

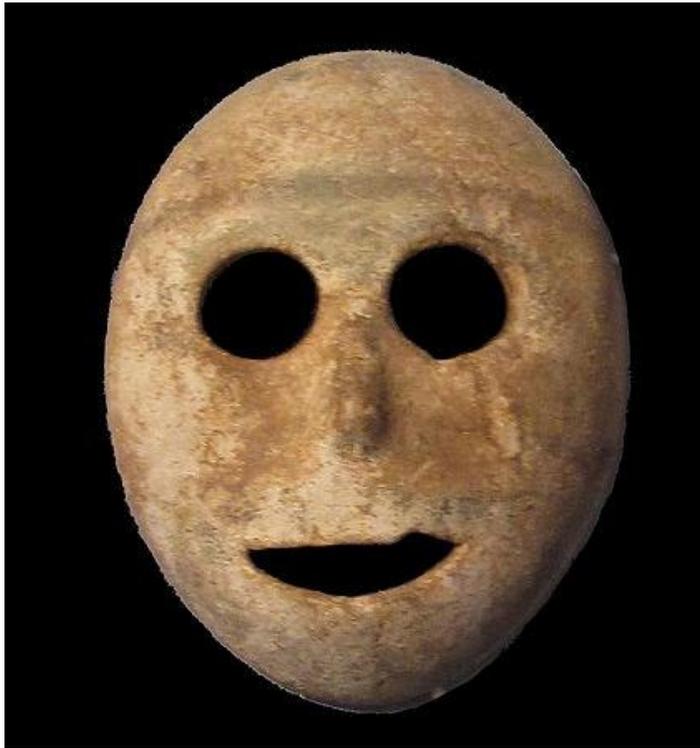
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

(Colossians 3:12)

October 27, 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.

Reformation Sunday

October 27, 2013

PRELUDE Olivia Mancuso, piano
Deux Arabesques, No. 1 Claude Debussy
Untitled Waltz Olivia Mancuso

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Let Us Worship* Tom Benjamin

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #457 *I Greet Thee...*

*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 *Open Thou Mine Eyes* John Rutter
Corine Salon, soloist

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see;
incline my heart and I shall desire;
Order my steps and I shall walk
in the ways of thy commandments.

O Lord God, be thou to me a God
and beside thee let there be none else,
No other, nought else with thee.

Vouchsafe to me to worship thee
and serve thee according to thy
commandments,
In truth of spirit, in rev'ence of body,
in blessing of lips, in private and in public.

Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

FIRST LESSON Marilyn Leach
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Galatians 3:23-28 (page 189)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Colossians 3:8-11 (page 201)*

SERMON *Change is Artificial* Bill Levering

*SPIRITUAL SONG *Where The Spirit Is*
words, Jonas Jonson
music, Per Harling

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert V. Shepherd by Carol Welch 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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

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.

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

Nov. 3: Justice Action Council - A review and discussion of current issues for Congregational Awareness and Action. Co-Chairs Gay and Joe Doolittle

Nov. 10: Poetry Corner -Members share favorite poems, facilitated by Linda Witkowski. Come,

listen and share passages and poems that touch your heart.

Nov. 17: Sharing Keys with Naphtali - Naphtali Rothrock shares some of her favorite works of music.

Nov. 24: Sermon talk-back and conversation with Rev. Bill Levering - *So how's it going?*

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: David Gleason, piano

Nov. 3: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Nov. 10: 'Azzaam Hameed Trio (1st appearance)

Nov. 17: Peg Delaney Trio

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Jazz Festival

Thanksgiving Jazz Festival

The annual Jazz Festival from 4-6pm in the Sanctuary on Nov. 24 will feature David Gleason and Scott Bassinson on piano, Mike Lawrence and Pete Toigo on bass, Jim Corigliano, sax, and Dylan Canterbury, trumpet, Jim and Dylan are provided courtesy of the Schenectady Musical Union. Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance (call the Church Office), students \$5.

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: 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!

Nov. 3: Regular meeting at 5pm. We will be hearing and acting out Jesus' parables. After the meeting at 7pm, we will have a brief gathering for those youth who are interested in participating in the mission trip.

Nov. 10: Senior High youth will be taking pie orders after the worship service at 11am, to raise money for the mission trip. Regular meeting at 5pm. We will play games and have a panel of interesting people who you can grill about their

perspective on God, the church, their own faith journeys, or life in general.

Nov. 17: Senior High youth will be taking pie orders after the worship service at 11am, to raise money for the mission trip. Regular meeting at 5pm, with an exciting and mysterious video project.

Faith Bookshop

The donated jewelry sale ends today. Proceeds from this project will go to *Things of My Very Own*, and remaining jewelry will be given to the *Elite Repeat Boutique*. For information about these organizations which benefit our local community, see the Nov. issue of First Things.

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 Continues

This coming week our Stephen Ministry training class will move into high gear! On Monday evening they will be learning about the importance of recognizing and accepting all the feelings that people have. At a special Saturday session they will start by honing their listening skills and understanding the great value and challenge of listening well. They will also be exploring the treasury of resources in our tradition available for Christian caregiving. And at the close of the day, they will be learning the difference between their role as caregivers and God's role as Caregiver. We are so thankful for the evident enthusiasm and engagement of our

new Stephen Minister trainees and ask your continued prayers for them (the class list can be found in Nov.'s First Things).

Pie Sale

The youth group will begin taking orders for its annual Pie Sale on Sunday, November 3. Homemade apple and pumpkin pies will be available for pickup on Sunday, November 24 for \$15 each. Proceeds from the sale support the youth mission trip

Evening Circle

The Evening circle will meet at the home of Ellie Rowland, 1249 Sandra Lane in Niskayuna at 7:30pm on Wednesday, Nov. 6. The program will be a discussion of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, a most unusual and beautifully written book about Nazi Germany from a young school girl's viewpoint.

All women are invited, whether you have read the book or not. Please call Ellie, 370-1958 or email, erowland@nycap.rr.com if you can attend.

Fellowship Luncheon

Fellowship Luncheon will meet Friday, Nov. 8, in Assembly Hall at 11:45am. *Note that date is not the last Friday in October.* Ellie Rowland and Ellie Brudos will serve as co-hostesses for the day. Our own Rev. Stacie Midge will tell us about her work with *Patty's Place*.

Movie Night

Join in viewing the film *Fast Life* on Fri., Nov. 8 at 7pm at the home of Andy and Heather Chestnut (1286 Wendell Ave., Schenectady). 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.

Lights. Camera. Jesus!

Beginning Nov. 19, on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7pm, we invite you to join us in Dirck Romeyn room for a new group: **Lights.**

Camera. Jesus! Each week we will gather together to watch a documentary, a short film, or a movie followed by reflective conversation. The films will cover a variety of topics from feminism to food, from evangelism to evolution, from sexuality to Scripture, and from Hell to health care. This group is intended for adults and older teens who are willing to ask deeper questions, curious to talk about the things we don't often talk about, and eager to seek Jesus in new ways.

Contact Covenanter Jeremy Bork

(jeremybork19@gmail.com; or call 605-254-2645) if you are interested, and join us on Nov. 19 at 7pm as we kick off with *One Nation Under God*.

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.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	George Trimarco, Tom Burgoyne	Fred Daniels, Caroline Welch
Faith Bookshop	Linda Witkowski	Bill Clock
Flower Delivery	Carol & David Schweizer, Natalie & Richard Davis	Cathy & Robert Allen, Karen & Rob Dickson
Greeters	Tom & Kim Burgoyne	
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joyce Griggs, Keith Muse, Darwin Brudos, Mary Jewett, Jerry Griggs	Robert Dickson, Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Caroline Brooks, Bill Brooks, Darwin Brudos, Brad Lewis, Catherine Lewis
Reader	Marilyn Leach	George Davidson
Refreshments		
Usher	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Chris Langdon, Linda Stanhope	Fred Daniels, Bill Martin, Victoria McGowan-Horan, Nancy Wainwright, Kim Burgoyne, Tom Burgoyne, Joe Gallagher, Caroline Welch

Sunday, October 27

10:00 am..... Worship
10:15 am..... Church School for K-8
11:00 am..... Coffee & Conversation
11:15 am..... Forum & Adult Class
12:00 pm..... Membership Committee
1:00 pm..... JH & SHYG Bowlathon
5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, October 28

9:00 am..... Mens News Group
6:30 pm..... Stephen Ministry Training
7:00 pm..... Klokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, October 29

10:00 am..... Horizons Bible Study
10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
6:00 pm..... CRTC
7:00 pm..... Creation Care Committee

Wednesday, October 30

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

Thursday, October 31

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

Saturday, November 2

8:00 am..... Stephen Ministry Training

Sunday, November 3

9:00 am..... Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:15 am..... High School Choir
10:00 am..... Worship with Communion
10:15 am..... Church School for K-2
11:00 am..... Coffee & Conversation
11:15 am..... Forum & Adult Class
11:15 am..... UPC Women's Assoc. Meeting
11:15 am..... Orff Rehearsal
11:20 am..... Kirk Ringers
4:00 pm..... Youth Orchestra
5:00 pm..... JH & SH Youth Group
5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be.

~Kurt Vonnegut, *Mother Night*

Perhaps it's impossible to wear an identity without becoming what you pretend to be.

~Orson Scott Card, *Ender's Game*

You don't look fake when you unconsciously pretend. ~Toba Beta, *My Ancestor Was an Ancient Astronaut*

There are things
that make no sense,
that seem unreal,
that can't be grasped,
or understood,
or explained,
that maybe don't even exist...

And still, somehow, those wonderful things touch and change our lives.

Isn't it strange?

~Richelle E. Goodrich, *Secrets of a Noble Key Keeper*

Panic ain't better than pretending not to feel so.

~Toba Beta, *Master of Stupidity*

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,
~Shakespeare, *As You Like It*