

***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.



The new life
The new idea
The new hope
The new relationship
The new perspective
The new peace

All these
This old God brings

October 13, 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.

Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

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.

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 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 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 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.

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 2013

PRELUDE Instrumental and Vocal Ensembles

Ashokan Farewell Jay Ungar

Abby Norton Levering, violin;

Johnny Willis, mandolin; Bob Ridgway, guitar

Empty of Me David Lantz

Naphtali Rothrock, violin; Don Lester, bass;

David Cotter, guitar; Susan Hale, piano

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

INTROIT *Worship the Lord* John Porter

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #473
For the Beauty of the Earth Dix

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. We have failed to care for the people and the world you created. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

The Apostle's Creed (traditional)

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Henry Richard Roberts
Parents: Christopher and Stephanie
Grandmother: Barbara Roberts

PROMISES FOR THE CHILD

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ**

Do you trust in him? **I do.**

Do you intend your child to be his disciple, to obey his word and show his love? **I do.**

PROMISES OF THE PEOPLE

Do you, the people of this church, promise to tell this child the good news of the gospel, to help him know all that Christ commands, and by your fellowship, to strengthen his ties with the household of God? **We do.**

BAPTISM

BLESSINGS AND WELCOME (*unison*)

Holy God: remind us of the promises given in our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will, and to serve you with joy: for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Are You Washed?* Elisah Hoffman
arr. Benjamin Harlan

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*
Rob Landes

FIRST LESSON Nancy Wainwright
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (page 163)*

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners
Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

+ + +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 15:11-32 (page 78)*

SERMON *The Challenge of Modern Parenting*

*HYMN #492 *Baptized in Water* Bunessan

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY *Stephen Ministry*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *I Worship You Lord*
Susan B. Boersma, David Lantz II

*THANKSGIVING #591
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

*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.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #386 *O for a World*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Music Note

Our Response of Praise is a joyful declaration which comes to us via John Bell of Scotland, who first heard the tune at the Sunrise Hospice in S. Africa. Words and transcription copyright 2008 WGRG, Iona Community Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

Entered Eternal Rest

Lechia Russell
October 6, 2013

Jack Blake
October 7, 2013

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:

William Fasake, Barbara Lawrence, Emma Pitzer, Marion Richard, and Frederick White

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 and in honor of my Father, Earle Van Heyningen's 92nd birthday, by Carol and Deb 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.

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, please contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

Forum

Held after worship most Sundays at 11:15am in Poling Chapel. Suggestions for programs are welcome from any committee or member; simply contact Joe Doolittle, 384-1700 or the church office by phone or e-mail 1streformedpub@gmail.com.

Today: Stephen Ministry: Christ caring for people through people; Stephen Leaders & Ministers

Oct 20: Annual Book Fair

Oct 27: Stepping Forward in Faith – An overview of the 2014 Stewardship Campaign

Sunday Adult Classes

There will be classes after worship for adults to reflect on the theme of the service, or to delve into some new topics. In October, Dr. Levering will lead a class on *The Promise of Parenting*. The classes will be held in Poling Conference room right after a quick cup of coffee and will end promptly at noon. Childcare will be provided.

Fall Frolic: A Walk Along the Mohawk

Join us today after worship and Form/class/conversation for a picnic lunch in Riverside Park followed by an autumn stroll with friends along this amazing waterway. This frolic is brought to you by your Fellowship Committee.

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

ALL youth in grades 6-12, will meet from 5-7pm on Sunday nights unless otherwise noted, all will meet for dinner, fellowship, service, and learning activities.

Today: We will have dinner and participate in a fun but eye-opening activity about poverty in our community.

Oct.20: Ellms Farm Trip

Everyone is welcome to join the youth group for a fall fun extravaganza, including the Amazing Maize Maze, Jumping Pillow, Chicken Show, Spider Web, MooMooChooChoo, animal feed area, hay ride, farm play area, kiddie mazes, zip lines, pedal carts, barnyard mazes, and more! We will carpool from the church at noon. Admission is \$11.75 for under 12 year olds, \$12.75 for 12 and up, and free for 2 and under.

Oct. 27: Bowlathon to benefit Safe Inc. Meet at Boulevard Bowl on Erie Blvd. at 1pm. Please bring \$20, which includes bowling, shoe rental, and pizza lunch. Costumes are encouraged!

Faith Bookshop

The sale of donated jewelry will end Sunday, Oct. 27. 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 Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolates.

Stepping Forward in Faith Stewardship Campaign

Our goal is to increase the number of members who pledge and to cover program costs for the year 2014. Our strategy is to invite members to a conversation in a Small Group about FRC's program, impact and needs to enhance the Holy

Spirit's presence in the lives of the Congregation and Community. At a meeting, after a short video, there will be solid conversation about our present and future, and of course refreshments. Please sign up for the remaining Groups in Assembly Hall or RSVP to hosts.

Today: *Stewardship and Shortbread* (misc. group) from 11:15am to 12:15pm in Walton Conference room. Please sign up on the sheet in Assembly Hall, call Joan Lindsay, group hostess, 399-3153 or call the church office if you plan to attend.

Oct. 16: *Pillar's of the Church* (or anyone who'd like to be); hosted by Joe and Gay Doolittle, 384-1700 from 7pm to 8:15pm at their home, 112 Maplewood Drive, Glenville

Oct. 20: *UPC'er's group* hosted by Marilyn Leach, 374-1022 will meet from 8:45 to 9:45am at church

With questions about *Stepping Forward in Faith*, please contact co-chairs Joyce and Ray Beland, hosts, or any member of the Committee, Andy Chestnut, Fred Daniels, Joe Doolittle, Bill Levering, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Joan Lindsay, and Nancy Wainwright.

Come to the Feast!

Join us any Wednesday for a course or two or three of this weekly Feast featuring good food for body, mind, and spirit.

6pm: Delicious Vegetarian Dinner and Faith Discussion

7pm: Worship Service

No registration required; food contributions welcome.

Group V & Group VII

Group V and Group VII will meet together for coffee, tea and talk at 10am on Friday, Oct. 18 in Assembly Hall. All Union Presbyterian Women are invited for this informal meeting. Any questions contact Ronnie Bartholic at 393-7679.

Men's Breakfast

All FRC and UPC members are invited to come to the first Men's Breakfast meeting at 8am on Sat.,

Oct. 19. Meet in Assembly Hall for breakfast, followed by a program to be presented by Rob Dickson. Rob will tell us about the 150th Commemoration of the Battle of Gettysburg. His talk will focus on Gettysburg, Civil War re-enactments, and FRC members involved in the battle. Come and share good food and good fellowship, RSVP in Assembly Hall, or fill out a white pew card and place in the offering basket on Sunday.

Klokken Tower Ringers

Join us for conversation about handbells, schedules, etc. Sunday, Oct. 20. Grab a cookie and beverage and join us back in the sanctuary at 11:20am. Ringers, curious and interested folks; all are invited to join us.

New Member Class Oct 20

If you are interested in finding out more about the church or know someone who is, this is just the meeting for you! Dr. Levering and Rev. Carlson will meet with people interested in joining and help them get to know the church. Class begins at 3pm starting in the church office.

Book Fair ~ Oct. 20

It's not too early to rummage through your home library to find books that need a new home. Why not donate them to our church Book Fair? Fiction, non-fiction, children's (no college text books, please.) They maybe just the books you have been looking for. We're beginning to collect books and will store them in the Poling Conference Room, opposite our church library. If you'd like to be part of the Fair in some capacity, see or call Linda Witkowski 374-7904.

Justice Action Council (JAC)

We will meet on Oct. 20 at 12-1pm, location tba. JAC usually focuses on one area at a time where action can be realized. Methods have included Forum presentations, movies, exhibits, letters to the editor, workshops of writing legislators, and policy requests to Consistory. Please contact Gay or Joe Doolittle 384-1700 for more information, and/or plan on joining us on Oct. 20.

Final Call for Stephen Ministry Training!

This excellent training opportunity, which equips Christians to take part in Christ's ministry of compassionate care to others going through a difficult time in life, is only offered once every few years - and this is the year! Sessions will take place on Monday evenings Oct. 21 through Dec. 16, with two additional full day Saturday sessions, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7. The application deadline is this Wed., Oct. 16. A Stephen Ministry information table can be found outside Assembly Hall and today's Forum will feature this ministry as well. Contact Daniel Carlson 377-2201, Vernetta Thuener 355-2543, or Maria G. Todd 421-7931 if you have *any* questions. For those on the web, check out www.stephenministries.org and click: What is a Stephen Minister?

Interfaith Perspectives on Fracking

On Sat., Oct. 26, 6:30-9pm a free public screening of the film, Gasland Part II, followed by dialogue among those of various faith communities-and those not identifying with any religious tradition-will take place in Assembly Hall. First Reformed

Church has not taken a position on hydraulic fracturing; however, our Creation Care Commission is sponsoring this event with the goal of increasing awareness of this pressing issue and faithful environmental stewardship regarding the same. This event is one of many held in connection with Global Frackdown 2, an international movement organized by Food and Water Watch. Popcorn will be available.

Movie Night

Join in viewing the film *Fast Life* on Friday, Nov. 8 at 7pm at the home of Andy and Heather Chestnut (1286 Wendell Ave., Schenectady, 12308). A thought provoking film made by students from Schenectady High School, *Fast Life* depicts the tremendous challenges faced by many urban youth; rated PG-13 for violence and drugs. The trailer for *Fast Life* can be found on YouTube using the search terms *fast life Schenectady*. Bring a dessert or snack to share. RSVP by Tues., Nov. 5 to Leah Kidwell-Fernandes at 383-2167 or leah@upstateharpist.com.

| | This Sunday | Next Sunday |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Counting Deacons | Richard Davis, Leah Kidwell-Fernandes | Victoria McGowan-Horan, Claire Hughes |
| Faith Bookshop | Veronica Bartholic | Roberta Blackmer |
| Flower Delivery | | |
| Greeters | Roberta & Richard Blackmer | Paul & Susan Houpt |
| Kinderwyk | Sarah Bachorik, Peggy Ridgway | Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin |
| Liturgist | Daniel Carlson | Daniel Carlson |
| Preacher | Bill Levering | Stacey Midge |
| Processing Elders | Margaret King, Keith Muse, Roberta Blackmer, Tom Lindsay, Bill Rochelle, Linda Witkowski | Veronica Bartholic, Robert Dickson, William Ward, Bradley Lewis, Catherine Lewis |
| Reader | Nancy Wainwright | Lynne Gilgore |
| Refreshments | Jean Lindsay, Karen Gonda | Becky Mason |
| Usher | Art Shultes (head usher), Jeff Cox, Sharron McCullough, Jim McCullough | Art Shultes (head usher), Jeff Cox, Sharron & Jim McCullough |

Sunday, September 13

11:15 pm..... Shortbread & Stewardship
11:15 am..... Forum and Adult Classes
11:15 am..... Orff Rehearsal
11:30 am..... Fall Frolic
4:00 pm..... Youth Orchestra
5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, October 14

Columbus Day ~ Office Closed

Tuesday, October 15

10:00 am..... Horizons Bible Study
10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
11:00 am..... Support & Care Meeting
6:00 pm..... CRTC

Wednesday, October 16

9:30 am..... Kerygma Conversations
1:00 pm..... Thursday Belles
6:00 pm..... Delicious Vegetarian Dinner and
Faith Discussion
7:00 pm..... Worship Service

Thursday, October 17

7:30 am..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
10:00 am..... Stitch Group
12:00 pm..... Book Fair Set-Up
6:45 pm..... Yoga
7:00 pm..... Stephen Ministry Meeting
7:30 pm..... Chancel Choir

Friday, October 18

10:00 am..... Group V & VII

Saturday, October 19

8:00 am..... Men's Breakfast
9:30 am..... Book Fair Set-Up

Sunday, September 20

8:45 am..... UPCer's Group
9:00 am..... Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:15 am..... High School Choir
10:00 am..... Worship
10:15 am..... Church School for K-8
11:00 am..... Book Fair
11:15 am..... Small Group: Stewardship
11:15 am..... Klokken Tower Ringers
12:00 pm..... Justice Action Council
3:00 pm..... New Members Class
5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do. ~ Benjamin Spock

Your children are the greatest gift God will give to you, and their souls the heaviest responsibility he will place in your hands. Take time with them, teach them to have faith in God. Be a person in whom they can have faith. When you are old, nothing else you've done will have mattered as much. ~Lisa Wingate

I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom. ~Umberto Eco,
Foucault's Pendulum

We may not be able to prepare the future for our children, but we can at least prepare our children for the future. ~Franklin D. Roosevelt

Your kids require you most of all to love them for who they are, not to spend your whole time trying to correct them. ~Bill Ayers

Children are people, and they should have to reach to learn about things, to understand things, just as adults have to reach if they want to grow in mental stature. Life is composed of lights and shadows, and we would be untruthful, insincere, and saccharine if we tried to pretend there were no shadows. Most things are good, and they are the strongest things; but there are evil things too, and you are not doing a child a favor by trying to shield him from reality. The important thing is to teach a child that good can always triumph over evil. ~Walt Disney Company

The best way to keep children at home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant, and let the air out of the tires. ~Dorothy Parker

Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. ~James Baldwin

To you who are parents, I say, show love to your children. You know you love them, but make certain they know it as well. They are so precious. Let them know. Call upon our Heavenly Father for help as you care for their needs each day and as you deal with the challenges which inevitably come with parenthood. You need more than your own wisdom in rearing them. ~Thomas S. Monson