

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 Easter/Earth Day

April 22, 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 *Six Preludes on Easter Hymns (1975)* Wilbur Held

1. *The Strife Is O'er*
2. *The Easter Sequence*
3. *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*
4. *Awake, My Heart with Gladness*
5. *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*
6. *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rabbi Matthew Cutler

INTROIT *My Shepherd Will Supply My Needs* Southern Harmony
arr. B. Braman, by Tower Ringers

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #115 *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**God of new life, we lift our hearts in thanksgiving for the hope
you have brought us in Jesus Christ. Deepen our shallowness
with the message of your love. Amen.**

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! (x3)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from Our Song of Hope)*

God's life-giving Word and Spirit conquer the powers of sin and death, bitterness and hatred. God will enable us to live in a new way and open new possibilities of life for all people.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sophia London VonFricken

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES OF THE PARENT

*PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER AND BAPTISMAL COVENANT

*BLESSING AND WELCOME

Welcome our sister in Christ.

Joyfully we receive you into the body of Christ.

**Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news,
for we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

Gordon Young

Jesus, the very thought of Thee, With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see, And in Thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, Nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name, O Savior of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this; Nor tongue nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is, None but His loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be Thou, As Thou our prize wilt be;

Jesus, be Thou our glory now, And thru eternity. And thru eternity.

Edward Caswall, 1849

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Carol Troost

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

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 34:29-35 (page 81)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Matthew Cutler

SECOND LESSON

Nehemiah 8:1-9 (page436)

SERMON *These Are the Things I Believe...* Rabbi Matthew Cutler

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

*HYMN #554 *Let All Things Now Living* Ash Grove

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Quiet Reflections* Dan Edwards
add'l. arr. Williams/Moore

*DOXOLOGY #592 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Stacey Midge

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #458 *Earth and All Stars* Dexter

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL/HANDBELL RESPONSE: *Three Fold Amen* B. Wagner
Tower Ringers and Choir

*POSTLUDE *Carillon on He Is Risen* Roger C. Hannahs

*The congregation may stand

Prayers of the People

As part of our prayers this morning, we remember with thanks-giving members of this congregation who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Lewis Carosella and Margaret Powers.

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.

Music Notes

1st Ringers is a collaboration between the neighboring handbell choirs of 1st Presbyterian, directed by Meredith Williams, and 1st Reformed Church, directed by Judy Moore. 1st Ringers will be in worship at 1st Presbyterian on Sunday, April 29.

Chancel Flowers

A calendar is on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the Sanctuary. Choose an open date for donating Memoriam or Celebratory flowers. After signing up please inform the office of your wishes. If the date you want is already taken, it may be possible to share 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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

Volunteers are also needed to prepare the Flowers for delivery. Please see Joyce Griggs, Marlene Risseuw, 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 Richard Gordon by his wife Lyn. 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. 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 - Sermon feedback and dialog with Rabbi Matthew Cutler, also an update on Covenanters and Missioners
May 6 - Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Johnson Library

Four new books grace the Johnson Library display table this morning: Poet Laureate Billy Collins' *Sailing Along Around The Room*. Co-authors Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey have two: *The Gift of Pain, Why We Hurt and What We Can Do About It*, and *In His Image*, the sequel to *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*. Parents of children and teens will be interested in, *Staying Connected to Your Teenager*, by Michael Riera, Ph.D.

Israel: A Biblical Journey

Today there will be a brief informational meeting about this trip following the worship service, in the Poling Conference Room.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today - Lee Russo, sax; Dave Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
April 29 - Peg Delaney, piano; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

Thursday, April 26 at 9:30am at the home of Inge-Lise Pangburn (399-1027).

Nominating Committee's Slate

Deacons: Linnea D'Andrea, Bill Martin, Nancy Wainwright
Elders: Joyce Griggs, Bill Ward, Johnny Willis

Double Your Contribution to SICM

Each donation to SICM Food Pantry from March 1 to April 30 will be matched by the Feinstein Foundations challenge money.

Checks should be made payable to SICM-Food Pantry and placed in the offering or delivered to the Church Office by Monday, April 30.

New Discipleship Discussion

All are welcome to an Eastertide session of the Wednesday morning group, which alternates by season between Bible study and book discussion. We'll meet May 2, 9, 16, 23 to consider the topic of prayer using the concise classic, *Dimensions of Prayer*, (available next week in the Faith Bookshop) to inform our discussions. Contact Daniel with any questions.

Justice Action Council Events, 7pm

Friday, May 4: Gasland. When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for Hydrofracking, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering this process.

Wednesday, May 9: Richard Kirsch, long-time activist and author of *Fighting For Our Health*, speaks about leading a coalition fighting for health reform legislation.

CROP Walk, May 6

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty walk will take place at 12:30pm, beginning at Emmanuel Friedens Church and winding 5k through Schenectady. The proceeds support hunger-fighting efforts around the world, with 25% going to local food pantries, Community Crisis Network, and Senior Meals. Want to walk? Get a donation form from Stacey Midge.

| | This Sunday | Next Sunday |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Counting Deacons | Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Claire Hughes | Therese McCarty, Douglas Todd |
| Faith Bookshop | Linda Witkowski | Committee Member |
| Flower Delivery | Christine & Vilhelm Lund, Sandra & Craig Kominoski | Diane & Peter Ontkush, Joe Gallagher |
| Kinderwyck | Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle | Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell |
| Liturgist | Daniel Carlson | |
| Preacher | Rabbi Matthew Cutler | Stacey Midge |
| Procession Elders | Veronica Bartholic, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Rob Dickson, Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce, William Rochelle, Linda Witkowski | Mary Jewett, Bob Beadle, Gay Doolittle, Phil Falconer, Maria Greskovich, Peggy King, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski |
| Reader | Carol Troost | Therese McCarty |
| Refreshments | Joyce Beland | Nancy Martin |
| Ushers | Del Pierce (head usher), Karlyne Drimalas, Nelson Drimalas, Jeanne Shoulder, Griffin Laycock, Steve Breitenbach | Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Alida Rice, Linda Stanhope |

Calendar for the Week of April 22, 2012

| | | |
|-----------|------------|---|
| Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Chancel Choir, Choir Room |
| Earth Day | 9:15 a.m. | High School Choir, Room 20 |
| April 22 | 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 |
| | 12:30 p.m. | Creation Care Pot Luck, Assembly Hall |
| | 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 | 9:00 a.m. | Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room |
| April 23 | 7:15 p.m. | Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room |
| Tuesday | 10:00 a.m. | Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel |
| April 24 | 11:00 a.m. | Support & Care, Poling Conference Room |
| Wednesday | 7:00 p.m. | Seeking Spirituality, Dirck Romeyn Room |
| April 25 | | |
| Thursday | 7:30 a.m. | Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room |
| April 26 | 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 | 9:00 a.m. | Chancel Choir, Choir Room |
| April 29 | 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 |

***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.



April 22, 2012

***EXPRESSING
JOY
FOR GOD'S
WORLD***

First Reformed Church

**8 North Church Street – Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com**

Ministers: Daniel Carlson, Bill Levering, Stacey Midge