

**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.



What we worry about may define us.

March 2, 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.

Transfiguration Sunday

March 2, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Nat Phipps

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Brethren We Have Met to Worship*

Holy Manny
Klokken Tower Ringers

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #469

Morning Has Broken

*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 *Be Thou My Vision*

John Rutter

Leah Kidwell-Fernandes

Be thou my vision, O lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armor, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter,
Be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward,
Great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise:
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
O Sov' reign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, 8th Century

FIRST LESSON Jim Miller

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Isaiah 49:8-16 (pg 679)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 6:24-34 (pg 6)*

SERMON Bill Levering

*HYMN *Seek Ye First* #333

OFFERING

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Fourfold Amen*
John Stainer

OFFERTORY

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

American Folk Melody Arr. Sunita Staneslow
Johnny Willis, tenor and harmonica
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harp

POSTLUDE Nat Phipps

+ + +

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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:

Peter Ipsen, Sally Murray, Sallie Wemple

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.

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!

Entered into Eternal Rest

F. David Sheldon
February 18, 2014

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!

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.

COMMUNION

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

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 #379
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

place it in the offering plate. If any questions, please contact the church office. **We are in need of 3 volunteers for Mar. 9.**

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

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

March 16: Economic Disparity and its Implications for Faithful Communities. Bradley Lewis, PhD Professor of Economics, Union College

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Mardi Gras with Skip Parsons, clarinet; Ken Olson, trombone; Rich Skrika, piano; Tim Coakley, drums

March 9: Azzaam Hameed, piano

March 16: Peg Delaney, piano

Mardi Gras Jazz Vespers ~Today

With Lent beginning on Wednesday, March 5, the Jazz Vespers on Sunday, March 2, will take us down to New Orleans to celebrate Mardi Gras. The music will be provided by clarinetist Skip Parsons, who leads the Riverboat Jazz Band, which specializes in music that comes directly from the early days of jazz in the Crescent City. Joining Skip in such traditional New Orleans tunes as "Bourbon Street Parade," "Basin Street Blues" and "When the Saints Go Marching In," will be his longtime band mates Rich Skrika on piano, Ken Olson on trombone, and Tim Coakley on drums. This vespers promises to be a particularly joyous one, so make it a point to come celebrate Mardi Gras!

Faith Bookshop

Please come in and check our mid-winter clearance table today.

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: Regular Meeting

Mar. 9: Regular Meeting

Mar. 16: Regular Meeting

Lenten Devotional Booklets and Discussion

Booklets are available today after worship near Assembly Hall and on Ash Wednesday. Linda Witkowski will lead conversation on the various devotional writings of the first week on March 9. Bring your coffee and cookies at 11:20am to the Dirck Romeyn Room.

Lights. Camera. Jesus!

We invite you to join us Tuesday March 4 at 7pm in the Dirck Romeyn Room for the feature-length documentary "Hellbound?" Followed by discussion topics such as heaven, hell, and Christian universalism.

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!

Men's Breakfast

A Conversation on the Progress and Challenges of the Schenectady School System: Cathy Lewis, Ron Lindsay, & Andy Chestnut.

Join us March 8 at 8am for a session in which we will share comments on the promises, the challenges, and the opportunities of providing quality education to urban youth.

Helpers Needed For Lenten Dinners

Seeking volunteers for Lenten dinners to serve as hosts/hostesses. This could be an individual, a couple, a family, 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.

Group V and Group VII

Both groups will meet together on Friday, March 21 at 10am in Assembly Hall. Refreshments and coffee will be served. Co-hostesses: Ann Gotwals and Linda Witkowski. Program: Coffee Hour. All women of the church and their friends are invited. Contact Ronnie at 393-7679 if you have questions.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will be meeting on Mar. 27 at 9:30am at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. For questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic 399-7679.

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.

New Writers Group Starts

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. For more info and signups, contact James Gonda at jamesgonda63@yahoo.com or the church office.

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.

New Member Class

People interested in membership in First Reformed are invited to a class that will go over the basic ideas of the congregation and a tour of the building. It takes place from 3 to 4:30pm on Sunday, March 16. Please contact the church office in some way if you are planning on attending, especially if you need child care.

Easter Reception Volunteers

We are in need of one or two leaders 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 calling the church office at 377-2201, by using a white pew card, or by signing up on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall.

Lenten Study: "*Gospeled Lives: Encounters with Jesus.*" Tuesday morning Bible study will begin a 6 week Lenten study. Anyone interested are welcome April 1st. Study books will be available at the church office after March 15 for \$10 each.

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 an exceptional PBS documentary, we'll explore the idea of race on the basis of many 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

March 12: How Schenectady was positioned for the War – An overview from FRC's Archives and Historical Concerns Committee.

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	Richard Davis, William Martin	Claire Hughes, Douglass Todd
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Linda Witkowski
Flower Delivery	Gay Doolittle, Joe Gallagher	
Greeters	Gay & Joe Doolittle	Gay & Joe Doolittle
Kinderwyk		Joanne Bedell
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Robert Dickson, Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Darwin Brudos, Arthur Casey, Gene Rowland, Catherine Lewis, Delbert Pierce	Veronica Bartholic, Robert Dickson, Margaret King, Eugene Zeltmann, Thomas Lindsay, Maria Todd
Reader	Jim Miller	Nancy Wainwright
Refreshments	Ann Hicks, Ann Bish, Joanne Arnold	Please sign up
Offertory Deacon/Ushers	Richard Davis, Gay Doolittle, Chris Fernandes, William Martin, Nancy Wainwright, David Bundy, Joseph Gallagher, Joan Lindsay	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Victoria McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd

Sunday, March 2

- 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

Monday, March 3

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

Tuesday, March 4

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
- 6:00 pm CRTC
- 7:00pm Lights. Camera. Jesus!

Wednesday, March 5~Ash Wednesday

- 9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
- 1:00 pm Thursday Belles
- 6:00 pm Lentil Soup & Dinner
- 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, March 6

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

Saturday March 8

- 8:00am Men's Breakfast
- 10:00am Peacemaking Taskforce
- 6:00pm Family Game Night

Sunday, March 9

- 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

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength." - Corrie ten Boom, Clippings from My Notebook

"The more you pray, the less you'll panic. The more you worship, the less you worry. You'll feel more patient and less pressured." – Rick Warren, The Purpose of Christmas

"If you spent your life concentrating on what everyone else thought of you, would you forget who you really were?" – Jodi Picoult, Nineteen Minutes

"Never worry alone. When anxiety grabs my mind, it is self-perpetuating. Worrisome thoughts reproduce faster than rabbits, so one of the most powerful ways to stop the spiral of worry is simply to disclose my worry to a friend... The simple act of reassurance from another human being (becomes) a tool of the Spirit to cast out fear – because peace and fear are both contagious." – John Ortberg Jr., The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You

"If you don't want a man unhappy politically, don't give him two sides to a question to worry him; give him one. Better yet, give him none. Let him forget there is such a thing as war. If the government is inefficient, top-heavy, and tax-mad, better it be all those than that people worry over it. Peace, Montag. Give the people contests they win by remembering the words to more popular songs or the names of state capitals or how much corn Iowa grew last year. Cram them full of noncombustible data, chock them so damned full of 'facts' they feel stuffed, but absolutely 'brilliant' with information. Then they'll feel they're thinking, they'll get a sense of motion without moving. And they'll be happy, because facts of that sort don't change." – Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451

"It's not time to worry yet," – Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird