

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 after the Epiphany

January 15, 2012

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Partita on Jesus Has Come (1994)

Prelude on As With Gladness Men Of Old (1973)

Prelude on How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

John Behnke

Philip Gehring

Philip Gehring

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Stacey Midge

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

Hallelujah

Zimbabwean

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #356 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O God, you have searched us and known us. You have called us and we have not listened. You have called us and we have walked away. You have beckoned us and we have been afraid. Forgive us, almighty Lord. Open our ears and strengthen our hearts to hear and follow you. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*

Round

① Dm Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F

Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Luke 2:14

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700

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***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 *Precious Lord Take My Hand* Thomas A. Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious lord, lead me home.

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

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

FIRST LESSON *1 Samuel 3:1-20 (page 247)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 1:43-51 (page 92)*

SERMON *Who? Me?* Bill Levering

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

*HYMN #525 *Here I Am, Lord*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Nat Phipps

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Mission Trip*
Camila Grande & Elizabeth Gallagher

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 #447 *Lead on, O King Eternal* Lancashire

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen Siakudumisa* Trad. South African

*POSTLUDE *Postlude on Let All Together Praise Our God (1995)*
Charles W. Ore

*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: *Virginia Atherton, William Atherton, Dorothy Dykeman Clock, Clairmont Herman, Dorothy Murray, and Edna Wood.*

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.

Lost and Found

Items (utensils, platters and a baking sheet) that were left at the Epiphany Party can be picked up in the office.

Also, if you have misplaced or lost an item, please check out the small box (labeled Lost and Found) in the Narthex. Thank You!

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 open today. Donated Christmas items will still be available. Some are appropriate for beyond the holiday season.

Johnson Library

The art and science of preaching will be the topic of our senior minister's *Introduction to Preaching* course sponsored by the Capital Region Theological Center beginning Sat., Jan. 14. With this in mind, some of the library's holdings are on display this morning: *A History of Preaching* is a two-volume work by O.C. Edwards, Jr. (Volume 2 is on the enclosed CD-ROM). H.C. Brown, Jr., and others have written *Steps to the Sermon*; *An Eight-Step Plan for Preaching with Confidence*. Legendary preachers Martin Luther King and Billy Graham are subjects of biographies, *The Preacher King* and *Nearing Home*, respectively, which galvanized listeners

for social change and personal redemption.

Check out the children's display table for new arrivals: *365 Things to Make and Do* by Vivienne Bolton, *At Your Baptism* by Carrie Steenwyk and John Witvliet, and *Secrets at Sea* about a family that stows away on a ship to England. The author is Newberry Award winner Richard Peck.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – 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 – Flood Relief music and storytelling event at Glen Sanders. Meet at Glen Sanders at 5pm if you have RSVP'ed to Stacey before today. Please 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.

Wednesday Morning Kerygma

There are still a couple open seats at the table for anyone wishing to participate in a study of Paul's brief letter to the Philippians found in the New Testament. We meet each Wednesday during the season of Epiphany. 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

Join us in the Mezzanine from 6-8pm every Thursday evening. Come when you can and stay as long as you like. This group is for those that work during the day, or just want another group to join! Bring your crafts of all types (knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, quilting and anything else you can dream of) and have fun chatting with others. Coffee and tea will be provided, and you can bring snacks to share. Contact Alida Rice at 280-3903 or rice.alida@yahoo.com for more information or if you have any questions.

Wednesday Dialog

Jan. 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 Small Group

With a new name, a new session of the group led by Cheryl and David Olsen as well as Mary and Daniel Carlson begins this Wednesday, Jan. 18. Fredrick Buechner's book *Telling the Truth: the Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale* will be our focus each Wed., 7 - 8:30pm in the Dirck Romeyn room, through Feb. 15. Newcomers are welcome! Participants should obtain a copy of the book on their own and if possible read the first

chapter before the first class. Those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

Contemplative Communion

Beginning this week, a new format and location are planned for our Wednesday evening service of contemplative communion. We'll be gathering in the Poling Chapel at 8:30pm during the season of Epiphany. A quiet, simple song will begin our worship. Participants will be invited to assume bodily postures of prayer (seated in chairs or on the floor) intended to foster quiet meditation on God's presence within and beyond us. As usual, communion (bread and wine or juice) will be shared around the Lord's Table, followed by spoken prayers, a blessing, and Christ's peace. The service will conclude at about 9. All are welcome. Questions may be directed to Daniel or Mary Carlson.

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

Justice Action Council

We will present 30-minute post-service forums in Poling Chapel on the fourth Sunday of the month, on issues of social, economic and environmental fairness. After each forum, we will offer further opportunities for discussion and action on the topic presented. Tentative topics for upcoming forums are:

Feb. 22 - Justice in Education

March 25 - Hydrofracking

April 22 - LGBT inclusion/
Room For All

May 27 - Income Inequality

June 24 - Health Insurance/ Health Reform

Please join us for what are sure to be lively conversations. And let us know if you have other ideas you'd like us to address, or perhaps even a justice issue on which you'd like to make a presentation. Contact Claire Hughes at eclair@nycap.rr.com or 381-9241.

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 you 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 chillies 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 VII

There will not be any meeting in February, but will resume on Friday, March 16 at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room.

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 our annual winter outing for adults in the church. Those wishing to cross country ski and snowshoe should plan to arrive at 3pm to prepare for a 3:30 departure. The nourishment, fellowship and laughter indoors begins at 5:30 with appetizers and drinks; a dinner of hearty soups, sides, salads, and desserts will follow. We are also happy to announce that *Live From Geneva* will play music for the event. To offset the costs 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. Those in need of assistance with childcare for young ones during this event are urged to call Fellowship Committee chair, Bill Brooks (399-3717). Carpooling is encouraged to ease our pollution of the planet and parking at the party. We hope to see you there!

Colonial Festival Dinner

On Sat. Feb. 4 from 6-9pm at the new Education Center at the Mabee Farm. Enjoy 18th Century Music, 1st plate (hors d'oeuvres), cash bar, 2nd plate (dinner). Hear stories of 18th century lives and travels along the Mohawk River. Light on New Netherland will be a feature of the dinner. Seating is limited so order your tickets now at (518) 374-0263 (ext. 5), or www.mabeefarm.org. Also view further information located on refrigerator door.

Colonial Festival/Heritage Sunday Feb 5

Introducing John F. Gearing, Schenectady Genesis Researcher and Author

The Colonial Schenectady Project Heritage Sunday is an annual early Feb. event at FRC. This year it will be Febr. 5 and we will recognize our 332nd anniversary and the 50 anniversary of the Covenant of our Congregation. The community is invited to the Sunday's worship service, Forum hour, and evening Vespers.

John F. Gearing, will present this year's Heritage Sunday Forum program. John Gearing is the researcher and author working for the Colonial Schenectady Project to complete the second volume of Schenectady Genesis: *How a Dutch Colonial Village Became an American City, Ca. 1661-1800*. John will speak about the Themes and Highlights of *Volume II, The Creation of an American City from an Anglo-Dutch Colonial Town: 1774-1800*, discoveries he has made in his research, and share selected anecdotes of early Schenectady.

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, 6 dinners, 1 lunch, and 7 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	Douglas Todd	Joan Lindsay, Joe Gallagher
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
First Forum	Reflections on the Inspiration from the Black Keys-Jazz and Stories from Natt Phipps and Joe Doolittle	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
Flower Delivery	Carol & David Schweizer, Anne & Walter Robb	Millicent & Art Casey, Ann Gotwals
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn	Sarah Bachorik, Mary Jewett
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Mary Jewett, Gene Zeltmann, Maria Greskovich, Jerry Griggs	Keith Muse, Linda Ward, Roberta Blackmer, Art Casey, Rob Dickson, Gay Doolittle
Reader	Chris Fernandes	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Refreshments	Nancy Martin	
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Linda Stanhope, Alida Rice	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins

Calendar for the Week of January 15, 2011

Sunday
Jan. 15

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room
9:15 a.m. High School Choir, Room 20
10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall
11:15 a.m. Forum, Poling Chapel
11:15 a.m. Kirk Ringers, Room 20
12:00 p.m. Creation Care Committee, Walton Conference Room
4:00 p.m. Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
5:00 p.m. JH&SHYG, Glen Sanders Mansion

Monday
MLK, Jr's Day
Jan. 16

Office Closed

Tuesday
Jan. 17

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
11:00 a.m. Support & Care, Poling Conference Room

Wednesday
Jan. 18

9:30 a.m. Kerygma, Poling Conference Room
12:00 p.m. Dialog, Assembly Hall
12:30 p.m. Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Seeking Spirituality, Dirck Romeyn Room
8:30 p.m. Contemplative Communion Service, Poling Chapel

Thursday
Jan. 19

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
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

Friday
Jan. 20

10:00 a.m. Group VII, Dirck Romeyn Room

Sunday
Jan. 22

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room
9:15 a.m. High School Choir, Room 20
10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall
11:15 a.m. Forum, Poling Chapel
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 Hall

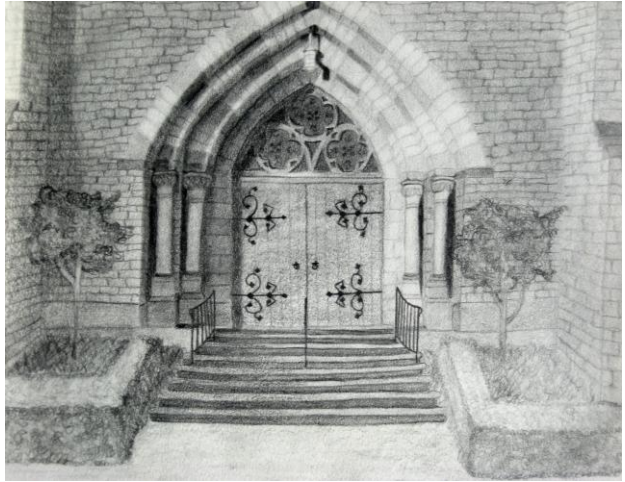
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



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

January 15, 2012

Old doors
New openings
God is waiting
inside

First Reformed Church

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