

***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.



'I need to know!' I said to God,
Full of questions to keep that God at bay.
But then God asked me the question I feared most.
What will happen if I answer?

May 5, 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. The welcome tables at the entrance to the sanctuary and in Assembly Hall have some helpful church 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.

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.

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 On 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.

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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2013

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Bill Levering

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord has risen indeed! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WORSHIP

ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT *Heleluyan (Alleluia)* Trad. Muscogee

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*PRAYER (*unison*)

**God of new life, we lift our hearts in
thanksgiving for the hope you have brought
us in Jesus. Deepen our lives with the
message of your love. Amen.**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord has risen indeed! Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *A Spring Carol*

Robert Wetzler

Now the Spring has come again,
joy and warmth will follow;
Cold and wet are quite forgot,
northward flies the swallow;
Over sea and land and air,
Spring's soft touch is everywhere,
All the world looks cleaner;
And our spirits feel so young,
hearts are light that once were wrung,
Youthful zests are keener.

All the woods are new in leaf
all the fruit is budding,
Bees are humming round the hive,
done with winter's brooding;
Seas are calm and blue again,
clouds no more foretell the rain,
Winds are soft and tender;
High above the kindly sun
Laughs once more his course to run,
Shines in all his splendor.

God is in the midst of her,
God commands her duty;
Earth does but reflect his light,
mirrors back his beauty;
God's the fount whence all things flow,
Great and small, above, below,
God's their only maker:
We but poorest patterns are
Of the Mind beyond compare,
God our great Creator.

'In vernali tempore' from Oxford Book of Carols

FIRST LESSON

Bradley Lewis

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *John 14:25-27 (page 109)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Grades K-2 are dismissed for Church School.

SECOND LESSON

John 5:1-9 (page 96)

SERMON Bill Levering
The Spirit Helps in Answering God's Challenges

*HYMN #314

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

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 (*unison*) Carl Steubing

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts,
Heav'n and earth are full of thy Glo - ry!
Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

*HYMN #127 *Come, O Spirit* Boundless Mercy

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*
Dale Wood

Please be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE

+ + +

Music Note:

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Text © 1990, GIA Publications Inc. and music. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700

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:

Lloyd Johnston, Rev. Cornelius Van Leeuwen, Elizabeth Paine, Albert Zink

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

Jean Brown, Dolph Ebeling, Deleo Gravink, Belle Kozak, Helen McCary, Tom Norton, Margaret Reed, Elyne Schulte

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Brig. Gen. Henry H. Bolz Jr. from his granddaughter Anne Putnam and family. 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. Beginning June 2, whenever possible, our post service refreshments will be served in the Huntley Garden. Please consider signing up for set-up, refreshments, and clean-up by yourself or with a friend. If any questions contact Heather Chestnut 346-7887.

Grades K-8

Today: Communion, grades 3 - 8 stay in church. K-2 have regular church school. Important Chimes rehearsal 11:15 - noon.

May 12: Youth Service - Everyone Stays in church for the whole service.

May 19: Last regular church school K-8. Church Picnic at 11:00!

May 26: NO Church School.

First Forum

Today: Update on Union Presbyterian

May 12: No Forum (Mother's Day)

May 19: Church Picnic!

May 26: TBA

Faith Bookshop

Rabbi Jesus, the book highly recommended by Rev. Matthew Fox during his visit here last Sunday, is available in the Bookshop, as well as

several books he authored. Bookshop book prices reflect a 30% discount.

Donated jewelry ranging from whimsical to elegant is also for purchase, and its priced-to-sell. We welcome more jewelry donations. Proceeds will go to a worthy community endeavor.

CROP Walk

Today the annual Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) walk will take place at 12:30pm, beginning at Emmanuel Friedens Church and winding 5k through Schenectady. The proceeds support hunger-fighting efforts around the world, with 25% going to local food pantries, Community Crisis Network, and Senior Meals. Want to walk? Get a donation form from Stacey Midge. Non-walkers can drop off their donations at the church office. Checks should be made out to "CWS/CROP."

Jazz Appreciation Month Every Sunday, 5pm

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

May 12: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

May 19: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

May 26: David Gleason, 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.

May 12: Youth Service! Seniors will speak and youth will lead at the 10am worship service.

Normal youth group programming will be on hiatus for the summer, but stay tuned for special events in the warm weather!

Group V

We will have our end of the year picnic on Monday, May 6 at the home of Maria G. Todd, 1229 Viewmont Dr. Niskayuna. Bring a salad. For more information please contact Maria 882-6555.

Midweek Evening Prayer

Join us any Wednesday of May, 7-7:45pm, for an Eastertide service in Poling Chapel that includes gentle singing accompanied by guitar, guided reflection on the resurrection; joyful sharing of the Lord's Supper (homemade bread; wine or juice,) praying aloud or in silence, and extending a sign or word of Christ's peace. All who wish to rekindle their awareness of God's loving presence within, among, and beyond us are welcome.

Youth Lead Worship May 12

The youth of the church are taking over! The youth will be doing the readings, prayers, and music that morning, and our graduating seniors will be celebrated at the service. Please plan to attend and support our youth.

Bike Month with Dinner & Presentation

Join bicycle advocate and writer Elly Blue, filmmaker Joe Biel and chef Joshua Ploeg for a multimedia roadshow of food and bicycle activism. The tour comes to Schenectady on May 15 from 6:30p-9:30pm at First Unitarian Society, 1221 Wendell Ave. Enjoy a gourmet vegan and gluten-free buffet while participating in an interactive presentation about transportation equity and watching excerpts of Biel's forthcoming documentary, *Aftermass*, a history of bicycle activism in Portland. Program includes discussion of local issues. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at <http://dinnerandbikesschenectady.eventbrite.com>.

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 15. Questions can be directed to Sara Erickson 374-4161 or ericksonhs@aol.com.

Great Stephen Minister Group Picnic

All Stephen Ministers-active and inactive-are invited to our annual almost summer pot-luck! We'll gather on Thursday, May 16, 6pm at the home of Maria G. Todd (1229 Viewmont Dr. Niskayuna), enjoying one another's company as we feast together on appetizers, salads, and

desserts. Eventually Daniel will lead a brief review of the past year and the preview what's to come. Please contact Maria (372-9522) and let her know what you'll bring (in addition to a favorite beverage to share). Spouses/significant others are most welcome.

Group VII

On Friday, May 17 at 11am we will have a tour at Congregation Gates of Heaven Temple. If any questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679.

Church Picnic, May 19

After worship come and join the fun at the annual spring picnic sponsored by the Youth Education and Nurture Committee. We will provide burgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, and beverages for all. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or snack to share. In addition to food and conversation, games will be available for the children. Bring a friend to share in the fun! See you there!

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday at 7:30pm. Our next meeting on May 21 is at Connie Young's home. Come and make new or renew old connections. Contact Connie 393-7061 for more information.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group Date Change

Meetings are every fourth Thursday at 9:30am. Our next meeting is May 23 at the home of Sue Zeltmann's. We welcome anyone. Please contact Sue 383-1969 with any questions.

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, \$10 a class for non-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 229-7291 or dagoods1@gmail.com.

Consistory Nominations

The Nominating Committee of First Reformed Church is charged to nominate Elders and Deacons to serve two-year Consistory terms. The Committee begins its work soliciting recommendations from the congregation for Elder and Deacon Candidates. Those being recommended and those making recommendations must be members of First Reformed Church. Candidates for Consistory should be representative of the congregation, have vision, leadership skills, and be active participants in the worship and activities of this church.

Elders and Deacons together with the Ministers form the Consistory, which is the governing body of this congregation. Elders exercise particular concern for the interior life and programs of the church (Worship, Fellowship, Education, and Congregational Care). Deacons exercise particular concern for the outreach of the church (Mission and Benevolence, Finance, Justice Advocacy, and Historical Concerns). Elders and Deacons will be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation on **June 2, 2013**.

The names of recommended candidates for Elder and Deacon may be submitted on a **white pew card or a yellow nomination form** and delivered to the church office or given to any member of the Committee: Joe Gallagher, Lyn Gordon, Rebecca Grande, Hans Erickson, Jennifer Evans; Senior Elders, Caroline Brooks, Keith Muse; Ministers, Bill Levering, Daniel Carlson, or Stacey Midge. The Nominating Committee would appreciate your response as soon as possible.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Richard Davis, Caroline Welch	Fred Daniels, Bill Martin
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	William Clock
Flower Delivery	Laura Lee Linder, Peggy & Robert Ridgway	Pat & Fred Mett, Inge-Lise & Charles Pangburn
Greeters		
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Youth
Preacher	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos, Keith Muse, Roberta Blackmer, Linda Ward, Robert Dickson, Phillip Falconer, Delbert Pierce, Thomas Lindsay	Robert Beadle, Darwin Brudos, Peggy King, Catherine Lewis, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Bradley Lewis	Youth
Refreshments	Elsa Hjelmar, Nancy Martin	Alida Rice, Deborah Troost
Offertory Deacons/ Ushers	Richard Davis, Lisa Etkin, Claire Hughes, Caroline Welch, David Bundy, Kimberly Burgoyne, Tom Burgoyne	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Steve Breitenbach, Griffin Laycock, Gerry Myers, Susan Read

Sunday, May 5

10:00 am Worship with Communion
10:15 am Church School
11:00 am Coffee & Refreshments
11:15 am First Forum
11:15 am Kirk Ringers
12:00 pm Confirmation Class
3:00 pm Octavio Singers Concert
4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
5:00 pm Junior High Youth Group
7:00 pm Senior High Youth Group

“Was it you or I who stumbled first? It does not matter. The one of us who finds the strength to get up first, must help the other.” ~Vera Nazarian, The Perpetual Calendar of Inspiration

“Stupid to speak of blame when the wills of the immortals are involved.” ~Jacqueline Carey, Kushiel's Chosen

“A victim is someone who blames it all on someone else. Why give all the power to someone else and leave yourself powerless?” ~Christina Moss

Monday, May 6

9:00 am Men's News Group
7:00 pm African Drumming
7:00 pm Samaritan Mindfulness
7:00 pm Klokken Tower Ringers

“Illness is the night side of life, a more onerous citizenship. Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick. Although we all prefer to use the good passport, sooner or later each of use is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place.” ~Susan Sontag

Tuesday, May 7

10:00 am Morning Prayer
1:30 pm Worship Planning

“Neurotics complain of their illness, but they make the most of it, and when it comes to taking it away from them they will defend it like a lioness her young.” ~Sigmund Freud

Wednesday, May 8

9:30 am Kerygma Class
10:00 am Classis Meeting
1:00 pm Archiving
7:00 pm Midweek Evening Prayer

“Each patient carries his own doctor inside him.” ~Norman Cousins, Anatomy Of An Illness

Thursday, May 9

7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
10:00 am Stitch Group
6:45 pm Yoga
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

“. . . no disease suffered by a live man can be known, for every living person has his own peculiarities and always has his own peculiar, personal, novel, complicated disease, unknown to medicine -- not a disease of the lungs, liver, skin, heart, nerves, and so on mentioned in medical books, but a disease consisting of one of the innumerable combinations of the maladies of those organs. (Doctors) were useful, necessary, and indispensable because they satisfied a mental need of the invalid and those who loved her. . . . They satisfied that eternal human need for hope of relief, for sympathy, and that something should be done, which is felt by those who are suffering.” ~Leo Tolstoy

Sunday, May 12 ~ Mothers Day

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
9:15 am High School Choir
10:00 am Youth Lead Worship
11:00 am Coffee & Refreshments
11:15 am Kirk Ringers
12:00 pm Confirmation Class
4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers