

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 Sundays 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.

Earth Day
May 8, 2011
Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Triptych for Easter (1996)

John A. Behnke

1. *Fanfare*

2. *Meditation*

3. *Toccata*

Meditation sur "O Filii et filiae" (1993)

Denis Bédard

Easter Meditation no. II (1944)

Robin Milford

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

INTROIT

Words of Life

Philip Bliss

Kirk Ringers

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #473 *For the Beauty of the Earth* Dix

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

God of Easter joy, we confess that we have not always believed in the miracle of new life. We have kept others in the tomb of our own preconceptions. We have not believed that our lives can be transformed. We pray for Easter faith.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Halle Halle Halle

Ha lay ha lay ha lay loo yah. (3x)

Halleluia! Ha lay loo yah.

*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.

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Gi'oioso'

Tim Waugh
Tower Ringers

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Robert Dickson

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

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-2:3 (page 1)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John 3:16-17 (page 94)

SERMON

Room For All

Rev. Kent Busman

*HYMN #267

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Royal Oak

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Stay with Us

Egil Hovland

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us.
it soon is evening and night is falling.

Jesus Christ, the world's true light!
Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it!

Let your light pierce the darkness
and fill your church with its glory.

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us,
it soon is evening, and night is falling.

Luke 24:29

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION *ReTree Schenectady* Wales Brown

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

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.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #554 *Let All Things Now Living* Ash Grove

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Danish

*POSTLUDE *Carillon on "He Is Risen"* Roger C. Hannahs

*The congregation may stand.

Music Note

Today's Offertory, based on Luke 24:29 interprets the text in which after the resurrection, Jesus meets two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. After he went with them and took bread, broke it, and blessed it, the two recognized Jesus and later shared the story with the other disciples.

Musical Offering; *Gi'oioso'* means Joyous, Cheerful which is meaningful for the Easter season and also the Mother's in our church family!

Earth Month Celebrated

Today, the theme of the worship service will be the enjoyment and stewardship of the environment. The Creation Care Committee will be distributing basil plants grown from organic seeds to remind us all that the earth needs protection as we enjoy it on a daily basis. Please pick up your plant, one per family, from a table as you leave the church.

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: *Lloyd Johnston, Rev. Cornelius Van Leeuwen, Charles Young, Clarence H. Linder Sr., and Albert Zink.*

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.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of their mothers, Caroline Taylor and Marguerite Melber by Martha and Glenn Winchester. 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.

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.

Faith Bookshop

Looking for a Mother's Day or Any Other Day gift? In the Bookshop you will find African candles, note cards - including new ones as a part of the "Talents for Talents" project - special books, aprons and totes with the FRC

logo, fair trade chocolates and more. For a more substantial gift for someone who loves or has fond memories of FRC, consider the framed print of the church chancel or the church building. Both are works by church members. Prints are available unframed, too.

To learn more about our "Talents for Talents" project, see the Bookshop announcement in the May issue of First Things.

Johnson Library

This week the library is featuring books related to creation care and the greening movement. Of special note and available in the bookstore is Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods*. In this widely accepted and celebrated work, Louv helps readers see how our local, State and National environments are being encroached on by development and limiting natural areas that our children can explore separating them from the natural world. The subtitle of this book is *Saving Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*. In David Suzuki's, *The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature*, he uses the four elements of earth, water, fire and wind to help readers see how important each element is to our survival and how the exploitation of each element threatens our survival. Bill McKibben, an Adirondack habitant, looks at the immediate and long term consequences of global warming using scientific findings to convince readers that *The End of Nature* (the name of the book) is inevitable if we continue on our current path of energy consumption. Of special note is the *Greening Congregations Handbook*, compiled by Tanya Marcova Barnett which includes stories, ideas and

resources for cultivating creation awareness and care in congregations and has been a useful guide with the FRC Greening Team. The handbook is a "tool box" for all who want to foster creation awareness and care in their congregations.

Vespers Every Sunday, 5 p.m.

Today – Jazz

Yuko Kishimoto, piano

May 15 – Jazz

Peg Delaney, piano, Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums and Rick Rosoff, trombone

May 22 – Jazz

'Azzaam Hameed, piano

May 29 – Jazz

Peg Delaney, piano

Youth News

JHYG:

Today - Meet at 5pm at the church.

Dinner and games, outdoors if weather permits.

May 15 - Meet at 5pm at the church.

Dinner, end of the year wrap-up, and games.

May 22 - Youth Service at 10am, followed by picnic.

SHYG:

Today - Meet at 7pm at the Glenville Sportsplex, weather permitting. In case of rain, meet at the church. Please bring \$10 for food and activities.

May 15 - Meet at 7pm at the church.

End of the year wrap-up and getting ready for the youth service.

May 22 - Youth Service at 10am, followed by picnic.

First Forum

Today - Stewardship of God's Earth and People, Rev. Kent Busman, Director Fowler Camp and Retreat Center

May 15 – Children at the Well an Interfaith Youth Storytelling Collaborative – Showcase

May 22 – Church Picnic!

May 29 – Memorial Day – Coffee and Conversation

God in the News Adult Bible Study

We will meet in the meeting space above the office. Come and join this group discussion as we look at the week's newspaper headlines through the lens of faith.

Name Tags

"I've been coming to church here for 40 years! I am not wearing a name tag. Everyone knows me."

"This is my first Sunday. This is a big place. I'm a little overwhelmed. How am I supposed to remember all of these people?"

Since September 2010, we've had 18 new members join our congregation. They would like to meet you and know your name--it's so easy if you're wearing your name tag. Next Sunday, May 15 is Name Tag Sunday so let's dust off those tags that are clipped on the big white boards and greet all these new folks. We are a church family; lets know each other by name.

Confirmation Class

Meets every first and third Sunday through Pentecost, June 12 at 6:30pm in the Schermerhorn room.

Stitch Group

We will meet in May every Thursday at 10am in the Poling Conference Room. Our last meeting will be May 26. Everyone is welcome to join us for stitching and conversation. Coffee and tea are always on. No RSVP required.

Learning Dutch

Daniel Carlson is with other members of our church and community in the Netherlands with the Schenectady-Nijkerk Exchange. They will be returning May 10. Daniel is intent on picking up enough Dutch to impersonate Dirck Romeyn for future Stockade Walkabouts.

Other FRC members participating in the delegation are Joe & Gay Doolittle, Vernetta Thuener, Kitty & George Trimarco and Scott & Beverly Ebeling.

New Book Discussion Group

Wales Brown a member of our Justice Action Council will be co-leading a book review of *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*, written by Jack Rogers, 2009. Sessions will be held at FRC on Wednesdays, May 11, 18, 25 June 1, 8 and 15, 7-8:30pm. Reservations are required; call Wales Brown at 518-701-1927 or email wbrown6@nycap.rr.com. Books are available at our Faith Bookshop or Barnes & Noble.

New Book Discussion Group

A study of *The Spirituality of Imperfection* (Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham) will be led by David and Cheryl Olsen on five Wednesdays evenings, 7-8:30pm, beginning May 11 and concluding June 8. The book explores the power of stories to lead imperfect people (uh...that's all of us) to meaning and wholeness tapping into the wisdom of Alcoholics Anonymous. Those wishing to participate should call the church office to sign-up and then obtain a copy of the book.

Wednesday Evenings in Eastertide

Each Wednesday, May 11 - June 8, a weekly pot-luck supper will be enjoyed in Assembly Hall from 6-7pm. Come whenever you want and bring whatever you have to this informal feast! Two new book discussion groups (see above) will follow the meal. A brief service of contemplative communion expressing our Easter joy will be held in the candlelit chancel at 8:30pm.

New Member Class

People interested in learning more about joining the congregation are invited to the orientation class which meets in the Dirck Romeyn Room on Sunday, May 15 at 3pm. The class will last about 90 minutes.

Annual Meeting May 15

Immediately following worship, there will be a meeting of the congregation for the purposes of receiving annual reports and the election of officers.

College Scholarships Available

Applications for the Rev. Al Smith Education Scholarship are available through the Church Office. Please submit your completed application to the Church Office by May 15th. Questions can be directed to Sara Erickson at 374-4161 or ericksonhs@aol.com.

Message to Stephen Ministers

Our May Supervision Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18 in Assembly Hall at 7:00pm.

Wednesday Dialog – May 18

And the Band Played on: Educating the Next Generation of Schenectadians

A year ago, Cathy Lewis and three others endorsed by a reform group calling itself SCOPE (Schenectady Citizens for Openness in Public Education) were elected to the Schenectady City School Board. When she started her three-year term in July 2010, Cathy became the Board's president amid difficult budget decisions and a need to rebuild public confidence. It was not her first stint as a public official trying to keep the music playing: a little less than a decade before, she was elected to Schenectady's City Council shortly before the city's bond rating plummeted and she played a key role in resuscitating the city's finances. Join us in a dialogue with Cathy on the challenges, opportunities, and prospects of the Capital Region's largest school district.

Group VII May 20

On Friday, May 20 at 11am bring your lunch to Assembly Hall and afterwards we will tour the Albany Cathedral.

Youth Sunday May 22

On May 22, the youth of the church are taking over! Graduating senior Melinda Blinckmann will speak, and other youth will be doing the readings, prayers, and music that morning. Please plan to attend and support our youth.

Church Picnic - Sunday, May 22

After worship come and join the fun at the annual spring picnic sponsored by the Youth Education and Nurture Committee. We will provide burgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, and beverages for all. Please bring a side

dish, dessert, or snack to share. In addition to food and conversation, games will be available for the children. Bring a friend to share in the fun! See you there!

Faith with a Twist – May 26

This group, geared toward young adults in their 20s and 30s, meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Van Dyck Restaurant and Lounge for casual, open-minded conversation about faith, spirituality, God, and life. Participants need not be church members; in fact, we encourage people from a variety of backgrounds to attend and enliven our discussion! Please contact Stacey Midge if you have questions, would like to attend, or know someone who might like to receive an invitation.

Where is Stacey?

Today Stacey Midge is preaching at the West Glensville Reformed Church. West Glensville is currently without a minister, and Stacey will be filling in occasionally in the next few months until they settle into a regular preaching arrangement.

Stephen Ministers Are There to Care

Are you going through a difficult time--emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? Are you lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life? You don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. To find out more, talk with Rev. Daniel Carlson at 377-2201 or Linnea D'Andrea at 371-8313.

CRTC Upcoming Programs

Adding Strength, Speed & Balance to Your Congregation, with C. Jeff Woods, Clifton Park Center Baptist Church, Thursday & Friday, May 12 & 13, 9am-4pm. Explore components of healthy congregational identity and visioning with this national consultant from Albany.

Thus Says the Lord: Listening to the Prophets, Old Testament II, with Rev. Dr. Beth Tanner, Niskayuna Reformed, Begins July 21, A Lay Theological Education Program 20-hour course.

Empathy in Action: Intro to Pastoral Care, with Rev. William Grosch, M.D., Lynnwood Reformed, Begins September 8. A Lay Theological Education Program 20-hour course.

Canoeing Through Creation, with Rev. Kent Busman, Mon, Sept. 12-Thursday Sept. 15, Camp Fowler. Get away into the beautiful Adirondacks for hiking, canoeing, and theological reflection on the care of God's good creation.

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.

Summer Sunday Post Service

Beginning in June, whenever possible, our post service refreshments will be served in the garden. Won't you consider signing up for refreshments one of those Sundays? A sign-up sheet will be on the cold drink table in Assembly Hall, with plenty of spaces for you to add your name. A sheet with "how to" suggestions will be there, too. A big thank you from Heather Chestnut.

Lost and Found

We've collected quite a few items in our lost and found basket. If you have lost an item please check out the basket located in the Narthex.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Douglas Todd	Caroline Welch, Elsa Hjelmar
Faith Bookshop	Rae Forster	Linda Witkowski
First Forum	Stewardship of God's Earth and People, Rev. Kent Busman	Children at the Well
Flower Delivery	Inge-Lise & Chuck Pangburn	Susan & Gene Zeltmann, Cathy & Brad Lewis
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Preacher	Rev. Kent Busman	Stacey Midge
Procession Elders	Christine Daniels, Catherine Lewis, Linda Ward, Roberta Blackmer, Maria Greskovich, Jerry Griggs,	Catherine Lewis, Audrey Bain, David Bain, Gay Doolittle, Bill Rochelle, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Robert Dickson	Youth
Refreshments	Diana Bennett, Nancy Passer	Membership Committee
Ushers	Harlene Bachorik (head usher), Glenn Blinckmann, Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Robert Dickson, Douglas Todd	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourno, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta

Calendar for the Week of May 8, 2011

Earth Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
Mothers Day	9:15 a.m.	Musical/HS Choir, Music Office
May 8	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Post Service Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:15 a.m.	God in the News - Adult Bible Study, Poling Conference Room
	11:30 a.m.	Kirk Ringers/Singers, upstairs - Room 20
	3:30 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	SHYG, meet at the Glenville Sportsplex, in case of rain, meet at the church
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Men's News Group, Poling Conference Room
May 9	7:00 p.m.	Klokker Ringers, Poling Conference Room
	7:45 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
May 10	11:00 a.m.	Support & Care, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Standing Committees, Various Locations
	8:00 p.m.	Consistory, Assembly Hall
Wednesday	1:00 p.m.	Archives Group, Archives Room
May 11	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Evening Eastertide, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Book Discussions, Various Locations
	8:30 p.m.	Contemplative Communion, Sanctuary
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Stitching Group, Poling Conference Room
May 12	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
May 15	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.	(Last Rehearsal) Kirk Ringers/Singers, upstairs - Room 20
	3:00 p.m.	New Member Class, Poling Chapel
	3:30 p.m.	(Last Rehearsal) 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 Room
	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.



May 8, 2011

**joying, cloying
white lily smell
lurks around
the buds
of tomorrows
colorful promises**

First Reformed Church

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