

## **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 Sundays 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](http://1stReformed.com) one or two days following the service.

## Transfiguration Sunday

February 19, 2012

*“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)*

9:40 a.m.

### VOLUNTARY

*Meditation (1992)*

*Reflections (1992)*

*Meditation (2000)*

*Andante (2000)*

*Air (1960)*

Russell Woollen

Douglas Major

Robert J. Powell

Robert J. Powell

Gerre Hancock

*RIP 1934-2012*

10:00 a.m.

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

### GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Daniel Carlson

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

### INTROIT

*Worship the Lord*

John Porter

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #482 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

*Lobe Den Herren*

\*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

Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - la, 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 (*Covenant of the Congregation*)

**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.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

Gerald Gover

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise, Triumph o'er the shades of night;

Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by thee;  
Joyless is the day's return Till thy mercy's beams I see;

Till they inward light impart, Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit, then, this soul of mine; Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, radiancy divine; Scatter all my unbelief;

More and more thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Mary Jewett

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

FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 43:18-25 (page 672)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*Mark 2:1-12 (page 36)*

SERMON

*Out of the Box*

Bill Levering

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

\*HYMN # 380

*O Christ, the Healer*

Erhalt Uns, Herr

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #592

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bradley Lewis

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 #399

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Twofold Amen*

Robert Bennett

\*POSTLUDE

*Festival Praise (2000)*

Robert J. Powell

\*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:

*Mary Bee, Mary Harter, J. Marie Herman, and Mary MacKinnon.*

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.

### Entered Into Eternal Rest

Raymond Fisher  
February 8, 2012

### Entered Into Eternal Rest

Philip R. Matthews  
February 8, 2012

## In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Jean Kemp Bundy and George Bashor, given by David and Donna Bundy. 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 Risseew, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

## Post Service Refreshments

We are in need of volunteers to bring in food! It can be cookies, cheese and crackers, fruit, or anything you want. There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. Please bring your food around 9:30am, unless it is already set up on a platter.

## Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

**Today** – Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums. The music of Juan Carlos Jobim, Brazilian guitarist responsible for the introduction of the bossa-nova into jazz  
**Feb. 26** – Dave Gleason, piano  
Dave is a local music teacher, jazz musician and music director of the Latin group Sensemaya.

**March 4** – Peg Delaney, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

**March 11** – 'Azzaam Hameed

## Faith Bookshop

*Take This Bread*, the resource book for the Lenten class led by the Carlsons and Olsens, is available in the Bookshop. Price, including tax, is \$11.34.

Currently, the shop is featuring items relating to our church and local history and also items created by members of our congregation. Please stop in. Here are some of the things you will find. Jewelry: exquisite beaded pieces designed by Lyn Gordon. CDs: storytelling and music by Joe Doolittle and others. Crafts: snowflakes crocheted by Kitty Trimarco. Pictures: matted photos of FRC by Anne Petersen and prints of *Schenectady Town* by L.T. Tantilla. Books about our heritage: *Schenectady Genesis* by Susan Staffa and *Historic Schenectady County* by Bill Buell. Purchases help support worthy causes.

## Johnson Library

New books are arrayed on the children's display table this morning. Ike LaRue is having another wild adventure in *Across America, Postcards from the Vacation*.

Author Mark Teague has saddled Ike with two cats in the car as they travel out West. Another adventure is the true story told and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg of the first woman to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel. She was a retired charm school teacher who sought fame and fortune at the turn of the last century. The title is, *Queen of the Falls*. Little ones and those who read to them will like *What's That Noise Little Mouse?* Pressing buttons on the pages results in sounds of snoring, an owl singing and a window rattling. Nancy Ekholm Burkert's exquisite illustrations decorate Rand Burkert's *Mouse and Lion*. Children's book illustration has reached levels worth noting and enjoying by children and adults alike. All will marvel at the talent and imagination evidenced in these books.

Has anyone borrowed the library's scissors? They are a fine pair of Singer's, which are essential to our work!

## \$100 Covenant Prize Established

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Covenant of our Congregation, a \$100 prize is established for anyone under the age of 21, who can recite the Covenant from memory by the end of February, 2012. Rules and information can be viewed at [www.is.gd/covenant](http://www.is.gd/covenant).

## Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

Unless otherwise noted, the **JHYG** (grades 6-8) meets every Sunday at 5pm in Friendship Hall for dinner, games, and discussion. The **SHYG** (grades 9-12) meets every Sunday at 7pm in Friendship Hall for snacks, discussion, and games. Friends are always welcome.

**Today** – No meetings

**Feb. 20-26** – Senior High Mission Trip in the Dominican Republic.

## Youth Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

Please pray for our youth and adult chaperones who will be traveling to the Dominican Republic from February 20-26 on our annual mission trip. They will be staying at a ministry center in Santo Domingo and doing construction and improvements at the ministry center, a school, and homes of people in need.

This is an important opportunity for our youth that enables them to experience another culture, learn about the dynamics of poverty, and do valuable service in another community - which equips them to better see and address needs in their own communities. **You can support this trip by purchasing a mission share for \$25** from any member of the Senior High Youth Group, or from Stacey Midge. All mission shareholders are invited to attend a dinner on Sunday, March 25 to eat food inspired by the Dominican Republic, see pictures of our time there, and hear the youth tell stories about what they experienced and how they have been impacted.

## **Tuesday Ladies**

We will meet at Inge-Lise Pangburn's home on Feb. 21 at 7:30pm. All ladies are welcome. Please call Inge-Lise (399-1027) if any questions.

## **Prayer Shawl Knitting Group**

We will be meeting at 9:30am on Thursday, Feb. 23 at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Ronnie (393-7679) with any questions.

## **Lenten Schedule**

### **Ash Wed. – Feb. 22**

6pm: Dinner

7:15pm: Service

### **Wed. in Lent Feb. 29 – March 28**

6pm: Dinner

7pm: Various Classes (see below)

8:15pm: Contemplative Communion

### **Holy Week – Wed., April 4**

6pm: Christian Seder at State St.

Presbyterian Church

### **Maundy Thursday, April 5**

7:30pm: Tenebrae Service

### **Good Friday, April 6**

12pm: Service

### **Easter, April 8**

6:30am: Greet the Dawn at Niskayuna

Reformed Church

7am: Breakfast same place

10am: Service at First Reformed in

Schenectady

## **Ash Wednesday**

**6pm Dinner:** A simple soup, bread and salad supper at 6pm, in Assembly Hall will be provided prior to our Ash Wednesday Service. Each of the Lenten Classes will be briefly reviewed. There will be an opportunity to sign up for assisting with any of the following Lenten Dinners. Please call the church office or sign-up in Assembly Hall to inform us of your intention to attend the Ash Wednesday Dinner.

**7:15pm Service:** Join us in marking the start of this Lenten season with an evening service of song, scripture, reflection, and the traditional imposition of ashes. Our worship service will be held at 7:15pm in Poling Chapel.

**Childcare:** Care of young children will be provided in Kinderwyck for the Ash Wednesday service and all Wednesday Lenten classes.

## **Lenten Classes**

### **King of the Hill: T.V. and the Gospel**

A class led by Dr. Bill Levering, will explore just one television show, *King of the Hill*, and its view of faith. We will watch an episode each week and discuss it. Join Hank and Peggy as they cope with the changes that arrive in Arlen, Texas. People of all ages are invited.

### **A Sampling of Protestant Thought**

A class facilitated by Kitty Trimarco, will enable participants to understand the differences and similarities among five distinct yet related protestant communions—including our own. Each week a different minister will be on hand to speak about a particular denomination, including:

Mar. 7: Rev. Larry Phillips (Baptist)

Mar. 14: Rev. Dr. Alan Rhodes

(Methodist)

Mar. 21: Rev. Dan Hahn (Lutheran)

Mar. 28: Rev. Stacey Midge

(Reformed)

Mar. 29: Father James McDonald

(Episcopal)

To learn more about each speaker please see our refrigerator door.

### **Take this Bread: A Radical Conversion**

A discussion of Sara Miles' book *Take This Bread*, led by Cheryl and David Olsen with Mary and Daniel Carlson. Well known author Anne Lamott, described this spiritual memoir of a

(unlikely) twenty-first-century Christian as "*The most amazing* book." Discounted copies of the book for this class will be available from our own Faith Bookshop.

**More than Jellybeans: Lent for Kids**

Jamie Ipsen will be leading a class for children in grades K-8 full of art projects, music, and stories.

**Holy Spirit Class**

What is a Holy Ghost?

The Third person of the Trinity is often misunderstood or at best incompletely understood. What is the role of the Holy Spirit? Is it an "it," a "he," a "she?" What's the difference between a gift of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit? If I let the Spirit control my life, will I become a Pentecostal? Where do I turn when I'm not sure what to do next? If any of these questions resonated with you, join us. If you have another question about the Holy Spirit, bring that and we'll look into the person, work and role of the Holy Spirit together.

**New RCA General Secretary**

Meet the new RCA General Secretary Tom DeVries on Sunday, Feb. 26 at Bethany Reformed Church, 760 New Scotland Ave. in Albany from 3–5pm. There will be refreshments. Please RSVP to [office@albanyynod.org](mailto:office@albanyynod.org)

**Kinderwyck**

We are looking for helping hands and arms to play with toddlers and rock babies from 9:50-noon. Please call the church office if you are willing and able. Thank you!

**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 [eclair@nycap.rr.com](mailto:eclair@nycap.rr.com) or 381-9241.

**Group V**

We will meet Monday, March 5 in the Dirck Romeyn Room at 11am. Program: Youth Mission & Activities by Stacey Midge. Hostesses are Elsie Dotter and Ann Walraven.

**Group VII**

We will meet Friday, March 16 at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Health Care by Carol Possin. Co-hostesses: Roberta Blackmer and Joan Ipsen.

**Prayer Shawl Knitting Group**

We will be meeting at 9:30am on Thursday, March 22 at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Ronnie (393-7679) with any questions.

**Stephen Ministers Are There to Care**

Are you going through a difficult time-- emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? Are you lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life? You don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready

to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. To find out more, talk with Rev. Daniel Carlson at 377-2201 or Linnea D'Andrea at 371-8313.

### **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.

### **Support and Care Committee**

To provide support and meet the needs of our church members, the following services are available.

Medical Transportation – Call Ronnie Bartholic (393-7679), Inge-Lise Pangburn (399-1027), or Ann Walraven (374-4646)

Prayer Chain – Call Ann Gotwals (372-5089) or Vernetta Theuner (355-2543)

Meal Assistance – Call Kim Burgoyne (399-1337)

Stephen Ministry – Call Daniel Carlson (377-2201) or Linnea D'Andrea (371-8313)

Worship Transportation – Call the church office (377-2201) if you need transportation.

The Support and Care Committee is always happy to accept volunteers to assist with Sunday flower delivery, transportation, and preparing an occasional meal. To help in any way, please call one of the above, or Chairs, Linda Ward (377-2377) or Joan Lindsay (399-3153).

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Joe Gallagher, Douglas Todd	Rachael Cox, Rebecca Grande
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Roberta Blackmer	Committee Member
<b>First Forum</b>	Coffee & Conversation	Justice in Education
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Nicole & Tani Breitenbach, Joanne Bedell	Cynthia Hamilton, Kim & Tom Burgoyne
<b>Kinderwyck</b>	Joanne Bedell	Sarah Bachorik, Cathy Wisniewski
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Procession Elders</b>	Catherine Lewis, Keith Muse, Art Casey, Rob Dickson, Maria Greskovich, Linda Witkowski	Mary Jewett, Bob Beadle, Gay Doolittle, Phil Falconer, Catherine Lewis, William Rochelle
<b>Reader</b>	Mary Jewett	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
<b>Refreshments</b>	Marrouso	Angela Anderson
<b>Ushers</b>	Harlene Bachorik (head usher), Nicholas Blinckmann, Jeff Cox, Louis Acquasanta, Art Shultes, William Faulkner	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Karlyne Drimalas, Griffin Laycock, Nelson Drimalas, Jeanne Shoulder, Steve Breitenbach

## Calendar for the Week of February 19, 2012

Sunday  
Feb. 19

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. 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

Monday  
Presidents Day  
Feb. 20

Office Closed

Tuesday  
Feb. 21

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

Ash Wed.  
Feb. 22

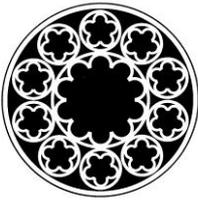
9:30 a.m. Kerygma, Poling Conference Room  
12:30 p.m. Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room  
6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Dinner, Assembly Hall  
7:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Poling Chapel

Thursday  
Feb. 23

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  
Feb. 26

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



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
SCHENECTADY

**THE COVENANT OF OUR CONGREGATION**

*Adopted by the Congregation in 1962*

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February 19, 2012

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street – Schenectady, New York 12305

(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://www.1stReformed.com)

Ministers: Daniel Carlson, Bill Levering, Stacey Midge