

**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.

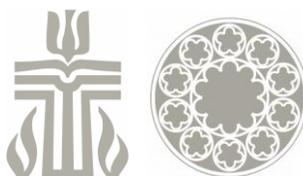
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



February 23, 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. 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.

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.

*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 #450

O Day of Peace

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*

Frank Cunkle

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:

Dr. Joseph Burke, Mary Harter, Elle Kampf, Georgeina Kellam, Mary MacKinnon, Philip Matthews, Mark Opdyke, Marjorie Reid, Carl Settle, Marjorie Todd, Robert Traxler

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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Fellowship Luncheon Group

Our next group will be Friday Feb 28, 12pm 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 office.

Hearing Devices

We recently purchased an additional six hearing receivers. This means that there will be about 10 receivers, with ear buds, available on any given Sunday for those needing them. Please see the head usher, in the Narthex to pick one up for worship service. There is a sign in/out sheet. Thanks for your patience during that time when we occasionally did not have enough units in good working order to go around.

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: Susan Hale-Classical and original music for piano and voice.

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

March 9: Youth Group Mission Trip-Report and Reflection-Rev. Stacey Midge

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Michael Lamkin, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

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

March 9: Azzaam Hameed, piano

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.

Today: No meetings.

Mar. 2: Regular Meeting

Mar. 9: Regular Meeting

Easter Reception Volunteers

We are in need of one or two **Head Volunteer Coordinator(s)** for our Easter Sunday reception in Friendship Hall. If you would simply like to contribute in another way we are looking for volunteers with set up, cleanup and/or bringing a food item to share. Food items desired are

deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, dip and chips, fruit and veggies, and cookies. You can sign up for any of these tasks by either calling the church office at 377-2201, a white pew card or 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 Mar 18. All ladies are welcome. For more information contact Connie at 393-7061.

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.

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.

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.

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

We will not be meeting in March, however we will join Group VII for their March 21 group. Our next group will be held April 7.

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

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!

Stephen Ministry Monthly Meeting

This Thursday Feb 27, 7-9pm in Dirck Romeyn, we will gather for continuing education and supervision.

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.

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

Chats with local political and economic leaders about faith.

Learn the Art of Pysanky

Rev. Abby Norton-Levering

Learn to decorate 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	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Nancy Wainwright	Richard Davis, William Martin
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Bill Clock
Flower Delivery		
Greeters	Sandra & Craig Kominoski	
Kinderwyk	Inga Pangburn, Cathy Wisniewski	Ann Gotwals
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Robert Dickson, Joyce Griggs, Jerry Griggs, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski	Robert Dickson, Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Darwin Brudos, Arthur Casey, Marilyn Leach, Catherine Lewis, Delbert Pierce
Reader	Robert Dickson	Jim Miller
Refreshments	Marilyn Leach, Rebecca Mason, Sandra Kominoski	Ann Hicks, Ann Bish
Offertory Deacon/Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Tom & Joan Lindsay, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins	Richard Davis, Gay Doolittle, Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, William Martin, Nancy Wainwright, David Bundy, Joseph Gallagher, Joan Lindsay

Sunday, February 23

- 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

Monday, February 24

- 9:00am Mens Newsgroup
- 7:00pm Klokken Ringers

Tuesday, February 25

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
- 6:00 pm CRTC

Wednesday, February 26

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

Thursday, February 27

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

Friday, February 28

- 12:00pm Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, March 2

- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary
- 9:15 am High School Choir
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal-Poling Chapel
- 10:00 am Worship with Communion
- 10:15 am Church School for K-2
- 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

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” – Mahatma Gandhi

“Love can change a person the way a parent can change a baby-awkwardly, and often with a great deal of mess.” – Lemony Snicket, *Horseradish: Bitter Truths You Can't Avoid*

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking.” – Albert Einstein

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead

“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.” – Leo Tolstoy

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela

“And that is how change happens. One gesture. One person. One moment at a time.” – Libba Bray, *The Sweet Far Thing*

“Stepping onto a brand-new path is difficult, but not more difficult than remaining in a situation, which is not nurturing to the whole woman.” – Maya Angelou

“Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.” – William Jennings Bryan