

# 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**

Sunday's 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.

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 are welcome to go upstairs after the Children's Message for music and crafts.

## **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](http://1stReformed.com) one or two days following the service.

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 9, 2012**

*Is your cell phone on?*

PRELUDE

Nat Phipps

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

*Psalm 122:1*

Franklin G'vnn

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #466 *O for a Thousand Tongues* Azmon

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**O God, our home and help, we confess that our arms have not always been as open as yours. Fear has made us hide our hearts and close our fists. Our thoughts have not always been directed at inviting others to your love. Forgive us and help us, we pray.**

\*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*South African traditional melody*)

***God welcomes all, strangers and friends;***

***God's love is strong and it never ends.***

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*adapted from the Belhar Confession*)

**We believe in the triune God, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. God has done this since the beginning of the world and will do it to the end. We believe that God wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people. God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry, frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows. God calls the church to follow in this: to stand by people in any form of suffering and need, and to strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

**ANTHEM**      *For Where Love Is, There is God*      Douglas Wagner

Come as strangers to the altar, for where love is, there is God.  
Come you poor, you weak, who falter, for where love is, there is God.  
Song and scripture wed together, bound by faith in sacred Word,  
Sharing peace and consolation, for where love is, there is God.

Let us each love one another, for where love is, there is God,  
And embrace as sister, brother, for where love is, there is God.  
Heal our hurting, lift our spirits, cease our cold, contentious ways.  
Spread the grace of love unending, for where love is, there is God.

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

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

**FIRST LESSON**      *Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 (page 604)*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SECOND LESSON**      *James 2:1-10, 14-17 (page 229)*

**SERMON**      *Dishonoring the Poor*      Bill Levering

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

**\*HYMN #335**      *Though I May Speak*      O Waly Waly

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**      *Offertory*      John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,  
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of oil?  
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6: 6-8

**\*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.**

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #412 (vss. 1-4) *Eternal God* Forest Green

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen* Traditional

POSTLUDE Nat Phipps

\*The congregation may stand.

### **Musical Note**

Our Response of Praise comes to us via John Bell of Scotland, who first heard the tune at the Sunrise Hospice in S. Africa. Words and transcription copyright 2008 WGRG, Iona Community Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.

### **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:

*Mary Grupe, Norma Peterson, James Pontius, Charlotte Ramsey, Richard L. Shuey, and Allen John Wood.*

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.

### **In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in memory of Jane Bryant by her husband, Cliff. 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.

### **Church Wide Picnic Today!**

Everyone is invited to share in a delicious welcome back picnic. We will gather together following Worship! Drinks, hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Hope to see everyone there!

### **Post Service Refreshments**

Next Sunday we will be returning to Assembly Hall for refreshments. We are always looking for 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. Food should be brought around 9:30am, unless it is already set up on a platter. If any questions, please contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

### **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm**

**Today:** 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

**Sept. 16:** Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

**Sept. 23:** Mike Lamkin, piano

**Sept. 30:** Dave Gleason, piano

### **Church School**

We are in need of teachers. There are nine spots to choose from (see below). You do not need to have teaching expertise or scholarly biblical knowledge, everything is provided for you - ideas, materials (even the snack). We can do a group teacher orientation or one-on-one, whichever you prefer. We have WONDERFUL kids at church and here is the perfect opportunity to get to know them!

#### **Fall**

Sept – Nov: Grades: K-2; 3-5; 6-8

#### **Winter**

Dec – Feb: Grades: K-2; 3-5; 6-8

#### **Spring**

Mar – May: Grades: K-2; 3-5; 6-8

If teaching isn't your thing, there are lots of other ways for you to be involved - (look for the list posted upstairs on the bulletin board outside room 20). Contact Jamie Ipsen 399-6848 to let her know where you can best help or if you have any questions.

### **Youth Music Groups**

**New! Carol Choir:** grades K-3

**Kirk Ringers:** grades K-8

**Youth Orchestra:** anyone who has played their instrument for 2 years or longer.

**High School Choir:** grades 8 -12

Please contact Jamie Ipsen 399-6848 if you'd like to participate.

### **Covenanters**

Please welcome Isaiah Buchanan, Dan Kosten, Ann Reilly and Courtney VanNorden as they join our community

and start their year of serving in local agencies in Schenectady. Should you wish to learn more about each of our Covenanters, information can be found in our Sept. *First Things* newsletter.

### **Breakfast Bible Bunch**

Dr. Levering leads an early morning Bible study at 7:30am Thursday mornings in the Walton Conference room. The Bible study will review a text to be used the following Sunday, expose a little background of the passage, and mostly delve into its relevance to us. Coffee and carbs will be served. We will be finished at 8:15 for those who work.

### **Stitch Group**

We will meet every Thursday at 10am in the Conference room. Dig out all those unfinished projects (crewel, cross-stitch, needle-point, tapestry, and quilting) or start a new project and stitch them to completion with others who like to stitch. Anyone is welcome to join our group for a day or two or as long as it takes for you to finish your project. For more info call Joan Lindsay, 399-3153.

### **Chancel Choir to Resume**

We would be thrilled to see some new faces. All voice parts are welcome, high school and up. Choir will rehearse Sunday mornings, beginning Sept. 9 at 9am in the Sanctuary and begin our weekly Thursday night rehearsals on Sept. 13 at 7:30pm in the downstairs choir room. Call Julie Panke at 370-5434 if you have any questions.

### **Consistory and Committee Meetings**

Begins Tues., Sept. 11.

Standing Committees meet at 6:30pm in various locations and Consistory meets at 7:30pm in Assembly Hall.

### **Archives and Historical Concerns**

We will meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 6-6:30pm before Consistory. We have some exciting projects and a new format for this year, so please come join us!

### **New Kerygma Bible Study**

Beginning Sept. 12 at 9:30am, and every Wed. this fall, we will meet in the Poling Conference room and study the Gospel according to John. All are welcome to this lively discussion and warm fellowship. Copies of the required resource book, *John the Maverick Gospel* are available in the Faith Bookshop. Those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

### **Boy Scout Troop 1**

Our Troop 1 meets in Assembly Hall every Thurs. at 7pm, beginning Sept. 13. We have monthly outings and are always looking for young men age 10.5 or older. The troop is led by Mike Collins, Bill Levering, Glenn Blinckmann and Dave Scribner. Our troop does not discriminate on any basis and celebrates the international character of scouting.

### **New Communion Class**

Offered to our third graders and any older children who want to learn about the Lord's Supper. Classes will be Sept. 16 and Sept. 23 during church school. The students will help prepare the elements on Oct. 7 and will celebrate World Wide Communion with the congregation. Please contact the church office if you'd like your child to attend.

### **Youth Groups**

We will resume meeting on Sept. 16 with a kick-off party for all youth in grades 6-12 at 5pm on the church lawn (weather permitting). After the kick-off,

both youth groups, unless otherwise noted, will be meeting every Sunday, the JH at 5pm and SH at 7pm.

### **First Forum**

We will meet in the Poling Chapel at 11:15am most Sundays.

**Sept. 16:** Meet our Covenanters

**Sept. 23:** General Synod Update.  
Stacey Midge

**Sept. 30:** Vicki Brooks, Union College  
Campus Ministry

### **Tuesday Ladies**

We will meet on Sept. 18 at 7:30pm at Ellis McClellan Rehab or Jan Crandell's home. Contact Connie Young 393-7061 closer to date for location.

### **Midweek Evening Prayer**

Beginning Wed., Sept. 19 at 7pm in the Poling Chapel, this quieter service is intended to rekindle awareness of God's presence. The liturgy draws on Celtic Christian spirituality through gentle silence, unhurried song, and the Lord's supper. Please feel free to contact Daniel Carlson with any questions.

### **Stephen Ministry Meeting**

Our first meeting is Thurs., Sept. 20 at 7pm in the Dirck Romeyn Room and every third Thurs. thereafter. Some community building, an overview of the program year and small group peer supervision are on the schedule. Those unable to attend should contact Ann Gotwals or Daniel Carlson.

### **Cover Page**

The cover stanza from "We Gather Together" is a Christian hymn of Dutch origin written in 1597 by Adrianus Valerius as "Wilt heden nu treden."

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Fred Daniels, Joan Lindsay	Caroline Welch, David Bundy
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Roberta Blackmer	Bill Clock
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Inga-Lise & Chuck Pangburn, Bill McColl	Karen & Rob Dickson, Peggy King
<b>Kinderwyck</b>	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Veronica Bartholic, Bill Ward, Roberta Blackmer, Peggy King, Darwin Brudos, Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce, Linda Witkowski	Caroline Brooks, Rob Dickson, Gene Zeltmann, William Brooks, Jerry Griggs, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Margaret Schadler
<b>Reader</b>	Nancy Wainwright	Chris Fernandes
<b>Refreshments</b>		
<b>Ushers</b>	Del Pierce (head usher), Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourho, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta, Richard Davis

### Calendar for the Week of September 9, 2012

<b>Sunday</b> Sept. 9	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	10:20 a.m.	Church School, Class Rooms, upstairs
	11:00 a.m.	Welcome Back Picnic, Outside
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
<b>Monday</b> Sept. 10	9:00 a.m.	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
	5:30 p.m.	African Drumming, Poling Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	Klokker Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Concern for the Hungry, Walton Conference Room
<b>Tuesday</b> Sept. 11	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Archives Group, Archives Room
	6:30 p.m.	Standing Committees, Various Locations
	7:30 p.m.	Consistory, Assembly Hall
<b>Wednesday</b> Sept. 12	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Walton Conference Room
	12:15 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	2:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting, Walton Conference Room
<b>Thursday</b> Sept. 13	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
	10:00 a.m.	Stitch Group, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
<b>Sunday</b> Sept. 16	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	12:00 p.m.	Creation Care Committee, Walton Conference Room
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	J&SHYG Kick-Off-Party, Outside (weather permitting)

***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.*



September 9, 2012

*We gather together  
to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens  
His will to make known.*

*The wicked oppressing  
now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to His Name;  
He forgets not His own.*

***First Reformed Church***

8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://www.1stReformed.com)