

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

## **No Emergency Number**

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200



First Sunday of Advent  
**December 2, 2012**  
*Is your cell phone on?*

PRELUDE Elizabeth Chinery, Flute; Susan Kokernak, Oboe;  
Meg Bassinson, Piano  
*Trio Sonata in c minor - Andante Moderato, Allegro*  
Johann J. Quantz (1697-1773)

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

ADVENT SONG *Come, O Lord* Robert Ridgway

Come, O Lord! Come to ev- ry heart and wa- ken all who  
sleep to Your joy; O Em- man- u- el, come to my heart,  
I still look for the joy Your Christ- mas brings, and  
I would be Your Pres- ence in the world.

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Marty Haugen

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Blinckmann Family  
*A candle is lit each week of Advent as a sign of our longing for God's light.*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**God of past and future, hear our cry, for we are stuck in empty patterns and long to embrace new depth and joy. God of light and dark, hear our request, for we need your guidance to find our way. God of here and now, hear our prayer, for we need help to focus on your presence in our lives.**

\*GOD’S FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*

*Round*

Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Luke 2:14

Music: Jacques Berthler (1923-1994) All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700

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\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA*)

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!”**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Come Let Us Gather*

Kirk Ringers

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Therese McCarty

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

FIRST LESSON

*Psalm 25: 1-10 (page 502)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*Luke 21: 25-36 (page 85)*

SERMON

*Sumthin's Gotta Give*

Bill Levering

\*HYMN #1

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Stuttgart

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Alternative Gift Fair*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*My Lord, What a Mornin'*

Trad. Spiritual

arr. by Howard Helvey

My Lord, what a mornin', my Lord, what a mornin',  
Oh, my lord, what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall.

I'm done with all my worldly ways, joined that heav'nly band,  
Done with all my worldly ways, joined that heav'nly band.

\*HYMN #592

*Praise God, from Whom All...*

Doxology

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

Daniel Carlson

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*)

Carl Steubing

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy  
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

*As a symbol of our unity, please hold the bread and cup until all are served.*

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

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      *O Day of God, Draw Nigh*      Festal Song

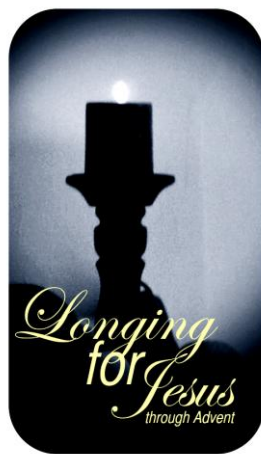
**O day of God, draw nigh  
In beauty and in power,  
Come with your timeless judgment now  
To match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds,  
Uncertain and afraid,  
The quiet of a steadfast faith,  
Calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land,  
That all may dwell secure,  
And finely build for days to come  
Foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife  
Your sovereign word of peace,  
That war may haunt the earth no more  
And desolation cease.**

**O day of God, draw nigh  
As at creation's birth;  
Let there be light again, and set  
Your judgments in the earth.**



\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE      *Threefold Amen*      Vincent Persichetti

POSTLUDE      Elizabeth Chinery, flute; Susan Kokernak, Oboe;  
Meg Bassinson, Piano

*Trio Sonata in c minor - Vivace*      Johann J. Quantz (1697-1773)

\*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:

*Mary Frances Case, Bruce Crandell, Arthur Peterson, and Katerine Rozendaal.*

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.

## **Grades K-8**

Today children in grades K-8 are invited to room 20 (at the top of the stairs) after the service today while parents peruse the Alternative Gift Fair. At 11:30am the children will go to Assembly Hall to greet a special visitor. Parents, you can meet your children there.

## **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.

## **First Forum**

**Dec. 9:** Perspectives from our Youth – A conversation on society, church,

school, and purpose - Rev. Stacey Midge & SHYG

**Dec. 16:** M&B Update - Results of the Sticker Survey and Directions for 2013

## **Seasonal Table Prayers**

These popular Advent and Christmastide devotional resources are once again available this year! On one side of the small, paper tri-fold is a lovely prayer especially suited before meals during Advent; on the opposite side, one for Christmastide. Copies of this resource can be found on the Adult Education and Nurture bulletin board next to the Church Library.

## **Faith Bookshop**

Unique in the Bookshop today: Advent Calendars of various sizes with *The Night Before Christmas*, the Biblical Story or little pictures behind the windows. Also, 10x14 prints of FRC in winter, suitable for framing.

## **Johnson Library**

Advent..."a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus."

Today the display tables near the doors of the library, and throughout the library are laden with books for your "expectant waiting and celebration" of this Christmas season. Rich and varied, the collection appeals to all ages, reading abilities, and tastes. Come in and check out several from our abundant Christmas assortment.

## **Wreath Pick Up**

Boy Scout wreath pick up today at the Alternative Gift Fair.

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

**Today:** 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Carol Sing

**Dec. 9:** 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

**Dec. 16:** Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums  
**Dec. 23:** Dave Gleason, piano  
**Dec. 30:** Peg Delaney, piano

### **88<sup>th</sup> Annual Carol Sing & Vespers**

Today at 5pm.

The Thursday Belles, under the direction of Judy Brackett Moore, will present a Christmas Vespers. This is a family and community event that is sure to start your holiday season with joy!

### **Junior & Senior High Youth Groups**

The **JHYG** will meet at 5pm on Sundays (unless otherwise noted) for dinner, games, discussion, and other fun activities. Youth in grades 6-8 are welcome.

The **SHYG** will meet on Sundays at 7pm (unless otherwise noted). All youth in grades 9-12 are welcome, and snacks will be provided.

**Today:** JHYG regular meeting, SHYG no meeting.

**Dec. 9:** Living Nativity - JH serves hot cocoa and donuts, SH performs. SH should be at church by 5pm. The Living Nativity starts at 6pm.

**Dec. 16:** Christmas Party at 5pm

**Dec. 23:** Final rehearsal for Christmas Eve service, meet at 5pm

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve family service at 5pm. Participants should arrive by 4pm if in costume, 4:30pm if reading.

**Dec. 30:** No Youth Group, enjoy your Christmas break!

### **Advent Midweek Evening Prayer**

Amidst the deepening darkness of Dec. here's an opportunity for all who long to rekindle awareness of God's loving presence within, among, and beyond us. Held each Wednesday, 7-7:30pm in Poling Chapel, led by Mary and Daniel Carlson and Cheryl and David Olsen.

Midweek Evening Prayer includes gentle singing, guided reflection, engaging Scripture, shared prayers, and the Lord's supper. Come share the peace and promise of God's love and light!

### **Schenectady and Nijkerk Exchange**

Interested in the exchanges between Schenectady and Nijkerk, the Netherlands? You're invited to the Schenectady/Nijkerk Council's Holiday Potluck Supper this Wed., Dec. 5 at 6:30pm in Assembly Hall. Please bring a favorite holiday main dish or dessert to share. For more information please call Laura Lee Linder, 281-4764, or Connie Colangelo, 374-7355.

### **Senior Pastor's Holiday Pizza Party**

Dec. 7 from 5 to 9

The congregation is invited to the annual party at the Levering's the first Friday in December. Feel free to drop in for 10 minutes on your way someplace else. This year, due to popular demand, we will feature holiday pizzas: Seasonal Sausage Pizza, We Three Cheese Pizza, White Christmas Pizza and plenty of normal snacks. Invite a friend or a new member.

### **Thursday Musical Concert**

English, French, Basque and Catalan carols will be highlighted at a Christmas Concert of the Thursday Musical Club on Friday, Dec. 7 at 7:30pm in our church sanctuary. A reception will follow the concert. Complimentary tickets are available from Julie Panke or the church office.

### **Living Nativity**

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.

### **Group VII**

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

### **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.

### **Christmas Poinsettia Delivery**

Volunteers are needed on Dec. 16 to deliver Christmas poinsettia plants to members not able to attend worship. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service for volunteers to pick up and deliver. Please plan on taking part in this gracious opportunity to extend our care and concern to church family members.

### **Christmas Memorial 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. 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.

### **Holiday Events**

**Dec. 2:** Carol Sing & Vespers, 5 pm

**Dec. 7:** Thursday Musical, 7:30pm

**Dec. 9:** Living Nativity, 6pm

**Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services**

Family Service, 5pm

Music of the Season, 8:30pm

Traditional Service, 9pm

Communion Service, 11pm

### **Christmas Eve Cookies**

Celebrate the season by meeting up with friends and family after the 9pm service on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Refreshments and refreshing good cheer will greet you all in Friendship Hall. If you are interested in volunteering to bring cookies, please call Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

### **Christmas Offer 2012**

This year's Christmas Offering is designated for Advocating for Youth at Risk ~CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). This program provides trained volunteers who are appointed by the court to advocate for the best interest of children in cases of abuse and neglect. Your support will help in the training and supervision of volunteers for this important program that acts for the benefit of children in the court system. Please make checks payable to Center for Community Justice (or CCJ) with CASA in the memo line. GE matching funds do apply to a CCJ donation; please don't forget to include CASA in the memo line.



## 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.

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Rachael Cox, Nancy Wainwright	David Bundy, Joan Lindsay
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Roberta Blackmer	Linda Witkowski
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Sandy Moynihan, Gwen & James Mitsche	Mary Jane Fisher, Gwen Mitsche
<b>Greeters</b>		Becky & Adam Mason
<b>Kinderwyck</b>	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin	Sarah Bachorik
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Caroline Brooks, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Bill Brooks, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Catherine Lewis	Bob Beadle, Art Casey, Tom Lindsay, Margaret Schadler, Bill Rochelle, Linda Witkowski
<b>Reader</b>	Therese McCarty	Ruth Kuo
<b>Refreshments</b>	Betty Bumgarner	Joyce Beland
<b>Usher/ Offertory Deacon</b>	Rachael Cox, Claire Hughes, Nancy Wainwright, Kimberly Burgoyne, Tom Burgoyne, Joe Gallagher, Rebbeca Grande, Douglas Todd	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Linda Stanhope, Alida Rice

## Calendar for the Week of December 2, 2012

<b>Sunday</b> Dec. 2	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Alternative Gift Fair, Assembly Hall/Poling Chapel
	12:00 p.m.	Justice Action Council, Walton Conference Room
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Carol Sing & Vespers, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	JHYG, Mezzanine
<b>Monday</b> Dec. 3	9:00 a.m.	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
	11:00 a.m.	Group V, Dirck Romeyn Room
	5:30 p.m.	African Drumming, Dirck Romeyn Room
	7:00 p.m.	Klokken Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
<b>Tuesday</b> Dec. 4	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
	1:30 p.m.	Worship Planning, Office
<b>Wednesday</b> Dec. 5	8:30 a.m.	Thursday Musical Club Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Poling Conference Room
	1:00 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Midweek Evening Prayer, Poling Chapel
<b>Thursday</b> Dec. 6	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
	8:30 a.m.	Thursday Musical Club Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	10:00 a.m.	Stitch Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:30 p.m.	Purls of Wisdom, Walton Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
<b>Friday</b> Dec. 7	7:30 p.m.	Thursday Musical, Sanctuary/Assembly Hall
<b>Sunday</b> Dec. 9	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Living Nativity, Front Lawn	

# First Reformed Church

Schenectady, New York

## THE CONSISTORY

Bill Levering, Senior Minister  
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister  
Stacey Midge, Minister of Mission, Outreach, and Youth  
Caroline Brooks, Keith Muse, Senior Elders  
Fred H. Daniels, Treasurer  
Linnea D'Andrea, Clerk

## ELDERS

Veronica Bartholic  
Caroline Brooks  
Joyce Griggs  
Daniel Ipsen  
Mary Jewett  
Keith Muse  
Katherine Trimarco  
William Ward  
Johnny Willis  
Eugene Zeltmann

## MISSIONERS

Penny Holmes  
Daniel Stone  
John Terry

## DEACONS

Darwin Brudos  
Rachael Cox  
Richard Davis  
Linnea D'Andrea  
Lisa Ettkin  
Claire Hughes  
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes  
Bill Martin  
Nancy Wainwright  
Caroline Welch

## COVENANTERS

Isaiah Buchanan  
Daniel Kosten  
Annie Reilly  
Courtney Van Norden

## CHURCH STAFF

Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Ministry  
Julie Panke, Director of Music  
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music  
Judy Moore, Director of Klokken Tower Ringers  
Sarah Bachorik, Director of Kinderwyk  
Naphtali Rothrock, Interim Organist  
Heather Chestnut, Hospitality Coordinator  
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator  
Linda Malgieri, Assistant Bookkeeper  
Tani Breitenbach, Office Assistant  
Lyn Gordon, Sunday Receptionist  
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor  
Diana Wahid, Housekeeper  
John Phillips, Sexton

***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.*



*December 2, 2012*

*As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When shall I come and behold the face of God?*

***First Reformed Church***

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