

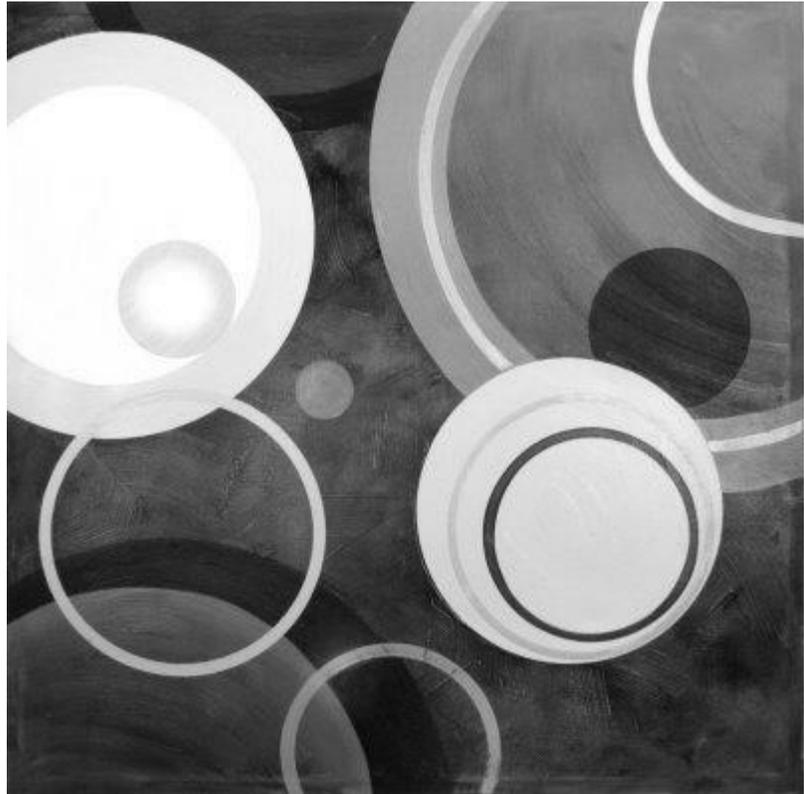
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



"What does it mean?" asked the boy.
His mother smiled and answered wistfully,
"It means so many marvelous things!
Some we find and some find us."

August 18, 2013

Welcome Union Presbyterian Church



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; a baby changing station is in the women's bathroom.

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 after worship 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 one or two days following the service.

Lost and Found Basket

We have a lost and found basket in the Narthex at the Union St. entrance of the church. If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check there.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 18, 2013

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Johnny Willis &
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes

Serenade Susann McDonald

In the Sweet By and By arr. by Johnny Willis &
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes

In the Garden arr. by Susann McDonald

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Times Two)
arr. by Susann McDonald and Johnny Willis

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

*HYMN #263 *Immortal, Invisible,...*

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Eternal God, in sovereign love you created the world good and make every human equally in your image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we forget your sustaining presence and turn from you, our Savior. Ignoring your commandments, we violate your image in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature entrusted to our care. We deserve your condemnation. Yet in steadfast faithfulness you act with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #579

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

The Scriptures, given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are nevertheless words of human beings, conditioned by the language, thought forms, and literary fashions of the places and times at which they were written. As God has spoken the divine word in diverse cultural situations, the church is confident that God will continue to speak through the Scriptures in a changing world and in every form of human culture.

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

O Had I Jubal's Lyre

G.F. Handel

Margaret VanNorden, soprano

Oh, had I Jubal's lyre,
Or Miriam's tuneful voice!
To sounds like his I would aspire,
In songs like hers rejoice.
My humble strains but faintly show,
How much to Heav'n and thee I owe.

FIRST LESSON *Luke 15:8-9*

Barbara Walton

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Luke 12:16-20 (page 74)

SERMON

Read the Bible, Burn the Dictionary

Bill Levering

*HYMN #270

O God, in a Mysterious Way

St. Anne

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stepping Forward in Faith

Joyce & Raymond Beland

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Wayfaring Stranger*
arr. by W.M. Govea

I am a poor, wayfaring stranger, While
traveling through this world of woe.
Yet there's no sickness, toil nor danger
In that bright world to which I go.
I'm going there to see my Father;
I'm going there no more to roam.
I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather round me;
I know my way is rough and steep.
But golden fields lie out before me
Where God's redeemed shall ever sleep.
I'm going there to see my Savior,
I know He'll meet me when I come.
I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 #285 *God, You Spin the Whirling...*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

To enjoy the postlude please remain seated.

POSTLUDE

Let All Things Now Living (Ash Grove)
arr. by Johnny and Leah

+ + +

Worship Notes

Our Need for God is drawn from The Presbyterian
Church (USA) Brief Statement of Faith. The
Affirmation of Faith is drawn from the
Presbyterian Book of Confessions.

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

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the
sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving
memory of Donald Troost from Carol and
Deborah Troost. 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.

Entered Into Eternal Rest

William Hubbard
August 3, 2013

Memorial Service to be held Sat., Sept. 14 at 1:30.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship committee will meet in the
Poling conference room immediately following
today's worship service. All who are interested are
invited to attend.

Faith Bookshop

Have you visited the church Bookshop which is open after Sunday services and located across from the library? It's a nice place to browse, meet new friends and purchase unique items and reasonably priced books. The Bookshop also carries fair trade coffee, tea and chocolates.

Magnetic Name Tags

If you do not have a name tag on the door by Poling Chapel, please indicate that on a white card pew card and put it in the collection plate.

Baby Changing Stations

There is a baby changing station in the women's bathroom located across from the Johnson Library. Soon there will be changing stations in the women's and men's bathrooms located below the Union St. entrance.

Kinderwyk - Childcare

We need volunteers (18 & over) to help our professional staff care for our youngest members during worship. Fill out a white pew card and place it in the offering plate to let us know you would like to be a part of this ministry. Following a required background check the church office staff will contact you to schedule the Sundays you are willing and available to serve.

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. 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 preparation, cleanup, and refreshments by yourself or with a friend. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall. A sheet with "how to" suggestions is also posted since the summer procedure is slightly different. Any questions, please contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: Mike Lamkin, piano

August 25: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tim Coakley, drums (held in the Sanctuary)

Sept. 1: Paul Mastriani, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Sept. 8: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Sept. 15: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

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.

Youth Group

All youth in grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to a BBQ on the church lawn on Thursday, August 22 from 6-8pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Burgers, hot dogs, and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Stacey Midge 377-2201 or by e-mail to, revstacey@gmail.com so she can buy enough food.

Eagle Award Presented

Nicholas Blinckmann will be presented with the prestigious Eagle award by the FRC Boy Scout Troop 1 on Thursday, August 22 at a Court of Honor. The public is welcome to join us at 7pm in the Poling Chapel for this 30 minute ceremony.

Family Campout August 23-25

Break out your tents, trailers, and sleeping bags. Several intrepid souls and also people in trailers will take to a nearby State Park for a weekend of informal fun. Get ready for campfires, songs, short hikes, and swimming! Families with children of any age are encouraged. Contact Scoutmaster Levering for reservations at blevering@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed - Yates Village

Union Presbyterian is responsible for the Summer Lunch Program at Yates Village Community Center for the week of August 26. The time is 11:55am to 1:30pm, although most people can leave around 1pm. UPC has done this many years and the big bonus is that it is inside and air conditioned. We need Help! Please call Ellie Rowland at 370-1958 or email her at erowland@nycap.rr.com.

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 the Dirck Romeyn Room from 9:30-11am on August 28 and share your new found learning and experience with others. Contact Daniel Carlson for further details.

Church Facility Tour on First Sundays

If you are new to our church building and would like a brief tour, every Communion Sunday there will be someone to show you around immediately following a cup of coffee. Meet in front of the church office.

Welcome Back Picnic September 8

Everyone is invited to plan on staying after worship on September 8 for a time of fun, food, and fellowship!

In an effort to promote a healthier environment and eating experience, those attending the picnic are encouraged to use locally grown/locally made products in the dishes they bring to share.

Volunteers are also needed for set up before the picnic and break down/clean up after the picnic. If you are interested in helping, please contact Leah Kidwell-Fernandes at 383-2167 or leah@upstateharpist.com.

Small groups - Stepping Forward in Faith

Members with common interests are currently being formed so that everyone can learn about this year's stewardship campaign *Stepping Forward in*

Faith. This group for older singles, widows, and widowers hosted by Carol Troost, will meet Sept. 8 after the church picnic. Please contact Carol at troostcarol@gmail.com or sign up on the sheet posted in Assembly Hall if you would like to attend.

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 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."

Church School

September will be here before we know it! Teachers are needed for classes in the Fall. Training will be provided. Call Jamie Ipsen 399-6848 if you are even remotely interested.

A Reminder – The October 20 Book Sale

Please bring donated books – fiction, non-fiction, and children's – to the Poling Conference room. Volunteers needed. Call Linda Witkowski 374-7904.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	George Trimarco, Therese McCarty	Linnea D'Andrea, Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Nancy Wainwright
Flower Delivery	Alison & Walter Yang, Linda Witkowski	Joanne Bedell, Veronica Bartholic
Greeters	Nancy Ellen & Dale Swann	Therese McCarty, Johnny Willis
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik, Mary Russell	Sarah Bachorik, Mary Russell
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Rob Dickson, Peggy King, Katherine Trimarco	Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Katherine Trimarco, Roberta Blackmer
Reader	Barbara Walton	Catherine deSalle
Refreshments	Barbara Walton	Vernetta, Zane, Elaine Thuener
Usher	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeff Cox, Sharron & Jim McCullough	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Steve Breitenbach, Griffin Laycock, Gerry Myers, Susan Read

Sunday, August 18

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School for K-8
- 11:00 am Refreshments
- 11:00 am Officer Orientation Meeting
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, August 19

- 9:00 am Mens News Group
- 7:00 pm Creation Care Committee

Tuesday, August 20

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Thursday, August 22

- 6:00 pm Youth Group BBQ
- 6:45 pm Yoga
- 7:00 pm Eagle Scout Ceremony

Sunday, August 25

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School for K-8
- 11:00 am Refreshments
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

The Ultimate Answer to Life, The Universe and Everything is...42! ~Douglas Adams, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Art—the meaning of the pattern of our common actions in reality. The cloth-of-gold that hides behind the sackcloth of reality, forced out by the pain of human memory. ~Lawrence Durrell, Justine

Look at the stars. See their beauty. And in that beauty, see yourself. ~Draya Mooney

What is the meaning of it, Watson? said Holmes solemnly as he laid down the paper. "What object is served by this circle of misery and violence and fear? It must tend to some end, or else our universe is ruled by chance, which is unthinkable. But what end? There is the great standing perennial problem to which human reason is as far from an answer as ever. ~Arthur Conan Doyle, The Adventure of the Cardboard Box

Maybe the Truth of the Meaning of Life, Ancient and Arcane Knowledge of the Great Unknowable Universe is handed down only to persons presenting with the correct brand-name footwear. If you turn up wearing Shoe City knock-offs, you don't get to pass Go and collect Infinite Enlightenment. ~Tracy Engelbrecht, The Girl Who Couldn't Say No

I knew in that moment that everything happens for a reason, but we can't always know the reason when the journey begins. Some things we can only understand at the end of our journey. ~ Mike Ericksen, Upon Destiny's Song