

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.

Second Sunday In Lent

March 20, 2011

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Canzonetta on "Horsley" (1956)

Eric H. Thiman

Variations on "Wondrous Love" (2007)

Robert Lau

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stacey Midge

INTROIT

Turn Unto the Lord

Eric Thiman

*HYMN #488

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Beginning with prayerful silence...

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "The God of Abraham Praise". 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 two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system includes the Greek and English lyrics. The second system repeats the lyrics. The bass line consists of whole notes.

Greek Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son.
English Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son.
Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

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*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

Peace Like a River

arr. by Donald Moore
HS/College Singers

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
In my heart is playing a sweet melody.
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a river, I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.
In my heart is ringing a sweet melody.
I've got joy like a river in my soul.

I've got love like a river, I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul.
In my heart is singing a sweet melody.
I've got love like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Anne Putnam

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

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 121 (page 571)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John 3:1-17 (page 93)

SERMON

Get Saved

Stacey Midge

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

*HYMN #76 *O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair* Deo Gracias

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *I Will Lift Up My Eyes* Leo Sowerby
Nancy Ellen Swann, soloist

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help?
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper; thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil, He shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore.

Psalm 121

*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 #85 *What Wondrous Love Is This* Wondrous Love

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Robert C. Bennett

*POSTLUDE *Fugue in C Major* Johann Sebastian Bach

*The congregation may stand.

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.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Leroy Jewett from Mary Jewett. 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.

A Message from Chancel Guild

~Celebratory or Memorial Flowers~

The Chancel Guild has a flower calendar for 2011 on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the sanctuary. We encourage you to choose an open date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event such as an anniversary, birthday or graduation. After signing up on the calendar, please inform the office of your wishes so records can be kept correctly. If the date you want is already taken, it may be possible to share the chosen date by consulting with the other donor. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for the two bouquets unless something special is requested. You may send your check for \$30 payable to Chancel Guild, c/o

Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

Volunteers are also needed to prepare the Flowers to be delivered to our church members. Please see Joyce Griggs, Marlene Risseeuw or Sara Erickson with any questions.

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:
Sylvia Ebeling.

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.

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 – 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.

God in the News Bible Study

During the Sundays in Lent, the Adult Bible Study, 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 518-374-3252. Today’s topic: Following Disastrous Quake and Tsunami, Japan Faces Nuclear Threat

Lenten Retreat

This afternoon through Tuesday afternoon Daniel Carlson will be at Camp Fowler leading a Lenten Retreat attended by members and friends of our congregation.

Vespers Every Sunday, 5 p.m.

Today – Jazz

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

Mar. 27 – Jazz

Yuko Kishimoto, piano

April 3 – Jazz

Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D’Andrea, drums

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 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 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.

Wednesday Lenten Classes

Three different adult education and nurture classes continue this Wednesday. Each class meets from 7-8pm. 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.

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.)

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 open for summer camp 2011! The theme is "Bring Forth the Kingdom," and campers in grades 3-12 are welcome. 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, who serves on the Fowler Program Committee and will be spending a week as chaplain for the senior high campers.

Group V

"God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform...", as Group V is finding out in its study of the book, *God's Ordinary People*. On Monday, April 4, at 11am, we will meet for a short business meeting, followed by a discussion of the second chapter of the book with Mary Carlson leading the discussion. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverages will be provided. The Group V devotional books are available in the book shop and from Group V members; the books make useful and thoughtful gifts for any occasion.

Cleaning Basements

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

SICM Day of Service

On April 9, church groups and individuals from around the Schenectady area will band together for a community work day. Meet at the Emergency Food Pantry at 8:45am for a continental breakfast and introduction, and then disperse to work sites until noon. After the work is done, gather for a lunch at First United Methodist Church. Work sites include: Hamilton Hill Arts Center, the Emergency Food Pantry, Bethesda House, Better Neighborhoods Inc., Home Furnishings, the Damien Center, and more! Contact Stacey Midge for more information or call the SICM office at 374-2683.

Japan Relief Efforts

Reformed Church World Service (RCWS) has sent an initial \$10,000 to its mission partner, the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ) to aid relief and recovery efforts in the wake of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. The UCCJ has established a relief planning committee and dispatched staff to the Sendai area. RCWS continues to partner with Church World Service and Food for the Hungry International to mobilize a response to survivors needs. Please pray for the people of Japan as they grieve the loss of loved ones and begin to rebuild their lives. Pray also for the government of Japan as it coordinates rescue, response, and recovery efforts. You can donate to provide food, water, and temporary shelter to those affected by the earthquake and tsunami by sending contributions, designated "Japan Earthquake," to Reformed Church in America, Attn: Finance, 4500 60th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512, or by visiting the website at www.rca.org/japan.

Emergency Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Are you available on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings? Do you have time to commit to helping the hungry in Schenectady? The SICM Food Pantry at 839 Albany St. is in need of volunteers. The program runs from 9am until capacity is met. Please contact Gail Van Valkenburgh at 518-346-4036.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Del Pierce	
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Veronica Bartholic
First Forum	Bill Speaks	Thursday Belles in the Sanctuary
Flower Delivery	Phil Yourno, Joan & Peter Ipsen	Ruth & Jeff Cox, June Vandercar
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Del Pierce Keith Muse, Audrey Bain, David Bain, Art Casey, Gay Doolittle	Christine Daniels, Bob Beadle, Roberta Blackmer, Eric Evans, Jerry Griggs, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Anne Putnam	
Refreshments	Erickson Family, Evans Family	Betty Bumgarner
Ushers	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourno, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta	Harlene Bachorik & Bill Clock (head ushers), Nicolas Blinckmann, Louis Acquasanta, Jeff Cox, William Faulkner

Calendar for the Week of March 20, 2011

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
	7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Friendship Hall
Monday March 21	9:00 a.m.	Men's News Group, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Klokker Ringers, Poling Conference Room
	7:45 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday March 22	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Wednesday March 23	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
	8:00 p.m.	Lenten Communion Service, Sanctuary
Thursday March 24	10:00 a.m.	Stitching Group, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Sunday March 27	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
	6:00 p.m.	Mission Shareholders Dinner, 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 20, 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

8 North Church Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com