

# 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](http://1stReformed.com) one or two days following the service.

Third Sunday In Lent

March 27, 2011

*Is your cell phone on?*

9:40 a.m.

## VOLUNTARY

*Shout to the North*

Charlie Moose  
Youth Orchestra

10:00 a.m.

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

## GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you.

Stacey Midge

**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

## INTROIT

*Create in Me*

Anonymous

## \*HYMN #8

*Gather Us In*



1 Here in this place— new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - tery, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van-ish'd a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - tory,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day,  
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas-sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peop-les to-geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**\*OUR NEED FOR GOD** *Beginning with prayerful silence...*

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: Greek Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. English Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. The score is divided into two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment.

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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.**

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Daniel Fahey, Angela Anderson, Joyce & Raymond Beland, Peter Ontkush, Sharon & Mark Swain, and Veronica Reed

**PRESENTATION AND PROMISES OF NEW MEMBERS**

**\*PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION**

Do you promise to love, encourage and support these brothers and sisters by teaching the gospel of God's love, by being an example of faith and character and by giving the strong support of God's family in fellowship, prayer, and service?

**We do.**

**\*BLESSING AND WELCOME**

We are ambassadors for Christ. We are the salt of the earth; we are the light of the world. Welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Joyfully we receive you. Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia.**

**ANTHEM** *The Thirsty Cry for Water, Lord* **New Britain**

The thirsty cry for water, Lord; the hungry plead for bread. And many long to rise again where hope cast down, lies dead.

The cup of water poured in love the pangs of thirst will still. The bread of earth you bid us share, the famished child can fill.

But help us also hear the cry of hung' ring, thirsting hearts For living water, bread of life your grace alone imparts.

And come to us, O risen Christ, our restless souls relieve; And satisfy our starving hearts that we may rise and live.

Herman G. Stuempfle

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

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** **Catherine de Salle**

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

**FIRST LESSON** *Exodus 17:1-7 (page 64)*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SECOND LESSON** *John 4:5-42 (page 94)*

**SERMON** *Thirsty Questions* **Bill Levering**

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

**\*HYMN #356** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**OFFERTORY** *Will You Come And Follow Me* **Traditional Scottish**  
arr. S. Nelson  
Jean Hayes, flute  
Thursday Belles

\*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 *The Water God Gives Us* Foundation

The water God gives us in wondrous supply  
Is water that's living and never runs dry.  
For everyone drinks and is thirsty again,  
But God's living water gives life without end.

O God, we confess that we seek empty things;  
We strive after wealth and the comfort it brings.  
We buy things in hopes that our spirits will soar  
Yet still we are thirsty and left wanting more.

Then just like that woman who went to the well,  
We hear you, O Christ, and the truth that you tell.  
You know who we are and you know what we've been;  
You know us and love us in spite of our sin.

The gift that you give is the greatest of wealth;  
You give living water! You give us yourself!  
May we, like that woman, go back where we live  
And tell those we know of the life that you give.

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*MUSICAL RESPONSE *Lord, Dismiss Us* arr. Linda Lamb  
Thursday Belles

\*POSTLUDE *Fugue in C minor* Johann Sebastian Bach

\*The congregation may stand.

**Music Notes**

Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons) is set to a traditional Scottish melody. It has found a place in worship with its meaningful text: Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

**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 F. David and Elenora Schweizer by Tod Schweizer. 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.

**Memorial Service**

Will be held today, for Stan Jones at 3:30pm in the Poling Chapel.

**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.

**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: *Leroy Jewett, Frida Kramer, Kenneth Mathes, and Elenora Schweizer.*

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.

### Spring Business Meeting

The Chancel Guild will meet today, March 27 at 11:15am in the Poling Conference room.

### First Forum

**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.

### Thursday Belles

You are cordially invited to join the Thursday Belles today, 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

### 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

Peter Gomes, theologian and professor at Harvard's Divinity School, died February 28 from complications following a stroke. He fought homophobia and intolerance through books, sermons and speeches after he came out as a gay man. Two of his books are on the library's display table this morning: *The Good Book: Reading The Bible With Mind and Heart*, and *The Good Life: Truths That Last In Times of Need*. Two titles having to do with the composer of "The Messiah," often sung at Easter, are, *Handel, A Celebration Of His Life and Times*, and Richard Luckett's *Handel's Messiah, A Celebration*.

Thanks to all who returned overdue books! You gladden a librarian's heart. Keep looking; keep returning books others may want to read it.

### 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. Topic: White House Conference Confronts Bullying

### Vespers Every Sunday, 5 p.m.

#### Today – Jazz

Yuko Kishimoto, piano

#### April 3 – Jazz

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

#### April 10– 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** - Mission Shareholders' Dinner. No Junior High meeting. Senior High should be at church at 4pm to prepare and serve dinner.

April 3 - Regular meetings

April 10 - Regular meetings

April 17 - Regular meetings

April 24 - Easter, No youth meetings

### 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 TONIGHT 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.

#### Lenten Wednesday Schedule

6pm Dinner, Assembly Hall

7pm Classes, Various Locations

8pm Contemplative Communion

Childcare provided by advance notice

### Wednesday Lenten Dinners

Everyone is invited to the simple yet sufficient Lenten suppers at 6pm on March 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

If childcare is needed, we will be more than happy to provide this service. Please contact the office and let us know if your child or children will be needing care.

### Wednesday Lenten Classes

Three adult classes continue this Wednesday, 7-8pm. No registration is required.

Linda Witkowski, Wales Brown, and others lead conversations on the writings found in this year's Lenten Devotional composed by church members.

Bill Levering and the Justice Advocacy Committee lead:

March 30 – Mental Hlth; Joe Doolittle

April 6 – GLBT – Gay Doolittle

April 13 - Ecojustice

David Olsen, from the Samaritan Counseling Center, will lead several Wednesday sessions on The Spiritual Work of Marriage, based on his book of the same title--available today in the church bookshop!

### 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.

### Music Highlights for Lent and Easter

The fourth and fifth Sundays in Lent will feature two anthems by English composers sung by the Chancel Choir.

On April 3 a wonderfully evocative version of the 23rd Psalm, *The Lord is My Shepherd* by Andrew Carter will be sung, and on April 10 the choir will sing John Ireland's *Greater Love Hath No Man*, one of the greatest English church anthems ever written.

On Palm Sunday our children's and youth choirs will present *Hosanna, Loud, Hosanna* accompanied by organ and the Kirk Ringers, and the Chancel Choir will sing *Ride On* by Grayston Ives which is an alternative musical depiction of the text of the familiar hymn, *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*.

Maundy Thursday service participants will hear *When You Woke that Thursday Morning*, accompanied by guest flutist, Emily Peterson.

Our Easter anthems and hymns will be accompanied by brass quartet with the Tower Ringers joining the choir for the introit and the anthem, *Now the Green Blade Rises*, arranged to the French carol tune, *Noël Nouvelet*.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.rca.org/japan).

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Darwin Brudos, Tom Burgoyne	
Faith Bookshop	Veronica Bartholic	Linda Witkowski
First Forum	Thursday Belles in the Sanctuary	
Flower Delivery	Ruth & Jeff Cox, June Vandercar	Lorraine & Eugene Cox, Carol Troost
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Christine Daniels, Bob Beadle, Roberta Blackmer, Eric Evans, Jerry Griggs, Linda Witkowski	
Reader	Catherine de Salle	
Refreshments	Betty Bumgarner, Nancy Martin	
Ushers	Harlene Bachorik & Bill Clock (head ushers), Jeff Cox, Nicolas Blinckmann, Louis Acquasanta, William Faulkner	

### New Member Information

Daniel Fahey & Angela Anderson 845-649-3999  
1197 Hillside Ave  
Niskayuna, NY 12309

Raymond & Joyce Beland 355-8356  
1026 Scotch Ridge Rd.  
Schenectady, NY 12306

Peter Ontkush 377-9168  
1202 Viewmont Dr.  
Niskayuna, NY 12309

Mark & Sharon Swain 884-0260  
356 Goode St.  
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Veronica Reed 269-2012  
1527 Kingston Ave.  
Schenectady, NY 12308

**Calendar for the Week of March 27, 2011**

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, Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Chancel Guild -Spring Business Meeting, Poling Conf. Room
	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
	3:30 p.m.	Memorial Service, Poling Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	SHYG, Friendship Hall
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Mission Shareholders Dinner, Friendship Hall
Monday March 28	9:00 a.m.	Men's News Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:30 p.m.	Creation Care Committee, Mezzanine
	7:00 p.m.	Klokken Ringers, Poling Conference Room
	7:45 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday March 29	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Wednesday March 30	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 31	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 April 3	9:15 a.m.	Musical/HS Choir, Music Office
	10:00 a.m.	Communion, 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
	12:00 p.m.	Archives & Historical Concerns, Dirck Romeyn Room
	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, Schermerhorn
	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 27, 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](http://www.1stReformed.com)