

*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 24, 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.

Palm Sunday
March 24, 2013
Is your cell phone on?

PRELUDE Naphtali Rothrock
Prelude and Fugue in F Major J. S. Bach
My Lord, What a Morning
arr. Roger Wilson
Open the Gates of the Temple
Mrs. Joseph Knapp

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of
the Lord. **Hosanna!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WORSHIP
ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Hosanna to the Son of David*
Richard Proulx

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #88
All Glory, Laud, and Honor
Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

*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
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of
the Lord. **Hosanna!**

*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 *Welcoming the King*
Ruth Elaine Schram

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Cathy Lewis
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29*
(page 565)

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

SECOND LESSON *Luke 19:28-40* (page 83)

SERMON Choosing Jesus
Bill Levering

*HYMN #89 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*
Ellacombe

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Easter Offering*
Cynthia Gallagher

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Palm Sunday Welcome*
French Lenten Carol; Arr. Lovelace

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Stacey Midge
THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #91
Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! St. Drostan

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE
Hosanna to the Son of David Richard Proulx

POSTLUDE Naphtali Rothrock
Hosanna Noel Benson

*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:
Sylvia Ebeling, Leroy Jewett, and Elenora Schweizer

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: 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: Dave Gleason, piano

March 31: Scott Bassinson, piano

April 7: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Dylan Canterbury, trumpet; Tom D'Andrea

April 14: Dave Gleason, piano; Erik Johnson, bass; Alex Slomka, trombone; Tom D'Andrea

April 21: ‘Azzaam Hameed, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Eric Walentowicz, sax; Tom D’Andrea

April 28: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Jim Corigliano, sax; Tom D’Andrea, drums

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 31 & April 7: No meetings; Easter break

April 12-13: We have been invited to join the Union Presbyterian Church youth for their 30-Hour Famine program which raises money and awareness about poverty and hunger issues. More information will be forthcoming.

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.

Head Ushers Meeting

On Tuesday, March 26 at 7pm in Walton Conference Room there will be a head ushers meeting for discussion of new policies to be included into the next edition of the Ushers Handbook. If needed, call Bill Clock 641-2585.

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*.

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 Egg Hunt

Next Sunday all children grades K-8 are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt. Kids should

meet in room 20 at the top of the stairs immediately following the Children's Message. If the weather is clear, we will hunt outside. Parents can pick up their children in room 20 after the service.

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.

Group V

We will meet on Monday, April 1 at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Refreshments and coffee will be served. Program: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates to Youth.) All women of the church and their friends are invited. Contact Maria G. Todd at 372-9522 if you have questions.

April is Jazz Appreciation Month

The Schenectady Musical Union will provide honoraria for additional jazz musicians for Jazz Vespers on April 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 5pm in Poling Chapel. Dylan Canterbury, trumpet, Alex Slomka, trombone, Eric Walentowicz and Jim Corigiliano, 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.)

Thursday Musical Club 100th Anniversary

On Sunday, April 7 at 2:30pm in the Sanctuary. The concert will feature notable popular songs from the several musical eras since 1913. A script, complementing the music and focusing on the achievements of Schenectady women, will be read by Elaine Houston. Guest artists will be the Musicians of Ma’alwyck. Tony Riccobono and Leonard Tobler will accompany the chorus on bass and drums, and Elinore Farnum on organ and piano. Complimentary tickets for all church members are available. Please stop by the church office or see Julie Panke, Director, for tickets.

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.

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday at 7:30pm. Our next meeting on April 16 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.

Group VII

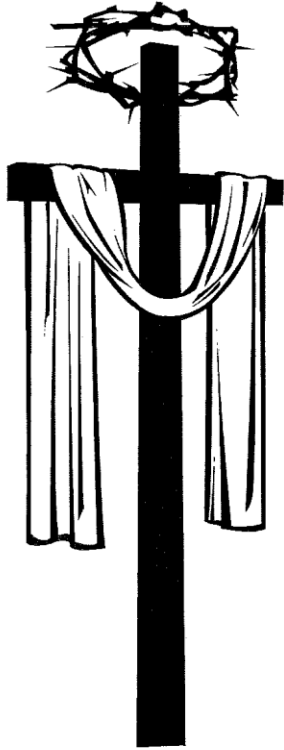
On Friday, April 19 at 11:30am we will have small group lunches in the homes of Gay Doolittle, Ann Gotwals, and Connie Young. Members will be contacted by the Hostesses. If any questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679.

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 at 377-2201.

Cape Cod Retreat Information and Signup

Updated 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.)



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 around the cross

Musicians of Ma'alwyck, March 30

3pm: Seven Last Words of Christ

Easter, March 31

10am: Worship Service

After the Children's Message: Easter Egg Hunt, grades K-8

5pm: Easter Vespers

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes, Rebecca Grande	Richard Davis, Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	Chancel Guild
Greeters	Gay Doolittle	Ellie & Darwin Brudos
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgists	Daniel Carlson, Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson, Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Bob Beadle, Phil Falconer, Del Pierce, Linda Witkowski	Joyce Griggs, Mary Jewett, Gerry Griggs, Catherine Lewis, Tom Lindsay, Margaret Schadler
Reader	Catherine Lewis	Christine Daniels
Refreshments	Ann Bish & Ann Hicks	Easter Reception
Ushers	Earl Wainwright (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Nicholas Blinckmann, Alida Rice	Bill Clock (head usher), Louis Acquasanta, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins

Calendar for the Week of March 24, 2013

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
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
March 25	6:00 p.m.	African Drumming Instruction, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Creation Care Committee, Walton Conf. Room
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
March 26	11:00 a.m.	Administrative Staff Meeting, Office
	6:30 p.m.	M&B Meeting, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Head Usher Meeting, Walton Conference Room
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma Class, Poling Conference Room
Seder	1:00 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
March 27	6:00 p.m.	Seder Dinner, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Maunday	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Stitch Group, Poling Conference Room
March 28	7:00 p.m.	Maunday Service, Union Presbyterian Church
Good Friday	12:00 p.m.	Worship Service, Sanctuary
March 29		
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Chancel Guild Vesting, Sanctuary
March 30	3:00 p.m.	Musicians of Ma'alwck, Sanctuary
Easter Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
March 31	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	10:15 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt, Upstairs Room 20
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshments, Friendship Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel