

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.

Baptism of the Lord

January 8, 2012

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

A Christmas Suite (1989)

Alfred Fedak

Variations sure In Dulci Jubilo (1992)

Denis Bédard

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

Stacey Midge

INTROIT

Canon for Epiphany

Shirley McRae

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #376 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Hyfrydol

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Gracious God, with water and Spirit you cleanse, purify, refresh, and sustain us. Scour away our faults, we pray. Fill our dry valleys with your nourishing streams, and bring us life when we feel we are wasting away. As you emerged from the waters of baptism, call us to emerge continually into a new life of following you. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High*)

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

**We sing to our Lord a new song; we sing in our world a sure
Hope. Our God loves this world, God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ, God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Walk in the Light* (Trad.) arr. André Thomas

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the new-born King,"
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hail the heav'n -born Prince of Peace!
Jesus the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Jesus the Light of the world;

George Elderkin and Charles Wesley

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

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

FIRST LESSON *Genesis 1:1-5 (page 1)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 1:4-11 (page 34)*

SERMON *Soggy Promises* Stacey Midge

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

*HYMN #492 *Baptized in Water* Bunessan

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Down Galilee's Slow Roadways*

Detroit

Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on
From Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.
He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe and slave,
But there within the river the sign was birth and grave.

Arising from the river He saw the heavens torn;
It seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.
The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice;
"You are my own beloved—my child, my heart, my choice."

We too have found a roadway: It led us to this place.
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
But now beside this water again a voice is heard.
"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."

Herman Stuempfle

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 #391 *Take My Life*

Hendon

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*

Traditional

*POSTLUDE *Finale on Adeste Fideles (1988)*

Charles Callahan

*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: *Walter Betka, Helen Gallagher, Charlotte King, Albert Lawrence, and Barbara Stroebel.*

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

Chancel Flowers

If you would like to order celebratory or memorial flowers for the chancel, please call the church office. You may send your check for \$30 payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

Offering Envelopes For 2012

Available in the church office.

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

The Bookshop is closed today, but it will be open next Sunday. Donated Christmas items will still be available. Some are appropriate for beyond the holiday season.

Johnson Library

May the warm glow of the Christmas story linger for this New Year! On the library display tables this morning are books having to do with the star, the wise men and miraculous things that happen on their way to the manger. A miracle happens to a crippled boy who accompanies the three kings to the manger in *Amahl and The Night Visitors*. The library has the book and a video of the opera. Henry Van Dyke's *The Fourth Wise Man* tells of a man who took a long time to reach the manger, losing the kings who had gone before him and using the jewels he had brought for the baby to help people along the way.

On the high shelf in the children's room can be found books about snow-will it come again this winter?

First Forums

Today - Consistory Consultation

Your elected leaders will be on hand to talk about recent decisions and future directions, including same sex marriage and mission projects

Jan. 15 - Reflections on the Inspiration from the Black Keys-Jazz and Stories from Natt Phipps and Joe Doolittle

Jan. 22 - Feedback from and to the Social Justice Action Council (JAC) - Claire Hughes, Chair and members will review positions on bullying and working agenda through the year

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Jan. 15 – Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom, D'Andrea, drums

Jan. 22 – Vince Bonafede, piano

Jan. 29 – Peg Delaney, piano

Kinderwyck

We are looking for helping hands and arms to play with toddlers and rock babies from 9:50-noon on the following dates: Jan 29, and Feb. 26, March 4.

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

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

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.

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

Today – Regular Meetings

Jan. 15 - Flood Relief music and storytelling event at Glen Sanders. Meet at the church at 5pm. Please RSVP to Stacey Midge by Jan. 8 if you are planning to attend, and bring \$10 to pay for a portion of your ticket.

Jan. 22 – Regular Meetings

Jan. 29 - Chili Cook-off and Auction at 6pm. Senior High youth should be at church by 4:30pm to help set up. Junior High youth are welcome to attend the event; there will be no regular Junior High meeting.

Friday, Feb. 3 - Midnight Run. This year we will leave church at 7pm, do the run through Manhattan, stay at a local church, and return on Saturday afternoon. There are a limited number of seats available, so please let Stacey Midge know ASAP if you'd like to attend.

Mission Shares Available

You can be a part of the Senior High Youth Group mission trip to the Dominican Republic! For \$25 you can purchase a share in this great

opportunity for our youth to serve those in need, broaden their cultural perspectives, and become better equipped to see and address the needs of their own communities. All mission shareholders are invited to a dinner on March 25 to eat food inspired by the Dominican Republic, see pictures of our time there, and hear the youth tell stories of what they experienced and how they have been impacted. To purchase a share, please see Stacey Midge or a member of the Senior High youth group.

Stephen Ministers

Our January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10 in a joint session at Scotia Reformed Church.

Wednesday Morning Kerygma

A new session begins Jan. 11, 9:30-11am in Poling Conference Room. Paul's brief letter to the Philippians found in the New Testament will be the topic of our study and discussion for the season of Epiphany (concluding Feb. 22). No study guide - other than a Bible - is needed for these weeks of enlightenment amidst the community that gathers for lively conversation about the passage and how it addresses us as persons of faith and doubt.

Purls of Wisdom

We will resume meetings this Thursday, Jan. 12 at 6pm.

Climate Change: Local and Global

This Friday, Jan. 13 at 7pm Ward Stone, noted environmental conservationist, will speak in our Sanctuary. His 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; questions and discussion will follow the presentation.

Three Spirits Tell Stories

A benefit for Schoharie Relief at 5pm Sunday, Jan. 15 at the Glen Sanders Mansion. \$31/person Menu: Beef Tenderloin Tips, Baked Scrod, Eggplant Piccata. Information and reservations (518) 284-1700 or aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com.

Three of the region's most whimsical and irrepressible storytellers will spin tales of those "shining moments", when to quote Fred Rogers. in the external scheme of things are as brief of the twinkling of an eye when we say "I love you", "I'm proud of you," "thank you." Eternity is made of this invisible, imperishable good stuff". Join us in a historically alive place for a warm memorable evening to benefit the continuing needs of those folks still recovering from the ravages of floods in Schoharie. For an update on the continuing need and challenge or to make a donation see www.schoharierecovery.org.

Reverend Busman directs the Fowler Camp and Conference Center, Reformed Church in America, **Joe**

Doolittle leads a not-for profit healthcare quality initiative, and **Reverend Ratmeyer** is Director of Pastoral Care at Albany Medical Center and Pastor of the 1st Reformed Church of Bethlehem. The three Storytellers perform two to three times a year to benefit social purposes, to build fellowship, and expand storytelling as an art form. The program is co-sponsored with Story Circle at

Proctors a resident company based at Proctor's Theater in Schenectady.

Wednesday Dialog

January 18 at noon - Trip Optimizer, Locomotive Control System presented by Dr. Paul Houpt, a member of our church and a research scientist at the GE Global Research Center. Paul's talk will center around a software program written at the GRC that has enabled railroads to save an average of 10% overall in their fuel consumption. This saving is huge when it is estimated that for every % saved is equivalent to taking one million cars off the road per year, reducing emissions and the carbon footprint.

Seeking Spirituality

A new session of the Wednesday evening group led by Cheryl and David Olsen as well as Mary and Daniel Carlson will be discussing Fredrick Buechner's book *Telling the Truth: the Gospel as Comedy, Tragedy, and Fairy Tale*. Newcomers are welcome to join this group, which will meet in the Dirck Romeyn room each Wednesday 7-8:30pm, beginning Jan. 18.

Participants should obtain a copy of the book and read the first chapter before the first class. Those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

Contemplative Communion

A new location and format is planned for this brief, Wednesday evening service beginning Jan. 18, 8:30pm. We'll be gathering in Poling Chapel during the season of Epiphany. A quiet, simple song will begin our worship. Participants will be invited to assume bodily postures of prayer (seated or on the floor) intended to foster quiet contemplation of God's presence within

and beyond us. As usual at this service, communion (bread and wine or juice) will be shared around the Lord's Table, followed by spoken prayers, a blessing, and Christ's peace.

Group VII

On Friday, Jan. 20 we will meet at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Poetry given by Linda Witkowski, Co-hostesses: Martha Winchester and Carol Schweizer

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will be meeting at 9:30am on Thursday, Jan. 26 at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Ronnie (393-7679) with any questions.

Faith with a Twist January 26

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.

New Members Class

On Sunday, Jan. 29 from 2-4pm there will be a new member class. The session should last an hour and a half. Childcare is available if folks call the church office a few days beforehand. We will go over the basics of church membership and beliefs. Folks who attend this meeting are not assumed to be joining, so people can come just to check things out. To complete the process of joining, there is a meeting

with consistory and a welcome in worship on Sunday, Feb. 19.

Chili Cook-off and Auction

The annual Chili Cook-off and Auction will be held on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 6pm. Do you have a dynamite chili recipe to share? An item or service you would be willing to donate? Please contact a member of the youth group or Stacey to contribute to this event. Then show up on the 29 to taste the fabulous chilies and bid on exciting silent and live auction items. In the past we have auctioned vacation properties, art, catered dinners, jewelry, gift certificates, and more. All proceeds benefit the Senior High Youth Group mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Group V

We will meet Monday, Feb. 6 in the Dirck Romeyn Room at 11am. Program: Kitty Trimarco, Adult Education. Hostesses are Sandy Moynihan and Cindy Hamilton.

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.

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.

Adult Winterfest February 4

Doug Todd has again graciously offered his farmstead (Fox Hill Farm, 6003 Parkis Mills Rd., Galway) as the location for this annual winter outing for adults in the church. For the adventurous, cross country skiing, skating and snowshoeing will begin at 3pm. The food, beverage, fellowship and laughter indoors begin at 5:30pm with appetizers and drinks; a dinner of hearty soups, sides, salads, and desserts will follow. To offset the cost of this event, there will be a \$5 charge per person. Please also bring something edible to share: appetizer, side dish, salad, or dessert. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall, or the church office may be called to let us know you're coming. We are also happy to announce that *Live From Geneva* will play for us in the evening. Childcare will be provided in Kinderwyck during the event for those who wish; please note this asap on the signup sheet. Carpooling is encouraged to ease our pollution of the planet and parking at the party. Hope to see you there!

Israel: A Biblical Journey

Travel to the Holy Land on an inspirational journey that visits some of the most ancient sites in the world. From Oct. 17-25, we will visit Tel Aviv, Nazareth, Cana, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the site of the Transfiguration at Mount Tabor, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and more. The cost of the trip if booked before April 17 is \$3,299 per person (double occupancy), which includes round trip airfare from Albany, air taxes and fees, hotel transfers, 9-day tour, 9 dinners, 1 lunch, and 11 breakfasts. An optional 5-day/4-night post-tour extension to Jordan is also available for \$1,299.00 per person. Contact Stacey Midge for a tour brochure or other information about this opportunity.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Chris Daniels, Claire Hughes	Caroline Welch, Douglas Todd
Faith Bookshop	Linda Witkowski	Committee Member
First Forum	Consistory Consultation: Your elected leaders will be on hand to talk about recent decisions and future directions, including same sex marriage and mission projects.	Reflections on the Inspiration from the Black Keys-Jazz and Stories from Natt Phipps and Joe Doolittle
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	Carol & David Schweizer, Anne & Walter Robb
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Carol Jones-Assini, Linda Ward, Bob Beadle, Christine Daniels, Tom Lindsay, Linda Witkowski	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Mary Jewett, Gene Zeltmann, Maria Greskovich, William Rochelle
Reader	Mary Jewett	Chris Fernandes
Refreshments	Tricia Shaw, Gerry Meyers	Nancy Martin
Ushers	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), 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 January 8, 2011

Sunday Jan. 8	9:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 2:00 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, Sanctuary Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall Forum, Poling Chapel Kirk Ringers, Room 20 John Young Gathering, Assembly Hall Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel JHYG, Friendship Hall SHYG, Friendship Hall
Monday Jan. 9	9:00 a.m. 7:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room Concerned for Hungry, Assembly Hall
Tuesday Jan. 10	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel Standing Committees, Various Locations Consistory, Assembly Hall
Wednesday Jan. 11	9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room Archives Group, Archives Room Staff Meeting, Walton Conference Room Boy Scout Round Table, Assembly Hall
Thursday Jan. 12	7:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.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 Worship Planning, Office Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Friday Jan. 13	7:00 p.m.	Ward Stone-Speaker Climate Change, Sanctuary
Sunday Jan. 15	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. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room High School Choir, Room 20 Worship, Sanctuary Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall Forum, Poling Chapel Kirk Ringers, Room 20 Creation Care Committee, Walton Conference Room Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel JHYG, Friendship Hall SHYG, Friendship Hall

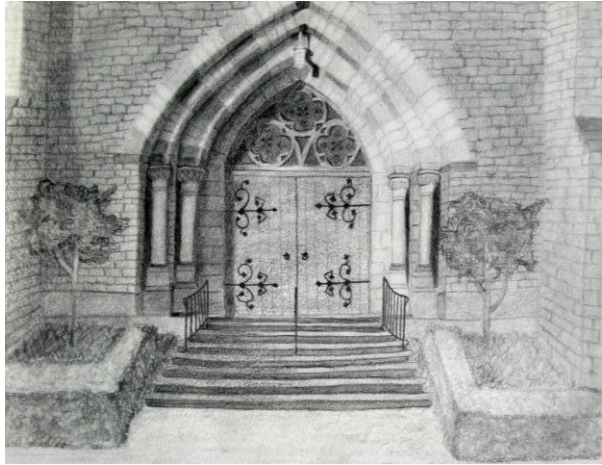
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



Brides' Door

By: Granddaughter, Nichole Creehan, when in high-school.
Nicole is currently a third year architectural student at the
University of Notre Dame.

Given by: Nancy Ellen and Dale Swann

January 8, 2012

Old doors
New openings
God is waiting
inside

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com