

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.

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

November 6, 2011

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Homage to Persichetti (1991)

Janet M. Correll

I. Prologue

II. Aria

III. Divertissement

IV. Interlude

V. Fugato

Invocation (1991)

Denis Bédard

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

Alleluia Canon

Shirley McRae

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #430 *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Almighty and ever-loving God, we confess our failure to act when we see fear, suffering and powerlessness. We confess that we have given evil for evil. We confess that we seldom strive for your perfection. Strengthen us to be people who sing and live your song of love, who seek justice and mercy for all, who truly repent of what, is past, and who look with anticipation for your peace yet to come. 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 *Pulsing Spirit* High School Singers

Pulsing Spirit, rippling river, source of mercy's tender might,
Gentle power, humble glory, subtle ever dancing light,
Healing Wisdom in us flowing, now reveal our human worth,
Play beneath the muddied waters, come renew the face of earth!

Spirit free, unbounded motion, beauty's mirror, heart's delight,
Gift abundant all around us, flood the world with life and light.
Fountain ancient, ever springing, play in new, creative ways.
Lift us, stream of lavish loving, high on waves of joyful praise!

Delores Dufner

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

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

FIRST LESSON *1 John 3:1-3 (page 240)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 5:1-12 (page 4)*

SERMON *Provoking One Another* Bill Levering

*HYMN #426 *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak* Canonbury

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Speak to One Another* Jean Berger

Speak to one another of psalms and of holy writings,
of carols and anthems,
Sing ye and praise ye the Lord, sing ye and praise him.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Connecting @ First* Walt Robb

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION Stacey Midge

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.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #415 *Come, Labor On* Ora Labora

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** *Twofold Amen* Robert Bennett

***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:

Melissa Greskovich, Jean Heilman, Ada Huybregtse, Alan F. Kuhn, Richard McCary, and Marilyn Wemple.

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 and in loving memory of the anniversary of Melissa Greskovich's "new life", by her loving earth family. 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.

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
Nov. 13 – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano
Nov. 20 – Jazz Festival
Nov. 27 – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Kirk Ringers

Meet EVERY Sunday after Church School in room 20 from 11:15 – 12pm. All church school kids are invited to participate! Parents are welcome to listen or adult forum may be of interest to you. We have some new exciting plans that require a few parent volunteers as well! See Jamie Ipsen if you can help.

Communion Class

Class begins today 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 – today, 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.

Youth Orchestra

Meets in the sanctuary from 4-5pm every Sunday. Any person who has played an instrument for 2+ years is invited to join us!

Chancel Guild

Will meet today, for the Fall Business Meeting after church in the Poling Conference room. Anyone who wishes to join the group is welcome.

Connecting @ First - Today

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 your 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 over 50 folks who are already on the connection team.

Be Nice to Visitors

Our connection campaign this year has many folks out calling on people in the congregation to make our information better, to engage in dialog of faith and to connect on the issues of our support of the church. The folks doing this may not be extraverts or used to engaging folks in this way. Please be nice to them. At no point will you have to tell them the amount you are planning on giving next year. There are discreet, confidential envelopes and trustworthy people who are handing these in sealed.

Harvest for the Pantry - Today

Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) will be holding its annual Harvest for the Pantry dinner to raise funds for the Emergency Food Program today 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.

Concerned for the Hungry

Please remember Concerned for the Hungry food drive during this holiday season. Monetary donation bags are available at the entrances of the church (directions are on the bags or in November's First Things.) or you can just mail donations to the church or place in the offering plates. Thank you for helping make this holiday season joyful for all.

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

Unless otherwise noted 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 on Sundays at 7pm. All youth in grades 9-12 are welcome, and snacks will be provided.

Today: Harvest for the Pantry dinner for SICM from 4-7pm at First Reformed Scotia. We will be volunteering and eating dinner. No regular meetings.

Nov. 13: Junior High at 5pm, Senior High at 7pm.

Nov. 19: Pie-baking 10am-4pm

Pie Sale

The Senior High Youth Group will be baking and selling pies again this year, just in time for Thanksgiving! Apple and pumpkin pies are available for \$13 each. They will be baked on November 19 and available for pick-up after church on November 20. Order your pies on Sunday mornings in November or by talking to any youth group member or Stacey Midge.

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.

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.

Sharing the Sacred Journey

Our final session this Wednesday at 7pm, in the Dirck Romeyn room, includes conversation and our viewing a DVD interview with Fredrick Buechner.

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.

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

Dr. Dirk Mouw at Forum, Brunch and afternoon workshop Nov. 13

Dr. Mouw, an authority on the history of the Dutch Reformed Church, will speak on how he has used FRC's records in his research, writings and presentations. He will talk about Stories they Illuminate, Facts they Reveal, and Mysteries they Still Hold. Original documents from our Archives, written by founders of Schenectady and of our Church, will be on view.

Mouw is a Fellow of the Reformed Church Center. Among his awards and prizes is the 2002 Albert A Smith Fellowship for Research in Reformed Church History. A poster with more information is on FRC bulletin boards.

Sign-up sheet for Stockade Inn Brunch (12:15pm - \$20 each) is in Assembly

Hall, or call the Church Office. The workshop following brunch is for anyone with early Dutch or colonial documents they'd like to show Dr. Mouw for translation, explanation, or further review.

Christmas Flowers

As we prepare for the Holiday season, remember a loved one by participating in the Christmas Memorial Flowers. Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on December 24 and 25. The donation is \$20.

Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2011. Please call the church office **no later than Friday, December 16**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

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.

FRC's Got Talent

Is coming to the FRC stage! On Saturday, December 3 at 7:30pm. 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.

87 Annual Carol Sing & Vespers

Sunday, December 4 at 5pm. Bill Levering and The Thursday Belles, under the direction of Judy Brackett Moore, will present a Christmas Vespers including English Handbell Music, Carol Singing and Holiday Reflections. This is a family and community event that is sure to start your holiday season with joy! Elinore Farnum, noted Capital Region organist and Joan Nikolski, pianist, will join Thursday Belles for the traditional singing of carols.

The Persimmon Project

A YWCA program designed to help victims of domestic violence and chronic homelessness return to the workforce, is looking for donations of used laptops and computer mice in working condition. As you probably know, the job search today is nearly impossible without a computer and internet access. However, most of our clients do not own computers and have extremely limited access to the internet. By providing a computer, you can help these women gain independence.

Please note, we can only accept laptops in working condition, 4 years old or newer, with XP operational system or newer, and with Microsoft Office (if PC).

You can drop off all donations at the church office weekdays between 8am and 3pm or on Sundays before or after the service.

Support and Care Committee

To provide support and meet the needs of our church members, the following services are available.

Medical Transportation – Call Ronnie Bartholic (393-7679) Inge-Lise Pangburn (399-1027) or Ann Walraven (374-4646)

Prayer Chain – Call Ann Gotwals (372-5089) or Vernetta Theuner (355-2543)

Meal Assistance – Call Kim Burgoyne (399-1337)

Stephen Ministry – Call Daniel Carlson (377-2201) or Linnea D'Andrea (371-8313)

Worship Transportation – Call Church office (377-2201) if you need transportation to worship.

The Support and Care Committee is always happy to accept volunteers to assist with Sunday flower delivery, transportation, and preparing an occasional meal.

To help in any way, please call one of the above, or Chairs, Linda Ward (377-2377) or Joan Lindsay (399-3153).

Flood Relief Efforts

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.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Communion Servers	Gay Doolittle, Emile Walraven	
Counting Deacons	Christine Daniels, Rebecca Draffen-Grande	Fred Daniels, Douglas Todd
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Virginia Laumeister
First Forum	Connecting @ First Speaker: Andrew Chestnut	Dr. Dirk Mouw: Reformed Church History Echoes from the Registries of Colonial Congregations
Flower Delivery	Marilyn & Robert Beadle, Mary Jewett	Audrey & David Bain, Ann Bish & Analine Hicks
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle, Inge-Lise Pangburn
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Gay Doolittle, Gene Zeltmann, Christine Daniels, Emile Walraven, Carol Jones-Assini	Mary Jewett, Linda Ward, Roberta Blackmer, Art Casey, Maria Greskovich, Del Pierce
Reader	Nancy Wainwright	Therese McCarty
Refreshments	Gay Doolittle	Alida Rice, Deborah Troost
Offertory Deacons Ushers	Darwin Brudos, Richard Davis, Joan Lindsay, Caroline Welch, Rebecca Draffen-Grande,	Karlyne Drimalas, Nelson Drimalas, Jeanne Shoulder, Griffin Laycock, Steve Breitenbach

Calendar for the Week of November 6, 2011

Sunday Nov. 6	9:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room High School Choir, Room 20 Worship with Communion, Sanctuary Refreshments & Fellowship, Assembly Hall Forum, Poling Chapel Kirk Ringers, Room 20 Justice Action Counsel, Walton Conference Room Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary JH&SHYG Harvest for the Pantry, First Reformed Scotia Vespers, Poling Chapel
Monday Nov. 7	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:15 p.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room Group V, Dirck Romeyn Room Klokken Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday Nov. 8	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel Standing Committees, Various Locations Consistory, Assembly Hall
Wednesday Nov. 9	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Poling Conference Room Archives Group, Archives Room Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room Staff Meeting, Walton Conference Room Adult Bible Study, Walton Conference Room Sharing the Sacred Journey, Dirck Romeyn Room Contemplative Communion, Sanctuary
Thursday Nov. 10	7:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room Stitch Group, Poling Conference Room Purls of Wisdom, Mezzanine Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Sunday Nov. 13	9:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room High School Choir, Room 20 Worship, Sanctuary Refreshments & Fellowship, Assembly Hall Forum, Poling Chapel Kirk Ringers, Room 20 Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary Vespers, Poling Chapel JHYG, Friendship Hall 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.



November 6, 2011

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

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street
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