

***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.*



*From one place, a miracle is just a cloud  
From another, it is color  
And meaning  
And beauty  
And emotion  
And Godly*

June 9, 2013

***First Reformed Church***  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://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.

### **Summer 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 refreshments in Huntley Garden (weather permitting) 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](http://1stReformed.com) one or two days following the service.

### **Lost and Found Basket**

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.

## Third Sunday After Pentecost

June 9, 2013

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Nat Phipps, piano

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering  
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WORSHIP  
ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Sing to the Lord* Linda Hansen

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #483  
*Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)  
In the wideness of your grace, our narrow vision is revealed. Where we see scarcity, you provide enough for all. Where we cling to what is ours, you invite us to share. Where we divide and exclude, you welcome all. Where we focus on ourselves and our own wants, you ask us to tend to the needs of others. God of goodness, renew us. Turn our shortcomings to new beginnings, open to the leading of your Spirit. Amen.

\*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #579  
*Glory Be to the Father* Gloria Patri

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)  
(*from the United Church of Canada*)  
We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is

creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *A Blessing*

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint-hearted;  
support the weak, help the afflicted;  
honour all people;  
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing  
in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy Ghost  
be upon you and remain with you forever.  
Amen.

FIRST LESSON Nancy Wainwright  
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *1 Kings 17:8-16 (page 324)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 7:11-17 (page 65)*

SERMON *The Meaning of a Miracle*  
Bill Levering

\*HYMN #264 *When in Our Music...*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Nat Phipps

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Bill Levering

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 #288

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Regent Square Amen*  
Parke S. Barnard

POSTLUDE Nat Phipps, piano

+ + +

**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:

*Jean Bundy, William Dotter, Mandalay Grems, Helen P. Lindsay, and Edwards Murray*

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please speak with one of our ministers or contact the church office.

**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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

**In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God in loving memory of Bill Dotter by his wife and children. 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.

**Grades K-8**

**Today – August: Summer Church School:**

Children in grades K-8 are welcome to meet in room 20 after the Children's Message for fun and games! We promise your children will leave smarter than when they arrived! On Communion Sundays 3-8 stay in worship.

**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. 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.

**New Member's Class ~ Today**

We are having a new member's class for folks immediately following refreshments after worship. Meet in the church office.

### **First Forum**

**Today:** Appreciation, Celebration and Reflections with our Covenanters and Missioners

**June 23:** Temple Gates of Heaven Exchange; Conversation with Rabbi Mathew Cutler

### **Faith Bookshop**

The Bookshop will be open briefly after worship service today.

### **Jazz Appreciation Month Every Sunday, 5pm**

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

**June 16:** Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

**June 23:** Dave Gleason, piano

**June 30:** Scott Bassinson, piano

### **Junior & Senior High Youth Groups**

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

### **Group VII**

On Friday, June 14 at 11:30am Group VII will meet at the home of Diane Ontkush (1202 Viewmont Dr. in Niskayuna) for our annual picnic. Co-hostesses: Martha Winchester and Ronnie Bartholic. If there are any questions please contact Ronnie at 393-7679.

### **Community Picnic and Outreach Partnership**

In cooperation with State Street Presbyterian and Union Presbyterian churches, we will be hosting a community picnic, to be held at State Street Presbyterian church, for the Vale Neighborhood on June 14 at 6pm. We will be giving out free food and the gym will be open for basketball and other games. Everyone is welcome, and we need volunteers to grill, serve food, oversee the gym, and generally be present. This event is the first stage in a partnership between our three churches, aimed toward doing mission and outreach in the Hill and Vale neighborhoods of Schenectady. Please drop by for some food and fun, and to get to know our partner church members. Contact Stacey Midge if you would like to volunteer.

### **Officers Ordination**

The new Elders and Deacons Ordination will be June 16 during worship service.

### **Interfaith Worship Exchange 50th Anniversary June 20-23**

For 50 years our congregation and Congregation Gates of Heaven have worshipped together one weekend a year to stand as a witness against prejudice and as a testimony to the need for respect among religious people.

#### **Thursday, June 20, 7pm**

*Where We Have Been, Where We Are Going* at Congregation Gates of Heaven. A retrospective of the past 50 years and a discussion about the future role of faith

#### **Friday, June 21, 7pm**

**Service at CGOH, Dr. Levering preaching**

#### **Sunday, June 23, 10am**

**Service at FRC, Rabbi Cutler Preaching**

**Vespers, 5pm, Poling Chapel**

**Dinner, 6pm, Assembly Hall**

All programs and dinner are free and open to everyone. However, please let us know if you are attending the dinner and/or the Thursday evening program. RSVP by calling the church office 377-2201, filling out a white pew card, or send an e-mail [1streformed@gmail.com](mailto:1streformed@gmail.com).

### **Extended Study Leave**

Daniel Carlson will be away until June 22 as he has begun his Doctor of Ministry coursework in Chicago.

### **Summertime Kerygma Conversations**

Read a book, seen a movie, attended a concert, taken a trip, or begun a class that you'd like to talk about with others? Stop by Dirck Romeyn Room 9:30-11am the last Wednesday of June, July, or August and share your new found learning and experience with others who value mutual sharing all year long! Contact Daniel Carlson for further details.

### **Kinderwyk**

Kinderwyk needs volunteers (18 & over per FRC's child protection policies.) Please find one Sunday this year to devote to this important child care from 9:45am - noon. No experience is required. You can find signup sheets, outside room 20 and Kinderwyk, or fill out a white pew card letting us know you would like to be on the list of volunteers.

### **Yoga at FRC**

Douglas Goodbee, certified in Kripalu/Hatha E-RYT and athletic yoga, teaches every Thursday at 6:45pm in Assembly Hall. The classes are free for FRC members, \$10 non-members. This class is for everyone at any level, singles, families, and seniors. Bring a mat and wear loose clothing. Questions: contact Douglas at 229-7291 or e-mail dagoods1@gmail.com.

### **KAPRIOL'! A Group From the Netherlands**

In concert at FRC in the Poling Chapel at 7pm on Tuesday, June 25. Potluck supper in Assembly Hall at 6pm. Please **RSVP** to 384-1700. See posters on FRC bulletin board for more information.

### **Nijkerk's Send-Off**

Send off the adult exchange going to Nijkerk June 27, here at FRC. To benefit this summer's July 25 to Aug. 12 Youth Exchange, host families are needed. See posters on FRC bulletin boards for more information.

### **Kanatsiohareke Strawberry Festival**

The Mohawk Community at Kanatsiohareke will be holding their 20<sup>th</sup> annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 29 and Sunday, June 30. The Archives and Historical Concerns committee encourages the congregation to attend to show our support for their mission. They welcome all volunteers – please contact Caroline Welch if you are interested in volunteering.

### **Communion By Intinction**

The dates are: July 7, August 4, September 1 and the 11pm Christmas Eve service.

### **Joint VBS in July!**

FRC, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and Union Presbyterian are cooperating in a VBS experience from July 15-19 for ages 4-10 years old from 9:15am-12pm. VBS will be held at Union Presbyterian Church on Park Ave. There is a form to fill out, which can be obtained in the FRC office. Plan on having great fun and meeting new friends.

### **Save The Date**

#### **Cultural Frolic at SPAC on August 9**

The Philadelphia Orchestra and the New York City Ballet will present a Bernstein Extravaganza. More information in our July/August First Things.

### **Special Offerings**

As you know, Mission & Benevolence selects a recipient for special offerings taken up each year at Christmas and Easter. The committee invites you to nominate any group you feel would be a good beneficiary. The committee will be organizing its selection process starting in the fall, so make your nomination by September 1. In suggesting an organization, please provide the name of the person to get in touch with in the organization and their contact information. Please contact Stacey Midge for further information.

### **Reformed Church World Service**

Join Reformed Church World Service to help victims of the Oklahoma City tornado. Early response coordinators are already in Oklahoma, helping with spiritual care and needs assessment. Financial donations are urgently needed. Give at [www.rca.org/tornadoes](http://www.rca.org/tornadoes) or send a check to Reformed Church in America, Attn: Finance Department, 4500 60th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512, or, in Canada, to Regional Synod of Canada, 201 Paradise Rd. N., Hamilton, ON L8S 3T3. Checks should be designated "U.S. Tornadoes."

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Fred Daniels, Douglas Todd	Lisa Etkin, Carol Troost
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Veronica Bartholic	Committee Member
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Diane & Peter Ontkush, Linda & William Ward	Sarah Howes, Carol Welch
<b>Greeters</b>	Ann Gotwals	Katherine & George Trimarco
<b>Kinderwyck</b>	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin	Sarah Bachorik
<b>Liturgist</b>	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	William Ward, Robert Beadle, Roberta Blackmer, Darwin Brudos, Maria G. Todd, Linda Witkowski	Veronica Bartholic, Mary Jewett, Robert Dickson, Phillip Falconer, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Tom Lindsay
<b>Reader</b>	Nancy Wainwright	Mary Jewett
<b>Refreshments</b>	Sandy & Craig Kominoski	
<b>Usher</b>	Delbert Pierce (head usher), Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Robert Dickson, Douglas Todd, Michael Horan, Victoria McGowan	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yournno, Louis Acquasanta, Richard Davis, Daniel Stone, Adam Kerwin

*“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”*

*~ Albert Einstein*

**Sunday, June 9**

10:00 am ..... Worship  
10:15 am ..... Church School  
11:00 am ..... Coffee & Refreshments  
11:15 am ..... New Members Class  
11:15 am ..... First Forum  
5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

*“Be realistic: Plan for a miracle”~ Osho*

*“Calvin: Today for show and tell, I've brought a tiny miracle of nature: a single snowflake! I think we might all learn a lesson from how this utterly unique and exquisite crystal turns into an ordinary, boring molecule of water just like every other one when you bring it into the classroom. And now, while the analogy sinks in, I will be leaving you drips and going outside...”*

*~ Bill Watterson*

**Monday, June 10**

9:00 am ..... Mens News Group

**Tuesday, June 11**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer  
6 pm ..... Archives  
6:30 pm ..... Standing Committee's  
7 pm ..... Consistory

*“It's a miracle I was able to get out of the house today. It's a miracle I'm even wearing pants, a double miracle I remembered to wear shoes.”*

*~ Lauren Oliver, Delirium*

**Wednesday, June 12**

1 pm ..... Archives

*“Just because you can explain it doesn't mean it's not still a miracle.” ~ Terry Pratchett, Small Gods*

**Thursday, June 13**

6:45 pm ..... Yoga

*“If you need a miracle, be a miracle.”*

*~ Phillip C. McGraw*

**Sunday, June 16 ~ Officers Ordination**

10:00 am ..... Worship  
10:15 am ..... Church School  
11:00 am ..... Coffee & Refreshments  
5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

*“There is no such thing as magic, supernatural, miracle; only something that's still beyond logic of the observer.” ~ Toba Beta, Betelgeuse Incident*

*“For this is one of the miracles of love; it gives - to both, but perhaps especially to the woman - a power of seeing through its own enchantments and yet not being disenchanted.” ~ C.S. Lewis A Grief Observed*