

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 after the service for 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.

Summer Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for babies through age four is available from 10-11:15am in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

Church School

Children will remain in the service today to worship with the congregation. Church School will resume the second Sunday of September. Don't forget Vacation Bible School August 8-12!

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 refreshments in the Huntley Garden. Visitors are welcome to join in.

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.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 31, 2011

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes (1992)

Theodore Ripper

1. *St. Denio*
2. *Aberystwyth*
3. *Cwm Rhondda*
4. *Hyfrydol*

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

Bill Levering

*HYMN #261 *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*

OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O Lord our God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As we come before you now, believers and doubters alike, we all share a deep need for your grace. Give us a desire for repentance. Forgive us all our wrongs. Transform us by your Spirit we pray. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #579 *Glory Be to the Father* Gloria Patri

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Our Song of Hope*

We are a people of hope waiting for the return of our Lord. God has come to us through the ancient people of Israel, as the true Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, as the Holy Spirit at work in our world. Our Lord speaks to us now through the inspired Scriptures. Christ is with us day by day.

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING *Wondering*

What if this is love?
Gift of God above?
If this is love, then are we happy?
Cause it doesn't really seem that way to me.
If this isn't love
I wonder what it is that love could be?

What if this is truth?
Is there any proof?
If this is truth, then are we honest?
Cause it doesn't really seem that way to me.
If this isn't truth
I wonder what it is that truth could be?

I'm wondering, yes I'm wondering
Why nothing is as simple as it seems.
I'm wondering, oh wondering
What will it take to reach our dreams?

What if this is life?
Poverty and strife?
If this is life, then are we living?
Cause it doesn't really seem that way to me.
If this isn't life
I wonder what it is that life could be?

What if this is death?
Drawing our last breath?
If this is death, then is everything over?
Cause it doesn't really seem that way to me.
If this isn't death
I wonder what it is that death could be?

Words and Music by Andy Chestnut

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Therese McCarty
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Psalm 118:20-24 (page 565)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Genesis 32:22-31 (page 30)*

SERMON

Limping From God

Bill Levering

+ + + **The Response to the Word** + + +

*HYMN #281 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM Rhondda

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Choices*

We have a love; we have a love
It may not be that easy to see
We have a love

We have a home; we have a home
A special place where we each find our space
We have a home.

We have a child; we have a child
We pray to know what (s)he needs to grow
We have a child

It may sound patronizing, but it shouldn't be surprising
That with constant advertising, everybody's supersizing
The trouble with stuff – is it's never enough

We have a dream; we have a dream
That every day, we all find our way
We have a dream.

We have a Lord; we have a Lord
One day by grace, we'll look on his face
We have a Lord

It may sound patronizing, but it shouldn't be surprising
That with constant advertising, everybody's supersizing
But instead of splurging on that latest version – We could disregard those
voices, and make our own choices

Build a love; raise a child
Family seems to encourage our dreams
To serve the Lord.

Words and Music by Andy Chestnut

*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 #415

Come, Labor On

Ora Labora

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Chaconne (1658)

Louis Couperin

*The congregation may stand

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: *Norma Peterson and Bill Piper*

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 Robert Bruce Crandell from Janet Crandell. 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

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. 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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today –Peg Delaney, piano

August 7 – Nat Phipps, piano

August 14 – Yuko Kishimoto, piano

August 21 – Paul Mastriani, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

August 28 – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop will be open today before and after the church service.

Summer Refreshment Sign-up

Whenever possible this season our post service refreshments are served in the Huntley Garden. Please consider signing up to bring refreshments one Sunday this summer! A sign-up sheet with suggestions is on the refreshment table.

Summer Kerygma Catch-Up Aug. 10

Any Wednesday Kerygma participants who would enjoy an informal time of sharing what you've been reading, seeing, considering this summer are invited to join Daniel Carlson in the Dirck Romeyn room, Wednesday, August 10 at 10am. Cupcakes and coffee will be provided!

Wednesday Potluck Aug. 10

All are invited to bring something edible to share and join us in Assembly Hall at 6pm for a leisurely meal.

Contemplative Communion Aug. 10

All are welcome to the serenity of this brief service of song, silence and the Lord's supper on Wednesday August 10 at 7:30pm in the sanctuary chancel. Questions may be addressed to Daniel Carlson.

Faith with a Twist August 25

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 for casual, open-minded conversation about faith, spirituality, God, and life. Participants need not be church members; we encourage people from a variety of backgrounds to attend and

enliven our discussion! Please contact Stacey Midge if you have questions.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar for Summer VBS Psalm Trees on Aug 8-12 from 3 - 5pm. There will be games, skits, songs, crafts and a healthy snack each day. Ages 5-95 are welcome! Call the church office to register 377-2201.

Barbeque & Pool Party CANCELLED

Do to unforeseen circumstances, the Barbeque and Pool Party has been cancelled.

Welcome the Covenanters!

Beginning this fall, we will have several young adults living in a house together, serving in community non-profit agencies, and working with FRC in various capacities. We have a house for our new Covenanters, but now we need furniture to make it a comfortable home. Do you have good quality furniture or house wares that you no longer have use for? Needs include: beds, linens, dressers, living room furniture, and dining room table and chairs. Please contact Stacey Midge ASAP if you have any of these items available.

Hand Knit Scarves

During the Stockade Walkabout in September the Youth Education Committee will be selling hand knit scarves to benefit the Camp Fowler Scholarship Fund. Summer is a good time to work up a few scarves as you relax in your Adirondack chair! If you are a knitter, please consider donating a scarf or two to our sale. Call Jamie Ipsen with any questions 399-6848.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Lisa Etkin, Tom Burgoyne	
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Linda Witkowski
Flower Delivery	Peggy & Robert Ridgway, Michael Horan	Gertrude & Dan Ertel, Cindy Hamilton
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Steve Breitenbach	Sarah Bachorik, Tani Breitenbach
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Caroline Brooks, Daniel Ipsen, Mary Jewett, Roberta Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels	
Reader	Therese McCarty	Christine Daniels
Refreshments	Vickie McGowan	Gay Doolittle
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Linda Stanhope	

Calendar for the Week of July 31, 2011

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
July 31	11:00 a.m.	Post Service Refreshments, Huntley Garden
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Men's News Group, Poling Conference Room
August 1	6:30 p.m.	Creation Care Committee, Mezzanine
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
August 2		
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
August 7	11:00 a.m.	Post Service Refreshments, Huntley Garden
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel

***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.



July 31, 2011

**Summer still
waters
of grace
bring us back
home**

First Reformed Church

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