

***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.



Life: full of leaving and returning,
victories and disasters,
accepting and being accepted.
All needing forgiveness from all.

March 10, 2013

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.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2013

Is your cell phone on?

PRELUDE Leah Kidwell-Fernandes & Johnny Willis
Be Thou My Vision Traditional Irish
Arr. by Nancy Hurrell
Roving Galway Boy Traditional Irish
Arr. by Kim Robertson
All Creatures of Our God and King
Arr. by Johnny Willis/Sunita Staneslow
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Arr. by Sunita Staneslow

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 *Introit for Lent* John Yarrington

*HYMN #281 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (unison)

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 (unison)

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

ANTHEM *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*
Watts; by the Kirk Ringers

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

FIRST LESSON *2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (page 181)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Grades K-8 are dismissed to church school.

SECOND LESSON *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (page 78)*

SERMON Bill Levering
Choosing Change: Recovery & Transformation

*HYMN #282 *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stephen Ministry

Maria G. Todd

OFFERING

deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Thou Didst Hear Me*

Daniel Gawthrop

King of Glorie, King of Peace,
I will love thee:
And that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me:
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me,
Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee, I will sing thee.
And the cream of all my heart,
I will bring thee.

Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me.
And alone when they replied,
thou didst hear me.
Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n,
I will praise thee.
In my heart, though not in heav'n,
I can raise thee.

Thou grew soft and moist with tears,
Thou relented:
And when justice called for fears,
Thou dissented.
Small it is in this poor sort
to enroll thee:
Ev'n eternitie's too short
to extoll thee, to extoll thee.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

*HYMN #388 *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Greek

POSTLUDE Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Prelude from Te Deum
Marc-Antoine Charpentier

*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.

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 346-7887.

First Forum

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

March 17: Camp Fowler; Kent Busman

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

*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

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: '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.

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

March 31: No meetings; Easter break

April 7: No meetings; Easter break.

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.

Johnson Library

How Children Succeed is written by Paul Tough. The subtitle is *Grit, Curiosity and The Hidden Power of Character*. He argues that character, not cognition, is central to success. Subtitled *A Reassuring Guide to Solving Your Child's Emotional and Learning Problems* is Dr. Edward Hallowell's *When You Worry About The Child You Love*.

Schenectadians and others, some of whom are old enough to remember a time without electric lights, will enjoy *The Age of Edison: Electric Light and The Invention of Modern America*, by Ernest Freeburg.

New Members Class Today

If you are interested in finding out more about the church or know someone who is, this is just the meeting for you! The ministers meet with people interested in joining and help 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.

Former First Preacher Ratmeyer Presents

The congregation is invited to hear the whimsical Rev. Harlan Ratmeyer speak on *Weeping with Those who Weep* on Thursday, March 21 at 7pm in the Dirck Romeyn room. This presentation is sponsored by our church's one-to-one compassionate, confidential care-giving program: Stephen Ministry. For further information contact any Stephen Leader: Maria G. Todd, Ann Gotwals, or Daniel Carlson.

Yoga at FRC

Instructor, Douglas Goodbee, who is certified in Kripalu/Hatha E-RYT and also teaches athletic yoga at the Schenectady YMCA, will be here every Thursday at 6:45pm in Assembly Hall. 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, 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.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck

On Saturday, March 30 at 3pm, at FRC the 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.

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

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 to participate in this ministry, extending a lovely symbol of God's great faithfulness!

Easter Reception Assistance

We need volunteers for our Easter Sunday reception in Friendship Hall; with people to help set up on Saturday, as well as people to make food. Deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, dip and chips, fruit and veggies, and cookies and candies are desired. Please call the church office 377-2201 to join in on the fun of helping with this Easter Feast!

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.

Jazz Appreciation Month

April is Jazz Appreciation Month and the Schenectady Musical Union will provide honoraria for additional jazz musicians for Jazz Vespers on April 7, 14, 21 and 28. Dylan Canterbury, trumpet, Alex Slomka, trombone, Keith Pray and Jim Corigliano, saxes and Erik Johnson, bass will appear along with the jazz Vespers "regulars" (Nat Phipps, Pete Toigo, 'Azzaam Hameed, Peg and Bill Delaney, Dave Gleason and Tom D'Andrea). Sundays, 5pm in the Poling chapel.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24

10am: Worship Service

Wednesday, March 27

6pm: Seder Dinner

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7pm: Union Presbyterian on Park Ave.
(parking lot is accessed from Wendell Ave.)

Good Friday, March 29

12pm: Worship Service

Musicians of Ma'alwyck, March 30

3pm: Seven Last Words of Christ

Easter, March 31

10am: Worship Service

5pm: Easter Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	David Bundy, Douglas Todd	Darwin Brudos, Fred Daniels
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Carol Troost, Carol & David Schweizer	Ann & Emile Walraven
Greeters	Donna & David Bundy	Lisa, Jacob & Julia Etkin
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Mary Jewett, Bob Beadle, Art Casey, Maria G. Todd, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski	Roberta Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Peggy King, William Rochelle
Reader	Chris Fernandes	Lynne Gilgore
Refreshments	Shannon Kerwin, Sarah Howes	Nancy Martin
Ushers	Art Shultes (head usher), Nicholas Blinckmann, Louis Acquasanta, Jeff Cox	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Steve Breitenbach, Griffin Laycock, Gerry Myers, Susan Read

Calendar for the Week of March 10, 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
	11:15 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
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
	6:00 p.m.....	Archives, Archives Room
	6:30 p.m.....	Standing Committees, Various Locations
	7:30 p.m.....	Consistory, Assembly Hall
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.....	Kerygma Class, Poling Conference Room
	1:00 p.m.....	Archives, Archives Room
	1:00 p.m.....	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	2:00 p.m.....	Staff Meeting, Walton 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
	7:30 p.m.....	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Friday	10:00 a.m.....	Group V & VII, Dirck Romeyn Room
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
	11:15 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
	5:00 p.m.....	JHYG, Mezzanine
7:00 p.m.....	SHYG, Mezzanine	