

**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.

TODAY... I CHOOSE JOY!

*I will invite God to be the God of circumstance
I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...
the tool of the lazy thinker
I will refuse to see people
as anything less than human beings,
created by God.
I will refuse to see
any problem as anything
less than an opportunity to see God!*



- MAX LUCADO

March 17, 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.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2013

Is your cell phone on?

PRELUDE *Vocalise* Sergei Rachmaninoff
Cello suite no. 2, prelude and gigue J.S. Bach
by Olivia Cox, cello

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 *Celtic Alleluia* O'Carroll and Walker

*HYMN #145 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* Marion

*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

MUSICAL OFFERING *Aria* Michael Helman
Thursday Belles

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

FIRST LESSON *Psalm 126 (page 572)*

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

SECOND LESSON *John 12:1-8 (page 106)*

SERMON *Choosing Joy: Religious Attitudes*
Bill Levering

*HYMN #483 *Sing Praise to God* Mit Freuden Zart

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Fowler Office*
Kent Busman

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Woman in the Night*
Charles H. Webb
Kitty Trimarco, Joe Doolittle,
Nancy Ellen Swann, Dan Ipsen, soloists

Woman in the night, spent from giving birth,
guard our precious light; peace is on the earth!
Woman in the crowd, creeping up behind,
touching is allowed; seek and you will find!
Come and join the song, women, children, men;
Jesus makes us free to live again!

Woman at the well, question the Messiah;
find you friends and tell; drink your heart's desire!
Woman at the feast, let the righteous stare;
come and go in peace; love him with your hair!
Woman in the house, nurtured to be meek,
leave your second place; listen, think, and speak!
Women on the road, welcomed and restored,
travel far and wide; witness to the Lord!

Brian Wren

*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 #464 *Joyful, Joyful,...* Hymn to Joy

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

In the Midst of New Dimensions
Thursday Belles and Choir

POSTLUDE *Cello suite no. 1, prelude*
Bach cello suite no. 3, prelude,
allemande, and Sarabande J.S. Bach
by Olivia Cox, cello

Please remain seated for Postlude.

*The congregation may stand.

+ + +

Music Notes

Thursday Belles concludes this season with a lovely selection, *Aria* which means, to sing. In this case, the melody is sung by the upper bells and choir chimes. This piece is a choir favorite and will be part of our last performances in the next two weeks. Then we take a well deserved break until next fall when we return to worship and more outreach performances.

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.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of David and Elenora Schweizer by Tod Schweizer. 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 contact Heather Chestnut 346-7887.

First Forum

Today: Fowler Camp & Retreat Center; Kent Busman
March 24: M&B: Easter offering recipient:
Schenectady Day Nursery

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop has several copies of "*The Last Week*" by Borg and Crossan. Relating to Jesus' last days in Jerusalem, this is a timely read for Holy Week.

Also available are books and other items for young people that would round out an Easter basket.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: 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: Service project for both groups, meet at church at 11:30am. No evening meetings.

March 31 & 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.

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.

Schenectady and Nijkerk Exchanges

Find a flyer in our information racks, and attend the question and answer meeting this Tues., March 19 at 7pm in Assembly Hall. Extend an invite to others.

Former First Preacher Presents

This Thursday come hear the 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 Stephen Ministry.

Yoga at FRC

Douglas Goodbee certified in Kripalu/Hatha E-RYT and athletic yoga teaches every Thursday at 6:45pm in Assembly Hall. These classes are free for FRC members. Learn yoga postures and breathing and have fun doing it. Drop in when you can. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat. This class is for everyone at any level; singles, families, and seniors. (Children must be with a parent or guardian.) Questions: 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 Risseeuw, 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, to deliver Easter flowers to recently-bereaved and home-bound church members. The flowers and an addressed card for each recipient will be available for pick up after the service. Please plan now to participate in this ministry, extending a lovely symbol of God's great faithfulness!

Easter Reception Assistance

We need volunteers to help set up on Saturday, as well as people to make food for our Easter Sunday reception in Friendship Hall. Deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, dip and chips, fruit and veggies, and cookies and candies are desired. Please call the church office.

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.

Summer at Camp Fowler

Registration is now open for summer camp 2013! The theme is *Unexpected People*. Campers are students in grades 3-12; Fowler also offers a family camp. Volunteers are also needed as cabin counselors and kitchen and maintenance staff. You can find more information on the website at campfowler.org or by contacting Stacey Midge (377-2201), who serves on the Fowler Program Committee and will be spending a week as chaplain for the senior high campers.

Mission Shareholders Dinner April 14

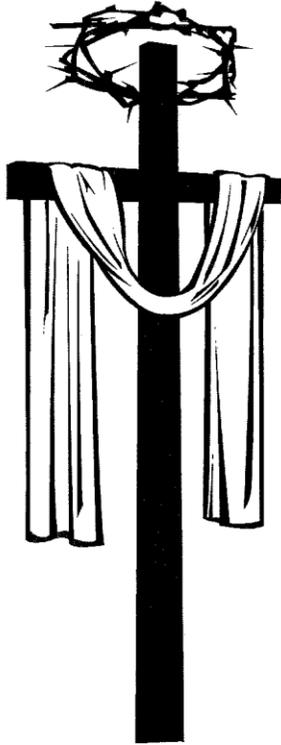
The Senior High Youth Group extends a warm thank you to all who helped raise money for their mission trip to Staten Island! For those who purchased Mission Shares, there will be a dinner on April 14 at 6pm in Friendship Hall. The youth will speak about their experiences, show a video and pictures of the trip, and serve a meal that is representative of some of the cuisine they experienced in the diversity of New York City. It is not too late to purchase a Mission Share for \$25 to contribute to the mission trip fund and attend the dinner! Just contact Stacey Midge or any member of the youth group to donate at any time.

Cape Cod Retreat Information and Signup

Update brochures and a signup sheet for this May 3-5 retreat may be found on the Adult Education bulletin board (next to Johnson Memorial Library.)

Name Tags

If you do not have a name tag and would like one, please fill out a white pew card and place it in the offering basket.



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

Easter Egg Hunt: After the Children's Message

5pm: Easter Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Darwin Brudos, Fred Daniels	Claire Hughes, Rebecca Grande
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Ann & Emile Walraven, Veronica Bartholic	Carolyn & Calvin Welch, Carol Troost
Greeters	Lisa, Jacob & Julia Etkin	Gay Doolittle
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge, Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Roberta Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Peggy King, William Rochelle	Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Bob Beadle, Phil Falconer, Del Pierce, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Lynne Gilgore	Catherine Lewis
Refreshments	Nancy Martin	Ann Bish & Ann Hicks
Ushers	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Steve Breitenbach, Griffin Laycock, Gerry Myers, Susan Read	Earl Wainwright (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Linda Stanhope, Alida Rice

Calendar for the Week of March 17, 2013

Sunday	9:00 a.m.....	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
March 17	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
	11:30 a.m.....	JH&SHYG, Mezzanine
	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
March 18	6:00 p.m.....	African Drumming Instruction, Library
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.....	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
March 19	11:00 a.m.....	Administrative Staff Meeting, Office
	11:00 a.m.....	Support & Care, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.....	Head Usher Meeting, Walton Conference Room
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.....	Kerygma Class, Poling Conference Room
March 20	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
March 21	10:00 a.m.....	Stitch Group, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.....	Stephen Ministry, Dirck Romeyn Room
	7:00 p.m.....	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:30 p.m.....	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Palm Sunday	9:00 a.m.....	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
March 24	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