

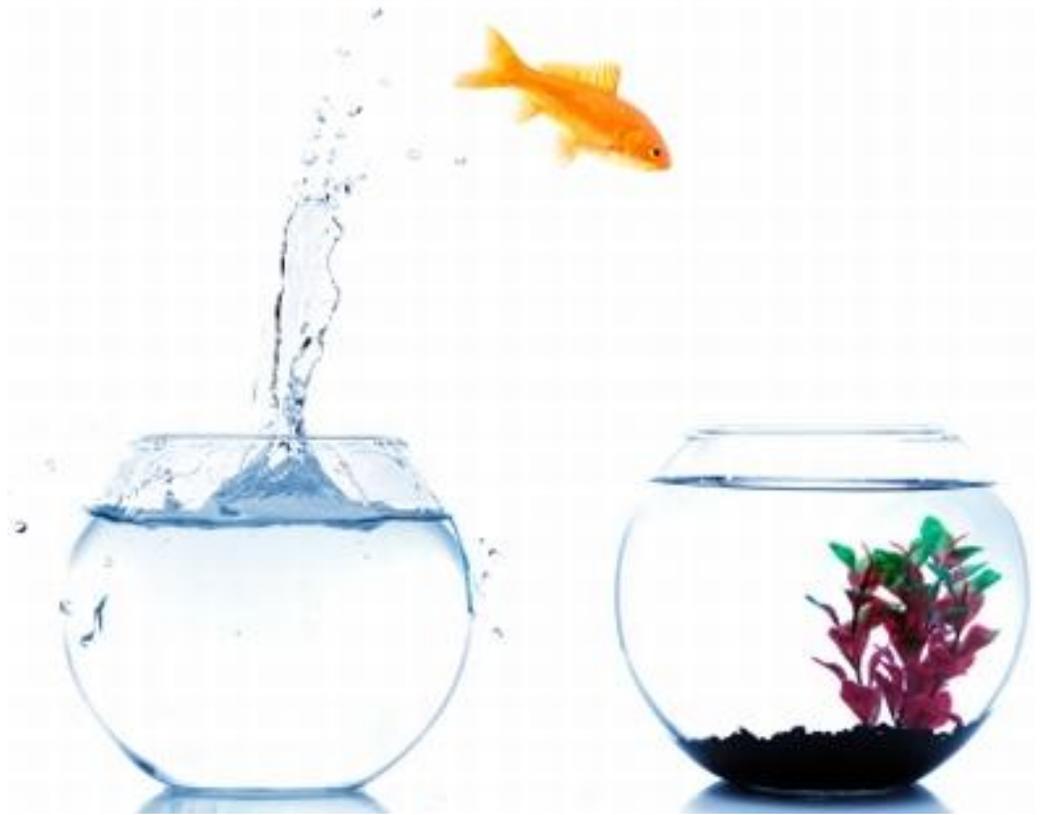
**The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962**

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.



A better world requires a leap.

February 16, 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.

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 to identify them as servants of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about 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.

Hearing Assistance

We have hearing reinforcement units that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

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.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE David Gleason

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*
Chereponi

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #366
Thy Boundless Love to Me

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)
God of fire and ice, we confess that the coldness of the world often drives us into the safety of our private homes. We need your help to venture out, to engage the world, to risk love.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE HYMN #576
Gloria, Gloria

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)
(from the United Church of Canada)
We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,

crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Fill Us With Love* Joseph Roff
Kirk Ringers/High School Singers/ Orff Consort

Fill us with love, Holy Spirit,
Love that endures and increases each day;
Fill us with love, fill us with love,
Let love increase each day.

Fill us with joy, Holy Spirit,
Joy that embraces and touches us all;
Fill us with joy, fill us with joy,
Let joy abound in all.

Fill us with peace, Holy Spirit,
Send us the calm that will quiet all fear;
Fill with peace, fill us with peace,
Send peace to end all fear.

Fill us with light, Holy Spirit,
Open our eyes to your wisdom divine;
Fill us with light, fill us with light,
Show us your wisdom divine.

Fill us with faith, Holy Spirit,
Give us the strength to surrender our wills;
Fill us with faith, fill us with faith,
Help us surrender our wills.

FIRST LESSON Carol Troost
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (pg 186)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 5:21-37 (pg 4)*

SERMON *But I Say to You* Bill Levering

*HYMN #399
We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

OFFERING

OFFERTORY David Gleason

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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 #386
O For a World

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *O For a World*
Azmon

POSTLUDE *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

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:

Mary Bee, J Marie Herman, Mary Reimherr, Gladys Toung

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 flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. Please inform the church office of your wishes. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for two bouquets. You may send your check payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Fellowship Luncheon Group

Our next group will be Friday Feb 28, hosted by Marilyn Leach & Nancy Davidson. We will not be meeting in March; however, we encourage you all to participate in the weekly Lenten potluck dinners and programs. Watch the April "First Things" for the next Fellowship Luncheon.

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 the church. **We are in need of 3 volunteers for Feb 23.**

Forum

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, Peggy King 370-1885, or Amy Brule 785-8201.

Today: Coffee & Conversation, along with an informal opportunity to learn more about our Covenanters, Jeremy Bork, and Daniel Eckert.

Feb. 23: *Faith in the Fields*: Negro Spirituals and Song of Praise. Join Timothy Dunn, friend of the Congregation and Choir for a lively interpretive session.

March 2: Progress & Challenges: An update from neighbors in Schoharie. Sarah Goodrich Exec Director. Schoharie Long Term (SALT) Recovery

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Peg Delaney, piano

Feb. 23: Michael Lamkin, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

March 2: Skip Parsons, clarinet; Ken Olson, trombone; Rich Skricka, piano; Tim Coakley, drums

Faith Bookshop

In honor of Presidents Day, the Bookshop is featuring books relating to the presidency. Some are like new, donated books costing \$2 or less. Books related to our local history are also featured.

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.

Feb 15-22: Senior High Youth Mission Trip

Feb. 23: No meetings.

Mar. 2: Regular Meeting

Easter Reception Volunteers Needed

We are in need of an **organizer** for our Easter Sunday reception in Friendship Hall. We are also looking for volunteers to help with set up, cleanup and/or bringing a food item to share. We

really need things like deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, dip and chips, fruit and veggies, and cookies. You can sign up for any this by calling the church office at 377-2201, filling out a white pew card or signing up on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall.

Horizon Bible Study

The Horizons Bible study group meets on Tuesdays at 10am in the Poling Conference room for a study of *Mark's Gospel*. Study guides by Mark Deibert from the Interpretation Bible series is available for \$7, and will be available at class. All interested are welcome to attend.

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday at 7:30pm at Connie Young's home, next meeting is Feb. 18. All ladies are welcome. For more information contact Connie at 393-7061.

Lenten Devotional Reminder

Feb. 19 is the due date for the Devotional writings. Please e-mail your submission or bring it in to the church office. Thanks to all 40 of you who have volunteered to be part of this Lenten Devotional.

Midweek Vegetarian Dinner & Worship

Every Wednesday at 6pm in Assembly Hall a small group of members and friends share a delicious, healthy, plant-based feast of soup, salad, and something sweet. Sign up in Assembly Hall if you would like to bring an edible contribution. Following dinner, all are welcome to our contemplative service from 7 to 7:45 in Poling Chapel. This worship always includes a lovely guitar prelude, gentle singing, guided reflection, Holy Communion, and shared prayers, through which we seek to rekindle awareness of God's loving presence within us and all creation.

Stephen Ministers Monthly Meeting

This Thursday Feb 20, 7-9pm in Dirck Roymen, we will gather for continuing education and supervision.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We meet every fourth Thursday; our next meeting is on Feb. 27 at 9:30am at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. For questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic 399-7679.

Are you a writer?

A Flash Fiction critique group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in the Walton Conference Room. Flash Fiction is a COMPLETE story, fiction or nonfiction, written in 1,000 words or less. FIRST MEETING: Wednesday, February 26 at 7pm. Bring a short piece to share and have critiqued. For more info and signups, contact James Gonda at jamesgonda63@yahoo.com or the church office.

Weekend Retreat at Fowler

Come away with about a dozen others to the serene beauty of the Adirondacks to try out some contemplative practices enabling a deeper awareness of God's presence and guidance. Mary and Daniel Carlson will be leading this retreat: *New Life this Lent*, Friday, Feb. 28 - Sunday, March 2, in Fowler's newly refurbished Chi Rho Lodge. Opportunities for learning and engaging in several devotional disciplines will be balanced with times of shared meals, relaxed conversation, and games around the blazing hearth. For further details and to register, visit Fowler Camp and Retreat Center on the web and click retreats, or call Fowler's office (631-6789). Those with additional questions may contact Daniel or Mary.

Group V

Our next meeting will be held Monday March 3 at 10am, Program: Patti's Place; Co-hostesses: Ilah Depaoli and Cindy Hamilton

Group VII

There will not be any meeting in February. We will resume on Friday, March 21 at 10am, Program: Coffee Hour – All church ladies invited, this is a gathering to make new friends and to reconnect in the New Year. Co-hostesses: Ann Gotwals, Linda Witkowski

Shares Available to Help Youth Mission

FRC has a rich history of sending youth on mission trips where they have the opportunity to help people in need while also experiencing diverse cultures and circumstances, building community, and learning about how they relate to the wider world. As a result of these trips, many FRC youth have gone on to service-related careers and lifestyles of volunteerism. Your support is invaluable as the Senior High Youth Group prepares for this year's trip, which will be right here in Schenectady. The youth will be joining with other area youth groups to serve meals, clean up neighborhoods, do flood relief, and participate in other projects that strengthen our own community. Please support the Youth Group and participate in their journey by purchasing a Mission Share from any member of the youth group, or from Stacey Midge, for only \$25. Mission Shareholders will also be invited to a dinner on March 30 to hear directly from the youth about their experience and to enjoy food inspired by the trip.

Family Game Night –March 8

All are welcome to our second annual Family Game Night. We will gather in Assembly Hall for a pot-luck at 6pm followed by board games for all ages. May the odds be in your favor!

Found at Winterfest

We have found a hair brush behind the kitchen door. It has a soft grey square handle and pink tipped bristles. The owner may contact Doug and Maria Todd 882-5517.

Helpers Needed For Lenten Dinners

Seeking volunteers for Lenten dinners to serve as hosts/hostesses. This could be an individual, a couple, a family or a group of friends or members of an organization. Hosts will plan the menu, solicit volunteers to help prepare and serve the dinner and clean up after the dinner. FRC will provide coffee and tea and do the set up for the dinners. Please call Mary Jewett at 355-8059 to volunteer or for more information.

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 5

6pm ~ Lentil Soup + Dinner

7pm ~ Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesdays, March 12 – April 9

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Lenten Classes

8pm ~ Lenten Evening Worship

Wednesday, April 16

7pm – Movie Screening: *A Place at the Table*

Dinner

Come share a free, delicious meal and good conversation at 6pm any Wednesday of Lent.

Classes

Race: The Power of an Illusion

Rev. Daniel Carlson

Employing the award winning PBS documentary, we'll explore the idea of race on the basis of biology and other perspectives.

Lent For Kids- Jamie Ipsen

A class for children in grades K-8 full of art projects, music, and stories.

Scarves- Carol Troost

Learn how to crochet several different styles of ruffle scarves, the different yarns and resources.

God Talk-Rev. Dr. Bill Levering

Interviews with local political and economic leaders about faith. Think Charlie Rose.

Learn the Art of Pysanky

Rev. Abby Norton-Levering

Learn to decorating eggs the Ukrainian way.

First Reformed Church and the Civil War

Archives and Historical Concerns Committee
"How it touched our hearth" A Lenten series focusing on the Civil War in Schenectady.

Lenten Evening Worship

A quiet service at the end of the evening includes songs accompanied by guitar, guided reflection on the day, sharing Holy Communion, prayers, and sharing Christ's peace.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Doug Todd	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Nancy Wainwright
Faith Bookshop	Virginia Laumeister	Nancy Wainwright
Flower Delivery	Ronnie Bartholic, David & Carol Schweizer	
Greeters	Eleanor & Darwin Brudos	Sandra & Craig Kominoski
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Bob Beadle, Christine Daniels, Maria G. Todd	Veronica Bartholic, Robert Dickson, Joyce Griggs, Jerry Griggs, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Carol Troost	Rob Dickinson
Refreshments	Elena Grande, Nancy Martin	Please sign up.
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Chris Langdon	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins

Sunday, February 16

- 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
- 4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
- 5:00 pm Senior High Mission Trip

“Violence never really deals with the basic evil of the situation. Violence may murder the murderer, but it doesn’t murder murder. Violence may murder the liar, but it doesn’t murder lie; it doesn’t establish truth. Violence may even murder the dishonest man, but it doesn’t murder dishonesty. Violence may go to the point of murdering th

Monday, February 17 (Office Closed)

- 10:00 am What’s Your Story?

Tuesday, February 18

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
- 11:00 am Support & Care Meeting
- 6:00 pm CRTC
- 7:00 pm UPC Session

Wednesday, February 19

- 9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
- 1:00 pm Thursday Belles
- 6:00 pm Vegetarian Dinner
- 7:00 pm Midweek Evening Worship

Thursday, February 20

- 7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 10:00 am Stitch Group
- 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 23

- 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
- 4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
- 5:00 pm Junior & Senior Youth Group

e hater, but it doesn't murder hate. It may increase hate. It is always descending spiral leading nowhere. This is the ultimate weakness of violence: It multiplies evil and violence in the universe. It doesn't solve any problems." -Martin Luther King Jr.

"... the transition from lost to found is never an easy one. It is never easy to be a prodigal son -- or daughter. It is never easy to say, 'I will arise and go to my father ...' (Luke 15:18, 19). This is never easy, because it is not until our situation becomes completely hopeless that we can humble ourselves to the extent of admitting that such a gross mistake was our own." — Robert L. Short, *The Gospel According to Peanuts*

"Reconciliation means that those who have been on the underside of history must see that there is a qualitative difference between repression and freedom. And for them, freedom translates into having a supply of clean water, having electricity on tap; being able to live in a decent home and have a good job; to be able to send your children to school and to have accessible health care. I mean, what's the point of having made this transition if the quality of life of these people is not enhanced and improved? If not, the vote is useless.' - Archbishop Desmond Tutu