son.' and 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The second system repeats these lyrics. The bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with sustained notes.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the United Church of Canada)*

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

How Firm a Foundation

Early American
arr. John Rutter

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

‘Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

‘When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not the overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

‘When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

‘The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.’

+ + **The Word of God** + + +

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Chris Fernandes

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

FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 4:11-14 (page 220)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11 (page 3)

SERMON

Triumphant Over Temptation

Daniel Carlson

+ + + **The Response to God** + + +

*HYMN #77 *Forty Days and Forty Nights* Aus Der Tiefe Rufe Ich

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Meditation

Williams Melton
Tower Ringers

*DOXOLOGY #592 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 #83 (vs. 1,2,5) *O Love, How Deep* Deo Gracias

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen* Kent Newbury

*POSTLUDE *Fugue in C Major* Johann Sebastian Bach

*The congregation may stand.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Ginnie and Drew Mills from their friend Anne Peterson. We are grateful that these flowers, which represent our prayers and praise, will be taken to church family members to recognize a special need or celebration.

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

If you would like to order celebratory or memorial flowers for the chancel, please call the church office. You may send your check for \$30 payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

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 this congregation who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time.

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please speak with one of our ministers or contact the church office.

Easter 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 Drive, 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 for 2011 by Monday, April 18. Thank you.

Camp Fowler Project

We need to re-gear up for the Fowler Office project our church has volunteered to build. Camp Fowler asked us to postpone the project last Fall until Spring due to all the other items going on at camp. So.... with spring around the corner, we will be having a 15 minute re-grouping meeting today, March 13th in the mezzanine right after church. Grab a cup of Java and head upstairs. Volunteers can email John Van Oort at john.vanoort@studiosevenarchitects.com for more information.

Post Service Refreshments

There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall to bring goodies of any sort to share at Post Service with everyone. Please bring your food around 9:30am, unless it is already set up on a platter.

First Forum

Today – Youth Mission Trip

March 20 – Bill Speaks

March 27 – After coffee join us back in the Sanctuary for an interactive program by Thursday Belles, under the direction of Judy Moore. There will be explanations of how they do what they do, and we'll be entertained and educated and yes smile more than once.

Faith Bookshop

For spiritual reading to "take on" during Lent look on one of the tables in the Bookshop. The various authors present

conservative, liberal and contemporary Christian thought. Some books are historical and art-focused; others present their message through fiction. Several popular motivational books are there, too. You may want to invest in a study bible at this time. The New Oxford Annotated Bible (New Revised Standard Version) is available in the Bookshop at a price that is reasonable for this respected publication.

Johnson Library

Four new titles can be found on the display table this morning, in addition to the guides through the forty days of Lent. Former president of Queen's College in Cambridge, England, John Polkinghorne, is a physicist and theologian, whose book *Questions of Truth* attempts to answer questions about God, science and belief. Forrest Church, longtime minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City, has written about his battle with cancer in, *Love and Death: My Journey Through The Valley of the Shadow*. Tim Sanford, parent and counselor, advocates a different tack in raising your teenager, in, *Losing Control and Liking It: How to Set Your Teen (and yourself) Free*. Handel's "Messiah" is often performed during Eastertide. Giving historical background to the writing of this magnificent work is Calvin Stapert's *Handel's Messiah: Comfort For God's People*. The author is professor emeritus of music at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

God in the News Bible Study

During the Sundays in Lent, beginning today, March 13 the Adult Bible Study, *God in the News*, will meet at a new time, noon to 1pm, in Assembly Hall. By meeting after First Forum, we hope

to include some folks who have felt torn about which event to attend— now you can join in both! Lunch will be provided each week. We will continue to focus on a topic from the week's newspaper headlines, but will be especially mindful of how Lenten themes such as service, prayer, devotion, acts of compassion or other spiritual disciplines may be found in the news. Come one week or every week—no reservation required, however if you know you'll be joining in please contact Lynne Gilgore at 374-3252.

Vespers Every Sunday, 5 p.m.

Today – Jazz

'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Mar. 20 – Jazz

Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Mar. 27 – Jazz

Yuko Kishimoto, piano

Youth Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, the JHYG (grades 6-8) meets every Sunday at 5pm in Friendship Hall for dinner, games, and discussion. The SHYG (grades 9-12) meets every Sunday at 7pm in Friendship Hall for snacks, discussion, and games. Friends are always welcome.

Today - Regular meetings

March 20 - Regular meetings

March 27 - Mission Shareholders' Dinner. No Junior High meeting. Senior High should be at church at 4pm to prepare and serve dinner.

Lenten Wednesday Schedule

6pm Dinner Assembly Hall
7pm Classes, Various Locations
8pm Contemplative Communion,

Childcare provided.

Wednesday Lenten Dinners

Everyone is invited to the simple yet sufficient Lenten suppers at 6pm on March 16, 23, 30, April 6, and 13 in Assembly Hall. A signup sheet is now posted in Assembly Hall for those willing and able to assist with the Lenten Dinners set up, meals, and clean up.

Wednesday Evening Childcare

Childcare will be provided in Kinderwyck during all Wednesday Lenten classes.

Lenten Childcare Provider Needed

We're looking for one more adult member to care for children in Kinderwyck during the Wednesday evening Lenten classes (6:45-8:15pm; March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13). If you are willing and able to serve in this way please speak with Daniel Carlson or contact the church office.

Wednesday Lenten Classes

Three different adult education and nurture classes begin this Wednesday, March 16. Each class will meet from 7-8pm for five sessions; location to be posted and announced this Wednesday. No registration is required; recommended reading is noted below for two of the classes.

Linda Witkowski, Wales Brown, and others will lead an engaging conversation on the various devotional writings for each week by our own members as found in this year's *Lenten Devotional*.

Bill Levering and the Justice Advocacy Committee will lead a class entitled *Briefings from the Justice Action League*.

David Olsen, from Samaritan Counseling Center, will lead several Wednesday sessions on *The Spiritual Work of Marriage*, based on his recent book of the same title, now available in the church bookshop. This class will guide participants (individuals and couples) to the central themes of relational intimacy, including the longing to be known, the idolatry of trying to change one's partner, the necessity of repentance and forgiveness, the promise of intimacy and wholeness within marriage. Daniel Carlson will facilitate the class on two of the Wednesdays.

Lenten Contemplative Communion

At 8pm a brief service of prayer, song, silence, and communion, fitting for this season will be shared in the candle lit sanctuary.

Lenten Retreats at Fowler

Embracing God's Bounty is the theme of the two separate Lenten retreats to be held at Camp Fowler this weekend and early next week. Friday evening through Sunday lunch, March 18-20, Rev. Jan Hoffman of First Reformed, Scotia, will lead in the practice of breath prayers, a contemplative walk, and the baking and breaking of bread. Sunday afternoon through Tuesday lunch, March 20-22, Daniel Carlson will lead on listening for God in dreams, the practice of silence, and journaling.

Morning, noon, and evening prayer around the blazing hearth as well as delicious meals in Chi Rho lodge will provide consistent nourishment for soul and body. Informal conversation with others as well as time alone will be essential aspects of this time away. Fowler's trails and those of surrounding

state land will be open for trekking by skis, snowshoes, or boots.

The inclusive cost of meals, lodging (private room and bath), resources, and activities for either retreat is \$100. Financial assistance is available. To learn more and register for either session, visit www.campowler.org or contact Daniel. An informative flyer is also posted in Assembly Hall. Come away for a few days in mid-March to embrace God's bounty during this season set apart for reflection and renewal!

Group VII

We will meet on Friday, March 18 at 11:30am in Assembly Hall. Please bring your own lunch. The program will be by Lynne Gilgore, the missioner. All are welcome. If any questions contact Ronnie Bartholic 393-7679.

M&M's Women's Bible Study

"Where Do I Come In?" At the M&M's Women's Bible Study Group you can find out how to develop a 'missional mindset' in your life. We'll be using "Where Do I Come In? Joining God's Mission" by Brian Keepers as our resource guide. No books to purchase and no homework is required. You can come in to Lisa Etkin's home, 186 Droms Road, Glenville, on first and third Tuesday evenings at 6:30 for discussion, prayer, and fellowship. This group is open to the community - so bring a friend! Call Lisa, 631-4410, with any questions. (And yes, there will be M&M's to snack on.)

Usher and Deacon Breakfast

A training and breakfast for ushers and Deacons will be held Sunday, March 20 at 8:30am. We will go over Sunday morning routines while munching on a

continental breakfast in the Friendship Hall. Mike Beals and Bill Levering will go over current practices and the handbook.

Young Adults: Faith With a Twist

Got questions? Bring your ideas, doubts, and wonderings and join this stimulating conversation on Thursday, March 24 at 7pm at the Van Dyck. Discuss God, faith, and all things spiritual over a beverage of your choice while getting to know new people. This new group will meet monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Stacey Midge to be added to the email list or for more information.

You are Not Your Suffering

8-Week Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Class modeled on the Stress Clinic at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center to be offered at Samaritan Counseling Center. This program has proved highly effective in teaching people to cope with physical and emotional stress. Combining sitting and walking meditation, "body scans" and very gentle yoga, the program is taught in a participatory and supportive small group. Participants will be asked to do a daily mindfulness practice at home.

Classes will be held on Thursday evenings, March 24 - May 12, 7-9:30 pm; an all-day silent retreat is also scheduled Saturday, April 30, 8:30-4 pm. The cost is \$300 for the entire program, and includes take-home mindfulness CDs. The instructor for this session is Oona Edmands, LCSW, EMDR II, staff psychotherapist and long-time meditation instructor. Contact Samaritan at 518-374-3514 for more information or to register.

Receiving Honor

Everyone is invited to support Carolyn Jones-Assini whom will be one of the women being honored with a "Women of Achievement" award, presented by the YWCA. This event will be held at the Glen Sanders Mansion on Thursday, March 24 beginning at 5:30pm, with dinner at 6:30pm. Cost is \$80 a person. For reservations contact the YWCA at 374-3394.

Mission Shareholders Dinner

The Senior High Youth Group extends a warm thank you to all who helped raise money for their mission trip to Toronto! For those who purchased Mission Shares, there will be a dinner on March 27 at 6pm in Friendship Hall. The youth will speak about their experiences, show the trip video, and serve a meal that is representative of some of the ethnic cuisine they encountered in Toronto. It is not too late to purchase a Mission Share for \$25 to contribute to the mission trip fund and attend the dinner! Just contact Stacey to donate at any time.

Thursday Belles

You are cordially invited to join the Thursday Belles on Sunday March 27 as they participate in the Worship Service and again for First Forum. During this time, the Thursday Belles will perform their concert material, including a selection from 'The Lion King.' Other dates and locations for you to know about include:

Wednesday, March 30 at 2pm
Daughters of Charity, Menands

Wednesday, April 6, 2pm the Terraces
at the Glen Eddy

Camp Fowler

Registration is now open for summer camp 2011! The theme is "Bring Forth the Kingdom." Campers are students in grades 3-12; Fowler also offers a family camp. Volunteers are also needed as cabin counselors and kitchen and maintenance staff. You can find more information on the website at campfowler.org or by contacting Stacey Midge (377-2201), who serves on the Fowler Program Committee and will be spending a week as chaplain for the senior high campers.-

Cleaning Basements

Our Maintenance staff is cleaning our basements. Anyone interested in old pews please see Bill Levering.

Capital Region Theological Center

Connecting with Calvin: Restoring Unity to the Church, with Dr. Randall Zachman, Saturday, March 26, 9-12pm, at Siena College. Dr. Randall Zachman sheds light on Calvin's desire for unity rather than the division with which he is often associated. Course fee covered by sponsors; free will offering to be taken.

Register online at www.capitalrtc.org or by phone at 518-462-2470. Watch our website for information on these and many other courses available in 2011. Scholarships and group discounts available for most classes; please contact us for an application.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons		
Faith Bookshop	Rae Forster	Bill Clock
First Forum	TBA	Stacey Speaks
Flower Delivery	Maria Greskovich, Hans & Sara Erickson	Phil Yourno, Joan & Peter Ipsen
Kinderwyck	Hans Erickson, Brenda Langdon	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Procession Elders	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Carol Jones-Assini, Sara Erickson, Phil Falconer, Maria Greskovich	Carol Jones-Assini, Keith Muse, Audrey Bain, David Bain, Art Casey, Gay Doolittle
Reader	Chris Fernandes	Anne Putnam
Refreshments	Betty Bumgarner, Nancy Martin	Erickson Family, Evans Family
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Glenn Blinckmann, Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Doug Todd	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourno, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta

Calendar for the Week of March 13, 2011

First Sunday of Lent March 13	9:15 a.m.	Musical/HS Choir, Music Office
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Post Service Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:30 a.m.	Kirk Ringers/Singers, upstairs - Room 20
	12:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study, Assembly Hall
	3:30 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall SHYG, Friendship Hall
Monday March 14	9:00 a.m.	Men's News Group, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Klokken Ringers, Poling Conference Room
	7:45 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday March 15	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
	6:30 p.m.	M&M Women's Bible Study, Lisa Etkin's Home
	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday Ladies, Connie Young's Home
Wednesday March 16	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room
	12:30 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Dinner, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Classes, Various Locations
8:00 p.m.	Lenten Communion Service, Sanctuary	
Thursday March 17	10:00 a.m.	Stitching Group, Poling Conference Room
	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Friday March 18	11:30 a.m.	Group VII, Assembly Hall
Sunday March 20	8:30 a.m.	Usher & Deacon Breakfast, Friendship Hall
	9:15 a.m.	Musical/HS Choir, Music Office
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Post Service Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:30 a.m.	Kirk Ringers/Singers, upstairs - Room 20
	12:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study, Assembly Hall
	3:30 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall
6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class, TBA	
7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Friendship Hall	

***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 13, 2011

*We take our tottering
steps to God
as if they are our
first
full of fear and wonder*

*While God strides
towards us
catching us
just
in time*

First Reformed Church

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