

***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.



February 17, 2013

so many voices, urges, pangs
so many shiny brights
tempt us away from the
one

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

Welcome to First Reformed Church

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and 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.

Church School ~ Communion Sundays

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.

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.

Lost and Found

We have a lost and found basket in the Narthex. If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check this basket.

Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

First Sunday in Lent

February 17, 2013

Is your cell phone on?

PRELUDE Peg & Bill Delaney,
Lew Petteys, & Tom D'Andrea

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *The Morning Breaks* Carol Mathew

*HYMN #416 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*
Westminster Abbey

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Merciful God, we have chosen to avoid you in thought, word, and deed. We have fallen short in what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and give us courage to choose what we will be, so that we may delight in what is important and walk a way that is true.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #579

Glory Be to the Father Gloria Patri

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(traditional)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the

right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

In this flu season, a touch on the shoulder or a smiling nod will suffice.

ANTHEM arr. Stillman and Frackenpohl
O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

O Love, how deep, how broad, how high beyond man's gift to prophesy. That God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortal's sake!

For us baptized, for us He bore His holy fast, and hungered sore; For us, temptations sharp He knew, for us the tempter overthrew.

For us to wicked men betrayed, scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed, He bore the shameful cross and death, for us gave up His dying breath.

For us, for us He rose from death again, for us He went on high to reign; For us He sent His Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer. Amen.

15th C. Latin trans. by Benjamin Webb

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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

FIRST LESSON *Luke 4:1-13 (page 61)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Grades K-8 are dismissed to church school.

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 13:45-46 (page 15)*

SERMON

Bill Levering
Choosing What's Important: Sacrifice as Focus

*HYMN #333

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Peg & Bill Delaney, Lew Petteys

*HYMN #592 *Praise God...* Doxology

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 #428 (omit vs. 2)

We Give Thee but Thine Own Schumann

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*
Rob Landes

POSTLUDE Peg & Bill Delaney,
Lew Petteys, & Tom D'Andrea

*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 thanks-giving members of this congregation who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Mary Bee and J. Marie Herman.

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.

Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Sarah's mother, Dorothy Morey by Sarah & Michael Collins. 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.

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 chancel 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: Union Presbyterian & FRC update

Feb. 24: JAC Schenectady Health Survey and Community Based Initiatives. Wales Brown

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Feb. 24: Scott Bassinson, piano

March 3: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

March 10: 'Azzaam Hameed

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

Unless otherwise noted (see below), the Youth Groups meet every Sunday, Junior High (grades 6-8) at 5pm and Senior High (grades 9-12) at 7pm. Friends are always welcome.

Today: No meetings for Junior High. Senior High will leave for the Mission trip after being commissioned in the worship service.

Feb. 24: Senior High returns from the mission trip around 4pm. No meetings for Junior High.

March 3: Regular meetings

Narthex Cases

Current exhibits honor our Heritage and Scout Sundays. Notice the Proclamation from Governor Cuomo naming Feb. 3 *Four Chaplains Day*.

Kerygma During Lent

There's a few places left at the Poling Conference Room table from 9:30-11am each Wednesday of Lent. We are continuing our practice of *Lectio Divina* as we seek to discern God's invitation to ongoing transformation of who we are and what we do. Please contact Daniel Carlson if you wish to join.

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday at 7:30pm. Feb. 19 meeting is at Margy Schadler's home (4024 Windsor Dr. Niskayuna). Come and make new or renew old connections. Please e-mail; **no calls please** Margy at mhschadler@aol.com for more information.

600th Anniversary of Nijkerk

2013 is the 600th anniversary of Nijkerk, the Netherlands, and birthplace of Schenectady's founder. Represent FRC in this summer's adult or youth exchanges between Sch'dy and Nijkerk. Find a flyer in our information racks, or attend the meeting this Tues., Feb. 19 at 7pm in Assembly Hall.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will be meeting at 9:30am on Thursday, February 21 at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Ronnie (393-7679) with any questions.

Game Night For Everyone

Please join us for an evening of grub and games in Assembly Hall on March 2 at 6pm. Come and enjoy food, fellowship, and beating someone else's sister or grandpa in a variety of non-combative board games. Sign-up in Assembly Hall to let us know you're coming. Last names beginning with A-K please bring a main dish to share and last names beginning with L-Z please bring a dessert or side dish. Don't forget to bring a game too!

Group V and Group VII

Both groups will meet together on Friday, March 15 at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Refreshments and coffee will be served. Co-hostesses: Millie Casey and Ronnie Bartholic; Program: Regional Food Bank. All women of the church and their friends are invited. Contact Ronnie at 393-7679 if any questions.

Hurricane Sandy Relief

Deliveries are still being made approximately weekly to areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. Items currently needed include: fans, dehumidifiers, sponges, goggles, P100 respirator masks and filters, Moldex, rubber gloves, work gloves, brushes, hand warmers, tools, and gift cards for Lowe's and Home Depot. Donations can be dropped off in Stacey's office. Financial contributions are always appreciated and can be made through the church by making checks out to First Reformed Church with "Hurricane Relief" in the memo line.

College Bound?

Applications for the Rev. Al Smith Education Scholarship are available through the Church Office. Please submit your completed application to the Church Office by Wednesday, May 15th. Questions can be directed to Sara Erickson at 374-4161 or ericksonhs@aol.com.

Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays Feb. 20 thru Mar. 20

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Classes

8:15pm ~ Evening Prayer

Dinner

Share with others a simple meal at 6pm any Wednesday of Lent in Assembly Hall. You don't need to register or bring something every week, but a sign-up sheet will be posted in Assembly Hall to help set-up, bring food, or clean up. If any questions, please contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

Classes

Original Blessing

Rev. Daniel Carlson & Kitty Trimarco
Poling Chapel

In anticipation of the visit of the internationally known theologian Matthew Fox to Schenectady and FRC in April, we'll discuss one of Fox's most influential books, *Original Blessing*. Copies may be purchased (\$12) at any Wednesday dinner.

Lenten Study on Prayers

Rev. Ruth Kuo
Dirck Romeyn Room

This Lenten Study on Prayers will provide discussion and practice of a few prayer models for pausing in our hectic lives.

Lent For Kids

Jamie Ipsen
Poling House Classroom(s)

A class for children in grades K-8 full of art projects, music, and stories.

Articles of Faith

Rev. Dr. Bill Levering
Poling Conference Room

In this class, we will literally hand out newspapers and discuss where the Gospel might apply. Issues of justice and social witness will be addressed and social problems will be attacked from a Christian perspective.

Learn the Art of Pysanky

Rev. Abby Norton-Levering
Walton Conference Room

Decorating eggs the Ukrainian way. The slow process of creating the intricate designs on these colorful eggs is both meditative and satisfying. No previous experience is necessary; \$10 materials fee. **Because this course is limited to ten participants, sign up on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall is required.** Please don't sign-up unless you can reasonably expect to attend all six sessions

Evening Prayer

Our worship includes songs accompanied by guitar, guided reflection on the day, partaking of the Lord's Supper, praying aloud or in silence, and sharing Christ's peace. All who wish to rekindle their awareness of God's loving presence within, among, and beyond us are welcome any Wednesday of Lent.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Bill Martin, Douglas Todd	Nancy Wainwright, Therese McCarty
Faith Bookshop	Linda Witkowski	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Joyce & Jerry Griggs, Breitenbach Family	Connie Young, Ann & Joe Gotwals
Greeters	Breitenbach Family	Evans Family
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Bill Ward, Rob Dickson, Roberta Blackmer, Maria G. Todd, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Margaret Schadler	Joyce Griggs, Jerry Griggs, Gene Zeltmann, Bob Beadle, Peggy King, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Nancy Wainwright	Therese McCarty
Refreshments	Mary Jewett, Barbara & Alex Mancuso	
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Douglas Todd, Michael Horan, Victoria McGowan	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yournon, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta, Richard Davis

Calendar for the Week of February 17, 2013

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m..... Senior High Youth Group, Leave for Mission Trip
- 9:00 a.m..... Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m..... High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
- 10:00 a.m..... Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m..... Church School, Upstairs Class Rooms
- 11:00 a.m..... Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall
- 11:15 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, Poling Chapel

Monday

Office Closed, Presidents Day

Tuesday

- 10:00 a.m..... Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
- 11:00 a.m..... Administrative Staff Meeting, Office
- 11:00 a.m..... Support & Care, Poling Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m..... Usher Meeting, Walton Conference Room

Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m..... Kerygma Class, Poling Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m..... Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m..... Lenten Dinner, Assembly Hall
- 7:00 p.m..... Lenten Classes, Various Locations
- 8:15 p.m..... Lenten Evening Prayer, Poling Chapel

Thursday

- 7:30 a.m..... Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
- 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
- 7:00 p.m..... Stephen Ministry, Dirck Romeyn Room
- 7:30 p.m..... Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary

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