

***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 24, 2013

Give to the winds thy fears,
Hope and be undismayed,
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
God shall lift up thy head.

-Isaac Watts

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. Stop by a welcome table at the entrance to the Sanctuary or in Assembly Hall for more information.

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.

Children's Worship Bulletins

Special bulletins for children, ages 3-6 and 7-12 are available each Sunday. If the ushers are not handing them out, just ask for one.

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 (at the front entrance of the church). If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check this basket.

Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

Second Sunday in Lent

February 24, 2013

Is your cell phone on?

PRELUDE *A Child is Born* Thad Jones
Judd Staley and Bill Alston, guitar;
Mike Dimin, bass

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 *Create in Me* John Erickson

*HYMN #260 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*
Ein' Feste Burg

*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 *Jerusalem! O Turn Thee to the Lord*
Charles Gounod
Gail Blinckmann, soloist

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, O turn thee to the Lord thy God, O turn thee, O turn thee unto thy God!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Therese McCarty
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON *Psalm 27 (page 27)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
Grades K-8 are dismissed to church school.

SECOND LESSON *Luke 13:31-35 (page 77)*

SERMON Bill Levering
Choosing God's Help for Our Fears

*HYMN #286 *Give to the Winds Thy Fears* St. Bride

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY *Memorial Receptions*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *How Insensitive* Louis Bonfa
a3 Fine Acoustic Jazz
Judd Staley and Bill Alston, guitar;
Mike Dimin, bass

*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 #361 *How Firm a Foundation* Foundation

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*
Dale Wood

POSTLUDE *Footprints* Wayne Shorter
Judd Staley and Bill Alston, guitar;
Mike Dimin, bass

*The congregation may stand.

+ + +

Music Note

Today's anthem is from *Gallia*, an oratorio for soprano, chorus, orchestra and organ written by French composer Charles Gonoud in 1871.

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:

Dr. Joseph Burke, Mary Harter, Georgeina Kellam, Mary MacKinnon, and Marjorie Todd

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.

Today's Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in celebration of Ruth Wajda - Gotwals' fifth birthday and Daniel Gotwals' third birthday by their grandparents, Ann and Joe Gotwals. 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.

Channel Guild – Spring Business Meeting

We will meet immediately after worship today in the Poling Conference Room.

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: JAC Schenectady Health Survey and Community Based Initiatives; Wales Brown

March 3: JAC - Soap Box: Follow up dialogue on Fracking Site Visit presentation by Craig and Sandy Kominoski

March 10: Cape Cod Retreat preview, May 3-5.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

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

March 3: Regular meetings

March 10: Regular meetings

March 17: Service project for both groups, meet at church at noon. Details TBA. No evening meetings.

Johnson Library

Open the cover of *Symbols of the Christian Faith* found on the adult display table this morning, and you will be captivated by the artist's stylized illustrations of the major visual symbols used by the Christian church throughout history. If your interest is just casual, or if you need symbols for use in the life of the church, or just enjoy visual graphics, this book is a feast.

Parents and others, who wonder what makes a happy adult, will want to see what Edward M. Hallowell, M.D. has to say in *The Childhood Rots of Adult Happiness*.

Narthex Cases

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

Memorial Receptions

Our congregation provides much-appreciated receptions after a memorial or funeral service if requested by a family member. Many church members have recently indicated they will assist with set up, bringing refreshments, or cleanup. If serving in this way appeals to you please note this on a pew card today or call the church office this week.

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.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will be meeting at 9:30am on Thursday, Feb. 28 at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Ronnie at 393-7679 with any questions.

Game Night For Everyone This Saturday

Come join us for an evening of grub and games in Assembly Hall on March 2 at 6pm! Enjoy food, fellowship, and beating someone else's sister or grandpa in a variety of non-combative board games. Sign-up today in Assembly Hall or call the church office 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 favorite 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.

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday at 7:30pm. Our next meeting on March 19 is at Connie Young's home. Come and make new or renew old connections. If any questions, contact Connie at 393-7061 for more information.

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.

Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays Feb. 20 thru Mar. 20

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Classes

8:15pm ~ Lenten 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 or picked up today in the Faith Bookshop.

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.

Lenten Evening Prayer

A quiet service at the conclusion of the evening 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	Nancy Wainwright, Therese McCarty	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Bill Martin
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Connie Young, Ann & Joe Gotwals	
Greeters	Evans Family	Vickie McGowan, Mike Horan
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joyce Griggs, Jerry Griggs, Gene Zeltmann, Bob Beadle, Peggy King, Linda Witkowski	Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Rob Dickson, Eric Evans, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Catherine Lewis, Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce
Reader	Therese McCarty	Carol Troost
Refreshments		
Ushers/ Offertory Deacons	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourno, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta, Richard Davis	Darwin Brudos, Richard Davis, Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Claire Hughes, Bill Martin, Nancy Wainwright, Kimberly Burgoyne, Joan Lindsay,

Calendar for the Week of February 24, 2013

Sunday	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
	11:00 a.m.....	Chancel Guild, Poling Conference Room
	11:15 a.m.....	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:15 a.m.....	Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20
	1:00 p.m.....	Boy Scout Adventure Group, Poling Conf. Room
	4:00 p.m.....	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.....	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel	
Monday	9:00 a.m.....	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.....	African Drumming Instruction, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.....	Creation Care Committee, Walton Conference Room
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.....	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
	11:00 a.m.....	Administrative Staff Meeting, Office
	7:00 p.m.....	M&B Meeting, Poling 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
	7:30 p.m.....	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Sunday	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
	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
	12:00 a.m.....	Justice Action Council, Walton Conference Room
	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	