

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.

Third Sunday in Lent

March 11, 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 *A Suite of Passion Hymn Settings (1967)* Wilbur Held

1. *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*
2. *Ah, Dearest Jesus*
3. *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*
4. *Go to Dark Gethsemane*
5. *O Darkest Woe*
6. *The Royal Banners Forward Go*

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

Rest in the Lord

Eric Thiman

*HYMN #467

How Great Thou Art

O Store Gud

*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

MUSICAL OFFERING *Christ Went Up Into the Hills Alone*

Roberta Bitgood
arr. by John C Norton

Christ went up into the hills alone. Walking slowly the winding way,
Far from the city's dust and stone, Up to lonely hills to pray.
There was no one to go with Him,
In His lonely walk through the silent night.
Only the hush of the starshine dim, Only the shadowed hill road white,
Only the lambs calling each to each, And the tender good night of dreaming
birds. Only a love too pure for speech, And a grief too deep for words.
Christ went up into the hills alone, Christ went up alone.

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Nancy Wainwright

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

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17 (page 66)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John 2:1-13 (page 93)

SERMON

Broken

Bill Levering

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

*HYMN #81 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* St. Flavian

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Create in Me* Johannes Brahms

Create in me, O God, a pure heart,
and grant anew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51

*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 #396 *O for a Closer Walk with God* Caithness

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Livingston Gearhart

*POSTLUDE *Fugue in C minor* Johann Sebastian Bach

*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.

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

Peter Ipsen
March 7, 2012

Chancel Flowers

The Chancel Guild has a flower calendar for 2012 on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the sanctuary. We encourage you to choose an open date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event.

After signing up on the calendar, please inform the office of your wishes. If the date you want is already taken, it may be possible to share the chosen date by consulting with the other donor. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for the two bouquets. You may send your check, payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

Volunteers are also needed to prepare the Flowers for delivery. Please see Joyce Griggs, Marlene Risseeuw, or Sara Erickson with any questions.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of her parents Norma & Arthur Peterson by Anne Peterson. 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.

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

Today – Report on Feb. conversations on the future of the RCA. 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 – '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.

Devotional Books

The Group V Daily Devotional book is a great gift at Easter to give to friends and family. It is a timeless gift which can be used over and over. It is available in the book store for a cost of \$7.

Kerygma

A discussion of *The Last Week*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, which examines in detail what is now called Holy Week is 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 chapter three for class on Wednesday, March 14. Those with questions or concerns may contact Daniel Carlson.

Johnson Library

New books on the Johnson library display table this morning will appeal to a variety of interests: United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins has published a new book of poetry, *Horoscopes for the Dead*. Poetry is becoming more popular as old and new forms gain wider usage during our Jazz Vespers, for example, and celebrations of poetry during April, National Poetry Month. Terri Crisp, who is program manager for the SPCA International Operation Baghdad Pups, has written a heartwarming account of getting soldiers' canine and feline companions home from Iraq and Afghanistan in *No Buddy Left Behind*. Hardy minds will be interested in *Humanists and Reformers, A History of the Renaissance and Reformation*, by Bard Thompson. The text is accompanied by colored and black and white prints of paintings, sculptures and architecture of the period.

Thanks to donors of books left in the library for the SICM food pantry. They go into food bags to nourish children's minds.

Remember to return Johnson Library books due after a month from checkout date.

Concert Handbell Ringers

Of the Wheeler School of Providence, Rhode Island will be performing in our Sanctuary today, 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.

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

Wednesdays in Lent thru 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

Maundy Thursday, April 5

7:30pm: Tenebrae Service

Good Friday, April 6

12pm: Combined Service in Sanctuary

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." A copy or two of the book may be 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, silent and spoken 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.

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.

Chancel Guild

We will host our spring business meeting on Sunday March 18 in the Poling Conference Room after worship.

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 or concerns.

Wednesday Dialog March 21

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

Ever thought you might like to cross this continent on a bike? This past 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.

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.

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.

There will be an informational meeting with a slide presentation on April 22 following the worship service. If you would like to attend this meeting, please RSVP to Stacey Midge.

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.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Caroline Welch	Joan Lindsay, Bill Martin
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Bill Clock
Flower Delivery	Thea & Reinhart Brandenburg, Joyce Cowin	Joyce Cowin, Connie Young
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Procession Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Mary Jewett, Bob Beadle, Art Casey, Tom Lindsay, Linda Witkowski	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Carol Jones-Assini, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Christine Daniels
Reader	Nancy Wainwright	George Trimarco
Refreshments	Alida Rice, Deborah Troost	Virginia Laumeister
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Alida Rice, Linda Stanhope	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins

Calendar for the Week of March 11, 2012

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
March 11	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
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Friendship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Ringers Concert, Sanctuary
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room
March 12	7:15 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
	7:30 p.m.	Concerned for Hungry, Assembly Hall
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
March 13	6:30 p.m.	Standing Committees, Various Locations
	7:30 p.m.	Consistory, Assembly Hall
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room
March 14	12:30 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	1:00 p.m.	Archives Group, Archives 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	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
March 15	10:00 a.m.	Stitch Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.	Purls of Wisdom, Mezzanine
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Group VII, Dirck Romeyn Room
March 16		
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
March 18	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
	12:00 p.m.	Creation Care Committee, Walton Conference Room
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Friendship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Friendship Hall

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

We do hereby set forth the principles of the Christian faith as commonly held among us, believing that no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.



March 11, 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