

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.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 23, 2011

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Four Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes (1992)

1. *St. Denio*

Theodore W. Ripper

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

INTROIT

Alleluia, Lift Up Your Voice

Shirley McRae

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #372 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

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 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* arr. Dale Wood

O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong;

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION George Trimarco

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

FIRST LESSON *Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (page 191)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 22:34-46 (page 25)*

SERMON *Reader's Digest Bible* Bill Levering

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

*HYMN #304 *Jesus Loves Me!* Jesus Loves Me

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Connecting @ First* Anne Putnam

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* Greek

*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:

Loretta Bloomquist, Alice Harrington and Virginia Mills.

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 platter.

New Member Class Today

If you are interested in finding out more about the church this is 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.

First Forum

Oct. 23 - A Different Way in Reading: A Creative way of teaching and mentoring youth who have difficulty learning to read; serving the Community through a base at First Reformed. Come learn more of this very meaningful community partnership: Kathy Jensen and Roberta Read.

Oct. 30 - M&B Mission Fair – Organizations supported by FRC will be present to engage in updates and conversation.

Chancel Choir to Sing

Evening of Praise, today October 23 at 7pm at the Lisha's Kill Reformed Church, 2131 Central Avenue. The service will feature choral and

instrumental ensembles and the church's newly dedicated organ. Julie Panke will be one of the conductors for an ecumenical choir and Charles Moose will accompany. The community is cordially invited. A freewill offering will benefit *TruJoy*, which offers education and support for women with cancer.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – Nat Phipps, piano

Oct. 30 – Peg Delaney, piano

Nov. 6 – Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Nov. 13 – TBA

Nov. 20 – Jazz Festival

Nov. 27 – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Communion Class

For third graders and up will begin November 6 at the regular church school time. Please see Jamie Ipsen if you are interested in having your child learn more about this special sacrament.

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.

Kindergarten-2nd grade DADS

You are invited to volunteer to read a story to your child's class on the first Sunday of each month in the library. Signup sheet is upstairs in room 20.

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, 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.

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.

Contemplative Communion

Everyone is welcome to this intimate service of song and silence 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 in the Sanctuary.

Tuesday Ladies

This group meets every third Tuesday at Connie Young's home. All ladies are welcome. Contact Connie 393-7061 if any questions.

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 and have fun chatting with others. Coffee and tea will be provided, and you can bring snacks to share. Contact Alida Rice at rice.alida@yahoo.com or 280-3903 if you have any questions. She is also available before and after services.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will be meeting at 9:30am on Thursday Oct. 27 at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. If anyone is interested in learning to knit there will be one of the members available at the meeting to teach you. We welcome anyone interested in joining us! For questions please call Ronnie Bartholic (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.

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 29 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.

Mission Fair

Who are we supporting? Why? What do these groups do?

Why does the Interfaith Community of Schenectady concern us?

How has Bethesda House changed over the years?

What is our connection with Union College's Campus Protestant Ministry?

Who receives care from Haven Grief Counseling?

Come to the Mission Fair on Oct.30th during Second Hour and find the answers. We will have four of our mission recipients there to give a brief explanation, followed by a Q & A from you, their generous supporters.

Project SAFE Bowl-a-Thon

Project SAFE will be hosting its annual Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser at Boulevard Bowl on October 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!

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.

Music Company Orchestra

Concert for Children of All ages
Music Company Orchestra, an adult all-volunteer orchestra serving the Capital Region since 1974, will perform in the FRC Sanctuary on Saturday, November 5; at 3 pm. MCO is a full classical orchestra (50 musicians) that plays concerts year round in Schenectady, Saratoga and Albany counties. Admission to all MCO concerts is free. The program is targeted at a younger audience but contains music that can be enjoyed by all ages, including *Hoe Down*, from Aaron Copeland's *Rodeo*, excerpts from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Top Brass* an original trumpet sextet by our resident composer-arranger Alan Arnold, and a wonderful Handel piece for strings and organ. Featured soloists include Heather Chan on violin and Michael Clement on organ. The concert is about one hour in duration and is played without intermission. For more information about the concert or MCO, contact FRC's Paul Houpt (trumpet) at 698-6539, paulhoupt@gmail.com.

Harvest for the Pantry

Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) will be holding its annual Harvest for the Pantry dinner to raise funds for the Emergency Food Program on November 6 at 5pm. In addition to a fabulous meal, there will be a silent auction. Purchase tickets from Stacey Midge or by contacting the SICM office at 374-2683.

Connecting @ First

On November 6, dozens of 'connectors' will be visiting EVERY local member and adherent in the congregation to talk about the church and our life together. The connections will take place at church or in homes or wherever people can get together. They will go over the information the church has to be sure it's correct, share the good news of what's happening now and confidentially receive an estimate of giving for 2012. Our congregation hasn't done this in a generation and it's time for a census like this as a chance to build connections. It's a con-census. We are still looking for connectors, and if you are interested, contact Andy Chestnut, Anne Putnam, Walt Robb, or any of the 50 folks who are already on the connection team.

Communion Class

Communion Class will begin November 6 at the regular church school time. Any children in grades three and up who would like to learn more about this special sacrament are invited to join us. There will be three classes - Nov 6, Dec 4 and Feb 5. March 4 the children will help with communion preparations and will be able to meaningfully participate in their first communion with their families and our larger church

family. Please see or email Jamie Ipsen (ipsens6@hotmail.com) if you'd like your child to participate.

Group V

We will meet Monday, November 7, at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. The program is Pastoral Care presented by Daniel Carlson. For more information, please contact Maria Greskovich at 372-9522.

Operation Christmas Child

Brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.

We need items and cash donations to cover shipping costs (\$7 per box). Checks can be made payable to FRC of Schenectady indicating O.C.C. on the memo line (tax deductible). We also need items to fill the boxes with as well as wrapping paper and tissue paper. Acceptable items include:
TOYS: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.
SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
HYGIENE ITEMS: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.
OTHER: Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry,

watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

Stop by our table after Sunday services for more information and to sign up for a red and green box to fill! We'll also have a bin in the lobby that items and boxes can be dropped off to. All boxes are due at church on Sunday November 13. For more information visit: www.samaritanspurse.org
Questions? Contact Shannon Kerwin 374-2542 or shan2112@yahoo.com

Group VII

All are welcome to our meeting on Friday, November 18 at 10am. We will meet in Assembly Hall where Gay Doolittle will have a program on Holiday Floral Arrangements. Please contact Ronnie Bartholic 393-7679 or Mary Jewett 355-8059 if any questions.

Thanksgiving Jazz Festival November 20

Over a dozen Jazz performers who have graced our worship spaces are gathering on November 20 at 5 for a very special Jazz Vespers. This unprecedented gathering of local talent will hold forth for a longer presentation and we are selling tickets to the thing to support the Vespers program. The artists in attendance: Brian Patenaude, Nat Phipps, Pete Toigo, Tim Coakley, Mike Benedict, Mike Lawrence, Lee Russo, Tom D'Andrea, Peg Delaney, Bill Delaney, Rick Rosoff, Mark Anthony. Tickets are \$10 in advance from the church office or at a Jazz Vespers.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Chris Van Oort	Joan Lindsay, Carol Troost
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Committee Member
First Forum	A Different Way In-Reading – Based at FRC this innovative effort is producing real improvement in children's reading and lives.	Rev. Dirk Mouw – Reformed Church History Echoes from the Registries of Colonial Congregations
Flower Delivery	Christine & Fred Daniels	Joan & Tom Lindsay, Mary Jewett
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Cathy Wisniewski	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Procession Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Gene Zeltmann, Rob Dickson, Christine Daniels, Darwin Brudos, Linda Witkowski	Linda Ward, Christine Daniels, Phil Falconer, Jerry Griggs, Peggy King, Bill Rochelle
Reader	George Trimarco	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Refreshments	Gerry Meyers, Karlyne Drimalas	Nancy Martin
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourno, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta	Harlene Bachorik & Bill Clock (head ushers), Nicholas Blinckmann, Louis Acquasanta, Jeff Cox, William Faulkner, Art Shultes

Calendar for the Week of October 23, 2011

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Oct. 23	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Refreshments & Fellowship, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:20 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Room 20
	1:00 p.m.	Laura Lee Moore Memorial, Poling Chapel
	2:00 p.m.	New Members Class, Office
	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
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room
Oct. 24	6:30 p.m.	Creation Care Committee, Mezzanine
	7:15 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Oct. 25		
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Poling Conference Room
Oct. 26	1:00 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.	Potluck Supper, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study, Walton Conference 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. 27	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
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Black History Series, Poling Chapel & Assembly Hall
Oct. 29		
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Oct. 30	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Refreshments & 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
	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 23, 2011

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street
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(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com