

# 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 Dirck Romeyn room, on 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.

## **Service Online**

A recording of each of our worship services is at [1stReformed.com](http://1stReformed.com) one or two days following the service.

## **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 to worship with the congregation. Church School will resume on September 18.

## **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 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.

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 4, 2011

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

**VOLUNTARY**

*Homage to Persichetti (1991)*

Janet M. Correll

*Invocation (1991)*

Denis Bédard

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**

Stacey Midge

\*HYMN #210

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

St. Anne

**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      *The Swan*      Camille Saint-Saens  
Nat Fossner, English Horn

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

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

FIRST LESSON      *Job 2:1-13 (page 454)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON      *Job 3:1-10, 4:1-8 (page 454)*

SERMON      *Beyond Paralysis*      Stacey Midge

\*HYMN #363      *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*      Sojourner

OFFERING

OFFERTORY      *Romanza*      Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Virginia Myers, French Horn

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

SANCTUS *(sung in unison)*

Carl Steubing

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy  
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

*After the choir comes forward, please quietly follow them down the center aisle starting from all the FRONT pews. Return by way of the side aisles. The servers will bring the elements to any who choose to remain seated.*

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

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 #343      *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*      Beecher

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE      *Toccata (1953)*      Everett Titcomb

\*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:

*Mary Grupe and James Pontius.*

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 memory of Jane Bryant by her husband, Cliff. 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.

## **Faith Bookshop**

Parents, grandparents and everyone with young friends: The Bookshop recently received a donation of new, unused children's books, including some well-loved classics. You'll love the prices. Stop in and look them over (back table).

## **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm**

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

**Sept. 11** – Paul Mastriani, piano

**Sept. 18** – Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

**Sept. 25** – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

## **Flooding in the Synod of Albany**

We have all become aware of the devastation our region has experienced because of Hurricane Irene. We are beginning to receive first hand reports of how this storm has impacted many of our congregations, pastors and their communities, especially in Schoharie, Middleburg, and Prattsville. In order that we might more comprehensively support these sisters and brothers the Regional Synod of Albany will share updated information through our synod website at [www.albanysynod.org](http://www.albanysynod.org) under the events section. You can also check the new Facebook page under the username Albany Synod.

Reformed Church World Service has begun receiving donated funds to help with the hurricane aftermath. In order to remain efficient in our response we have asked RCWS to begin to collect all contributions for this response. The Synod will then work with RCWS to disburse these funds as needed.

To contribute, you may donate online on the RCA website at [www.rca.org](http://www.rca.org), or write a check payable to Reformed Church World Service and drop it in the offering plate or give it to Stacey Midge to be mailed collectively.

## **Covenanters**

Most of our Covenanters arrived and are moved in and ready to start their year of serving in local agencies in Schenectady. They are living together in a house at 1405 Union St.

Please welcome Chris Henry, Erin Winn and Kseniya Zhuzha as they join our community. Senad Ademaj will be arriving in October to complete the team.

### **New Fellowship Group Forming**

Starting Thursday, September 8 we will meet in the Mezzanine from 6-8pm and every Thursday evening thereafter. If you are interested, please drop by. All are welcome. Contact Alida Rice at 280-3903 or rice.alida@yahoo.com for more information.

### **Thursday Stitch Group**

The first gathering of the Stitch Group will be on Thursday September 8 in The Conference Room at 10am and every Thursday thereafter. Dig out all those unfinished projects (crewel, cross-stitch, needle-point, tapestry, and quilting) or start a new project and stitch them to completion with others who like to stitch. Anyone wanting to darn socks or sew on buttons is welcome to join our group. Get your projects done in good company. No need to RSVP. For more info call Joan Lindsay at 399-3153.

### **Welcome Back Picnic September 11 after Service**

Get your red hots right here! Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks are supplied. Our traditional kick-off picnic will be a chance to check in with old friends and get to know the new folks. Please bring a dish to share.

### **Church School**

Begins September 18. We are in need of teachers for the upcoming year. We have a wonderful, easy to follow, curriculum and a schedule that will suit your availability! Please contact Jamie Ipsen at 399-6848 or e-mail ipsens6@hotmail.com.

### **Youth Music**

We are looking for musicians! Any of the following groups are ready to absorb your talent and help you develop it in the process:

High School Choir, Youth Orchestra - all grades, but must have 2 yrs of lessons behind you.

Kirk Ringers - grades 3-8.

Please contact Jamie Ipsen at 399-6848 or e-mail ipsens6@hotmail.com.

### **Schenectady Remembers Moving Toward Peace**

9/11 Memorial Interfaith Commemoration Sunday, September 11 at 2 pm Veteran's Park (across from the Schenectady County Court House) This hour service, sponsored by the Schenectady County Clergy Association, will focus on the needs for peace. Islamic, Jewish, Hindu, and Christian leaders will participate. In case of rain, the service will be held at First United Methodist Church on 603 State Street

### **Fall for the bells at FRC!**

The Handbells of FRC are getting ready to ring in the fall season with rehearsals beginning on Monday evenings. Our starting date is Monday, September 12 when we gather to assign music, ringing positions and catch up with each other following the summer vacation. There continues to be possibilities for you to be part of this music program and now is the time to let us know your interest! All levels of music skills are invited to explore this exciting area of our music. On the job training is available and happily offered! Please contact Judy Moore at 383-6533 or moorebells@gmail.com.

## **Consistory and Committee Meetings begin Tuesday September 13**

Standing Committees meet at 6:30pm in various locations and Consistory meets at 7:30pm in Friendship Hall.

## **New Kerygma Bible Study**

This fall a study of the church's first history book will be our focus: *The Acts of the Apostles*. All are welcome to share in the warm fellowship and lively discussions every Wednesday this fall, 9:30-11am, in the Poling Conference room, beginning September 14. The study guides, *Acts for Everyone*, written by N.T. Wright, will be available at the first class for about \$20.

Participants of this study should plan on completing seven short (daily) readings each week, which will become the grist for our Wednesday discussions. A sample copy of the study guide is available in the Faith Bookshop. Those with questions regarding this study may contact leader, Daniel Carlson.

## **Breakfast Bible Bunch Starts September 15**

Dr. Levering will be leading an early morning Bible study Thursday mornings at 7:30am in the Walton Conference room. The Bible study will review a text to be used the following Sunday, expose a little background of the passage and mostly delve into its relevance to us. Coffee and carbs will be served. We will finish at 8:15 for those who work.

## **Group VII**

On Friday, September 16, 11:30am Group VII will meet for a luncheon at the Edison Club. Please contact Mary Jane Fisher 374-0964 if any questions.

## **Junior & Senior High Youth Groups**

We will begin meeting WEEKLY on September 18 at 5pm with a Welcome Back Picnic. There will be games and mixers for the youth, and the parents will have an introductory meeting after we eat. All youth in grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to attend and asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Unless otherwise noted on the calendar, the **Junior High Youth Group** will meet at 5pm every Sunday for dinner, games, discussion, and other fun activities. Youth in grades 6-8 are welcome.

The Senior High Youth Group will meet separately on Sundays at 7pm beginning on September 25. All youth in grades 9-12 are welcome, and snacks will be provided.

## **Justice Action Council**

Our next meeting is September 18 at noon in the Walton Conference Room. If you have ideas and the energy to support issues, or just want to learn more, please join us as we begin our second year. For more information, contact Claire Hughes 381-9241 or [eclair63@gmail.com](mailto:eclair63@gmail.com).

## **First Forum**

Presentations begin in Poling Chapel at 11:15am, following coffee and conversation in Assembly Hall.

**Sept. 18:** Ms. Penny Holmes, new Executive Director, Hamilton Hill Arts Center & FRC Missioner

**Sept. 25:** Seeking the Welfare of our City – Covenanters Introduction by Rev. Stacey Midge. Meet and dialogue with the energetic young folks enthusing a new FRC Ministry.

## **Fall Bible Study**

Wednesday evenings October 5 – November 16 for a new Bible Study about choice and simplicity, called *Climbing the Sycamore Tree*. Based on the New Testament story of Zacchaeus, this course will help us explore a life of gratitude in response to the teachings of Jesus. Lynne Gilgore will lead fun activities, weekly reading, group discussion and time to get to know each other in new ways. Course will be held in the Walton Conference Room from 7-8:30pm (No class October 12). Please register by September 18 so books can be ordered for class. Sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall.

## **Tuesday Ladies**

We will begin on September 20 at 7:30pm at Connie Young's home and every third Tuesday thereafter. Contact Connie 393-7061 if any questions.

## **Sharing the Sacred Journey**

Two short books revealing the spiritual autobiography of Fredrick Beuchner will form the basis of a new group meeting for eight Wednesday evenings this fall, led by Cheryl and David Olsen and Mary and Daniel Carlson. The sessions, 7-8:30pm will be held in the Dirck Romeyn room, beginning September 21. The first session will feature a DVD introducing this contemporary Christian author and teacher. Subsequent sessions presume participants will have read an assigned chapter in *Sacred Journey or Telling Secrets*, and will include discussions of Beuchner's writing as well as the invitation for each participant to reflect on and share related dimensions of their own respective sacred journey. Our Faith

Bookshop will have a limited number of new copies at a discounted price. Questions regarding this journey may be directed to any of the leaders.

## **Stephen Ministry Meeting**

All active Stephen Ministers are expected at the first meeting of our program year, Wednesday, September 21 at 7pm in Assembly Hall. Some community building, an overview of the program year and small group peer supervision are on the schedule for the evening. All Stephen Ministers with Care Receivers should bring their confidential updated (blue) contract record sheet(s) as well as their (yellow) check-in statement(s). Those Stephen Ministers unable to attend September's meeting should contact Stephen Leaders, Linnea D'Andrea or Daniel Carlson. Regularly scheduled meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each month except Lent which is in March.

## **Faith with a Twist September 22**

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.

## **Audio System Gift**

We have received a generous anonymous gift to match any donation to upgrading the audio system. We are looking to raise about \$7,000 so this is a way of doubling your help.

### **Banket Bakers**

In order to serve this delicious Dutch treat to our guests at the Stockade Walkabout, help is sought for shaping and baking the banket this Friday, September 23, from 6:30pm until about 9 or so in Assembly Hall. Those wishing to assist (and, of course, taste test) should contact Mary Alice Jewett 355-8059 or Gay Doolittle 399-0499.

### **Stockade Walkabout and FRC**

Our church will be open Saturday, September 24 for the 52 Annual Stockade Walkabout from 11am-5pm. Come help welcome visitors to our architectural and historical landmark. Greeters/guides are needed for 3-hour shifts: 9:30-12:30, 12-3, 2:30-5:30, which includes help setting up, closing, and running taped background music. It's a great day of outreach, of sharing our story with hundreds of interested guests. Sign-up sheets and Walkabout brochures are on bulletin boards and hallway tables. Or call Laura Lee Linder 882-6866. Volunteers of at least 2½ hours will earn a free Walk Through History ticket.

### **Wednesday Potluck Supper**

Anyone desiring to share a supper with other members and friends is welcome to this informal monthly meal 6-7pm, in Assembly Hall, on September 28, October 26, and November 30. Registration is not required; simply bring some food you would enjoy sharing. As in years past, we'll clean up after ourselves in time for those wishing to attend the Sacred Journey class. If you have a question about these church suppers, contact Daniel Carlson.

### **Contemplative Communion**

Beginning Wednesday, September 28, our intimate service of song, silence, and the Lord's supper held in the candlelit sanctuary chancel, resumes. Everyone is welcome to this time of quite individual contemplation followed by shared communion (with Perreccas bread, wine and grape juice) and prayers around the table any Wednesday this fall, from 8:30-9pm. Curious but tentative? Contact Daniel Carlson.

### **FRC Book Sale October 16**

Downsizing? Out of space? Looking for a good home for books you'd like to share with and pass on to others? Then donate your books to our book sale where, of course, you'll pick up more. Directly after church service on Sunday, October 16, Assembly Hall will be transformed into an autumn setting. Bring the books to the cloak room opposite Assembly Hall. One provision however, no text or computer books please! Because we need the week before this event to set it up, please donate your books by Sunday October 9. The sale is a lovely fall festival that we have enjoyed for many years.

We'll need people to help with sorting, setting up, helping on sale day, and providing refreshments. At our last sale the goodly number of volunteers made quick work of the Saturday set up. If you want to help sort, set up, sell, and clean up, please call Linda Witkowski 374-7904.

### **Pictures for bulletin**

We feature different pictures on our bulletin cover. If you have an inspirational favorite, send it in.

## **Boy Scouts of America**

Our Troop 1 meets in Assembly Hall every Thursday at 7pm. We have monthly outings and are always looking for young men age 10.5 or older. The troop is led by Mike Collins, Bill Levering, and Shaun Paul Manore. Our troop does not discriminate on any basis and celebrates the international character of scouting. We also never sell stuff.

## **Capital Region Theological Center News**

*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.

*Save the Date! Monday, October 3 CRTC's Fall Event* at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia! Keynote Speaker Barbara Wheeler, Director of the Center for the Study of Theological Education (CSTE) and Former President, Auburn Seminary, Author and Award-winning Educator. A great time- Don't miss it!

*Spirit, Grace & Power: Acts of the Apostles*, with Rev. Dr. Richard Carlson, Siena College, Thursday and Friday, October 20 and 21, 9am-3pm, This popular professor is back to help us rediscover the grace and power of the Spirit at work in the early church as well as our own.

*Opening the Doors: Welcoming the Differently-Abled*, with Rev. Catherine Patterson, NYS OPWD, Thursday, October 27, 9am-3pm. Designed to help faith leaders reach out to individuals and families of individuals with developmental disabilities who wish to belong to a faith community.

Register online at [www.capitalrtc.org](http://www.capitalrtc.org) or by phone at 462-2470. Watch our website for information on these and many other courses. Scholarships and group discounts available for most classes; please contact us for an application.

## **Congregational Workshop**

Plan to take part in the fall Congregational Workshop, called *Faithful Consumption: the Choices We Make*, to be held at church on Saturday, October 22 from 9am-3pm. Leaders Kent Busman and Becky Hudak will help us examine how our daily choices as consumers are tied to our faith lives, affecting not only the world around us, but also shaping who we are as followers of Jesus Christ. By taking greater care with our choices, can we grow in spiritual maturity? Come get to know your church family better, have some fun and explore new ways to grow in faith. Lunch will be provided. Sign up in Assembly Hall, or call the church office.



***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.*



*Spirit Island, Maligne Lake, Jasper National Park Canada*

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

September 4, 2011

*First Reformed Church*

8 North Church Street

Schenectady, New York 12305

(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://www.1stReformed.com)