

**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.*



Loving  
Risking  
Melting  
Changing  
Loving

*March 16, 2014*



***First Reformed Church***  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://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](http://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.

**Second Sunday in Lent**

March 16, 2014

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

*Turn Unto the Lord*

Eric Thiman

\*HYMN

#83

*O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Forgive us Lord for our apathy and for our lack of courage to speak up. Forgive us when we walk past and don't help. Forgive us when we get it wrong. We confess that we are afraid and don't want to change in order to be with those who are different. We ask that you would lead us into action: give us strength to be a voice crying for justice and peace and whatever is needed to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you.

\*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

*(adapted from Isaiah 58)*

This is the fast to which we are called: to free those who are wrongly imprisoned and lighten the burden of those who work, to let the oppressed go free and remove the chains that bind people, to share our food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, to give

clothes to those who need them, and not hide from those who need our help. Then our salvation will come like the dawn, and our wounds will quickly heal. Then our light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around us will be as bright as noon.

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

*God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that who so believeth in Him  
should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son  
into the world to condemn the world;  
but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3: 16, 17

FIRST LESSON

Nancy Davidson

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Psalms 121 (pg 571)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*John 3:1-17 (pg 93)*

SERMON *Love Changes People* Bill Levering

\*HYMN

#142

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*You Raise Me Up*

Thursday Belles

Olivia Cox, cello

Graham & Loveland

Arr. Joel Raney

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;  
You raise me up... To more than I can be.

You raise me up... To more than I can be.

\*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.

\*HYMN #384

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*  
Rob Landes

### 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 FRC & UPC who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

*Phillis Demont*

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.

### Entered Into Eternal Rest

Len Garver  
March 10, 2014

### In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. H.G. Harlow by Kathleen Koral. We are grateful that these flowers, which represent our prayers and praise, will be taken to church family members to recognize a special need or celebration.

### 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.

### 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. **We are in need of 3 volunteers for Mar. 23.**

### 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 assist with food storage/distribution. 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 Devotional Booklets

Devotional booklets are still available. Linda Witkowski will lead a discussion of the resource today.

### **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.

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

**Mar 23:** Challenges & Innovations in Our Library System – A Family Literacy Center, Marsha Mortimer, Board Member

**March 30:** Community Conversation to Stop Bullying – Robyn King, Counselor, Schenectady Community College

### **Prospective 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. We will meet today from 3 to 4:30pm beginning outside the church office.

### **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm**

**Today:** Peg Delaney, piano

**March 23:** Scott Bassinson, piano

**March 30:** Azzaam Hameed, piano

### **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:** Bowtie Theater 2:15pm “Son of God”

**Mar. 23:** Regular Meeting

**Mar. 30:** Mission Shareholders Dinner 6pm

### **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.

### **An Irrepressible Conflict: The Empire State in the Civil War**

A guided tour of this exhibit at the NY State Museum has been arranged with its curator for 2:30pm this Friday, March 21. Anyone interested is invited. Meet Laura Lee Linder, George and Kitty Trimarco in FRC parking lot Friday at 1pm to carpool and caravan to the museum's parking lot arriving there just after 2pm for free parking. Gather in the museum lobby at 2:15 and proceed to exhibit. We will collect voluntary contributions for a group donation in thanks for the tour; the museum has a suggested admission of \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Contact Laura, 882-6866, George, 355-7464, or sign up in the church office or Assembly Hall if you'll be coming or want further information.

### **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.

### **Mission Shareholders Dinner March 30**

Thanks to all those who supported the youth group on their mission trip right here in Schenectady. Those who purchased mission shares are invited to join us for a dinner on March 30 at 6pm, where the youth will show pictures and tell stories about their adventures, while providing a meal inspired by the trip. If you have not purchased a mission share but wish to attend the dinner, it's not too late! Shares are \$25 and available from Stacey.

### **Horizon Bible Study**

The Horizons Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays at 10am in the Poling Conference room. April 1<sup>st</sup> will begin a new 6 week Lenten study: *Gospelled Lives: Encounters with Jesus*. Study guides are available at the church office for \$10 each. All are welcome to attend.

### **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.

### **Chancel Choir to Sing Faure Requiem April 6**

The FRC Chancel Choir will be performing the Faure Requiem on April 6 during the Sunday service. They will be accompanied by string orchestra and Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harpist. Gabriel Faure (1845-1924) began sketches for the

Requiem in 1887 in which he sought to create a new kind of church music. He wanted something different from the operatic bel canto style and the large-scale German Romantic style. He helped to establish a distinctive French style which set the stage for the development of the Impressionist styles of Debussy and Ravel. For the Requiem, he draws inspiration from the tunes and rhythms of Gregorian chant. Faure saw death "as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards the happiness of the hereafter, rather than as a painful passing away." For this reason his setting is remarkably subdued, omits visions of wrath and hellfire, and adds the Pie Jesu and In Paradisum texts, which are not part of the requiem proper but emphasize the granting of eternal rest.

### **Faith Bookshop**

There are still some interesting items on our mid-winter sales table. Books relating to Lent are available as well.

### **College Scholarships**

Applications for the Rev. Al Smith Education Scholarship are available through the church office. Please submit completed applications by Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Questions can be directed to Sara Erickson at 374-4161 or ericksonhs@aol.com

### **SICM Easter Baskets**

SICM is making Easter baskets to give to families who use the Food Pantry. Please bring donated items and put in the boxes by the church doors. Please bring your items in by Sunday, March 30. Needed are: small games, puzzles, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, healthy snacks, coloring books, crayons, craft supplies, and 8"x10" pastel colored gift bags.

### **God Talk with Local Leaders**

Wednesday Lenten Class Schedule

**Mar 19:** US Rep. Paul Tonko

**Mar 26:** City Council President Peggy King

**Apr 2:** State Supreme Court Judge Christine Clark

**Apr 9:** Union College Dean Therese McCarty

## Lenten Schedule 2014

### Wednesdays, March 19 – April 9

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Lenten Classes

8pm ~ Lenten Evening Worship

#### 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 documentary, we'll explore race from many perspectives.

##### **Lent For Kids - Jamie Ipsen**

A class for children in grades K-8 full of art projects, music, and stories. (childcare also available for our little stones)

##### **Scarves - Carol Troost**

Learn to crochet different styles of ruffle scarves, the different yarns and resources. Attendance limited; sign up in Assembly Hall.

##### **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 19:** Union College and the Civil War – Many Union alumni and students were integral to the war efforts. Speaker TBA.

##### Lenten Evening Worship

A quiet brief service of songs accompanied by guitar, guided reflection, Holy Communion, prayers, and Christ's peace.

### Wednesday, April 16

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

	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Fred Daniels, Adam Kerwin	Claire Hughes, Carol Troost
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Ronnie Bartholic	Nancy Wainwright
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Hendrick & Joanne Arnold, John & Karen Norton	Claire Hughes, Jeanne Shoulder
<b>Greeters</b>	George Davidson	Tom & Joan Lindsay
<b>Kinderwyk</b>		
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Veronica Bartholic, Keith Muse, Roberta Blackmer, Del Pierce, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski	Mary Jewett, Robert Beadle, Arthur Casey, Brad Lewis, Linda Witkowski
<b>Reader</b>	Nancy Davidson	Mary Jewett
<b>Refreshments</b>		Please Sign Up
<b>Ushers</b>	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin, Philip Yourno	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeff Cox, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Jean Lindsay, Ron Lindsay

**Sunday, March 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  
 3:00pm ..... New Members Class  
 4:00 pm ..... Youth Orchestra  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

**Monday, March 17**

9:00am ..... Mens Newsgroup  
 10:00am ..... What's Your Story?  
 7:00pm ..... Klokken Ringers

**Tuesday, March 18**

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

**Wednesday, March 19**

9:30 am ..... Kerygma Conversations  
 1:00 pm ..... Thursday Belles  
 6:00 pm ..... Dinner  
 7:00pm ..... Lenten Classes  
 8:00pm ..... Lenten Evening Worship

**Thursday, March 20**

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

**Sunday, March 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  
 5:00pm ..... Junior & Senior Youth Group  
 5:00pm ..... Jazz Vespers

“For nothing is fixed, forever and forever and forever, it is not fixed; the earth is always shifting, the light is always changing, the sea does not cease to grind down rock. Generations do not cease to be born, and we are responsible to them because we are the only witnesses they have. The sea rises, the light fails, lovers cling to each other, and children cling to us. The moment we cease to hold each other, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.” – James Baldwin

“We must abandon completely the notion of blaming the past for any kind of situation we're in and reverse our thinking and see that the past always flows back from the present. That now is the creative point of life. So you see it's like the idea of forgiving somebody, you change the meaning of the past by doing that... Also watch the flow of music. The melody as its expressed is changed by notes that come later. Just as the meaning of a sentence... you wait till later to find out what the sentence means... The present is always changing the past.” – Alan Wilson Watts

“You can change the place you live, your clothes, your interests, your friends, your religion, and even your partner. But if you forgot to change your mind, attitude, beliefs about the world, how you treat people and how you plan to be different this time around, why did you even bother?” – Shannon L. Alder

“Just when the butterfly thought the world was over, it became a butterfly.” – Anonymous

John 3:16-17 – God loved the world so much that he sent his unique child as a sign that everyone who trusts in this love would not be lost, but have the best life possible. Really, God did not send this child into the world to punish the world, but so the world might be rescued. - Jesus