

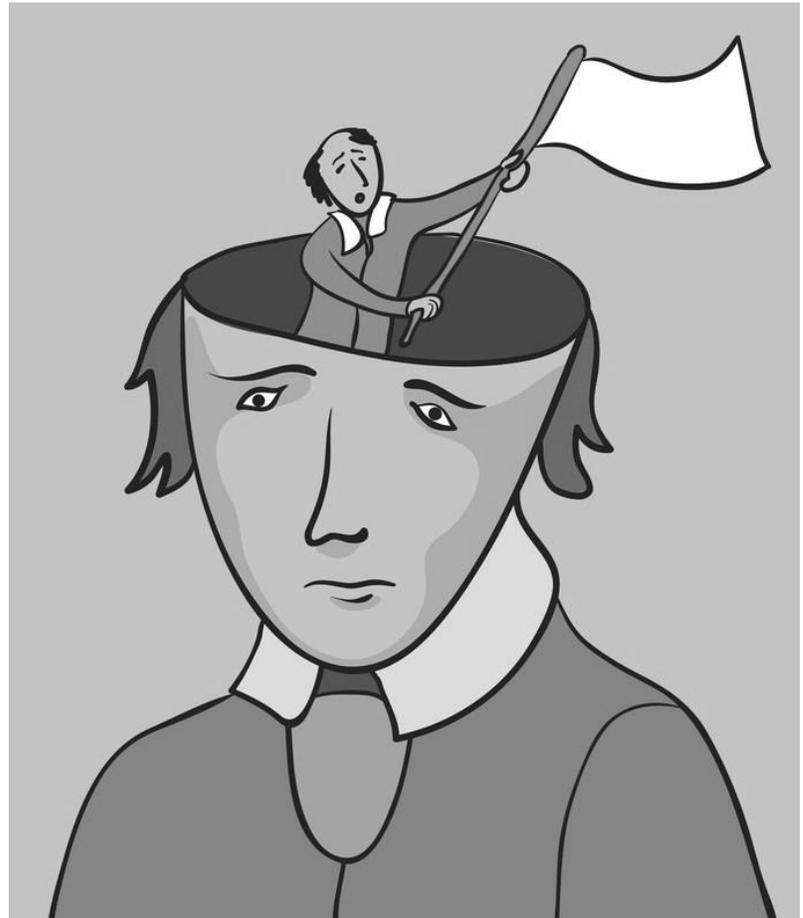
**The Covenant of Our  
Congregation  
Adopted in 1962**

*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.*



Problems, pain, impasse  
Again and again.  
It's so easy to give up  
Into comfort, control, self.  
The Right surrender is  
Something else.  
Something bright and hard.

*November 17, 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.

### **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](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 Union St. entrance of the church. If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check there.

## Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

November 17 2013

PRELUDE *Amazing Grace Medley*  
Judy Collins, Ray Charles, Kenny G

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 *Enter Into His Gates* Tom Benjamin

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #469  
*Morning Has Broken* Bunessan

\*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 *O Day of Peace* Scottish Tune  
Arr. Hopson

O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May the swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love,  
all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

FIRST LESSON Barbara Walton  
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Isaiah 65:17-25 (page 696)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Orff Consort  
*The Fable of the Snowflake*: a sound carpet  
adapted from Tales of the Caribou  
Kurt Kauter; arr. by Lillian Roe

SECOND LESSON *Luke 21:5-19 (page 85)*

SERMON *The Battle Against Cynicism*

\*HYMN #458 *Earth and All Stars* Dexter

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Holy, Holy, Holy*  
John B Dykes; Arr. D. Wagner  
Klokken Tower Ringers

\*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 #412

*Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*

Dale Wood

POSTLUDE

Sicilian Mariners

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*

+ + +

**Music Note**

Today's Children's Message is a *sound carpet* by the Orff Consort. The term is from the Orff Schulwerk process to describe the adding of special sounds to enhance the meaning of a story for the listeners.

For the Offertory we hear the familiar hymn, *Holy, Holy, Holy* rung is a somewhat contemporary arrangement. The hymn tune is NICAIA and named after the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) at which church leaders began to formulate the doctrine of the Trinity.

The bell choir is in ensemble formation today meaning that we are ringing many bells in more than one position! You may notice some shared bells and choreographing of movements.

**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 Anderson, Violet Delack, and Norman Reed*

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.

**In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of his wife, Jean Cox Collins and their son, David Nelson Collins by William R. Collins. 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.

### **Faith Bookshop**

On our feature table today you will find books recommended by our clergy, Kerygma members and others in the congregation.

Donated Christmas ornaments, for the sale that starts in December, are happily received at any time. You may leave them in the Bookshop on Sundays or in the church office during the week.

### **Johnson Library**

Would you like to volunteer some of your time? If yes, stop by and pick a day on the sign-up sheet, we'll need your name and telephone number.

Volunteering means you sit at the desk for thirty minutes before the service on Sunday and a few minutes afterward; just to be sure people sign the cards in the back of the book and drop it in the box.

### **Youth Pie Sale Continues**

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

### **Chancel Guild Meeting Today**

Chancel Guild will hold their Fall Business Meeting today after worship in the Dirck Romeyn room.

### **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 Amy Brule, 785-8201.

**Today:** Sharing Keys with Naphtali - Naphtali Rothrock shares some of her favorite works of music.

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

### **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm**

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

### **Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Jazz Fest**

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; Dylan Canterbury, trumpet; Tom D'Andrea, drums. Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance, students \$5. Call or pick up ticket(s) in the Church Office.

### **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:** SHY will be taking pie orders to raise money for the mission trip; regular meeting at 5pm with an exciting and mysterious video project.

**Nov. 24:** SHY distributes pies after the worship service. Regular meeting at 5pm; we will travel to the Glendale Home for carol singing and games with the residents.

### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week our Stephen Ministry training class will be considering the subjects of *Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving*. In this presentation they will be learning how to guard against being manipulated and how to recognize their own tendencies to foster dependency by doing too much. They will also consider the subject of *Crisis Theory and Practice: Danger versus Opportunity*. In this presentation they will be studying exactly what happens when a person goes through a crisis, and how they can help turn a potential danger into an opportunity for growth. We thank God for the continuing enthusiasm of our Stephen Ministry trainees, and ask your continued prayers for them and for God's blessings upon their ministries.

## **Concerned for the Hungry**

FRC's 2013 Thanksgiving food drive is a way to make sure all families in our community will enjoy a bountiful feast on this day of Thanksgiving. Monies collected at our church will be sent to *Concerned for the Hungry* to assist in this massive effort. This drive, with contributors from throughout the community, results in thousands of families receiving all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The funds collected are used to purchase supplies in bulk at greatly reduced prices to help stretch the dollars. Checks should be made payable to First Reformed Church, with *Concerned for the Hungry* in the memo line.

Again this year we are eligible for GE Matching Funds. For GE employees or retirees, a donation of \$25 or more will be matched by General Electric. To make a donation with matching funds please contact the GE Matching Gifts Program at 1-800-305-0669, or access the Foundations website at [www.gefoundation.com/matchinggifts](http://www.gefoundation.com/matchinggifts). Make the check payable to *Concerned for the Hungry* with matching in the memo line.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Enjoy your Thanksgiving knowing that you have helped to bring joy to many area families this holiday.

## **Horizon Bible Study**

On Tuesday mornings from 10 - 11am, in Polling Conference Room. For 4 weeks in Advent, beginning Nov. 19, Rev. Ruth Kuo will lead a study on Advent and Christmas Hymns: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, and *People, Look East, Silent Night, Holy Night, O Little Town of Bethlehem*, and others. We will learn their historical, theological, and cultural contexts.

## **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! 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. This group is intended for adults and older teens that 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.

This Tuesday we'll be watching *Beware of Christians*, a film about four college students who leave behind their routine lives in the U.S. and travel across Europe in search of what it means to follow Jesus. Contact Covenanter Jeremy Bork ([jeremybork19@gmail.com](mailto:jeremybork19@gmail.com); or call 605-254-2645) if you are interested.

## **Commissioning Service**

All are invited to attend the joint commissioning service of Abby Norton-Levering and Bob Hoffman on Saturday Nov. 23 at the Herkimer Reformed Church. Abby will be commissioned to her new position as the Regional Synod of Albany's Ministries Coordinator, and Bob to his position as Synod Administrator. A joyful worship service will be at 2pm, and a celebrative meal will follow. Childcare will be provided. All interested in joining the synod-wide pick-up choir and orchestra are invited to come at 12 for practice. No RSVP needed, but you should email Abby at [nortonlevering@gmail.com](mailto:nortonlevering@gmail.com) if you need childcare, or if you want to be part of the choir or orchestra.

## **Intergenerational Advent Festival**

Save the date and time Sunday, Dec. 1 at 5pm for this wonderful start to our holy season.

## **UPC Women Advent Tea**

On Sunday Dec. 1 at 11:15am in the Dirck Romeyn room, all ladies of UPC & FRC are invited to attend this annual event which includes fellowship, beverages and finger foods, and sharing of our Christmas traditions and stories. Sign-up in the FRC's Assembly Hall. Bring a dish of finger food to share.

## **Alternative Gift Extravaganza**

On Sunday, Dec. 8; 11am – 3pm. Skip the crowds and do your Christmas shopping here at FRC where your **gift gives twice**. Enjoy a cup of coffee

and bowl of soup made by our own youth group. Your lunch purchase will support their mission trip. There will be a variety of Fair Trade products offered as well; what could be better than coffee and chocolate! Mission shares for a variety of excellent causes are also being arranged such as Reformed Church World Service. A new vendor will be Carol Troost's scarves, profit monies to go to Patty's Place. If you have another idea or an appropriate cause to support, please contact Peggy Ridgway via email at [peggyridgway@gmail.com](mailto:peggyridgway@gmail.com) or phone (280-4269); Carol Troost via email at [troostcarol@gmail.com](mailto:troostcarol@gmail.com) or phone (372-7502) **no later than Nov. 30**. We hope you tell your friends and come to the fair!

### Victims of Typhoon Haiyan

What you can do: Please pray for the people whose lives have been torn apart by this typhoon- for people who have lost loved ones, suffered injury, or sustained damage to their homes or businesses. Pray too for the rescue workers, first responders, and early response coordinators.

To support disaster response efforts, donate online at [www.rca.org/haiyan](http://www.rca.org/haiyan) or send a check to Reformed Church in America, Attn: Finance Department, 4500 60th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512. Checks should be designated "Haiyan."

### Nativity Needs Carpentry

The nativity scene that we put on our front lawn and that we use in the living nativity is badly broken and needs one or two stable folks to hammer this out. See Bill Levering.

### 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.

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Claire Hughes, Doug Todd	Victoria McGowan-Horan, George Trimarco
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Nancy Wainwright	Roberta Blackmer
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Joanne Bedell, Sarah & Michael Collins	Jane & Phil Falconer, Lynn Wilkanowski
<b>Greeters</b>	Ann & Emile Walraven	
<b>Kinderwyk</b>	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn	Sarah Bachorik, Barbara Walton
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Catherine Lewis, Gene Zeltmann, Art Casey, Bill Rochelle, Margaret Schadler, Maria G. Todd	Joyce Griggs, Keith Muse, Darwin Brudos, Jerry Griggs, Del Pierce, Linda Witkowski
<b>Reader</b>	Barbara Walton	Lynne Gilgore
<b>Refreshments</b>	Nancy Martin, Amy Brule	Ellie & Gene Rowland, Tricia Shaw
<b>Usher</b>	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Doug Todd, Michael Horan, Victoria McGowan-Horan	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourno, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin

**Sunday, November 17**

10:00 am .....Worship  
 10:15 am .....Church School for K-8  
 11:00 am .....Coffee & Conversation  
 11:00 am .....Chancel Guild  
 11:15 am .....Forum  
 12:00 pm .....Justice Action Council  
 5:00 pm .....JH & SH Youth Group  
 5:00 pm .....Jazz Vespers

If you want something new, you have to stop doing something old ~Peter F. Drucker

**Monday, November 18**

9:00 am .....Mens News Group  
 10:00 am .....What's Your Story?  
 12:00 pm .....Heritage Sunday Meeting  
 6:30 pm .....Stephen Ministry Training  
 7:00 pm .....Klokken Tower Ringers

The only real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes. ~Marcel Proust, In Search of Lost Time

The old resists the new one. 'Change hurts' is the reason. ~Toba Beta

**Tuesday, November 19**

10:00 am .....Horizons Bible Study  
 10:00 am .....Morning Prayer  
 11:00 am .....Support & Care Meeting  
 6:00 pm .....CRTC  
 7:00 pm .....Lights. Camera. Jesus!  
 7:00 pm .....UPC Session

Cynicism masquerades as wisdom, but it is the farthest thing from it. Because cynics don't learn anything. Because cynicism is a self-imposed blindness, a rejection of the world because we are afraid it will hurt us or disappoint us. Cynics always say no. But saying "yes" begins things. Saying "yes" is how things grow. Saying "yes" leads to knowledge. ~Stephen Colbert

**Wednesday, November 20**

9:30 am .....Kerygma Conversations  
 1:00 pm .....Archives  
 1:00 pm .....Thursday Belles  
 6:00 pm .....Dinner & Faith Discussion  
 7:00 pm .....Midweek Evening Worship

Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get. But if you work really hard and you're kind, amazing things will happen. ~Conan O'Brien

**Thursday, November 21**

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

In the depths of my heart I can't help being convinced that my dear fellow-men, with a few exceptions, are worthless. ~Sigmund Freud

Scratch any cynic and you will find a disappointed idealist. ~George Carlin

**Sunday, November 24**

10:00 am .....Worship  
 10:15 am .....Church School for K-8  
 11:00 am .....Coffee & Conversation  
 11:00 am .....Chancel Guild  
 11:15 am .....Forum  
 11:30 am .....Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal  
 12:00 pm .....Membership Committee  
 4:00 pm .....Thanksgiving Jazz Fest  
 5:00 pm .....JH & SH Youth Group

...God created the world in six days. On the seventh day, he rested. On the eighth day, he started getting complaints. And it hasn't stopped since. ~James Scott Bell