

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.

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.

Church School

Church school has ended and will resume September 16. Until then, children will remain in the service to worship with the congregation.

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 the Huntley Garden. 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.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

MUSICAL OFFERING

God's Lighthouse

Bob Ridgway

At times there's so much joy.

You can see so clearly, you can see so clearly.

You are one with Him.

These times so full of delight,

You can see so clearly, you can see so clearly.

You are one with Him.

You can see God's Lighthouse, shining o'er the sea.

When you see God's Light House off in eternity....

Sometimes the storm rolls overhead.

The waves toss and turn, you're looking for the lighthouse.

You feel alone and spurned.

Like a hurricane inside your head,

The waves toss and turn, you're looking for the lighthouse.

Still, you feel alone and spurned.

But you're in God's lifeboat helping you through the storm.

When you're in God's lifeboat, He keeps you safe and warm.

God is with us every day. As we live as one with His everlasting love.

Together now, through the years, we'll see the beauty of this world.

Even in dark days, His love will hold us still.

Together we see God's Lighthouse, shining o'er the sea.

Together in God's lifeboat all for eternity.

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Leah Kidwell-Fernandes

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

FIRST LESSON

Luke 10:25-37 (page 71)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-21 (page 240)

SERMON

If God is Love...

Stacey Midge

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

*HYMN #376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Walk Down This Mountain* Bebo Norman
Bob Ridgway

It's a better place standing high upon this mountain.
I've seen your face full of the light that only this height can show.
A blistered hand is what you've given.
But you've been given all you'll ever need to know.
So walk down this mountain with your heart held high.
Follow in the footsteps of your maker.
With this love that's gone before you and these people at your side.
If you offer up your broken cup,
You will taste the meaning of this life.
It's a common ground and I see we're all still standing.
Just look around and you'll find the very face of God.
He's walking down into the distance.
He's walking down to where the masses are.
We're standing in a place of peace.
But this is how the world should be.

*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 #358 *Help Us Accept Each Other* Baronita

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Epilogue (1955)* Eric Rowley
In August quietly listening to the postlude while seated is encouraged.

*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. 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:

Marjorie Burke, Lorraine Ebeling, Claribel Westcott Linder, and Helen Huff Lord.

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.

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

There is a flower calendar on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the sanctuary. Choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. Please inform the office of your wishes so records can be kept correctly. 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 Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lorraine Schulte Ebeling by Elyne Schulte. 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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: Dave Gleason, piano

August 19: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

August 26: Dave Gleason, piano

Faith Bookshop

Today, and for the rest of the summer, the Bookshop will be open briefly after the Sunday service. The Shop will resume taking personal book orders in September.

Summer Refreshments

Whenever possible, our post service refreshments will be served in the Huntley Garden. Please consider signing up for preparation, cleanup, and refreshments by yourself or with a friend. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall. A sheet with "how to" suggestions is also posted since the summer procedure is slightly different. Any questions, please contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

Youth Groups

We will resume meeting on Sept. 16 with a kick-off party for all youth in grades 6-12. After the kick-off the Junior High will meet at 5pm and Senior High at 7pm every Sunday, with a variety of activities including service projects, discussion groups, games, movies, retreats, and - as always - the Senior High Mission Trip. More details will come to parents in August and in the September edition of First Things.

SICM's Summer Lunch Program

When: August 20-24

Where: Jerry Burrell Park

Time: 11:20-1:30pm

We will need 4-6 volunteers each day. Please sign by emailing or calling the church office.

More Information on Activities

You can find more information on our church activities by reading each month's First Things Newsletter. You can find copies in our information racks around the church.

Special Offerings

As you know, Mission & Benevolence selects a recipient for special offerings taken up each year at Christmas and Easter. The committee invites you to nominate any group you feel would be a good beneficiary. Please contact Stacey Midge or Dan Ipsen. The committee will be organizing its selection process starting in the fall, so make your nomination by September.

1. In suggesting an organization, please provide the name of the person to get in touch with in the organization and their contact information.

Honoring Organist Charlie Moose

Charlie Moose's last regular Sunday at our console will be on September 2. To honor him, we will be staying seated for the postludes and listening to his talent. We are also planning a recognition for him after worship in October.

Consistory Retreat Planned September 7-8

Most years, the consistory tries to get away to get to know each other better. This enables them to listen better, knowing the context of the speaker. This year, we are planning on a getaway on September 7-8 to a gorgeous spot. Consistory members: take note.

Welcome Back Picnic

When: Sept. 9, right after worship

Where: Outside, weather permitting

What to Bring: A dish to share; barbecued food and drinks provided.

Volunteers are needed for set up before worship and break down/clean up after the picnic. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Leah Kidwell-Fernandes at 383-2167 or leah@upstateharpist.com.

Name Tags

Please be patient, our name tag boards are under construction. If you do not have a name tag or need a replacement. Please write your name on a white pew card and we will have it ready for you to be picked up at the church office on the following Sunday.

Thanks to Earl Wainwright

Earl has been the diligent captain of the guard that we call the usher coordinator. While he is still the captain of one team, Del Pierce will now be leading up the whole effort. Many thanks to Earl for serving his term as coordinator. Del is looking for people who would like to serve as ushers.

First Forum

The aim of First Forum is to provide stimulus to the congregation on current events or issues important to the community and world at large, through informative presentations and conversation. We work with Adult Education and Nurture, M&B, Justice Action Council and other committees; suggestions for programs are welcome from any member. Kindly contact Daniel Carlson or Joe Doolittle.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Joan Lindsay	Claire Hughes, Bill Martin
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Bill Clock
Flower Delivery	Chris & Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Natalie & Richard Davis	Ann Bish & Ann Hicks, Vernetta Theuner
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Joyce Griggs, Jerry Griggs, Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce, William Rochelle	Veronica Bartholic, Christine Daniels, Phil Falconer, Catherine Lewis, Rob Dickson Linda Witkowski
Reader	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes	Christine Daniels
Refreshments	Sarah & Eric Bachorik	Susan & Keith Muse
Ushers	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Karlyne Drimalas, Nelson Drimalas, Griffin Laycock, Steve Breitenbach	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Linda Stanhope, Alida Rice

Calendar for the Week of August 12, 2012

- Sunday** 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
August 12 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Post Service, Huntley Garden or Assembly Hall
12:00 p.m. Membership Committee, Walton Conference Room
5:00 p.m. Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
- Monday** 9:00 a.m. Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
August 13 6:00 p.m. African Drumming, Poling Chapel
- Tuesday** 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
August 14
- Wednesday** 10:00 a.m. Summer Conversations, Dirck Romeyn Room
August 15
- Thursday** 7:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
August 16
- Sunday** 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
August 19 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Post Service, Huntley Garden or Assembly Hall
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.



August 12, 2012

*We take our tottering
steps to God
as if they are our first
full of fear and wonder*

*While God strides
towards us, catching us
just in time*

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street

Schenectady, New York 12305

(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com