

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.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 22, 2012

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Ubi Caritas et Amor Deus Ibi Est (1953)

Benoit

Variations on Alles ist an Gottes Segen (1967)

Cook

Processional on Suffield (1978)

Harold Stover

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

Alleluia

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #420 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM Rhondda

*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*

① *Round* 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 *O For a Closer Walk* arr. C.V. Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav'nly frame;
A light, a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy dove, return, sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper

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

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

FIRST LESSON *Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (page 860)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 1:1-14 (page 34)*

SERMON *Why Did They Follow Jesus?* Bill Levering

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

*HYMN #388 *O Jesus; I Have Promised* Angel's Story

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime/ We Three Kings*
arr. Callahan/Thompson
Thursday Belles

*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 *Jesus Calls Us*

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his voice in sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me!"

As of old the apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more!"

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these!"

Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Christ, We Do All Adore Thee*

arr. Lamb
Thursday Belles

*POSTLUDE *Jubilate Deo Omnis Terra (1953)* Dom Paul Benoit

*The congregation may stand

Music Notes

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (Hymnal, page 61) is generally considered the first Canadian carol and was originally written in the Huron Indian language. It is a haunting melody with a text that is rich in symbolism. The Thursday Belles have created a medley that joins this lesser known carol with the very traditional 'We Three Kings'.

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:

Douw Kunhardt Beekman, Barbara Gifford, Donald Mackintosh, Mary Louise Martin-Stern, Mary McCarty, Marguerite Wellborn, and Richard Vandercar.

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.

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Donald Middleton
January 16, 2012

Offering Envelopes

If you would like offering envelopes please stop by the church office. We have plenty of extras.

Lost and Found

Items (utensils, platters and a baking sheet) that were left at the Epiphany Party can be picked up in the storage room next to the Assembly Hall kitchen.

Update: New Phone Number

Please note that the home phone number for Dr. Levering has changed from 630-6151 to 723-0004.
Bill Levering Cell: 694-6232
Abby Norton Levering Cell: 694-6234
Bill and Abby Home: 723-0004

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

To date, sales of donated Christmas ornaments have raised \$107 for the Sr. Minister's Discretionary Fund. The donated items will be available for purchase through January.

We have restocked the delightful products from Kenya -- jewelry, salad servers, carved animals and more.

Although books can be ordered through the Bookshop at any time, an order is about to be placed, so if there is a book you'd like soon, let the Bookshop know. Order forms are available in the Shop. As always, we give a 30% discount.

Johnson Library

Teens can find new additions to the library collection on the display table this morning. New York Times author and sportswriter Mike Lupica has written a novel sure to inspire, *The Underdogs*, about a high school football team in a down and out town in Pennsylvania. Will it give hope or cause heartbreak at the big game? Grace Lin has written a Newbery Honor Book, *Where The Mountain Meets The Moon*. In it, young Minli goes in a search to find the Old Man of the Moon to ask if he can help change

the poor circumstances of her family. The next two titles promise "to help you hold your own among peers, write killer paper and simply sound articulate" Find out how in *Grammar Girl's 101 Misused Words You'll Never Confuse Again* and *Grammar Girl's 101 Words Every High School Graduate Needs To Know*. I imagine these will work as well with boys! The author is Mignon Fogarty.

First Forum

Feb. 5 - Colonial Festival/Heritage Sunday: Introducing John F. Gearing- the researcher and author working for the Colonial Schenectady Project to complete Volume 2 *Schenectady Genesis: How a Dutch Colonial Village Became an American City, Ca. 1661-1800*. John will share anecdotes and results of his research on early Schenectady and. speak about the Themes and Highlights from the period 1771-1800.

Feb. 12 - Open Consistory Roundtable

Feb. 19 - Coffee & Conversation

Feb. 26 - Justice Action Council Topic –Challenges of Public Education Reformed, Mary Alice Jewett & Cathy Lewis

Any ideas or recommendations for Speakers please contact Joe Doolittle at aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today –Vince Bonafede, piano

Jan. 29 – Peg Delaney, piano

Feb. 5 – Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; tom D'Andrea, drums

Feb. 12 – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Feb. 19 – 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 (usually only until 11). 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. 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.

Feb. 5 – Regular Meetings

Feb. 12 – Regular Meetings.

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.

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 continues this Wednesday, Jan. 25. Fredrick Buechner's book *Telling the Truth: the Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale* is 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 second chapter before class. Those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

Contemplative Communion

Continuing mid-week, in a new format and location is this evening service of meditative communion. We gather in the Poling Chapel at 8:30pm each Wednesday 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 awareness of God's presence within and beyond us. As usual, communion (bread and wine or juice) are shared around the Lord's Table, followed by spoken prayers, a blessing, and Christ's peace. The service concludes at about 9. All are welcome. Questions may be directed to Daniel or Mary Carlson.

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. 26 - 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 eclaire@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 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 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.

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 on church bulletin boards.

Colonial Festival/Heritage Sunday

The Schenectady Colonial Festival/Heritage Sunday is an annual early Feb. event at FRC. This year it will be Feb. 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.

Wednesday Dialog

On February 15 at noon in Assembly Hall the Community Theater in Schenectady- will feature an overview of both the Schenectady Light Opera Company (musicals) and the Schenectady Civic Players (mostly dramas), presented by Joseph Fava.

Their histories, seasons, and future building plans among other topics will be presented and discussed. Since Mr. Fava has directed and acted at both theaters and has been on both their Boards, he is particularly suited for this subject. Schenectady's community theaters are a strong and healthy contributor to the City as an entertainment center.

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.

Bulletin Pictures

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

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Joan Lindsay, Joe Gallagher	Therese McCarty, Jeanne Shoulder
Faith Bookshop	Veronica Bartholic	Bill Clock
First Forum	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	Coffee & Conversation
Flower Delivery	Millicent & Art Casey, Ann Gotwals	Ann & Emile Walraven, Veronica Bartholic
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Mary Jewett	Sarah Bachorik, Cathy Wisniewski
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Keith Muse, Linda Ward, Roberta Blackmer, Art Casey, Rob Dickson, Gay Doolittle	Veronica Bartholic, Darwin Brudos, Peggy King, Catherine Lewis, William Rochelle, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes	Bradley Lewis
Refreshments	Nancy Martin	
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins	Del Pierce (head usher), Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Doug Todd

Calendar for the Week of January 22, 2011

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	
Monday Jan. 23	9:00 a.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room
	7:15 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday Jan. 24	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Wednesday Jan. 25	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room
	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. 26	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
Sunday Jan. 29	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
	2:00 p.m.	New Members Class, Assembly Hall
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
4:30 p.m.	SHYG to set up for Chili Cook-Off, Friendship Hall	
6:00 p.m.	Chili Cook-off, Friendship Hall	

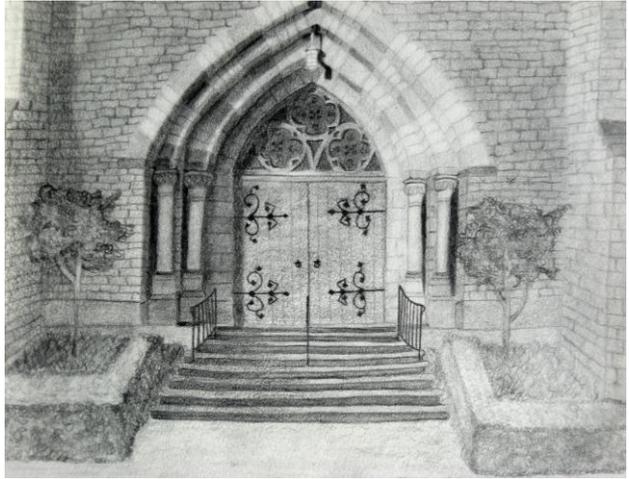
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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 22, 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