

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-Second Sunday after Pentecost

November 13, 2011

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

O Gott, Du frommer Gott

Nun ruhen alle Wälder

Ach bleib' mit Deiner Gnade

Alles ist an Gottes Segen

Flor Peeters

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 *O For a Thousand Tongues*

arr. Douglas Wagner
Tower Ringers

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #422

God, Whose giving Knows No Ending

Beach Spring

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 *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* Beach Spring
arr. R. Wienhorst
Johnny Willis, mandolin

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need.
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed.
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom, still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till you love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

Albert F. Bayly

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

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

FIRST LESSON *Psalms 90:1-6, 12 (page 547)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 25:14-20 (page 28)*

SERMON *Investing* Bill Levering

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

*HYMN (See Insert) *Gather Us In*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Hal Hopson
Tower Ringers

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Concern for the Hungry* Kim Burgoyne

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 #428

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Schumann

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*

Greek

*POSTLUDE

Rondeau

Jean Joseph Mouret

*The congregation may stand

Offertory Notes

Be Thou My Vision is an old Irish tune that dates from the 8th Century. The text had been a part of Irish monastic tradition for centuries before being set to the tune, therefore, before it became an actual hymn (page 339 in our hymnal).

In this arrangement, the melody is presented in small segments and grows in strength with time. The conclusion finally gives us the entire melody as a joyful whole. Use of the Bell Tree adds to the celebration!

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.

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:

Alan D. Attanasio, Albert Holland, and Josephine Van Nest.

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please speak with one of our ministers or contact the church office.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Ronnie Bartholic's parents: Emma & James Stepanian. Brothers: James Stepanian, Jr. & Basil Stepanian & sister-in-law: Elaine Stepanian. 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.

Dr. Dirk Mouw at Forum, Brunch and afternoon Workshop Today

Dr. Mouw, an authority on the history of the Dutch Reformed Church will talk about *First Reformed Church Archives: 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.

Following brunch at the Stockade Inn, there will be an opportunity for anyone with early Dutch or colonial documents they'd like to show Dr. Mouw for translation, explanation, or further review to do so.

Faith Bookshop

The Jefferson Bible: this unique book compiled by one of our country's founding fathers is available in the Bookshop. It's the Smithsonian edition, described as a full-color facsimile created from high-resolution digital photographs of recently conserved and rebound pages, and it includes the four languages Jefferson used to make comparisons between the bible's translations. It also includes his handwritten notes.

We have restocked the poplar Vantage Import products from Africa and Brazil. Come in and take a look at the charming animals.

Johnson Library

One hundred years ago, George Lunn left the ministry of our church and became mayor of Schenectady. Our own Bill Buell, Gazette reporter, published a feature article telling about Lunn's career, first as a minister, then a mayor, and afterwards becoming lieutenant governor of New York. The article, along with a book about Lunn, *The Schenectadians*, can be seen on the library display table this morning along with other notable books.

Last Sunday Eric Evans read aloud to our kindergartners and first graders after they left church to go to Sunday school. After the story, they spent time finding books to check out and take home. This story time will take place on the first Sunday of every month.

Unsold children's books from the Book Fair were delivered to the SICM food pantry last week where they are added to family's food bags for Schenectady's neediest, providing food for children's minds and hearts.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Nov. 20 – Jazz Festival

Nov. 27 – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Dec. 4 – Handbell Choir & Choir Sing

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.

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!

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

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

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

Today: Junior High at 5pm

Senior High at 7pm.

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

Nov. 20: Pie sale pick-up
Spaghetti Dinner 12-2pm in Friendship Hall

Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Weekend –
No meetings

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.

Tuesday Ladies

The meeting scheduled for Nov. 15 has been cancelled. Our next meeting will be Dec. 20 at Connie Young's home as previously scheduled.

Wednesday Dialogue November 16

Therese McCarty will speak about the Educational Mission and Approach of Union College. Therese is the Dean of Faculty and Vice-president of Academic Affairs at Union College as well as a member of this congregation. Everyone is invited to join us at noon in Assembly Hall for lunch (\$4) followed by this presentation and dialogue. We will conclude promptly at 1pm.

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.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

This month we will be meeting on Thursday, November 17 at 10am at the home of Inge-Lise Pangburn. 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. If additional information is needed please contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679.

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.

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 today, 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 you have any questions or for more information.

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

On December 3. This is a fund raising event for our Senior High Youth Group and their annual mission trip. If your child (or YOU!) would like to be an act or be part of an act (maybe you have a family act?), sign up on the poster at the bottom of the church school stairs. I will be in touch with everyone. Oh yes, our ministers have agreed to be commentators but there are no judges - only God can do that! It will be a very fun evening!

This being said, there are lots of opportunities for you to help!

- 1a) Be an extra pair of hands for the communion class.
- 2a) Remind dads who are reading the story via phone call or email.
- 3a) Call area organizations that might like to hear us and set up 'performances' (not quite the right word)
- 3b) Clean and maintain chimes and bells.
- 3c) Organize t-shirts and black gloves for the group.

4a) Help with set up, sound, lights, refreshments, publicity, tickets, etc.

There's something for everyone! I know I said four so I'll just plant the seed that Advent is fast approaching - the time when we all get ready. What better place to get ourselves and our children ready for Christmas? And actually, why wait for Advent?

Alternative Christmas Gift Fair; Buy Once, Give Twice December 4

The Alternative Gift Fair is back, bigger than ever! On Sunday, December 4 from 11am-3pm, plan to do your Christmas shopping in a way that truly honors the season. It's so easy to choose unique and beautiful fair trade gifts that will delight your friends and family, while supporting others in need around the world and locally. Discover new Fair Trade groups and help increase awareness as you buy gifts that give once to the recipient, and once again to the mission.

14 agencies and groups will offer creative alternative gifts at the fair: Mango Tree Imports, Mayan Hands (Fair Trade Woven Goods), SERRV International, South Africa Mission Group (hand-made candles to benefit AIDS/HIV patients), Equal Exchange (coffees, teas, chocolates), Fonkoze Haiti (Fair Trade gifts & shares), Roots of Wisdom (dried herbs, soaps and more), NE Regional Food Bank; Reformed Church World Service, Heifer International, and Jewish World Watch and the First Reformed Church Youth Group. Stockade Calendars will be sold to benefit the Stockade district, which has experienced recent flooding.

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.

Group V

We will meet Monday, December 5, at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Treasurer presented by Fred Daniels. For more information, please contact Barbara Landon at 377-6921 or Charlotte Greenwood at 373-1724.

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).

Thanksgiving Basket Preparation

Concerned for the Hungry will be at Keane Elementary School on Albany St. in Schenectady for food pick-up, sorting and packing on:

Wed., Nov. 16 from 4-9pm, Nov. 17 from 9-3pm, Nov. 18 from 9-4pm, Nov. 19 from 10-5pm, Nov. 20 from 9-6pm and Nov. 21 from 8-4pm.

You MUST use the side entrance off the parking log. DO NOT go to the front doors as they will be locked. Please come whenever you can to help or to drop off food or money donations.

If you need further information call our answering machine 372-9881, and we will call you back. For ongoing information on what we are doing, how you can help us, and when, visit our website:

www.concernedforthehungry.org.

Festive Community Dinner

Wednesday Nov. 30 at 6pm is the annual Festive Community Dinner for international students at Union College.

People from the community are encouraged to bring some home-cooked food to Hale House on the Union campus, and share a meal with students who are far from families and friends during the holidays. For more information or to RSVP, contact Abby Norton-Levering 694-6234 or applekale@yahoo.com, or Viki Brooks, Union College chaplain, brooksv@union.edu.

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.

Stephen Ministry

All Stephen Ministers are expected at this Wednesday's meeting, 7pm in Assembly Hall, for skill-building and Small Group Peer Supervision. Stephen Minister's with Care Receivers are to bring with them their up-to-date Contact Record Sheet(s) and Check-In Statement(s). Those unable to attend should call Linnea or Daniel.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Douglas Todd	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Caroline Welch
Faith Bookshop	Virginia Laumeister	Linda Witkowski
First Forum	Dr. Dirk Mouw: First Reformed Church History: Echoes from the Registries of Colonial Congregations	Update On General Synod and the RCA – Rev. Stacey Midge
Flower Delivery	Audrey & David Bain, Ann Bish & Analine Hicks	Linnea & Tom D'Andrea, Margaret & Harvey Schadler
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle, Inge-Lise Pangburn	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Mary Jewett, Linda Ward, Roberta Blackmer, Arthur Casey, Maria Greskovich, Del Pierce	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Millicent Casey, Rob Dickson, Catherine Lewis, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Therese McCarty	Catherine deSalle
Refreshments	Alida Rice, Deborah Troost	Chris Henry, Diana & JieJie Bennett
Ushers	Karlyne Drimalas, Nelson Drimalas, Jeanne Shoulder, Griffin Laycock, Steve Breitenbach	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Linda Stanhope, Alida Rice

Calendar for the Week of November 13, 2011

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
Monday Nov. 14	9:00 a.m. 7:15 p.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday Nov. 15	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel Support & Care, Poling Conference Room
Wednesday Nov. 16	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Poling Conference Room Dialog, Assembly Hall Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room Stephen Ministry, Assembly Hall Adult Bible Study, Walton Conference Room
Thursday Nov. 17	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
Saturday Nov. 19	10:00 a.m.	Pie Baking, Assembly Hall & Friendship Hall
Sunday Nov. 20	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. 3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room High School Choir, Room 20 Worship, Sanctuary Refreshments & Fellowship, Assembly Hall Forum, Poling Chapel Kirk Ringers, Room 20 SHYG-Spaghetti Dinner, Friendship Hall Interfaith Service at Proctors, Meet at Church Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary Jazz Festival, Sanctuary

***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 13, 2011

Gathering in
thanks
giving
to the living
God

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street
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