

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 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

Chorale-Partita in an Old Style on

Wer nur den lieben Gott lasst walten (1971)

William Albright

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

Turn Unto the Lord

Eric Thiman

*HYMN #473

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Gracious God, whose mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, and deeper than all our sin, hear again, we pray, your bewildered and broken people. Forgive our folly and excess, our coldness to human sorrow, and our passion for things of the moment. Change our hearts and turn our desires to your way, that we may love what you love and do what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(From the Belgic Confession)*

**We all believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that
there is a single and simple spiritual being, whom we call God:
the overflowing source of all good.**

**We believe that God created human beings good, just, and holy;
but they lost their excellent gifts which they had received from
God.**

**We believe that God, who is perfectly merciful, poured out
goodness and mercy on us, who are guilty, giving to us a most
perfect love, that is, Jesus Christ, in order that we might have
immortality and eternal life.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *All the Day Long*

K. Lee Scott

Show me your ways; teach me your paths;
guide me in truth; instruct my heart.
You are my God and Savior strong;
for you my soul waits all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your loving kindness and tender mercies,
for they are ever of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions;
according to your mercy, Lord, remember me.

Psalm 25: 4-8

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Leah Kidwell-Fernandes

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

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17 (page 7)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Mark 1:9-15 (page 34)

SERMON

Promise?

Bill Levering

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

*HYMN #292

All Beautiful the March of Days

Forest Green

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering*

Louis Bourgeois

Mark how the Lamb of God's self-off'ring our human sinfulness takes on
In the birth waters of the Jordan as Jesus is baptized by John.

Hear how the voice from heaven thunders, "Lo, this is my beloved Son."
See how in dove-like form the Spirit descends on God's Anointed One.

From this assurance of God's favor Jesus goes to the wilderness,
There to endure a time of testing that readied him to teach and bless.
So we, by water and the Spirit baptized into Christ's ministry,
Are often led to paths of service through mazes of adversity.

Grant us, O God, the strength and courage to live the faith our lips declare
Bless us in our baptismal calling; Christ's royal priesthood help us share.
Turn us from ev'ry false allegiance, that we may trust in Christ alone:
Raise up in us a chosen people transformed by love to be your own.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

*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.

*HYMN #298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Dale Wood

*POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

*The congregation may stand

Music Notes

The texts for today's choral selections are taken from the lectionary scriptures: *All the Day Long* is from Psalm 25, and *Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering* is based on Mark 1:9-12 which depicts the baptism of Jesus and his departure to the wilderness where he is tempted by Satan. Carl Daw's added third verse calls on us to remember our baptismal vows, resist "false allegiance," and become a chosen people transformed by love.

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:

Dr. Joseph Burke, Georgeina Kellam, and Marjorie Todd.

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.

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.

First Forum

Feb. 26 - Justice in Education – Challenges of Public Education Reform, Mary Jewett & Cathy Lewis
March 4 - Poetry- Mirror on Life and Faith – Facilitator: Linda Witkowski. Come bring a favorite poem to share, or just listen. From the language of the Bible, the transposition of music from the psalms, to the reflective passages shared at Jazz Vespers, poetry is the "mortar" that hold our faith together. As an educator and English teacher, library volunteer, Linda Witkowski, has helped many of us gain a greater appreciation of poetry as a relevant art form and reference in life.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – Dave Gleason, piano
Dave is a local music teacher, jazz musician and music director of the Latin group Sensemaya.

March 4 – Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

March 11 – 'Azzaam Hameed

March 18 – Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

March 25 - TBA

New RCA General Secretary

Meet the new RCA General Secretary Tom DeVries today at Bethany Reformed Church, 760 New Scotland Ave. in Albany from 3–5pm. There will be refreshments.

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Richard B. Russ
February 9, 2012

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

The season of Lent puts many in a contemplative mood. On the Library's display table this morning is a selection of books of prayers to lead us through the season. Congregation members' reflections covering several years are written down in the "Lenten Devotional". Here you can read what others were thinking and praying about. *The Complete Book of Christian Prayer* contains prayers for every season and purpose. The prayers of early Christians are written down in *Earliest Christian Prayers*, edited by F. Forrester Church and Terrence J. Mulry. There are devotionals-a prayer for every day of Lent, *A Season for the Spirit* by Martin L. Smith, and *Living The Days of Lent*, by Anita M. Constance.

Do you have books at home that are overdue from the Johnson Library?

You can save the church postage if we don't have to send overdue notices. There are several Christmas books out and other titles taken out before Christmas. Thanks!

\$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.

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

Mission Shareholders Dinner

The Senior High Youth Group extends a warm thank you to all who helped raise money for their mission trip to the Dominican Republic! For those who purchased Mission Shares, there will be a dinner on March 25 at 6pm in Friendship Hall. The youth will speak about their experiences, show a video and pictures of the trip, and serve a meal that is representative of some of the ethnic cuisine they encountered in the Dominican Republic.

It is not too late to purchase a Mission Share for \$25 to contribute to the mission trip fund and attend the dinner! Just contact Stacey Midge or any member of the youth group to donate at any time.

Lenten Schedule

Wed. in Lent Feb. 29 – March 28

6pm: Dinner (no signup required)

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: Sunrise Service at Niskayuna Reformed Church

7am: Breakfast at Niskayuna Reformed

10am: Service at First Reformed in Schenectady

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.*" Copies of the book for this class are available from the 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.

Lenten Contemplative Communion

Every Wednesday of this season all are welcome to share in brief service of reflective prayer and the Lord's Supper held in the sanctuary chancel at 8:15pm.

Kerygma - Begins Feb. 29

A new study and discussion of the acclaimed book, *The Last Week*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, which examines in detail what is now called Holy Week, will be our

focus for Lent and a bit beyond. This adult education class meets each Wednesday, 9:30-11am in the Poling Conference room. It is open to all who wish to grow in their understanding of this most important week for the Christian faith.

Participants should purchase a copy of the book in the Faith Bookshop and, if possible, read the first chapter before our first class. Those with questions or concerns may contact Daniel Carlson.

Kinderwyck

We are looking for helping hands and arms to play with toddlers and rock babies from 9:50-noon each Sunday. Please call the church office if you are willing and able to help with this vital ministry. 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 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.

Tuesday Ladies

We will meet at Gay Doolittle's home on March 20 at 7:30pm. All ladies are welcome. Please call Gay (399-0499) if any questions.

Wednesday Dialog – March 21

Join us at noon for lunch (\$5) in Assembly Hall and hear about: An Engineer's Cross Country Bike Ride.

Ever thought you might like to cross this continent on a bike? This year, Bill Kornrumpf did just that. This will be a most entertaining, multi-media presentation showing in detail many interesting facets of a dream many of us might have.

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.

Young Adults: Faith with a Twist

Got questions? Bring your ideas, doubts, and wonderings and join this stimulating conversation on Thursday, March 22 at 7pm at the Van Dyck. Discuss God, faith, and all things spiritual while getting to know new

people. This new group will meet monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Stacey Midge to be added to the email list or for more information.

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.

Communion Helpers

Mary Alice Jewett is preparing communion and invites people to help her. It only requires being here at 9am on a communion Sunday of your choice. This would be a great activity for a family or a group of friends and does not require a long term commitment. Call the church office to sign up.

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).

Summer at Camp Fowler

Registration is now open for summer camp 2012! The theme is "If God is Love..." Campers are students in grades 3-12; Fowler also offers a family camp. Volunteers are also needed as cabin counselors and kitchen and maintenance staff. You can find more information on the website at campfowler.org or by contacting Stacey Midge (377-2201), who serves on the Fowler Program Committee and will be spending a week as chaplain for the senior high campers.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Rachael Cox, Rebecca Grande	Lisa Etkin, Joan Lindsay
Faith Bookshop	Linda Witkowski	Committee Member
First Forum	Justice in Education – Challenges of Public Education Reform, Mary Jewett & Cathy Lewis	Poetry- Mirror on Life and Faith – Facilitator: Linda Witkowski
Flower Delivery	Cynthia Hamilton, Kim & Tom Burgoyne	Joanne & Kip Arnold, Carol DeLaMarter
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Cathy Wisniewski	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Mary Jewett, Bob Beadle, Gay Doolittle, Phil Falconer, Catherine Lewis, William Rochelle	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Carol Jones-Assini, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Darwin Brudos, Eric Evans, Maria Greskovich
Reader	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes	Chris Fernandes
Refreshments	Angela Anderson, Barbara Mancuso	Ann Hicks, Ann Bish
Ushers & Deacons	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Karlyne Drimalas, Nelson Drimalas, Griffin Laycock Jeanne Shoulder, Steve Breitenbach	Lisa Etkin, Claire Hughes, Joan Lindsay, Bill Martin, David Bundy, Kimberly Burgoyne, Joe Gallagher, Douglas Todd

Calendar for the Week of February 26, 2012

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.	First 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
Monday Feb. 27	9:00 a.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room
	7:15 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday Feb. 28	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Wednesday Feb. 29	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room
	12:30 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Dinner, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Classes, Various Locations
	8:15 p.m.	Lenten Contemplative Communion, Sanctuary
Thursday March 1	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 March 4	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	First 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

***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.



February 26, 2012

***A journey to holiness
travels rocky mountains
smooth paths
and headings without roads***

First Reformed Church

**8 North Church Street – Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com
Ministers: Daniel Carlson, Bill Levering, Stacey Midge**