

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.

Second Sunday in Lent

March 4, 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

Lamb of God – Five Lenten Hymn Settings

David Cherwien

1. *Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless*
2. *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*
3. *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*
4. *Go to Dark Gethsemane*
5. *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

Create in Me

John Erickson

*HYMN #482 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* Lobe Den Herren

*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!**

*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 *My Song is Love Unknown*

John Ireland

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
the Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne, salvation to bestow;
but people scorned, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend, my Friend, indeed,
who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way and His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease and 'gainst Him rise.

They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes
that He His foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine,
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine!
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Chris Fernandes

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

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (page 13)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Mark 8:31-38 (page 44)

SERMON

After Life

Bill Levering

*HYMN #510

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Quebec

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Dave Gleason

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

Bill Levering

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*)

Carl Steubing

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

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

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 #488 *The God of Abraham Praise* Leoni

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen* Traditional

*POSTLUDE *Fugue in C Major* Johann Sebastian Bach

*The congregation may stand

First Communion

Today our third graders celebrate their first communion. They have recently completed their studies and have helped in the preparation of today's service. Welcome Julia Etkin, Kayla Kerwin, and Joseph Rivera!

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:

*Sally Murray, Roy Stratton,
Daniel Thuener, and Sallie Wemple.*

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

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!

First Forum

Today – 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 holds 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.

March 11: Report on conversations on the Future of the RCA - Discovery process meeting in February. Presenters: Rev Stacey Midge and Brad Lewis.

March 18: Kairos Ministry. Presenters: Adam Kerwin & Restorative Justice – Archdiocese of Albany - Jim Murphy

March 25: Justice Action Council
Topic: Hydrofracking

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – 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 – Dave Gleason, piano

Faith Bookshop

During Lent, books with a spiritual message are featured on the front table. They are theological, historical, fictional and motivational. Many relate to Jesus and his life.

The Shop is also featuring items created by members of our congregation. Here are some of the things you will find: Note cards by Virginia Laumeister, exquisite beaded jewelry designed by Lyn Gordon, CDs with stories and music by Joe Doolittle

and others, snowflakes crocheted by Kitty Trimarco, and lovely matted photos of FRC by Anne Petersen. Purchases help support worthy causes. Please stop in and look around.

Kerygma

A discussion of *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 read chapters one and two for class on Wednesday, March 7. Those with questions or concerns may contact Daniel Carlson.

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.

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!

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.

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.

March 25 - Mission Shareholders' Dinner. No Junior High meeting. Senior High should be at church at 4pm to prepare and serve dinner.

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 Wednesday, April 4

6pm: Christian Seder at State St. Presbyterian Church

Maunder 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 in 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 a brief service of song, prayer and the Lord's Supper held in the sanctuary chancel from 8:15-8:45pm.

Easter Flowers

Each Easter, members of Chancel Guild adorn our church with beautiful Easter Flowers. Your family can contribute to remember a loved one or honor a loved one. Please send your suggested donation of \$20 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309 **and** contact the Church Office with the name of the person the flowers are in honor or memory of. Even if you have donated in previous years, please place an order for 2012 **by** Monday, April 2.

Concert Handbell Ringers

Of the Wheeler School of Providence, Rhode Island will be performing in our Sanctuary on Sunday, March 11 at 7pm. These talented young people last performed at our church in 2007. We are pleased to once again be part of their Spring tour. The concert will feature dance music written for handbells including *Lord of the Dance*, *Gypsy Dance*, Sarabandes by Bach and Debussy, *The Tennessee Waltz*, and *A Time to Dance*, by Hart Morris. A free will offering will be accepted at the concert. For further information call 518-370-5434.

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.

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.

College Bound??

Applications for the Rev. Al Smith Education Scholarship are available through the Church Office. Please submit your completed application to the Church Office by May 15th. Questions can be directed to Sara Erickson at 374-4161 or ericksonhs@aol.com.

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.

Fowler Work Weekend March 10 - 11

First Reformed has committed to provide Camp Fowler with their new office addition. We can really use some more assistance on the project. How would you like to spend a day helping at Camp Fowler? On Saturday March 10 and Sunday March 11, we will be having a First Reformed Work Weekend at Camp Fowler to further this wonderful project along. Please sign up via email at vanoortc@guilderlandschools.org.

**Easter Offering:
Stepping Stones Ministry**

“The only difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way in which we use them.” This is the framework for an exciting new ministry led by former Missioner Rev. Art Hudak at Trinity Reformed Church in Rotterdam. The approach is an opportunity to meet the needs of persons recovering from alcohol and substance abuse, **and** for church revitalization. The Mission & Benevolence Committee has selected this creative congregation as the beneficiary of our Easter Offering. By combining traditional forms of worship with effective mission, the two

communities are forming a tight weave of support and growth. Instead of echoes, a joyful chorus of sometimes 100 voices can be heard on Sunday. There are musical themed vespers on Sunday evening, and members of the 12 step prayer and meditation groups have contributed hours to flood relief in Rotterdam Junction.

While the progress is encouraging, there is a need for transitional funding required to support Reverend Hudak, until Stepping Stones/Trinity Reformed can become self-sufficient. Join us in supporting the continued resurrection of God’s work at Stepping Stones/Trinity Reformed this Easter.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Lisa Etkin, Joan Lindsay	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Caroline Welch
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Joanne & Kip Arnold, Carol DeLaMarter	Thea & Reinhart Brandenburg, Joyce Cowin
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Carol Jones-Assini, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Darwin Brudos, Eric Evans, Maria Greskovich	Veronica Bartholic, Mary Jewett, Bob Beadle, Art Casey, Tom Lindsay, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Chris Fernandes	Nancy Wainwright
Refreshments	Ann Hicks, Ann Bish	Alida Rice, Deborah Troost
Deacons & Ushers	Lisa Etkin, Claire Hughes, Joan Lindsay, Bill Martin, David Bundy, Kimberly Burgoyne, Joe Gallagher, Douglas Todd	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Alida Rice, Linda Stanhope

Calendar for the Week of March 4, 2012

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
	12:00 p.m.	Justice Action Council, Walton Conference Room
	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 March 5	9:00 a.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room
	11:00 a.m.	Group V, Dirck Romeyn Room
	7:15 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday March 6	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
	1:30 p.m.	Worship Planning, Office
Wednesday March 7	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 8	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 11	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
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Friendship Hall
7:00 p.m.	Handbell Ringers Concert, Sanctuary	

***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.



March 4, 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