

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.

First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2011
9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Fugue for Advent (1965)

For Advent (1953)

Partita on From Heaven Above

Prelude and Fugue in C (WTC Book 1)

Anthony Milner

Dom Paul Benoit

David Schack

J.S. Bach

John Norton, piano

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Picardy

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Claire, Paul, Lukien, and Tess Scheremeta

Now We Await Your coming, Lord



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*HYMN #1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Most merciful God, we confess our failure to listen for your arrival and to make ready your way. Our lives have been filled with noise and distraction. We have valued things over people. Quiet us, we pray, and lead us deeper into your holiness. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Rejoice! Rejoice!*



Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*AFFIRMATION AND PRAYER OF FAITH (*from Our Song of Hope*)

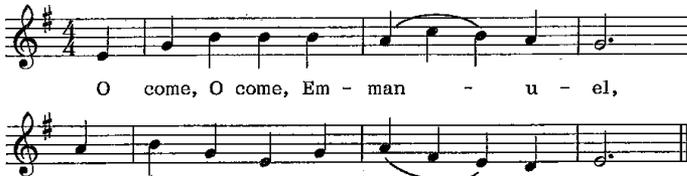
We are a people of hope waiting for the return of our Lord. God has come to us through the ancient people of Israel, as the true Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, as the Holy Spirit at work in our world. Come, Lord Jesus: We are open to your Spirit. We await your full presence. Our world finds rest in you alone.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Psalm 80 (vss. 1 -7)

Plainsong Melody
arr. Hal H. Hopson



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el.

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O shepherd of Israel hear us, you lead Joseph like a flock!

Shine forth from the throne of the cherubim before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. **(Refrain)**

Rouse your victorious might from slumber, O Lord, come soon to save us.

O God, how long will you be angry despite the prayers of your people?
(Refrain)

You have made sorrow our daily bread, and tears of grief our drink.

We are mocked and taunted by our neighbors; our enemies laugh us to scorn. **(Refrain)**

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

George Trimarco

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

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9 (page 694)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Mark 13:24-37 (page 50)

SERMON

Dimensions of Silence: Watching

Bill Levering

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

*HYMN #12

People, Look East

Besancon

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Helmsley

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Alternative Gift Fair

Carol DeLaMarter

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 #11

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Traditional

*POSTLUDE

Toccata on Savior of the Heathen, Come (1988)

Craig A. Penfield

*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:

Leroy Brandt, Virginia Cain, Mary Frances Case, Elsie Anderson Emory, Donald Lemon, Edgar Pitzer, and Maurice B. Tracy.

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 Barth and Tom Young and Ann Caldwell by Roger and Madelyn Young.

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.

Faith Bookshop

There is a holiday atmosphere in the Bookshop. Christmas books, gift items and donated ornaments are out and available for purchase. (We hope to replenish the ornaments each week; you can help by bringing in, throughout the season, any you would like to contribute.) The note card showing FRC in winter can make a lovely Christmas card, and there is time for book orders to be filled before Dec. 25.

We have restocked the popular Vantage Import products from Kenya. Engaging African animals appear on jewelry, bookmarks and as carved animals, large and small.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – ‘Azzaam Hameed, piano

Dec. 4 – Handbell Choir & Choir Sing

Dec. 11 – Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D’Andrea, drums

Dec. 18 – Peg Delaney, piano, Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D’Andrea, drums

Kinderwyck

We are looking for helping hands and arms to play with toddlers and rock babies from 9:50-noon on the following dates: Dec. 04, Dec. 18, Dec. 25 (1 hr only), Feb. 19, and Feb. 26

Please call the church office if you are willing and able. Thank you!

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!

Grades K-2

Next Sunday children in grades K-2 will gather in the library immediately following the Children's Message for a story. There will be time to check out books and then they will return to room 20 to meet parents after the service. Children who are participating in the Communion Class will meet in room 20 immediately following the Children's Message.

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

Unless otherwise noted the JHYG will meet at 5pm on Sundays 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.

Nov. 27 – Thanksgiving Weekend – No meetings

Dec. 4 – Regular meeting for Junior High. Alternative gift fair from 11am-3pm; Senior High will be selling something to raise funds for the mission trip. No evening meeting for Senior High.

Dec. 11 – Regular meetings.

Dec. 18 – Living Nativity - Junior High serves hot cocoa and donuts, Senior High performs. Senior High should be at church by 5pm. The Living Nativity starts at 6pm.

Dec.24 – Christmas Eve family service at 5pm. Participants should arrive by 4:15pm for costumes and last minute preparation.

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.

FRC's Got Talent

Saturday, December 3 at 7:30pm on stage in Friendship Hall! Come on out and support the SHYG mission trip!

There will be lots of singing, some comedy, and all around fun as our minister commentators dish out good cheer. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, \$20 family of four or more.

Christmas Offering 2011

Fatigue. It's a word that seems to walk hand in hand with decking the halls, buying the gifts, and attending all the special events that go along with the energetic frenzy that is the Christmas season.

Now think of fatigue in another context: the flood victims of Hurricane Irene. As our lives have continued on, their lives have been tossed into perpetual chaos. Most are still not in their home, while some have no home to rebuild. Some are living with friends or relatives, a precious few have finally received FEMA trailers, and some are living in the upper level of their devastated homes. Finances are stretched very thin; endurance is stretched to the limit.

This year's Christmas Offering is designated for the Schoharie flood victims. They have reached the point where they need financial aid to continue the laborious process of rebuilding their homes and putting their lives back together.

Donor fatigue sets in as the media now reports little on this continuing crisis. The need is as great as ever, however, as finances dwindle under the stress of the last few months. **Checks can be made out to Schoharie Recovery.** GE matching funds apply to this donation.

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 Dec. 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, Dec. 16**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Christmas Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, Dec. 11 to deliver Christmas poinsettia plants to homebound church families. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service.

Volunteers simply need to pick up a plant to be delivered. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. This is a nice opportunity to extend our care and concern to church family members - please join us.

Cookies After Christmas Eve Service

Celebrate the season by meeting up with friends and family after the 9pm service on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Refreshments and refreshing good cheer will greet you all in Assembly Hall. If you are interested in volunteering to bring cookies, please call Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

Thursday Musical Club

Christmas Concert - Friday, Dec. 2
Music of Bach, Liszt, and Monteverdi will be highlighted at this Christmas Concert at 7:30pm in our church sanctuary. Our own Olivia Cox, cellist with the FRC Youth Orchestra, will accompany two pieces, one of which will include a children's choir. The women's chorus is directed by Julie Panke and accompanied by Elinore Farnum. As special guests, The Thursday Belles, directed by Judy Moore, will offer seasonal favorites for handbell choir and accompany the chorus for *A Garland of Carols*. A reception will follow the concert.

87th Annual Carol Sing & Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 5pm. The Thursday Belles, under the direction of Judy 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.

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

The Alternative Gift Fair is back and is bigger than ever! On Sunday, Dec. 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.

Fourteen 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.

Group V

We will meet Monday, Dec. 5 at Barbara Landon's at the Eddy. Fred Daniels will be speaking and a Christmas lunch will follow. Any questions should be directed to Maria Greskovich (372-9522) or Mary Carlson (346-6416).

Daily Devotional Books

Group V has their Devotional books available again this year. These make great holiday gifts, hostess gifts and just thoughtful gifts for friends and family. There are a few copies available in the book shop. We will have them at the Alternative Gift Fair also. Or call Mary Carlson (346-6416) or Maria Greskovich (372-9522). Cost \$7 each or 3 for \$20.

Group VII

We will have a Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 16 at 11:30am at the Eddy on Consaul Road. Reservations must be made, cost is \$15.50pp. The callers will be calling the members for their menu choices. If any questions, please contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679.

Midnight Run

Back by popular demand! On Friday, Feb. 3, we will be taking a van load of people, clothes, food, and hygiene items to Manhattan to distribute to homeless people. This has been a very powerful experience for those who have gone in the past. If you want to go on the run, please talk to Stacey Midge. We are also collecting donations of socks, blankets, hygiene items, and sweatshirts and hoodies, especially in larger men's sizes. Please drop off your donations in Stacey's office.

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.

Bulletin Pictures

We have been featuring inspirational pictures on the cover of our bulletins lately. If you have one that you would like to suggest or one you have taken, send it to blevering@gmail.com

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Communion Servers		Carolyn Jones-Assini, Roberta Blackmer
Counting Deacons	Joe Gallagher, Richard Gardner	Caroline Welch, Catherine Lewis
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock & Roberta Blackmer	Linda Witkowski
First Forum	Worship Feedback – Bill Levering	Alternative Gift Fair
Flower Delivery	Veronica Bartholic, Gay & Joe Doolittle	Committee Member
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Kerwin	Sarah Bachorik,
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Bob Beadle, Phil Falconer, Darwin Brudos	Mary Jewett, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Roberta Blackmer, Rob Dickson, Gay Doolittle, Linda Witkowski
Reader	George Trimarco	Chris Fernandes
Refreshments	Virginia Laumeister	Karlyne Drimalas, Kitty L.
Ushers Offerory Deacons	Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins	Joan Lindsay, Caroline Welch, Joe Gallagher, Catherine Lewis, Therese McCarty, Jeanne Shoulder

Calendar for the Week of November 27, 2011

Sunday Nov. 27	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.	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
Monday Nov. 28	9:00 a.m. 7:15 p.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room Klokken Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday Nov. 29	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel Thursday Bells, Poling Conference Room
Wednesday Nov. 30	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room Festive Community Dinner, Union College
Thursday Dec. 1	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 Dec. 3	7:30 p.m.	FRC's Got Talent, Friendship Hall
Sunday Dec. 4	9:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 12:00 p.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 with Communion, Sanctuary Alternative Gift Fair, Assembly Hall Kirk Ringers, Room 20 Justice Action Counsel, Walton Conference Room Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary Carol Sing Vespers, Sanctuary JHYG, Friendship Hall SHYG, Friendship Hal

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Schenectady, New York

THE CONSISTORY

Bill Levering, Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister
Stacey Midge, Minister of Mission, Outreach, and Youth
Caroline Brooks, Linda Ward, Senior Elders
Fred H. Daniels, Treasurer
Joan Lindsay, Clerk

ELDERS

Carolyn Jones-Assini
Veronica Bartholic
Caroline Brooks
William Brooks
Daniel Ipsen
Mary Jewett
Keith Muse
Katherine Trimarco
Linda Ward
Eugene Zeltmann

DEACONS

Darwin Brudos
Thomas Burgoyne
Rachael Cox
Richard Davis
Lisa Etkin
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Claire Hughes
Joan Lindsay
Bill Martin
Caroline Welch

MISSIONERS

Penny Holmes
Lynne Gilgore
Art Hudak

COVENANTERS

Senad Ademaj
Chris Henry
Erin Winn
Kseniya Zhuzha

CHURCH STAFF

Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Ministry
Julie Panke, Director of Music
Charles Moose, Organist
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music
Judy Moore, Director of Klokken Tower Ringers
Sarah Bachorik, Director of Kinderwyk
Heather Chestnut, Hospitality Coordinator
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator
Frank Montalvo, Bookkeeper
Tani Breitenbach, Office Assistant
Lyn Gordon, Sunday Receptionist
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor
John Phillips, Sexton

***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 27, 2011

Gathering silence
converges holiness
into our noisy hearts

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street
Schenectady, New York 12305

(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com