

***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.



March 3, 2013

We worry over the Shuffle,
the Deal, the Bet.
Yet,
We are not Playing
The Game we Imagine.

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.

Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

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.

Requests For Assistance

The ministers of the congregation are best equipped to deal with requests for assistance from people on Sunday morning. Please refer folks seeking financial aid to the pastors without encouraging individual appeals.

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2013

Is your cell phone on?

PRELUDE *Air and Variations op. 9/6 in G Major*
Jean-Baptiste Breval (1753-1823)
Gavotte op 39/2 Reinhold Gliere (1875-1956)
Musicians of Ma'alwyck
Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin;
Petia Kassarova, violincello

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Turn Unto the Lord* Eric Thiman

*HYMN #455 *All Creatures of Our God and King*

*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.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Intermezzo op 39/4*
Reinhold Gliere (1875-1956)
Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin
Petia Kassarova, violincello

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

FIRST LESSON *1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (page 172)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Grades K-2 are dismissed to church school.

SECOND LESSON *Luke 13:1-9 (page 76)*

SERMON *Chance and Choice* Bill Levering

*HYMN #285 *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Thee we Adore* Plainchant Tune
Arr. Ralph M. Johnson

Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee,
Who in thy sacrament art pleased to be;
Both flesh and Spirit in thy presence fail,
Yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.

Fountain of goodness, Jesus Lord and God:
Cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing
blood; Increase our faith and love, that we may
know The hope and peace which from thy
presence hail.

O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see:
May shat we thirst for soon our portion be,
To gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
The vision of thy glory and thy grace. Amen.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION Bill Levering

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

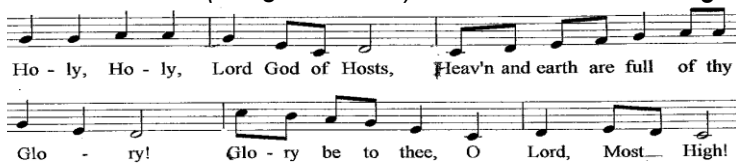
Lift up your hearts.

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



COMMUNION ANTHEM *Lamb of God*
German Chorale, 1540
Arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross
didst suffer, Patient still and lowly, Thyself to
scorn didst offer; Our sins by Thee were taken,
or hope had us forsaken: Have mercy on us, O
Jesu!

COMMUNION

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 #520 (vss 1-4)
Here, O Our Lord, We See You Face to Face

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Traditional

POSTLUDE

Gigue from the violin sonata no. 3 in F major
G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin;
Petia Kassarova, violincello

*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:

Peter Ipsen, Sally Murray, Roy Stratton, Daniel Thuener, Sallie Wemple

On Communion Sundays we also bear in mind those members who are unable to join us for worship, including:

Jean Brown, Janet Crandell, Dolph Ebeling, Mary Jane Fleming, Frank Hammeh, Belle Kozak, Helen McCary, Tom Norton, Margaret Reed, Elyne Schulte, Elizabeth Veeder, Loisanna Veeder

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 contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

First Forum

Today: Follow up dialogue on Fracking Site Visit presentation by Craig and Sandy Kominoski

March 10: Preview of Cape Cod Retreat (May 3-5)

March 17: Camp Fowlers Kent Busman

March 24: M&B: Easter offering recipient: Schenectady Day Nursery

Johnson Library

Three new books are display on the Johnson Library table: *Praying For Strangers* by River Jordan, tells of the transformational power of doing just that, for the recipients and for the givers. N.T. Wright has written *Simply Jesus; A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters*. Michelle Alexander' book, *The New Jim Crow; Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* tells the story of the disproportionate numbers of young black men in our country's prisons, what systems caused this and what should be done about it.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

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

March 10: 'Azzaam Hameed

March 17: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

March 24: Dave Gleason, piano

March 31: Scott Bassinson, piano

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

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.

New Members Class March 10

If you are interested in finding out more about the church or know someone who is, this is just the meeting for you! Dr. Levering meets with people interested in joining and helps them get to know the church. Class begins at 3pm starting in the church office.

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.

Yoga at FRC

Every Thursday at 6:45pm in Assembly Hall. The instructor, Douglas Goodbee, is certified in Kripalu/Hatha E-RYT who also teaches athletic yoga at the Schenectady YMCA. These classes are open to the public at \$10 per session, but active and adherent members of FRC are **free**. You will have the opportunity to learn yoga postures and breathing and have fun while doing it. The class is for all levels and you can come on a regular basis or just drop in when you can. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat. This class is for everyone, singles, families, and seniors. Children must be with a parent or guardian. If you have any questions, please contact Douglas at 229-7291 or dagoods1@gmail.com.

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction

Take control of your physical and psychological health. The 8-week Meditation Course will meet at FRC in Assembly Hall. This course is designed to reduce distress associated with chronic pain, reduce anxiety and panic, and improve physical disorders associated with anxiety and stress.

Orientation Session:

Monday, March 18 from 7-9pm

Classes: Monday evenings 7-9:30pm April 1 - May 20

Plus: A full day retreat on May 11

Cost: Non member \$300 some insurance plans may be accepted, members no charge.

To register: Call Samaritan Counseling Center at 374-3514.

Easter Flowers

Each Easter, members of Chancel Guild adorn our church with beautiful Easter Flowers. Your family can contribute to remember a loved one or honor a loved one. Please send your suggested donation of \$20 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309 **and** contact the Church Office with the name of the person the flowers are in honor or memory of. Even if you have donated in previous years, please place an order for 2013 **by** Monday, March 25.

Easter Flowers Delivery

We need volunteers on Easter Sunday, March 31, to deliver Easter flowers to recently-bereaved and home-bound church members. The flowers, an addressed card for each recipient, and a Sunday bulletin will be available for pick up after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. Please plan now on participating in this ministry by extending a lovely symbol of God's faithfulness!

Easter Reception

We need volunteers for our Easter reception in Friendship Hall. People to help set up on Saturday, as well as people to make food. We would like deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, dip and chips, and cookies and candies. Please call the church office 377-2201 to join in on the fun.

Easter Offering

Schenectady Day Nursery

Our Easter offering this year will support the Schenectady Day Nursery located on Lafayette St. in downtown Schenectady. The nursery was founded in 1902 by a group of church women to address the needs of working mothers. SDN's mission today is "To provide a special place where even the youngest child feels safe and has the opportunity to grow and learn in a caring environment." SDN serves 125 families per year and offers care for infants, toddlers, pre-K, and elementary school children with a variety of programs. They operate about \$1000 short of need for every child and make up the difference with government funding, donations, and fundraisers. Government funding cuts are having a real impact. SDN sliding fee rates run from \$125-\$240 per week for each child, based on the child's age and family income. Additional information will be provided at an Adult Forum on March 24.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck

On Saturday, March 30 at 3pm, at FRC in Schenectady Musicians of Ma'alwyck will present a special concert with 5 vocal soloists, organ and string quartet titled the *Seven last Words of Christ*. The program features settings by Franz Josef Haydn, Heinrich Schutz and Alan Ridout and will be accompanied by a compelling visual presentation of images of Christ by visual artists throughout the centuries. The performance, presented without intermission, will also feature Pastor Levering providing narrative.

Tickets are available at the door or by reservation at 377-3623. Adults \$25 and students \$10. There are a few free tickets for First members available at the church office.

Wednesday Lenten Program Continues thru March 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.

Lent For Kids, Jamie Ipsen

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

Classes

Lenten Study on Prayers, Rev. Ruth Kuo

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

Articles of Faith, Rev. Dr. Bill Levering

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.

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.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24

10am: Worship Service

Wednesday, March 27

6pm: Seder Dinner

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7:30pm: Union Presbyterian on Park Ave.

(parking lot is accessed from Wendell Ave.)

Musicians of Ma'alwyck, March 30

3pm: Seven Last Words of Christ

Good Friday, March 29

12pm: Service

Easter, March 31

10am: Worship Service

5pm: Easter Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Linnea D'Andrea, Bill Martin	Fred Daniels, Rebecca Grande
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Elaine Springsted, Veronica Bartholic	Carol Troost, Carol & David Schweizer
Greeters	Vickie McGowan, Mike Horan	Donna & David Bundy
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Rob Dickson, Eric Evans, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Darwin Brudos, Tom Lindsay, Del Pierce	Veronica Bartholic, Bob Beadle, Art Casey, Maria G. Todd, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Carol Troost	Chris Fernandes
Refreshments	Alexis Wisniewski	
Offertory Deacons/ Ushers	Darwin Brudos, Richard Davis, Claire Hughes, Bill Martin, Nancy Wainwright, Kimberly Burgoyne, Joan Lindsay	Art Schultes (head usher), Nicholas Blinckmann, Louis Acquasanta, Jeff Cox, William Faulkner

Calendar for the Week of March 3, 2013

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	
Monday	9:00 a.m.....	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.....	African Drumming Instruction, Assembly Hall
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.....	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
	11:00 a.m.....	Administrative Staff Meeting, Office
	1:30 p.m.....	Worship Planning, Office
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
	3:00 p.m.....	New Members Class, Poling 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	