

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 and join us in the room to the left of the front of the sanctuary after the service 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.

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.

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.

After Worship

Typically after worship, people stop for a chat and a cookie in Assembly Hall before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. Visitors are welcome to join in and are particularly encouraged to visit the Dirck Romeyn Room to the left of the sanctuary for five or ten minutes.

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.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 18, 2012

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

PRELUDE

Largo from Xerses

O Perfect Love

Mercy

Naphtali Rothrock

G.F. Handel

arr. Hal Hopson

G.P. Telemann

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Bill Levering

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stacey Midge

INTROIT

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. M.L. Thompson

Klokken Tower Ringers

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #559

We Gather Together

Kremser

*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: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* St. George's Windsor
Arr. Harlan and Hallquist
Congregation sings Hymn #551 (vss. 1 & 4) with the choir

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

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

FIRST LESSON *Joel 2:21-27 (page 847)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 6:25-33 (page 6)*

SERMON *Thankfulness in Worrisome Times* Stacey Midge

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

*HYMN # 327 *O Word of God Incarnate* Munich

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Concerned for the Hungry*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Exuberance* Margaret R. Tucker
Klokken Tower Ringers

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

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen* Danish

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D minor (Dorian) BWV 538

Naphtali Rothrock

J.S. Bach

*The congregation may stand.

Interim Organist

First Reformed Church extends a warm welcome to Naphtali Rothrock as interim organist. To find out more about Naphtali please see the Nov. *First Things* which can be found in several locations around the church.

Music Notes

Today we celebrate God's abundance and exuberant love to us. The text for our handbell introit reminds us that: Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Great is Thy Faithfulness Lord unto me!

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:

Jean Anderson, Violet Delack, and Norman Reed.

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.

Memorial Service Scheduled

David Bain's service will be Monday, Dec. 10 at 1pm in the Sanctuary.

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

A flower calendar is posted on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the sanctuary wherein you can choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. Please inform the office of your wishes. 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.

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.

First Forum

Today: M&B Committee: Program update and dialogue

Nov. 25: Thanksgiving – Coffee & Conversation in Assembly Hall

Dec. 2: Alternate Xmas Fair

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop has a new supply of notable books for young children. There are also items that would make nice gifts for the Thanksgiving Day hostess: note cards, CDs, fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate bars, and, of course, books to read when the dishes are washed and the day is done.

Johnson Library

New books grace the display table this morning: *Happiness; A Guide to Developing Life's Most Important Skill*, is written by Matthew Ricard, a former cellular geneticist who became a Buddhist monk. Thirty-nine sermons, in

a new English translation, are offered in *The Collected Sermons of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. A mother's memoir of her autistic son is told in *News from the Border*, by Jane Taylor McDonnell.

On the children's display table are two books by Kate Waters describing life in early New England for Pilgrim children: *Sarah Morton's Day, A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Girl* and *Samuel Eaton's Day, A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Boy*.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: Interfaith Jazz Festival

See article below

Nov. 25: Mike Lamkin, piano

Dec. 2: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Dec. 9: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

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

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

Today: Both JH&SH will attend the Interfaith Jazz Festival at 5pm.

Senior High Pie Sale, please be at church to distribute pre-ordered pies.

Nov. 25: No Meetings

Dec. 2: We will be selling soup, coffee, hot cocoa, and cookies at the Alternative Gift Fair from 11am-3pm.

Dec. 9: The Living Nativity at 6pm. Please plan to be at church by 5pm to prepare.

Dec. 16: Will be the youth group Christmas party.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Family Service at 5pm.

Pie Sale

The Senior High Youth Group will be distributing pre-ordered pies today after the worship service. If you ordered homemade pumpkin and apple pies, don't forget to pick them up in Assembly Hall today!

Concerned for the Hungry

Please remember Concerned for the Hungry food drive during this holiday season. Monetary donation bags are available at the entrances of the church. Directions are stapled to the bags; you can mail donations to the church or place in the offering plate. Thank you for helping make this holiday season joyful for all.

Schoharie Public Library

The Church School decided to work together to bring/buy books for the Schoharie Public Library, especially the Children's Section that got ruined last summer. We're going to try to make a stack that reaches from the floor to the ceiling in Room 20. Feel free to help with our goal and leave books marked "church school" in Room 20 at the top of the stairs or in the church office.

Tuesday Ladies

We will meet at Linda Wards home Nov. 20 at 7:30pm. All ladies are welcome. Please call Linda at 377-2377 if you have any questions or for more information.

Midweek Evening Prayer

Everyone is welcome each Wednesday at 7pm in Poling Chapel to this brief and gentle service intended to rekindle awareness of God's loving presence within us and all creation through song, silence, scripture and the Lord's supper. For more information Daniel Carlson may be contacted.

FRC Troop 1 Holiday Wreaths

This year Troop 1 is taking orders for holiday greenery in efforts to purchase a tow behind trailer for transporting equipment on camp outings and other scouting needs. Orders may be placed by any of the scouts on Sunday or using the order sheets located on the Refrigerator Door and in the Church Office. Pickup date is Dec. 2.

Alternative Gift Fair

Back by popular demand, your M&B Committee is once again sponsoring an Alternative Gift Fair on Dec. 2 from 11 – 3pm. Several of our favorite vendors are returning, including Mayan Hands, Mango Tree Imports, Joan Nicole Prince jewelry, Zonta Lucinda House pins, and Roots & Wisdom. There will be a variety of Fair Trade products offered as well; what could be better than coffee and chocolate? Mission shares for a variety of excellent causes are also being arranged. If you have another idea or cause to support, please contact Dan Ipsen (399-6848).

88th Annual Carol Sing & Vespers

Sunday, Dec. 2 at 5pm. Bill Levering and The Thursday Belles, under the direction of Judy Brackett Moore, will present a Christmas Vespers including English Handbell Music, Carol Singing and Holiday Reflections. This is a family and community event that is sure to start your holiday season with joy! Elinore Farnum, noted Capital Region organist and Joan Nikolski, pianist, will join Thursday Belles for the traditional singing of carols.

Group V

Our meeting will be a luncheon at the home of Barb Landon on Monday, Dec. 3. Come share some Christmas Joy. Call Maria Greskovich with questions. 372-9522.

Daily Devotional Books

Group V has their Devotional books available again this year. These make great holiday gifts, hostess gifts and just thoughtful gifts for friends and family. There are a few copies available in the book shop. We will have them at the Alternative Gift Fair also. Or call Maria Greskovich at 372-9522 or Sandy Moynihan at 372-0604. Cost \$7 each or 3 for \$20.

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Living Nativity – Dec. 9

The annual Living Nativity performance will be held on the church lawn on Dec. 9 at 6pm. Our very own Senior High Youth Group will act out the story of Jesus' birth, and then we will gather inside for donuts and hot cocoa to celebrate this Christmas season.

Christmas Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Dec. 9 to deliver Christmas poinsettia plants to homebound church families. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service.

Volunteers simply need to pick up a plant to be delivered. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. This is a nice opportunity to extend our care and concern to church family members - please join us.

Group VII

We will have a Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 14 at 11:30am at the Eddy on Consaul Road. Reservations must be made. The callers will be calling the members for their menu choices. If any questions, please contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679.

Christmas Flowers

As we prepare for the Holiday season, remember a loved one by participating in the Christmas Memorial Flowers. Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on Dec. 24 and 25. The donation is \$20.

Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2012. Please call the church office **no later than Tuesday, Dec. 18**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Hamilton Hill Art Center

Below is our supplies *wish list* which is going to be used for the Hamilton Hill Art Center's after school program. Most of the children that we service don't have basic school supplies. We are so very thankful that First Reformed is willing to give so that these children can benefit, learn and grow.

Wish List

construction paper, crayons, markers, pencils, rulers, erasers, copy paper, clay, tape, scissors, glue, calculators, chalk, notebooks, lanyard, wax

A drop off box is located in Assembly Hall.

Support & Care Committee

If lack of transportation is keeping you from attending Sunday services, help is on the way. You can call Veronica Bartholic, 393-7679, Connie Young 393-7061, or Ginny Laumeister 381-4201. A ride will be arranged for you.

In order to do this, drivers will be needed. Those willing and able to drive once a month can call the people listed above to be placed on the drivers list. In this way it is hoped we will again see faces we have been missing!

HA!Man Show hits Schenectady

On Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 6:30pm at the Stockade Inn. HA!Man is from South Africa and is the brother of Marie Bosman. One musician's gift: offering spontaneous cello playing, keyboard improvisations, dancing, singing and whistling along with original accompaniments of wide-ranging styles and textures. Donate afterwards.

Hurricane Sandy Relief

First Reformed Church is acting as a donation hub for the Capital Region during recovery efforts following Hurricane Sandy. The needs in the affected areas change daily, so the most effective way to help is to donate money. Checks can be made out to First Reformed Church, with "hurricane relief" in the memo line. Some items are consistently needed, including: hygiene supplies, NEW socks, underwear, and sweatsuits, bleach, antibacterial wipes, sponges, work gloves, and N95-rated face masks. Please, no more used clothing is needed at this time. Stacey Midge will be making deliveries to affected areas approximately once a week and donations can be dropped off in her office.

There is also a work trip scheduled for Black Friday, Nov. 23. We will depart from the church at 7am and return around 9pm. The current plan is to work on homes in Staten Island, although participants should be aware that the plan may change depending on the most current needs. Volunteers should dress in warm clothes than can get dirty and sturdy boots or shoes. Please contact Stacey if you would like to participate.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Catherine Lewis, Douglas Todd	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Caroline Welch
Faith Bookshop	Veronica Bartholic	Linda Witkowski
Flower Delivery	Nancy & Ken Rimany, Sue & Gene Zeltmann	Jane & Phil Falconer, Joanne Bedell
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, Del Pierce, Maria Greskovich, Catherine Lewis, William Rochelle, Linda Witkowski	Caroline Brooks, Bill Brooks, Joyce Griggs, Jerry Griggs, Art Casey, Phil Falconer,
Reader	Catherine deSalle	Nancy Wainwright
Refreshments	Nancy Bumgarner	Ann Hicks & Ann Bish
Usher	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Nicholas Blinckmann, Louis Acquasanta, Jeff Cox, William Faulkner, Art Shultes	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Griffin Laycock, Steve Breitenbach

Calendar for the Week of November 18, 2012

Sunday Nov. 18	9:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20 Worship, Sanctuary Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20 First Forum, Poling Chapel Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary Thanksgiving Jazz Festival, Sanctuary JHYG, Mezzanine SHYG, Mezzanine
Monday Nov. 19	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room Klokken Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room African Drumming, Dirck Romeyn Room Samaritan Mindfulness, Assembly Hall
Tuesday Nov. 20	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel Support & Care, Poling Conference Room
Wednesday Nov. 21	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Poling Conference Room Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room Midweek Evening Prayer, Poling Chapel
Thursday Nov. 22		Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Friday Nov. 23		Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Sunday Thanksgiving Nov. 25	9:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20 Worship, Sanctuary Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20 Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel



A Jazz Thanksgiving for All

**Today!!
5 - 7pm**

Featuring musicians from many religious traditions

**'Azzaam Hameed, piano
Mike Tremante, guitar
Tom D'Andrea, drums
Nat Phipps, piano
Keith Pray, sax
Pete Toigo, bass
Tim Coakley, drums
Mike Lamkin, piano
John Hines, trumpet
Bill Delaney, bass
Mark Anthony, drums
Dave Gleason, piano
Peg Delaney, piano**

sponsored by Musicians Union 85-133, First Reformed Church of Schenectady,
Schenectady County Clergy Association

Tickets: \$12, \$5 for students

***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.



November 18, 2012

*“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow,
it empties today of its strength.”*

—Corrie Ten Boom

First Reformed Church

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