

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.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 18, 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

Variations on Wondrous Love (2008)

Robert Lau

Chorale Improvisation on Jesu, Priceless Treasure

Margrethe Hokanson

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

Bill Levering

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Daniel Carlson

INTROIT

Fresh As the Morning

Murray/Alonso
High School Choir

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come.

You are our center, daylight or darkness, freedom or prison, you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, You do not change.

*HYMN #263 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

St. Denio

*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 *God So Loved the World* John Stainer

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that who so believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through Him might be saved.
John 3: 16, 17

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *George Trimarco*
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *John 3:14-16 (page 94)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Numbers 21:4-9 (page 139)*

SERMON *God's Promises Improve* Daniel Carlson

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

*HYMN #370 *Just as I Am, Without One Plea* Woodworth

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*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 #339 *Be Thou My Vision* Slane

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*

*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

Rev. Dr. Edwin McLane
November 30, 2011

Memorial Services

All are invited to Peter Ipsen's memorial service to be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, March 24 at 2pm with reception to follow in Assembly Hall.

All are invited to Raymond Fisher's memorial service on Saturday, March 31 at 2pm in Poling Chapel with reception to follow in the Dirck Romeyn room.

All are invited to Hans (Hansjeorg) Stern's memorial service on Saturday March 31 at 4pm in the Poling Chapel with reception to follow in the Dirck Romeyn room.

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.

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 – Kairos Prison Ministry.

Presenters: Adam Kerwin & Restorative Justice –Archdiocese of Albany - Jim Murphy

March 25: Justice Action Council

Topic: Hydrofracking

First Forum Today

Kairos Prison Ministry Adam Kerwin, FRC member and John Fritz. –FRC has modestly supported Adam Kerwin in his role as a member of the Regional

Chapter of Kairos an International Faith based initiative addressing the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women and children, also their families and to those who work in the prison environment. Adam and John are two of over 20,000 volunteers who minister in 350 prisons in 31 states and 8 countries. On any given Kairos program you may find our guests to be of the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Atheist, Wiccan, non-specified or other beliefs. This promises to be an informative presentation on the active work of the Holy Spirit in building community. Join us, all are welcome.

Chancel Guild

Today, we will host our spring business meeting in the Poling Conference Room after worship.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – 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 four for class on Wednesday, March 21. Those with questions or concerns may contact Daniel Carlson.

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.

April 1 - Regular meetings

April 8 - Easter, No youth meetings

April 15 - Regular meetings

April 22 - Regular meetings

April 29 - Regular meetings

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.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 1

10am: Service

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

Wednesdays in Lent thru March 28

6pm: Dinner (no signup required)

7pm: Various Classes (see below)

8:15pm: Contemplative Communion

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. 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 Reception

We need volunteers for our Easter reception in Friendship Hall. People to help set up on Saturday, as well as people to make food. We need deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, dip and chips, and cookies and candies. Please call the Church office 377-2201 to join in on the fun.

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.

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.

Membership Committee Meeting

We will meet on Sunday, April 1 at 12pm in the Walton Conference Room. Thereafter, we will continue to meet every second Sunday of the month, same time, and same place. If any questions, please contact Bill Martin at 758-9094.

Thursday Musical Club April 1

The Thursday Musical Club Chorus directed, by Julie Panke and accompanied by Michael Clement, will present its Spring Concert on Sunday, April 1 at 3pm in the church Sanctuary. Guest artists are the Troy Children's Chorus under the direction of Maury Castro.

Church families are especially encouraged to attend. Complimentary tickets are available from Julie Panke or Jamie Ipsen. A reception will follow the concert.

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.

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.

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).

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.

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.

Consistory Nominations

The Nominating Committee of First Reformed Church is charged to nominate **Elders and Deacons** to serve two-year Consistory terms. The Committee begins its work soliciting recommendations from the congregation for Elder and Deacon Candidates. Those being recommended and those making recommendations must be members of First Reformed Church. Candidates for Consistory should be representative of the congregation, have vision, leadership skills, and be active participants in the worship and activities of this church.

Elders and Deacons together with the Ministers form the Consistory, which is the governing body of this congregation. Elders exercise particular concern for the interior life and programs of the church (Worship, Fellowship, Education, and Congregational Care). Deacons exercise particular concern for the outreach of the church (Mission and Benevolence, Finance, Justice Advocacy, and Historical Concerns). Elders and Deacons will be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation on **May 6, 2012**.

The names of recommended candidates for Elder and Deacon may be submitted on a white pew card or yellow nomination form and delivered to the church office or given to any member of the Committee: Joanne Bedell, Elsa Hjelmar, Anne Walraven, Constance Young, Senior Elders Caroline Brooks and Linda Ward, Bill Levering, Daniel Carlson, or Stacey Midge. The Nominating Committee would appreciate your response as soon as possible.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Joan Lindsay, Bill Martin	Tom Burgoyne, Rachael Cox
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Nancy Wainwright
Flower Delivery	Joyce Cowin, Connie Young	Joyce Cowin, Gail & Glenn Blinckmann
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Carol Jones-Assini, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Christine Daniels	Mary Jewett, Roberta Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Rob Dickson, Peggy King, William Rochelle
Reader	George Trimarco	Catherine deSalle
Refreshments	Virginia Laumeister, Claire Hughes	Tricia Shaw
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins	Del Pierce (head usher), Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Doug Todd, Karen Norton

Calendar for the Week of March 18, 2012

Sunday March 18	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
	11:00 a.m.	Chancel Guild, Poling Conference Room
	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	
Monday March 19	9:00 a.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room
	7:15 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday March 20	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Wednesday March 21	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room
	12:00 p.m.	Clergy Meeting, Walton Conference Room
	12:00 p.m.	Wednesday Dialog, Assembly Hall
	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 22	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
Saturday March 24	2:00 p.m.	Ipsen Memorial Service, Sanctuary
Sunday March 25	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
6:00 p.m.	Mission Shareholders Dinner, 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 18, 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