

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 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.

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.

Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

First Sunday of Christmas

December 30, 2012

Is your cell phone on?

PRELUDE

John Norton

Prelude #12 in F Minor - Well Tempered Clavier Book 2

Fugue #4 in C# Minor - Well Tempered Clavier Book 1 J.S. Bach

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN #40

Joy to The World

Antioch

OUR NEED FOR GOD

O holy child of Bethlehem

Decend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in

Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels

The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us

Our Lord, Emmanuel!

GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #37 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

John Norton

Prelude #4 in C# Minor - Well Tempered Clavier Book 1 J.S. Bach

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Mary Jewett

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

FIRST LESSON

Psalms 148: 1-12; 14 (page 582)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:21-38 (page 59)

SERMON

Daniel Carlson

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

*HYMN #36 *In the Bleak Midwinter* Cranham

OFFERING

OFFERTORY John Norton

Partita #5 in G
V. Sarabande

J.S. Bach

*HYMN #592 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Doxology

*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 #28 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* In Dulci Jubilo

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C Major

Naphtali Rothrock

J.S. Bach

*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:

Mildred Altvater, Jean Bowman, Almy Coggeshall, Burton Dearing, Esther Eveleth, Thomas Taft, and Doris Willard.

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

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: Dr. Rudy Nydegger
Jan. 6: Sarah Foss – Daily Gazette
Jan. 13: Covenanters/Missioners
Jan. 20: SCCC President;
Dr. Quintin Bullock
Jan. 27: JAC

Faith Bookshop

The answer to last month's trivia question (What movie has the line "What separates us from the animals is the ability to accessorize.") is "Steel Magnolias." Jewelry and neck ties, accessorizing favorites, are the Shop's current from-me-to-you fund raiser. We need donations! Please bring them to the Bookshop or church office.

Thank you to everyone who visited the Bookshop during the holiday season. Now, Happy New Year to you all.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: Dec. 30: Peg Delaney, piano
Jan. 6: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
Jan. 13: 'Azzaam Hameed
Jan. 20: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
Jan. 27: Dave Gleason, piano

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: No Youth Groups

New Kerygma Session!

During this season of Epiphany those gathered Wednesday mornings in Poling Conference Room will explore an ancient, revelatory way of engaging Scripture, called *lectio divina*, or divine reading. While participants will read and discuss chapters of the brief book, *Gathered in the Word: Praying the Scripture in Small Groups*, by Norvene Vest, most of our time together will be spent practicing and reflecting on this prayerful method reading of the scriptures, through which we each may be led to a deeper understanding of, and relationship with, God. We'll meet each Wednesday, 9:30-11am, Jan. 2 – Feb. 13. *Gathered in the Word* should be available in the Faith Bookshop by today; if not just come to class ready to learn.

Midweek Evening Prayer

Here's a blessed opportunity in the new year 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. Midweek Evening Prayer includes gentle singing, guided reflection, engaging Scripture, shared prayers, and the Lord's supper. Come share the peace of God's light!

Epiphany Cake Bakers Needed

On Friday, Jan. 4 at 7pm we'll be baking delicious La Galette des Rois cakes in the Friendship Hall kitchen in preparation for the Epiphany Party (see below). If you're interested in helping, call Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

Epiphany Eve Party This Saturday

Keith and Susan Muse will host our annual celebration of Christ's manifestation to the Magi on Saturday, Jan. 5, 5pm at their home, 309

Mohawk Dr., Rotterdam Junction 12150. Everyone is invited: young, old, family, friends, and strangers. We'll feast together, sing a few carols, recall the story, process with the Magi, share in the house blessing, and gather around the blazing bonfire.

Traditional Gallet Epiphany cakes will be provided. All attending the Epiphany Party should bring a favorite appetizer and beverage to share. A signup sheet will be posted in Assembly Hall for those who wish to commit ahead. Contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887 or Daniel Carlson at 377-2201 if you have any questions. Follow that star!

Prayer Circle Meeting

All those who are a part of the FRC Prayer Circle (formerly known as the Prayer Chain) are urged to attend a reorganizational meeting after worship on Sunday, Jan. 6, in the Poling Conference Room. The new Prayer Circle order and guidelines will be explained, examples given, questions addressed, a sheet containing the basics distributed, and all participants encouraged, thanked, and blessed! If you're not yet signed up but would like to be a part of this ministry of intercession, please contact Vernetta Thuener (355-2543), Ann Gotwals (372-5089), or Daniel Carlson (377-2201).

Annie Reilly Ordination

On Jan. 6 at 4pm in our sanctuary, our Congregation, the Classis, and area Clergy will gather to ordain our own Annie Reilly to the ministry of word and sacrament.

Justice Breakfast

The FRC Justice Action Council invites you to a pre-service breakfast at 9am on Jan. 13 in Assembly Hall. The fee? Just your thoughts on our upcoming agenda. RSVP to Claire Hughes at eclair@nycap.rr.com or 381-9241.

Group V

There will not be any meeting in January. We will resume on Monday, February 4 at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Covenanters Program by Anne Reilly. Hostesses: Maria Greskovich and Ann Walraven.

Mindfulness for Everyone

The Stephen Ministry of FRC invites all members and friends of the congregation to attend an introductory presentation on Mindfulness Theory and Practice with Oona Edmands, Thursday, Jan. 17, 7-8:30 pm, in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Oona is a trained Mindfulness instructor, who recently taught a well attended, eight week course on this research based, stress-reduction practice at FRC and anticipates teaching another course this spring. Questions about this opportunity or anything else related to our one-to-one confidential caring Stephen Ministry program, please call any of our Stephen Leaders: Maria Todd (882-6555); Ann Gotwals (372-5089); or Daniel Carlson (377-2201).

Group VII

On Friday, January 18 we will meet at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Support & Care Committee by Veronica Bartholic, and Stephen Ministry by Ann Gotwals. Co-hostesses: Carol Schweizer, and Anne Robb.

Chili Cook-Off and Auction

The annual Chili Cook-off and Auction will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 6pm. If you have a fabulous chili recipe you'd like to share, or a service or item to donate for our silent or live auctions, please contact Stacey Midge or a member of the youth group. Then please join us to taste the chili and bid on a great selection of auction items! All proceeds from this event support the Senior High Youth Group on their mission trip to Staten Island, where they will be helping with Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts.

Midwinter Contemplative Retreat

Amidst the chill and darkness of this season come away Jan. 29-31 to our favorite lodge in the Adirondacks to be warmed and enlightened! Daniel and Mary Carlson will offer retreatants from our church and others a variety of opportunities to learn and engage in spiritual practices - indoors and out - that have blessed seekers for centuries, including spiritual direction. During these days and nights we'll balance our contemplative focus with opportunities for conversation, music, games, food and drink around the blazing hearth. For further information and/or register visit Fowler's website: www.campfowler.org and click retreats.

Offering Envelopes

2013 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the Church Office. We have extra envelopes available for anyone who would like ones.

Youth Leadership Forum

On **Feb. 18-20** (during Presidents Week recess) the NY State Council of Churches will sponsor a leadership forum for students in grades 9-12. The group will visit the United Methodist Seminar Office at the United Nations for a 2-day interactive seminar on peacemaking at home and abroad. The seminar will include a guided tour of the U.N. The cost for the trip will be **\$325** which includes transportation, housing, seminar costs and 3 group meals. For more information, contact the Rev. Brooke Newell, Director of Public Policy Advocacy for the NY State Council of Churches at 518-946-2573 or brooke@cjgreen.net.

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.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Nancy Wainwright	Darwin Brudos, Nancy Wainwright
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	Chancel Guild
Greeters	Ann & Walt Robb	
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle
Liturgist		TBA
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joyce Griggs, Darwin Brudos, Jerry Griggs, Del Pierce, Linda Witkowski	Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Darwin Brudos, Rob Dickson, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Catherine Lewis, Tom Lindsay
Reader	Mary Jewett	Lynne Gilgore
Refreshments	Betty Bumgarner	
Ushers/ Offertory Deacons	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourno, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta, Richard Davis	Richard Davis, Lisa Etkin, Claire Hughes, Bill Martin, Nancy Wainwright, Caroline Welch, Kimberly Burgoyne, Tom Burgoyne

Calendar for the Week of December 30, 2012

Sunday 9:15 a.m. High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
Dec. 30 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20
4:00 p.m. Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Jazz Vespers, Sanctuary

Tuesday **Office Closed**
New Year's Day
Jan. 1

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. New Kerygma Class, Poling Conference Room
Jan. 2 7:00 p.m. Midweek Evening Prayer, Poling Chapel

Thursday 7:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
Jan. 3 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

Friday 7:00 p.m. Epiphany Cake Bakers, Friendship Hall Kitchen
Jan. 4

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Keith & Susan Muse's Home
Jan. 5

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Jan. 6 9:15 a.m. High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Prayer Circle Meeting, Poling Conference Room
11:15 a.m. First Forum, Poling Chapel
11:15 a.m. Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20
12:00 p.m. JAC, Walton Conference Room
4:00 p.m. Annie Reilly Ordination, Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Jazz Vespers, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Junior High Youth, Mezzanine
7:00 p.m. Senior High Youth, Mezzanine

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

DEACONS

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

MISSIONERS

Penny Holmes
Daniel Stone
John Terry

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 30, 2012

First Reformed Church

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