

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 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.

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2011

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Settings of Wacht auf

1. *Chorale Prelude*

2. *Partita (1973)*

J.S. Bach
Gerhard Krapf

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 Silence

Picardy

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING AND SONG Gene & Susan Zeltmann

We light another candle each week of Advent for the arriving light of the world.

Now We Await Your coming, Lord



Now we a - wait your com - ing, Lord.

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*HYMN #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

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

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

Bill Levering

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 (*All are welcome. Hold until all are served.*)

+ + + **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.

*HYMN #13 *Prepare the Way*

Bereden Väg För Herran

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*

Rob Landes

*POSTLUDE *Fantasy and Trio on O come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Lovelace

*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:

Bruce Crandell, Sally Hahn, Arthur E. Peterson, and Katerine Rozendaal.

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 her husband, Don Troost by Carol Troost.

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.

Narthex Cases

Take a moment this Christmas to view the displays in the Narthex. *From Advent to Epiphany: May the Joy of the Season be Yours!*, designed and installed by Alida Rice, fills the east

case. Nancy Teichner has carefully arranged the David Coons Van Voast Memorial Crèche in the west case. Our thanks to Alida and Nancy.

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.

Connection Luncheon Today

There is an informal lunch after service from 11:30-12:30 to celebrate this year's Connecting@First campaign. It will be held in Friendship Hall. We will provide some initial feedback on the results, and an opportunity to share any stories or feedback with each other. Join us for sandwiches after browsing in Assembly Hall.

Johnson Library

East side, West side, all around the library this morning you will see the library's formidable Christmas collections displayed for old and young and everyone in-between.

Is there a favorite you can't find? We will order it either for you to enjoy as an item in the library's collection or as a personal copy for you to own. Speak to the person in charge in the library this morning.

Faith Bookshop

If on your way to or from the Alternative Fair you've a desire to purchase a Christmas ornament, you can: the Bookshop will be open from 11-12:15. Proceeds from the sale of the donated ornaments go to our Sr. Minister's Discretionary Fund. Also, Virginia

Laumeister has added note cards with Christmas season themes to her *Talents for Talents* collection. Proceeds here go to the Fistula Foundation which provides corrective surgery for women and young girls in Ethiopia. Ginny's cards may also be available at the Alternative Fair.

Alternative Christmas Gift Fair; Buy Once, Give Twice Today

The Alternative Gift Fair is back and is bigger than ever! Today 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.

Delivery of Poinsettia Plants

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, Dec. 11, to deliver poinsettia plants to the homebound so that they can be enjoyed during the Christmas season. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available in Assembly Hall. Volunteers simply need to stop in and pick up a plant to be delivered. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring some glad tidings to church family members - please join us!

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm Today

– Handbell Choir & Carol 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

87th Annual Carol Sing & Vespers

Today 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.

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. 18, Dec. 25 (1 hr only), Jan. 22, Jan 29, Feb. 19, and Feb. 26, and March 4.

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

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

The **JHYG** will meet at 5pm on Sundays (unless otherwise noted) 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 – 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.

Thursday Musical Club

Music of Bach, Liszt, and Monteverdi will be highlighted at a Christmas Concert of the Thursday Musical Club on Friday, Dec. 2 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.

A Storytelling Benefit for Schoharie Flood Today

Three Spirits; Kent Busman, Joe Doolittle and Harlan Ratmeyer tell stories of the season today at 3pm at FRC of Albany on 110 North Pearl Street, Albany. What better time of year than Advent to build fellowship and share stories especially when the free will offering and other contributions will benefit families in storm ravaged Schoharie County. Three of the region's most whimsical and irrepressible storytellers will share stories of holiday season magic. So many wonderful stories, traditions, and maybe some new memories! Join us for a warm, memorable afternoon, all to benefit the communities ravaged in Schoharie County. Free Will offering-suggested donation \$10/person; \$25/family- Sponsor level above \$25 welcomed and acknowledged.

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.

The Schenectady/Nijkerk Council

Invites anyone interested in the Schenectady and Nijkerk, the Netherlands, exchanges to come and enjoy a *Feast of Sinterklaas* at 6pm, Tuesday, Dec. 6 in Assembly Hall.

Please bring a favorite holiday dish to share. Recent exchanges and plans for 2012's Schenectady youth visit to Nijkerk and Nijkerk adult visit to Schenectady will be shared. Also some story-telling and likely a visit by Sinterklaas!

Any youth wanting to participate in the early summer exchange to Nijkerk need to let the Council know of their interest right away. The ten openings are filling quickly. Host families for the Nijkerk adults coming to Schenectady in Sept. are also being sought. Contact Connie Colangelo, [crcnmc@aol.com/374-7355](mailto:crcnmc@aol.com) or Laura Lee Linder, [lleelinder@gmail.com/882-6866](mailto:lleelinder@gmail.com).

Senior Pastor's Open House

Abby and Bill Levering would like to invite everyone to their house for our annual Open House on Friday, Dec. 9 from 4 until 10pm. We live at 923 Northumberland Drive just a little off Route 7 in Niskayuna. We will have a light buffet and conviviality.

Chrismon Tree Decorating

On Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10am; we invite anyone who wishes to help decorate a tree in the Dirck Romeyn Room. All are welcome! If any questions contact Carolyn Jones-Assini 382-5436 or Carol Welch 372-6571

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.

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.

Capital Voices presents Mistletoe and Stars Aglow

Capital Community Voices, directed by Julie Panke, will present a program of classical and popular holiday songs on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7:30pm at Genet Elementary School, Route 4, East Greenbush. The program will include classical selections by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Thompson and Rutter. Popular songs will include *The Christmas Waltz*, *Mary, Did You Know?* *Mistletoe and Holly*, and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. The group will be accompanied by John Norton, piano, Tony Riccobono, bass, Michael Atchley, percussion, and Jessie Brehm, flute. Ticket prices for the concert are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for seniors and students.

Living Nativity

This live performance will be held on the church lawn on Sunday Dec. 18 at 6pm. Our very own Senior High Youth Group will act out the story of Jesus' birth, and then we will gather inside for donuts and hot cocoa to celebrate this Christmas season.

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. **Please make checks payable to First Reformed Church.**

Wednesday Dialog – December 21

Finiteness and the Future presented by George Wise. Why did world population growth and economic growth accelerate in the couple of hundred years leading up to 2000AD? Can population growth and economic growth continue at rates to which people in the developed world have become accustomed? What are the fundamental constraints on population and economic growth? This talk will address these questions. For further information about George Wise please visit our website.

Faith with a Twist - December 22

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.

Christmas Eve Cookies

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.

A Place For Jazz

Swingtime Jazz Society and FRC of Schenectady proudly presents The Lee Shaw Trio with Rich Syracuse (bass) and Jeff Siegel (drums) Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 7:30pm.

Climate Change: Local and Global

Ward Stone noted environmental conservationist, will speak at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady on January 13 at 7pm. The topic is *climate change, the impact on people and wildlife worldwide and locally*. This event, arranged by the Creation Care Committee, is free and open to the public; question and discussions will follow the presentation.

Holiday Events

Dec. 4: Carol Sing Vespers, 5 pm

Dec. 18: Living Nativity, 6pm

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services

Family Service, 5pm

Christmas Cantata, 8:30pm

Traditional Service, 9pm

Communion Service, 11pm

Dec. 25: Christmas Day Worship 10am

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Caroline Welch, Catherine Lewis	Christine Daniels, Douglas Todd
Faith Bookshop	Linda Witkowski, Roberta Blackmer	Bill Clock, Roberta Blackmer
First Forum	Alternative Gift Fair	
Flower Delivery	Diane & Peter Ontkush, Terry & Dale Koskowski	Chancel Guild
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope, Inge-Lise Pangburn
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Mary Jewett, Roberta Blackmer, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Rob Dickson, Gay Doolittle, Catherine Lewis, Linda Witkowski, Bill Rochelle	Bob Beadle, Rob Dickson, Phil Falconer, Maria Greskovich, Catherine Lewis, William Rochelle
Reader	Chris Fernandes	Mary Jewett
Refreshments	Karlyne Drimalas, Kitty L.	Sandy Kominoski
Offertory Deacons Ushers	Joan Lindsay, Caroline Welch, Joe Gallagher, Catherine Lewis, Therese McCarty, Jeanne Shoulder	Del Pierce (head usher), Glenn Blinckmann, Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Doug Todd

Calendar for the Week of December 4, 2011

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Dec. 4	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Alternative Gift Fair, Assembly Hall, Poling Chapel
	11:30 a.m.	Connection Luncheon, Friendship Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Room 20
	12:00 p.m.	Justice Action Counsel, Walton Conference Room
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Tree Lighting and Carol Sing Reception, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Tree Lighting and Carol Sing Reception, Assembly Hall
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room
Dec. 5	7:15 p.m.	Klokken Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Dec. 6	6:00 p.m.	Schenectady Nijkerk Pot Luck, Assembly Hall
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room
Dec. 7		
Thursday	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
Dec. 8	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.	ChrismonTree Decorating, Dirck Romeyn Room
Dec. 10		
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Dec. 11	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Forum, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Room 20
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Friendship Hal

***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.



December 4, 2011

Gathering silence
converges holiness
into our noisy hearts

First Reformed Church

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