

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. After service join us in the Dirck Romeyn Room, to the left of the front of the sanctuary, 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 from 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 Sunday 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 Assembly Hall. Visitors are welcomed 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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2011

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on Picardy

A Pondering on Deck Thyself, My Soul

John Joubert

Alfred Hoose

10:00 a.m.

+ + + The Approach to God + + +

GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Stacey Midge

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

In Heavenly Love Abiding

Finnish Melody

Tower Ringers

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #371**

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, cleanse us from our frailties and failures. Deliver us from proud thoughts and empty desires, that with humble hearts we may draw near to you. Help us confess our faults, confide in your grace, and find refuge and strength for our lives. Amen.

***GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE**

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #579**

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Our Song of Hope

In each year and in every place we expect the coming of Christ's Spirit. As we listen to the world's concerns, hear the cry of the oppressed, and learn of new discoveries, God will give us knowledge, teach us to respond with maturity, and give us courage to act with integrity.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *My Elder Son, Go Work Today* Trad. English
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

“My elder son, go work today, the corn is ripe, so don’t delay.”
“No, I won’t go to work today my friends are here; I’d rather play!”
His father’s need made him repent; he therefore changed his mind and went.
“My second son, go work today, the corn is ripe, so don’t delay!”
“Yes, father, I’ll do as you say; for you I’d rather work than play!”
But though he said he’d go, he stayed, and broke the promise he had made.
“Who did the father’s will that day? Which son,” said Jesus, “would you say?”
“The elder one,” they all agreed; “he answered to the father’s need.”
Our minds can change; love sets us free to serve our father joyfully.

Rae E. Whitney

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

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

FIRST LESSON *Matthew 21:28-32 (page 23)*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Philippians 2:1-13 (page 197)*

SERMON *Our Own Salvation* Bill Levering

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

*HYMN #466 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* Azmon

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Christ, Who is in the Form of God* Jerusalem
C. Hubert Parry

Christ, who is in the form of God, did not retain his lofty place,
But, taking on a servant’s role, became a member of our race.
And being found in human form, humbly he suffered further loss
By willingly accepting death—yes, even death upon a cross.

Therefore has God exalted him and raised him to the highest place

And given him that matchless name, worthy of all names to be praised,
That at the name of Jesus Christ should every creature bend the knee,
And every tongue confess him Lord, to God's own glory endlessly.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Covenanters* Stacey Midge

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 #85 *What Wondrous Love Is This*
Wondrous Love

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Fourfold Amen* John Stainer

*POSTLUDE *Processional* Alan Ridout

*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: *Ethel Kiess Betka and Elizabeth Nicholson.*

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.

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. 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.

Post Service Refreshments

We are in need of volunteers to bring in food! It can be cookies, cheese and crackers, fruit, or anything you want. There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. Please bring your food around 9:30am, unless it is already set up on a platter.

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.

First Forum

We continue offering stimulating after worship speakers and programs tied to issues of contemporary social relevance, FRC's mission and ministry in the world and community, as well as, time to acknowledge special occasions within the church year.

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

Today: Seeking the Welfare of our City – Covenanters Introduction and shared perspectives by Rev.

Stacey Midge. Meet and dialogue with the energetic young folks, enthusing a new FRC Ministry.

Oct. 2: Every Member Connection Training (see below article)

Every Member Connection

Join us October 2, during First Forum for Every Member Connection Training.

This fall, our congregation will engage on a challenging program to come together in faith. We are planning an exciting program that will connect with every member of the church.

We will talk about our connections to God, to our mission, and to each other. In a large, active congregation like ours, it is important to take the time to connect as often as we can.

We will get to know each other and also talk about our mutual support of the church. Already, lots of people have readily agreed to contact other people to talk about our life together.

Our theme for the program comes from Hebrews 10:24 "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together."

We hope that you will help with the program too by volunteering to contact just a few people and get to know them better. Of course a small percentage of our talk will be about our church budget and our mutual support, but that important part is not our entire focus. Really.

This fine effort is being headed up by chairman Andy Chestnut and archangels Walt Robb and Anne Putnam.

Faith Bookshop

Parents, grandparents and anyone with young friends will find a wonderful selection of children's books on the front table. These new, unused books, many of them long-time favorites, were a donation to the Bookshop. You'll love the prices.

Books for the Wednesday evening Buechner Book Group are in and can be purchased today. A copy of the study guide for the Kerygma Bible study is on display for perusal.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Oct. 2 – Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Oct 9 – Paul Mastriani, piano

Church School-Teachers Needed

We are looking for teachers. No experience needed! Training is provided. High school student helpers are also welcome to join us! If you can help by volunteering your time, please contact Jamie Ipsen at 399-6848 or e-mail to ipsens6@hotmail.com.

Below shows who is teaching and when we need your help:

Fall: September-November

K-2: Claire Hughes

3-5: Erin Winn

6-8: NEED YOUR HELP for Sept.-Oct.

David Hjelmar (Nov. & Dec.)

Winter: December-February

K-2: Jenifer Evans

3-5: Tani Breitenbach

6-8: Lorraine Cox

Spring: March-May

K-2: Shannon Kerwin

3-5: NEED YOUR HELP

6-8: NEED YOUR HELP

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.

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

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.

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.

Fourth Wednesday Potluck

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 evening classes. If you have a question about these food and fellowship events, contact Daniel Carlson.

Sharing the Sacred Journey

There's still room in the circle each Wednesday evening through November 9, for those wishing to consider the spiritual autobiography of the beloved contemporary author, Fredrick Buechner--as well as their own journey. Cheryl and David Olsen

with Mary and Daniel Carlson lead the sessions, 7-8:30pm in the Dirck Romeyn room, based on participants reading and reflections on assigned chapters in Sacred Journey or Telling Secrets. Copies of each of these brief books by Buechner's are still available at a discounted price in the Faith Bookshop! Questions regarding this Adult Education and Nurture offering may be directed to any of the leaders.

Contemplative Communion Returns

Beginning this Wednesday, September 28, our intimate service of song, extended time for contemplation, and the Lord's Supper, held in the candlelit sanctuary chancel, resumes. Everyone is welcome to this time of guided individual contemplation followed by shared communion (with Preccas bread, wine and grape juice) and prayers around the Table every Wednesday this fall, 8:30-9pm.

World Communion Served October 2

Celebrate the unity of Christendom in our traditional fashion on October 2. The Communion class children will prepare the bread, Elders and deacons will serve in a moving symbol of our service to each other.

FRC Missionary to the Roma - Carolyn Otterness

Sunday October 2 at 6pm

For the last four years, Rev. Dick Otterness and his wife Carolyn, (members of FRC) have been ministering to the Roma people. The Roma are among the poorest people on earth, and represent the largest ethnic minority (12 million) in Central and Eastern Europe. The Otternesses work in partnership with the Hungarian Reformed Church, with a primary goal

of encouraging attitude changes and steps towards reconciliation in churches, organizations and individuals where ethnic and racial conflict exists either overtly or covertly between Roma and others. Join us for a time of informing conversation and fellowship, after Jazz Vespers.

Group V

Meeting: In the Dirck Romeyn room on Monday, October 3 at 11am, with speaker and sandwich lunch to follow.

Topic: Archives and Historical Concerns. Laura Linder will speak to us about the use of our archives by many researchers. She will update us on the activities and needs of the committee. We will help with some photo identification. Bring a sandwich and dessert will be provided by the co hostesses. Contact Maria Greskovich or Mary Carlson with Questions. All women of the church and guest are welcome.

New 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).

Breakfast Bible Bunch

Dr. Levering will be leading an early morning Bible study at 7:30am Thursday mornings 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. More if you are lucky. We will be finished at 8:15 for those who work.

Thursday Stitch Group

We meet in the Poling Conference Room at 10am every Thursday. 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.

Purls of Wisdom, A New Fellowship Group

Join us in the Mezzanine from 6-8pm every Thursday evening. Come when you can and stay as long as you like. This group is for those that work during the day, or just want another group to join! Bring your crafts of all types (knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, quilting and anything else you can dream of) and have fun chatting with others. Coffee and tea will be provided, and you can bring snacks to share. Contact Alida Rice at 280-3903 or rice.alida@yahoo.com for more information or if you have any questions. She is also available before and after services. See you there!

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.

Blessing the Pets October 9

We celebrate the love God has for all of creation and desire to be a church family where the peace and justice between God, people, and all creation is sought and celebrated. In that spirit, we will recognize the special place our animal companions hold in our lives with a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 9 at 4pm, on the church lawn. Last year we blessed dogs, cats, a ferret, and a snake - all are welcome! Refreshments for God's creatures, human and otherwise, will be available after the service.

FRC Book Sale October 16

Downsizing? Out of space? Looking for a good home for books you'd like to share 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.

Wednesday Dialog October 19

The Subject will be: Non Profits I have Known by Edwin D. Reilly, Jr., Ph.D. Go to the FRC website for more information on Edwin Reilly.

Embracing Life/Facing Death

Interfaith Chaplin, Sue Kohler, of Community Hospice, returns Wednesday, October 19, 7-8:30pm in Poling Chapel, to speak about living vitally until the end of our days. This interactive presentation by a delightful presenter, sponsored by our Stephen Ministry, is open to all members and friends of the congregation. No registration is required; refreshments will be provided.

Faithful Consumption: The Choices We Make

Plan now to take part in the Adult Education and Nurture Workshop to be held at church on Saturday, October 22, 9am-3pm. Local leaders Kent Busman and Becky Hudak will help us examine how our daily choices as consumers are impacted by our faith, affecting not only the world, but also shaping who we are as followers of Jesus. Come learn how by taking greater care with our choices, we can grow in spiritual maturity! Get to know your church family better, have some fun, and explore new ways to grow in faith. Lunch will be provided. Sign up on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall, or call the church office.

Black History Series

The Black History Series in the Capital District will be starting their 2011-2012 sessions with a class at FRC on Saturday, October 22, at 10am-noon, in the Poling Chapel. We will be discussing the roles of FRC and Second Reformed of Schenectady in the history of the Black community. Anyone interested is invited to attend, especially anyone with information to contribute. For more information contact Laura Lee Linder 882-6866.

New Member Class Oct 23

If you are interested in finding out more about the church or know someone who is, this is just the meeting for you! Dr. Levering meets with people interested in joining and helps them get to know the church.

Flood Relief Efforts

With nearly a month passed, the devastation our region experienced during and after Hurricane Irene is far from over. Supplies and volunteers are still much needed for the thousands of people whose homes are being demolished, restored, and rebuilt. You can find comprehensive information about the damage in our area on the Regional Synod of Albany website at www.albanysynod.org, or on the Albany Synod Facebook page. FRC also continues to send out work groups as often as there are volunteers. Check our constantly updated schedule and information online at 1streformed.com, or talk to Stacey Midge if you would like to volunteer or donate to the flood relief efforts.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday World Communion
Counting Deacons	Christine Daniels, Chris Van Oort	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Bill Martin
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Committee Member
First Forum	Seeking the Welfare of our City	Every Member Connection Training
Flower Delivery	Gay & Joe Doolittle, Jane & Phil Falconer	Katherine & George Trimarco, Elsa & Dave Hjelm
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Caroline Brooks, Daniel Ipsen, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, William Rochelle	Veronica Bartholic, Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Mary Jewett, Carol Jones-Assini, Keith Muse, Catherine Lewis, Emile Walraven
Reader	Erin Winn	Therese McCarty
Refreshments	Ellie Brudos, Betty Bumgarner	
Ushers	Earl Wainwright (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Linda Stanhope	Darwin Brudos, Tom Burgoyne, Richard Davis, Lisa Etkin, Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Bill Martin, David Bundy, Kimberly Burgoyne

Calendar for the Week of September 25, 2011

Sunday Sept. 25	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:20 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Room 20
	3:30 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Friendship Hall
Monday Sept. 26	9:00 a.m.	Men's Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room
	6:30 p.m.	Creation Care Committee, Mezzanine
Tuesday Sept. 27	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Wednesday Sept. 28	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Poling Conference Room
	1:00 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.	Potluck, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Sharing the Sacred Journey, Dirck Romeyn Room
	8:30 p.m.	Contemplative Communion, Sanctuary
Thursday Sept. 29	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
	10:00 a.m.	Stitch Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.	Purls of Wisdom, Mezzanine
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Sunday World Communion Oct. 2	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
	11:20 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Room 20
	11:30 a.m.	Every Member Connection Training, Poling Chapel
	12:00 p.m.	Justice Action Counsel, Walton Conference Room
	3:30 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall
6:00 p.m.	FRC Missionary to the Roma Speaks, Assembly Hall	
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.



Adirondack photo by George Lovelace

Fall, back
to schedules and calendars
and paying
attention to time
and time again
God is with us.

September 25, 2011

First Reformed Church

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