

**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.



December 29, 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.

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2013

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Ann Marie Barker-Schwartz, violin
Sten Isaachsen, guitar

Duo Concertante

Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829)

El noi de la mare Miguel Llobet (1878-1938)

Villancico de Navidad

Agustin Barrios (1885-1944)

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Ruth Kuo

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Daniel Carlson

INTROIT *Glory* Pablo Sosa

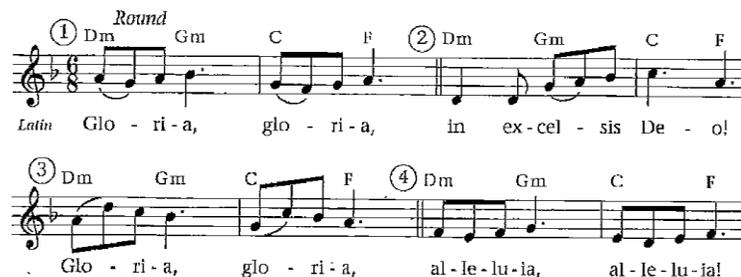
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #28
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)
O Holy One, despite your coming, we are so often preoccupied with our own ambitions or pains or fears. We avoid being still and knowing you, our God, are near. Have mercy on us and lead us by your Spirit in the way of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*

Round



Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #37

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Today a Little One*
Old Dutch Carol

Dutch Title: Er is een Kindeke geboren op aard

Today a Little One so precious and dear
Came down from heaven for everyone here.

Came down from heaven with no place to stay,
Came down from heaven for sinners to pay.

Came down from heaven for everyone here
Causing all Christians a happy new year!

FIRST LESSON Carol Troost
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Psalm 139:7-12 (page 577)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Isaiah 63:7-9 (page 693)*

SERMON *Presence* Daniel Carlson

*HYMN #36 *In the Bleak Midwinter* Cranham

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Joaquin Nin (1883-1949)
Catalan from the Suite Espagnol

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*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 #29**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain Go Tell It

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** Go Tell It

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

POSTLUDE Susan Hale

Improvisation on:
Angels We Have Heard On High Gloria

+ + +

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:

Mildred Altvater, Jean Bowman, Almy Coggeshall, Jean Collins, Burton Dearing, Esther Eveleth, Thomas Taft, and Doris Willard

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.

Music Note ~ Response of Praise

Text: Luke 2:14

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) All rights reserved. One License #A-700700

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Post Service Refreshments

Everyone is invited to have refreshments in Assembly Hall right after worship. 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. There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall or fill out a white pew card and place it in the offering plate. If any questions, please contact Tani Breitenbach

1streformedpub@gmail.com or 377-2201.

Dates from Dec. 29 forward are still available. Please consider volunteering.

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: Here We Go A'wassailing Frolic

Jan. 5: Innovations in Mission on State Street-Rev. Stacey Midge

Jan. 12: Introduction of new Stephen Ministers

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: David Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Jan. 5: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Jan. 12: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Jan19: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Jan: 26: David Gleason, piano

Faith Bookshop

Get ready for 2014! Small calendar devotionals are available in the Bookshop; perfect for a desk or kitchen counter.

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: No youth group meeting.

Jan. 5: Ice skating at the Union College rink from 2 – 4pm, for ALL ages. No regular meeting.

Jan. 12: Regular meeting at 5pm.

Jan. 19: Regular meeting at 5pm. Please bring auction items!

Jan. 26: Chili Cook-off and Auction following the morning worship service.

Here We Go A'wassailing ~ Today

Those of every age are invited to join us for a good cheer frolic after worship on the Fourth Day/First Sunday of Christmas. We'll travel and carol to those in need of "good tidings this Christmas and a happy New Year!" Finishing with a complimentary lunch - and hopefully some real wassail - is an option for those participating.

Lenten Devotional

Have you signed up yet for your contribution to the Lenten Devotional? A poem, a response to a Bible verse, or a short piece about an idea you'd like to share with the congregation. If you haven't, sign up outside of Assembly Hall.

Horizon Bible Study

We usually meet on Tuesday mornings from 10 - 11am, in Polling Conference room, but we will not meet Dec. 24 – Jan. 7 and will resume on Tuesday Jan. 14. All are welcome! Topic of study: *The Gospel of Mark*.

Epiphany Cake Baking ~ Volunteers Needed

The traditional *Gallet* Epiphany cakes for the party will be made in the Friendship Hall kitchen on Thursday, Jan. 2 from 7 – 9pm. If you're interested in helping, call Mary Jewett at 355-8059.

Levering's Birthday Bash

The Congregation is invited to the 60th birthday celebration of Dr. Levering on Jan. 3 at 7 pm at the Stockade Inn.

Epiphany Party ~ January 4

This year our annual celebration of Christ's manifestation to Magi will be held on Saturday,

Jan. 4 from 5-8pm at the home of Marey Bailey and Joseph Yavonditte, 125 Benjamin St. Schenectady. Everyone is invited: young and old, strangers and friends. We'll feast together, sing a few carols, recall the sacred story, and process with the *Three Kings*. Then the hale and hearty will bundle up and go outside to share in the house blessing, followed by prayers around the brilliant blaze of a Christmas Tree Bonfire. All attending should bring a favorite appetizer and beverage to share. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall. Contact Daniel Carlson if you have any questions. Follow that star!

UPC Congregational Meeting

UPC Session has postponed the Special Congregational Meeting in regard to changing By-laws. Special Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday Jan. 5, after worship (snow date will be Sunday Jan. 12.) All UPC members are encouraged to attend.

Future Pillars ~ Post Holiday Gathering

Save the Date! Come to the Van Dyke Restaurant on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 6-9pm for fellowship and desserts. All members age 21 to 40ish are invited. Hot appetizers and drinks available but not included. RSVP in Assembly Hall or by calling the church office. Hope to see you there!

Men's Breakfast Program

The Men's Breakfast group will meet on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 8am in Assembly Hall. Our speaker for that day is George Wise. Dr. Wise is a well-known historian in the local area and has many friends in the FRC community. He will speak to us about *The History of Employment*. This is a very timely topic, considering the recent struggles with high unemployment (or underemployment) in the U.S. The meeting is open to all men of the FRC and UPC congregations. Please sign up with the office staff or sign the attendance sheet posted in Assembly Hall.

Commissioning New Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministry is a vital part of our congregation's mission of compassionate care for those going through a difficult time in life. On Sunday, Jan. 12, in worship we will commission Joanne Arnold, Tani Breitenbach, Norma Brown, Lisa Etkin, Brad Lewis, Nancy Martin, Bob and Peggy Ridgway, Michelle Smallwood, and Christine Walthers to begin service in our congregation as Stephen Ministers. After worship at Forum each Stephen Minister will introduce themselves and speak about this formative experience and what lies ahead.

Evening Circle

On Wednesday, Jan. 15 all UPC & FRC women are invited to attend the Evening Circle. Program: Favorite ornament or Christmas Story (unless someone has a different idea.) Place: Sally Bestgen's home 2517 Antonia Dr, Niskayuna, for additional information contact Sally at 346-0304.

Lights. Camera. Jesus!

The new documentary discussion group will be moved to Friday, Jan. 17, just for this month. The group typically meets on the first Tuesday of each month, but Jeremy will be visiting the Iowa tundra making him unable to host the film.

In 2010, the National Study of Youth and Religion asked teens across the country how they would describe Christians. The number one response: anti-gay. The topic of same-sex relationships might possibly be the "hottest of topics" in the global church today. January's film, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, explores the intersection of Christianity and homosexuality. How do insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child? What's the science behind sexual orientation? Should the Bible be used to condemn same-sex relationships? Come watch this provocative film and be part of an important conversation that's happening around the world.

Group VII

On Friday, Jan. 17 we will meet at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Meet the Covenanters; find out what they do. Co-hostesses: Martha Winchester and Ronnie Bartholic.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will not meet in December, but will resume on Thursday, Jan. 23, 9:30am at the home of Inge-Lise Pangburn. For questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic.

Chili Cook-Off and Auction

The annual Chili Cook-off and Auction will be held on Sunday, Jan. 26 **at noon**. If you have a fabulous chili recipe you'd like to share, or a service or item to donate for our silent or live auctions, please contact Stacey Midge or a member of the youth group. Then please join us to taste the chili and bid on a great selection of auction items! All proceeds from this event support the Senior High Youth Group on their mission trip.

Fellowship Luncheon

Saving the date for the best luncheon in town. The FRC/UPC Fellowship Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 31, at 11:45am in Assembly Hall. Gay Doolittle, Mary Jewett and Carol Troost will serve as hostesses for the luncheon. Laura Lee Linder, church historian, will share the history of First Reformed Church from the very beginning.

If you are able to join us, please bring a casserole or salad to share. Desserts and beverages will be provided. Reservations are not necessary, but would be appreciated. You can do this by signing up in Assembly Hall or by calling either Amy Brule 785-8201 or Sally Bestgen 346-0304.

Laura Lee Linder has very extensive knowledge about the Dutch heritage of the church and our community. She might even have some new facts for church members. So do not miss out on a delicious lunch and come meet some new friends.

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.

Offering Envelopes

2014 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the Church Office. We have extra envelopes available for anyone who would like ones.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Gay Doolittle, Joe Gallagher	
Faith Bookshop	Virginia Laumeister	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	
Greeters	Claire & Tess Hughes	Nancy & George Davidson
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Ruth Kuo	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Rob Dickson, Joyce Griggs, Keith Muse, Roberta Blackmer, Jerry Griggs, Linda Witkowski	Jeanette Davidson, Marilyn Leach, Tom Lindsay, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Carol Troost	Marilyn Leach
Refreshments	Natalie Davis	
Usher/Offertory Deacon	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins	Victoria McGowan-Horan, Darwin Brudos, Gay Doolittle, Joan Lindsay

Sunday, December 29

9:00 amChoir Rehearsal-Choir Room
9:15 amHigh School Choir
9:30 amChoir Rehearsal-Poling Chapel
10:00 amWorship
10:15 amChurch School for K-8
10:20 amCarol Choir
11:15 amForum
11:15 amOrff Rehearsal
11:20 amKirk Ringers
4:00 pmYouth Orchestra
5:00 pmJazz Vespers

Monday, December 30

9:00 amMens News Group
7:00 pmKlokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, December 31

10:00 amMorning Prayer

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day..... Office Closed

Thursday, January 2

10:00 amStitch Group
6:45 pmYoga
7:00 pmEpiphany Cake Baking
7:30 amChancel Choir

Friday, January 3

7:00 pmBill's Birthday Bash

Saturday, January 4

5:00 pmEpiphany Party

Sunday, January 5

9:00 amChoir Rehearsal-Choir Room
9:15 amHigh School Choir
9:30 amChoir Rehearsal-Poling Chapel
10:00 amWorship with Communion
10:15 amChurch School for K-8
10:20 amCarol Choir
11:15 amForum
11:15 amOrff Rehearsal
11:20 amKirk Ringers
2:00 pmJH & SH Youth Group
4:00 pmYouth Orchestra
5:00 pmJazz Vespers