

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 worship 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

All children in grades K-8, 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 one or two days following the service.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 23, 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

Jubilate Deo

Michael Praetorius

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #404 *Precious Lord* Precious Lord

*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 *Prayer for a New Heart* Shirley McRae

Give me a pure heart that I may see Thee;
Give me a humble heart that I may hear Thee;
Give me a heart of love that I may serve Thee;
Give me a heart of faith that I may abide in Thee.
Amen.
Dag Hammerskjöld

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

PRAAYER OF ILLUMINATION Mary Jewett
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Psalm 1 (page 489)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *James 3:13; 4:3 (page 230)*

SERMON *Wisdom Trumps Envy* Bill Levering

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

*HYMN #339 *Be Thou My Vision* Slane

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *God is Wisdom, Love* Robert Roesch
Nancy Ellen Swann, soloist

God is Love: His mercy brightens all the paths in which we move;
Bliss He wakes, and woe He lightens: God is Wisdom, Love.

Chance and change are busy ever; Man decays and ages move;
But his mercy waneth never: God is Wisdom, Love.

E'en the hour that darkness seemeth will His changeless goodness
prove; From the mist His brightness streameth: God is Wisdom, love.

He with earthly care entwined hope and comfort from above.
Ev'rywhere His glory shineth: God is Wisdom, Love.

John Bowring

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION *CRTC* Lynne Gilgore

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 #392 *Take Thou Our Minds* Hall

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen* Dale Wood

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. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

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:

Patricia Herman and Elizabeth Nicholson.

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.

Post Service 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.

Narthex Cases

Does your group have a message for the congregation? Put it in a Narthex case exhibit. Contact Archives and Historical Concerns for details.

High School Choir

Began this morning at 9:15am! Any High School student who loves to sing is invited to join us each Sunday morning upstairs in Room 20.

Youth Orchestra

Begins this afternoon at 4pm. Any student or adult who has been practicing their instrument for two years or more is invited to attend. We'll meet each Sunday in the sanctuary.

Kirk Ringers

We will meet next Sunday after class, 11:15am, in room 20. Any student in grades K-8 may join us.

First Forum

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

Today: General Synod Update, Stacey Midge

Sept. 30: Vicki Brooks, Union College Campus Ministry

Faith Bookshop

The five books selected as candidates for Schenectady County Public Library's *One County, One Book* community read project are available in the Bookshop today. Each costs under \$12.

Johnson Library

Five-year olds will find books on the children's display table this morning that speak to them about school, making friends and sharing. Children are invited into the library to check out books from a large collection. The librarian will be there to help find books.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: Mike Lamkin, piano

Sept. 30: Dave Gleason, piano

Oct. 7: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Oct. 14: 'Azzaam Hameed

Oct. 21: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Oct. 28: Dave Gleason, piano

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

JHYG will meet at 5pm every Sunday, unless otherwise noted, see Oct. *First Things* for dinner, games, discussion, and other fun activities. Youth in grades 6-8 are welcome.

SHYG will meet separately every Sunday, unless otherwise noted, see Oct. *First Things*, at 7pm. All youth in grades 9-12 are welcome, and snacks will be provided.

Church School

We are in need of teachers. There are six spots to choose from (see below). You do not need to have teaching expertise or scholarly biblical knowledge, everything is provided for you. We have WONDERFUL kids at church and here is the perfect opportunity to get to know them!

Fall: Sept – Nov

Grades: 3-5; 6-8

Winter: Dec – Feb

Grades: K-2; 6-8

Spring: Mar – May

Grades: 3-5; 6-8

Midweek Evening Prayer

All are welcome each Wed. 7 - 7:45pm to our candlelit Poling Chapel for a peaceful service of worship intended to gently rekindle an awareness of God's presence within us and all creation through song, scripture, silence, and the Lord's supper. For more information Daniel Carlson may be contacted.

Camp Fowler Creation Celebration

Oct. 5-7; brochures on the Green Space bulletin board in Assembly Hall.

Group V

We will meet at 11am on Monday, October 1 in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Veronica Bartholic will discuss Congregational Support and Care. Please call Maria Greskovich at 372-9522 or Sandy Moynihan at 654-6569 with any questions.

Blessing the Pets

We will recognize the special place our animal companions hold in our lives with a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 7 at 3pm, on the church lawn - all are welcome. Refreshments for God's creatures, human and otherwise, will be available after the service.

Helpers Needed

On Sunday, Oct. 14 we will be celebrating the retirement of our organist of 35 years, Charlie Moose. If you would like to participate there are several ways. Finger food(s) and/or confections will be needed, or on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 10am assist in setting up tables in Friendship Hall and with food preparation. Helpers are also needed on Sunday, October 14 to help with set up/clean up. Please contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887 if you would like to participate.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Rachael Cox, Del Pierce	Fred Daniels, Catherine Lewis
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Veronica Bartholic
Flower Delivery	Gay & Joe Doolittle, Elsa & Dave Hjelmar	Susan & Paul Houpt
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Mary Jewett, William Ward, Del Pierce, Peggy King, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski	Caroline Brooks, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, William Brooks, Catherine Lewis, Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce, Margaret Schadler
Reader	Mary Jewett	Chris Fernandes
Refreshments	Betty Bumgarner	Nancy Martin
Ushers	Harlene Bachorik (head usher), Nicholas Blinckmann, Louis Acquasanta, Jeff Cox, William Faulkner, Art Shultes	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Karlyne Drimalas, Nelson Drimalas, Griffin Laycock, Steve Breitenbach

Calendar for the Week of September 23, 2012

Sunday Sept. 23	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Mezzanine
7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Mezzanine	
Monday Sept. 24	9:00 a.m.	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
	5:30 p.m.	African Drumming, Poling Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	Klokken Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Creation Care Committee, Church Office
Tuesday Sept. 25	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Wednesday Sept. 26	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Walton Conference Room
	1:00 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Evening Prayer, Poling Chapel
Thursday Sept. 27	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
Sunday Sept. 30	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20
	11:15 a.m.	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Mezzanine	
7:00 p.m.	SHYG, Mezzanine	

***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 23, 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