

**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.

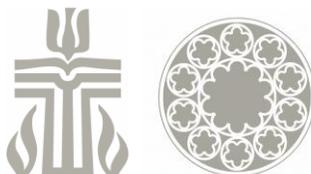
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



January 5, 2014



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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

John Ferguson

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.

Word almighty, we revere you,
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
Crucified for our salvation,

Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that speaks God's tender love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling.

Word of truth, to all truth lead us,
Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

James Quinn, SJ

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and
praise!**

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*) Carl Steubing

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

*Come down the center aisle starting from all the
FRONT pews. Return by way of the side aisles.
The servers will bring the elements to any who
choose to remain seated.*

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 #68

What Star is This, with Beams So Bright

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*

Frank Cunkle

POSTLUDE

Sicilian Mariners

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

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:

Frederick Arnds, Walter Betka, James Caufield, Maude Dunlap, Helen Gallagher, Charlotte King, Albert Lawrence, and Barbara Stroebel

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

Jan. 12: Introduction of new Stephen Ministers

Ice Skating ~ Today

EVERYONE is invited to go ice skating today at the Achilles Center at Union College from 2 - 4pm. The cost is \$3 per person. Skate rental is available.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: 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: 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.

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 and send your submission either by e-mail to 1streformedpub@gmail.com, or drop it off at the church office; deadline is Feb. 19. Please, conclude whatever you write with a short prayer.

Midweek Evening Worship

Join us this new year for our contemplative service held each Wednesday evening, 7-7:45pm in Poling Chapel. Our worship always includes a lovely guitar prelude, gentle singing, guided reflection, holy communion, and shared prayers. Please contact Daniel Carlson with any questions regarding this offering, through which we seek to rekindle awareness of God's loving presence within us and all creation.

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*. 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

Next Sunday in worship we will commission our newest Stephen Ministers! These gifted members have received over forty hours of training and will strengthen in our congregation the gift of caring service to those with various needs. We'll celebrate their dedication to this ministry in worship and afterwords, in Forum, hear from them about their training experience as well as their hopes for ministry to those in our congregation - and beyond - in need of skilled, trustworthy, confidential, and compassionate care that is centered in Christ's love.

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*.

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.

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 meet on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 9:30am at the home of Inge-Lise Pangburn. For questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic 399-7679.

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.

Adult Winterfest

On Saturday, Feb. 8, Doug and Maria G. Todd have graciously offered their abode (Fox Hill Farm, 6003 Parkis Mills Rd., Galway) as the location for our annual adult winter outing. For the adventurous, skating, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, or a muddy winter hike begin at 3pm. The food, beverage, fellowship, and

laughter indoors around the various blazing hearths of the farmhouse begin at 5:30pm with appetizers and drinks; a dinner of hearty soups, sides, salads, and desserts will follow. Glenda Luck will be providing instrumental and vocal music after dinner. To offset the cost of this event, we ask each person attending to contribute \$5. Please also bring some food to share (beverages provided). A signup sheet will be posted in Assembly Hall; alternatively, call the church office to indicate you'll attend. The Fellowship Committee is happy to assist with the cost of childcare for this annual event; please simply note this need on the signup sheet or with the church office. Car- pooling is encouraged to ease our pollution of the planet and parking at the party. Contact Daniel Carlson if you have any questions; the Todd's for directions (882-6555). Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

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	Victoria McGowan-Horan, Joan Lindsay	Fred Daniels, Doug Todd
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Nancy Wainwright
Flower Delivery		
Greeters	Nancy & George Davidson	Mike & Victoria McGowan-Horan
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Jeanette Davidson, Marilyn Leach, Tom Lindsay, Linda Witkowski	Mary Jewett, Margaret King, Keith Muse, Christine Daniels, Jeanette Davidson, Maria G. Todd
Reader	Marilyn Leach	George Trimarco
Refreshments	Gay Doolittle	Need Volunteers!!!!!!!!!!
Offertory Deacon/Usher	Victoria McGowan-Horan, Darwin Brudos, Gay Doolittle, Joan Lindsay	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Victoria McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd

Sunday, January 5

- 10:00 am..... Worship with Communion
- 10:15 am..... Church School for K-2
- 11:00 am..... UPC Congregational Meeting
- 11:15 am..... Forum
- 2:00 pm..... JH & SH Youth Group
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, January 6

- 9:00 am..... Mens News Group

Tuesday, January 7

- 10:00 am..... Morning Prayer
- 1:30 pm..... Worship Planning

Wednesday, January 8

- 1:00 pm..... Archives
- 1:00 pm..... Thursday Belles
- 2:00 pm..... Staff Meeting
- 6:00 pm..... Dinner & Faith Discussion
- 7:00 pm..... Midweek Evening Worship

Thursday, January 9

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

Saturday, January 11

- 8:00 am..... Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 5

- 8:30 am..... Stephen Ministry Breakfast
- 9:00 am..... Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary
- 9:15 am..... High School Choir
- 9:30 am..... Choir Rehearsal-Poling Chapel
- 10:00 am..... Worship
- 10:15 am..... Church School for K-8
- 10:20 am..... Carol Choir
- 11:15 am..... Forum
- 11:15 am..... Orff Rehearsal
- 11:20 am..... Kirk Ringers
- 2:00 pm..... JH & SH Youth Group
- 4:00 pm..... Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers