

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.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 9, 2011

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Elegy

Trio

Prelude in G minor

Master Tallis's Testament (1940)

Robin Orr

Peter Fricker

John Gardner

Herbert Howells

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

Let Us Worship

Tom Benjamin

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #145 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* Marion

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 Alleluia from *Exultate Jubilate* W.A. Mozart
Solo Quartet: Nancy Ellen Swann, Heather Chestnut, Andy Chestnut,
Dan Ipsen

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

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

FIRST LESSON *Psalm 23 (page 501)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Philippians 4:1, 4-9 (page 198)*

SERMON *What Do You Think?* Bill Levering

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

*HYMN #280 (vss 1,3,5) *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*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.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #525 *Here I Am, Lord*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Rob Landes

*POSTLUDE *Fanfare* Kenneth Leighton

*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: *William Fasake, Barbara Lawrence, Marion Lentz, Emma Pitzer, Eldon Springsted, Frederick White, and Gertrude Young.*

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.

Chancel Flowers

If you would like to order celebratory or memorial flowers for the chancel, please call the church office. You may send your check for \$30 payable to

Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

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

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.

Johnson Library

Hardy souls may want to find out more about theologians Soren Kierkegaard and Paul Tillich, mentioned in sermons in recent weeks. They will find a few of the library's collection about these 19th century and 20th century thinkers on the library's display table this morning. There is *Paul Tillich, His Life and Thought*, and *From Luther to Tillich: The Reformers and Their Heirs*. For Kierkegaard, despair is "the sickness unto death", explored in *Fear and Trembling; The Sickness Unto Death*.

In a lighter vein, *Games For The Super-Intelligent* are the fare for the "most intelligent 2% of the population" compiled by James Fixx. The rearing of boys is addressed in a new book by Stephen James and David Thomas, *Wild Things; The Art of Nurturing Boys*.

Young readers up to teenagers will find books of fiction sure to please on the other library display table.

Blessing the Pets Today

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 today October 9 at 4pm, on the church lawn. Last year we blessed dogs, cats, a ferret, and a snake - all are welcome!

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – Paul Mastriani, piano

Oct 16 – Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Oct. 23 – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Oct. 30 – Paul Mastriani, piano

High School Choir

Anyone in high school who loves to sing - The High School Choir currently meets Sunday mornings at 9am in room 20. Mrs. Ipsen has found some amazing music that needs your talent! Please join us!

Youthful Orchestra

Anyone in the congregation who has played a string instrument for two or more years is welcome to join the Youthful Orchestra. Yes, this means adults too! We are looking to broaden our joyful noise to the Lord! The orchestra meets Sunday afternoons at the Ipsen's home from 3:30-4:30. The music covers all abilities. Come on over!

FRC's Got Talent

Is coming to the FRC stage! Please sign up on the poster at the bottom of the church school stairs if you have an act/talent that you'd like considered. This is a church wide event with venues for everyone. Proceeds will go to SHYG. Help them get to the DR! Questions? See or call Jamie Ipsen 399-6848.

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

JHYG will meet at 5pm every Sunday for dinner, games, discussion, and other fun activities. Youth in grades 6-8 are welcome.

SHYG will meet separately on Sundays at 7pm. All youth in grades 9-12 are welcome, and snacks will be provided.

New Fall Bible Study

Wednesday evenings, through November 16 (except October 12), 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.

Contemplative Communion

Our intimate service of song, contemplation, and the Lord's Supper, in the candlelit sanctuary is back! 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 Lord's Table every Wednesday this fall, 8:30-9pm.

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.

Purls of Wisdom

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.

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, **we will take donation through today, 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.

Tuesday Ladies Has Begun

The group meets every third Tuesday at Connie Young's home. Contact Connie at 393-7061 if any questions.

Fund Raiser

There will be a spaghetti dinner to benefit historic sites in Montgomery County damaged by Tropical Storm Irene on Monday, October 17 from 4 to 8pm at the Rolling Hills Country Club, Route 5 in Fort Johnson. Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site is among

the historic sites that this dinner will help. This is where Tricia Shaw works as the education coordinator, where Joe Doolittle has told stories and where Laura Lee Linder has lectured. There will also be a 50-50 raffle and a silent auction. Tickets are only \$12 and are available in advance by calling 829-7516.

Wednesday Dialog October 19

Non Profits I have Known

by Edwin D. Reilly, Jr., Ph.D.

Edwin Reilly is Emeritus Professor of Computer Science at the University at Albany. He is past president of the Freedom Forum and of the Friends of the Library, the current president of the Schenectady County Historical Society, a trustee of the Edison Tech Center and of the Schenectady County Library, and has been a regular monthly contributor to the Sunday Gazette opinion page for the last eight years. He holds the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in physics, all from RPI. After his first graduation, he worked for two years at the National Security Agency in Washington as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He returned to this area to work for nine years at KAPL and then 26 years at SUNY Albany where he founded its computing center and its computer science department. Concurrently, he served as Supervisor of the Town of Niskayuna for 18 years.

Embracing Life In Facing Death

Beloved Interfaith Chaplain, Sue Kohler-Arsenalult, of Community Hospice, returns Wednesday, October 19, 7-8:30pm in Poling Chapel, to speak about living vitally until the end of our days. Using guided imagery and personal reflection Sue will lead us to consider what matters most in our lives

through the lens of our mortality. This presentation, sponsored by our Stephen Ministry, is open to all members and friends of the congregation. No registration is required; refreshments will be provided.

Group VII

On Friday, October 21 at 10am Group VII will meet in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: *Umbrella Program*. October Co-hostesses are Janet Gardner, Anne Robb. All are welcome.

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 from 10-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. For more information contact Laura Lee Linder at 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. 2-4pm starting in the office.

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 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 questions, please contact Daniel Carlson.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We meet every fourth Thursday at someone's home. For information, please contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679

Faith with a Twist October 27

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.

Project SAFE Bowl-a-Thon

Project SAFE will be hosting its annual Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser at Boulevard Bowl on Oct. 30. Sign up to bowl in a team for \$100 per lane, or donate to a bowler. Many members of our youth group will be participating! SAFE Inc. is an emergency shelter and outreach program for young people who are engaged in or at risk of sexual exploitation. Contact Stacey for more details or to register your bowling team!

CRTC News

The Apostle Paul taught that we must "be transformed by the renewing of our minds." We are encouraged to be intentional about finding ways to grow in our faith, our understanding, and our desire to know Christ better. CRTC can help by offering a wide variety of courses to aid in your ministries and spiritual growth!

Spirit, Grace and 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 OPWDD, 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.

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. 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.

Songs, Stoles and Stories –

Benefit Concert:

Room for All cordially invites you to a benefit concert on Friday, November 4 at 7:30pm at The First Church in Albany, 110 N. Pearl St., featuring the popular Albany Gay Men's Chorus, widely known for their rich harmonies, varied musical repertoire and positive contributions to the greater Capital region. In addition to musical selections, a few members of the choir will share their experience of being gay in the context of their faith communities. The "Shower of Stoles" will also be displayed; this collection of liturgical stoles represents the lives and gifts of LGBT people of faith who serve their faith communities, or have been barred from serving because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The event is free and open to all; a freewill offering will be taken to benefit Room for All, and organization of Reformed Church in America members supporting, educating and advocating for the full inclusion of LGBT persons in that denomination. For information, call 462-6040.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Catherine Lewis, Therese McCarty	Caroline Welch, Douglas Todd
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
First Forum	Coffee & Conversation	Book Fair
Flower Delivery	Catherine & Bradley Lewis, Claire Hughes	Caroline Welch, Linda & Bill Ward
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Mary Alice Jewett, Peggy King, Roberta Blackmer, Jerry Griggs, Darwin Brudos, Catherine Lewis	Veronica Bartholic, Carol Jones- Assini, Keith Muse, Gay Doolittle, William Rochelle, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Chris Fernandes	Jacob Etkin
Refreshments	Alida Rice	
Ushers	Mike Beals (head usher), Art Shultes, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins	Del Pierce (head usher), Glenn Blinckmann, Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Doug Todd

Calendar for the Week of October 9, 2011

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Oct. 9	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
	11:20 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Room 20
	3:30 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home
	4:00 p.m.	Blessing of Pets, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Friendship Hall
Monday		Office Closed
Columbus Day		
Oct. 10		
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Oct. 11	6:30 p.m.	Standing Committees, Various Locations
	7:30 p.m.	Consistory, Assembly Hall
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Poling Conference Room
Oct. 12	1:00 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	1:00 p.m.	Archives Group, Archives Room
	7:00 p.m.	Sharing the Sacred Journey, Dirck Romeyn Room
	8:30 p.m.	Contemplative Communion, Sanctuary
Thursday	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
Oct. 13	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	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Oct. 16	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Bookfair, Assembly Hall
	11:20 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, 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, 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.

October 9, 2011

First Reformed Church

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