

*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.

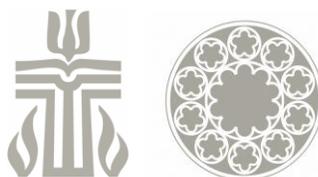
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



October 20, 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-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 20, 2013

PRELUDE

Libera

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stacey Midge

INTROIT

Choral Call

Robert Campbell

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #411

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Festal Song

*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*)

Adapted from the Belhar Confession

We believe that God wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people. In a world full of injustice and enmity, God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the

hungry; God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly. The church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Eternal Spirit of the Living God*

Eventide

Olivia Mancuso, soloist

Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,

I know not what to ask or what to say;

I only know my need, as deep as life,

And only you can teach me how to pray.

Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;

Help me to see your purpose and your will,

Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;

Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear

Of human need; oh, give me eyes to see

Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured:

My life in you, O Christ; your love in me.

Frank von Christierson

FIRST LESSON

Lynne Gilgore

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy

Spirit. **Amen.** *Genesis 32:22-31 (page 30)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Luke 18:1-8 (page 81)

SERMON

Keep Struggling

Stacey Midge

*HYMN #409

Wild and Lone...

Aberystwyth

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Dance Jubilee*
K. McChesney
Thursday Belles; Abby Levering, Violin
Tom D'Andrea, Percussion

*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 #429
Lord, You Give the Great... Abbot's Leigh

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE Thursday Belles
Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

POSTLUDE
Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

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

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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:

Loretta Bloomquist, Anne B. Coggeshall, Alice Harrington, Sara Hollister Linder, Virginia (Ginnie) Mills, and Maria Pletenik

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 Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

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
1stformedpub@gmail.com.

Today: 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 is provided.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: Peg Delaney, piano; Tom Delaney, bass;

Tom D'Andrea, drums

Oct. 27: David Gleason, piano

Nov. 3: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass;

Tom D'Andrea, drums

Nov. 10: 'Azzaam Hameed Trio

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: 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.

Today ~ Book Fair

Come and shop for Christmas gifts or just because. Cider and donuts provided.

Today ~ Klokken Tower Ringers

Join us for conversation about handbells, schedules, etc. 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.

Today ~ Justice Action Council (JAC)

We will meet from 12-1pm, in the Dirck Romeyn room. 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.

Today ~ Prospective Member Class

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.

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.

Stephen Ministry Training Begins!

This Monday from 6:30-9pm marks the beginning of 40 hours of initial training for nearly a dozen people who have committed themselves to learning the skills of this ministry of compassion. *The Person of the Caregiver* will be our focus; trainees will consider the five foundational characteristics of a Christian caregiver.

What's Your Story?

Those that participated in the Sept. *What's Your Story?* are reminded that the group will meet Oct. 21 at 10am in the Dirk Romeyn room to continue our stories. Having heard stories about our "roots" we now are eager to hear of the "shoots". Though fully subscribed for the Fall session, another group may meet in January; those interested may contact Ginny Laumeister 381-4201 or Daniel Carlson.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck

The first concert of the Musicians of Ma'alwyck is our biannual Macabre Music program, scheduled for Friday Oct. 25 at 7pm here at FRC; this year features the world premiere of Jeffrey Brody's Phantasmagoria. All performers will be in costume. Please feel free to attend in costume yourself. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. FRC members are free, tickets in the church office. For more information call 518/377-3623 or visit www.musiciansofmaalywck.com.

Interfaith Perspectives on Fracking

This Saturday, 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. 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.

FRC Pictorial Directories

Any UPC member wishing to put a face with a name and contact information is welcome to stop by the church office and request a (now quite dated, but still useful) pictorial directory. The same goes for any FRC member or adherent who never received a directory.

Emergency Contact Information

In times of crisis it can be very helpful to have on hand the name and number of the person to be contacted in case of an emergency. The Support and Care Committee urges such information to be shared with the church office, where it will be accessible to the church staff.

All Event Sign-Ups

All Church event sign-ups can be done by:

- The Board in Assembly Hall
- Contacting coordinator of event
- Calling the church office at 377-2201
- Filling out a white pew card
- E-mailing: 1streformedpub@gmail.com

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Victoria McGowan-Horan, Claire Hughes	George Trimarco, Tom Burgoyne
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Linda Witkowski
Flower Delivery	Ellie & Darwin Brudos, Veronica Bartholic	Carol & David Schweizer, Natalie & Richard Davis
Greeters	Paul & Susan Houpt	Tom & Kim Burgoyne
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Rob Dickson, William Ward, Bradley Lewis, Catherine Lewis	Joyce Griggs, Keith Muse, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Jerry Griggs
Reader	Lynne Gilgore	Marilyn Leach
Refreshments	Becky Mason	Lechia Russell
Usher	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Crystal Mongillo, Gerry Myers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Chris Langdon, Linda Stanhope

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..... Prospective Members Class
- 4:00 pm..... Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, October 21

- 9:00 am..... Mens News Group
- 10:00 am..... What's Your Story?
- 6:30 pm..... Stephen Ministry Training
- 7:00 pm..... Klokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, October 22

- 10:00 am..... Horizons Bible Study
- 10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
- 6:00 pm..... CRTC

Wednesday, October 23

- 9:30 am..... Kerygma Conversations
- 1:00 pm..... Thursday Belles
- 6:00 pm..... Dinner & Faith Discussion
- 7:00 pm..... Contemplative Communion

Thursday, October 24

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

Friday, October 25

- 12:00pm..... Fellowship Luncheon
- 7:00 pm..... Musicians of Ma'alwyck
Concert

Saturday, October 26

- 6:30 pm..... Creation Care Film &
Discussion

Sunday, September 27

- 10:00 am..... Worship
- 10:15 am..... Church School for K-8
- 11:00 am..... Coffee & Conversation
- 12:00 pm Membership Committee
- 4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest. ~Elie Wiesel

Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are. ~Benjamin Franklin

Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy. ~Winston Churchill

If you tremble with indignation at every injustice then you are a comrade of mine. ~Ernesto Guevara

Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public. ~Cornel West

The brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something. Because the brick walls are there to stop the people who don't want it badly enough. They're there to stop the other people. ~Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*