

**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.



April 27, 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.

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 #274

O God of Earth and Space

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Duncan Mewherter, April 10, 2014

Anita Mewherter's address is 33 West Rd. #4A Orleans, MA 02653.

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:

Harold Cassidy, Rev. Dr. J Dean Dykstra, Patricia Dykstra, Dae Gillespie, Dorothy Greenwood, Leonard Grupe, Clarence H. Linder Sr., Leroy Moody, Rachel Rowe, Katherine Studer

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.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of David Griggs Janower, by The Griggs Family. 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 May 4.**

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: Early Findings and Implementation Strategies on the Community Health Survey, David Pratt, MD, Consultant to Ellis Medicine.

May 4: Modeling the Gospel through Fowler Camp and Retreat Center; Rev. Kent Busman, Director.

May 11: Mother's Day – Stories of Our Mothers – A Story Swap of Stories & Remembrances of our Mother – led and facilitated by Joe Doolittle.

Faith Bookshop

Remember, there is a \$15 gift certificate in the Bookshop for anyone who joined FRC during this year or last. Come to the Bookshop desk to receive it.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Scott Bassinson, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Jim Corigliano, sax
May 4: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

May 11: Azzaam Hameed, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Horizons Bible Study

The Horizons Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays at 10am in the Poling Conference room. April 1 we began a 6 week Lenten study: *Gospelled Lives: Encounters with Jesus*. All are welcome to attend.

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

May 4: CROP Walk! No meeting

May 11: Regular Meeting

Earth Sunday Frolic Along the Mohawk

Join our Creation Care Commission (CCC) today for an environmental outing! We'll be picking up trash and recyclables in Riverside Park as part of the "Canal Clean Sweep" initiative. A nutritious lunch of soup and bread will be shared following worship; we'll start the cleanup at noon.

Union College Empty Bowls Today:

Fundraising Dinner - Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger. Potters, artists, educators, children, and people in the community work together to create handcrafted bowls. Everyone then gathers to join in the humble sharing of a meal of soup and bread. At the end of the evening, guests are asked to keep a bowl as a keepsake and reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. Last year, Union students raised over \$3,000, of which 100% was donated to the Concern for the Hungry, Bethesda House, and the City Mission. Join them this year

to make this event another successful effort, help our community in need! We will meet at Proctors GE Theater at 5pm. Students are \$15; others \$20.

Justice Action Council Today, 12:15pm-2pm

The Health Care Movie and Lasagna for Lunch: Join the Justice Action Council for the movie and discussion of health care reform. The Healthcare Movie is a serious but entertaining 35 minute film comparing the developments of American and Canadian healthcare. Narrated by Kiefer Sutherland, the documentary explores the health care systems in Canada and the U.S. and considers how the two systems ended up in such different places. In Canada, healthcare is regarded as a human right, treated as a responsibility of the government to be provided to every citizen. In America health care is a profit-making commodity. Discussion will follow led by Richard Propp, MD, Retired Hematologist and Medical Director of the NYS Patient Safety Center, Chair, Capital District Alliance for Universal Healthcare, Inc. Lunch: Lasagna, Salad, Drinks and dessert. For this, a donation of \$5-\$7 per person is suggested. For reservations please call Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

Fellowship Luncheon

Our next luncheon will be on Friday, May 2 at 12 noon in Assembly Hall. Our hostesses will be Ellie Brudos, Ann Hammett, and Connie Young. Speaking will be Jim Salengo. Jim is Executive Director of Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation and will be talking about the continuing improvements that are happening in Schenectady. Our luncheon series has been quite successful, with interesting programs, wonderful fellowship, and great food being our winning combination. You can bring a dish to share or just sit back and enjoy; all are welcome, men and women. You may sign up in Assembly Hall or call 346-0304. So, please come and join us, this will be our last luncheon until September, so don't miss out!

Musical Bookends

On Sunday, May 3 at 7:30pm, First Reformed will host the Octavo Singers in a concert entitled "Musical Bookends". The concert will feature the three Mozart Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) and Karl Jenkins' Stabat Mater (The Grieving Mother Stood). This Mary-themed concert would be the ideal gift for Mother's Day. Tickets can be purchased at the Sanctuary doors or online at <http://www.octavosingers.com>.

Patty's Place

This drop-in center is open and providing a safe, warm place for sex workers to find resources so that they can make safer choices now, and have the referrals and support to leave prostitution when they are ready. Those who are interested in volunteering or donating to this ministry should contact Stacey Midge. Volunteers are needed to staff the center from 7-10pm on Wednesday nights. There will be a training on May 3; talk to Stacey if you are interested. Patty's Place also accepts donations of supplies and money. Supplies currently needed include: individual sized shampoo and conditioner, soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, ready to eat food items such as soup and microwave popcorn, chocolate, cans of soda (Diet Coke is in high demand,) NEW women's socks, underwear, bras, shorts, and T-shirts. Donations can be left in Stacey's office after church or during normal office hours. Financial contributions should be made out to SICM, with Patty's Place in the memo line. Thank you for your support!

Annual CROP Walk

On Sunday, May 4, the annual Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) walk will take place at 12:30pm, beginning at Emmanuel Friedens Church and winding 5k through Schenectady. The proceeds support hunger-fighting efforts around the world, with 25% going to local food pantries, Community Crisis Network, and Senior Meals. Want to walk? Get a donation form from the Church Office.

Non-walkers can simply drop off their donations at the church office. Checks should be made out to "CWS/CROP." Checks eligible for GE Matching should be made out to SICM. Any questions contact Cathy Lewis.

Vale Cemetery Tour

Join us Sunday, May 4 at 2pm for a tour and lecture of Vale Cemetery/Park led by Laura Linder, Archivist/Registered Historian. We will meet, rain or shine, at the Caretakers House, 907 State St., Schenectady. There is a \$7 donation and children are free. For more information, call 346-0423 or vale@valecemetery.org.

Prospective Member Class May 4

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Dr. Levering will be leading membership orientation meetings that include a tour of the church and a chat about who we are. It lasts 90 minutes and is held at 3pm on the first Sundays of May and June and October through February.

Group V

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 5 at 11:30 am at 1229 Viewmont Drive, Niskayuna. We will be having a Salad Luncheon Picnic. Bring a salad to share. This will be the last meeting of the year, so come and join us. Contact Maria G. Todd to sign up if you are not a member of Group V. All church women are welcome.

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. Then all are welcome to our contemplative service from 7 to 7:45pm 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.

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Wycliffe Bible translators are hosting a banquet celebrating their work around the world. If you are interested in attending on May 5 at 7pm, please contact Vernetta Thuener at 355-2543.

Lights. Camera. Jesus!

Does there come a point when a life is no longer worth living? Who gets to decide that? Winner of the 2011 Sundance Film Festival U.S.

Documentary Grand Jury Award, *How to Die in Oregon* explores the state's historic and controversial Death with Dignity Act, which legalizes physician aid-in-dying for some terminally ill patients. Join us on Tuesday, May 6 in the Dirck Romeyn Lounge along with a box of tissues, an open mind, and all your hard questions. Because the film runtime is 1 hour and 48 minutes, **we'll begin at 6:30** instead of 7. As always, all older teens and up are welcome.

Stephen Ministers Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 7-9pm, we will gather in the Dirck Romeyn Room for continuing education followed by small group peer supervision.

Loyalty and Loss May 9

Meet, Listen, and talk with Lynn Japinga, Professor at Hope College and author of "Loyalty and Loss: The Reformed Church in America, 1945-1994," a fascinating book about the post WWII history of the RCA. Want to learn more about our small but diverse denomination? Come hear Lynn speak at the Niskayuna Reformed Church on May 9 at 5pm. RSVP to the Regional Synod of Albany by calling Trudi Thun at 374-4573 or email thun.trudi@gmail.com.

Men's Breakfast

May 10 at 8am – Presentation by Gene Rowland with a photographic record of his recent trip to Amelia Island FL for the 19th Annual *Concours d'Elegance* (Collector Car Show.) Please sign up in Assembly Hall.

Capital Community Voices Spring Concert

Capital Community Voices, directed by Julie Panke, will present "Frontier Fantasies" on Saturday, May 10 at 7:30pm at Genet Elementary School, Rt 4, East Greenbush, NY. Folk and popular songs exploring the frontiers of the American West, space, the sea, and love and romance will highlight the program. Selections will include "Buffalo Gals," "Fly Me to the Moon," "Under the Sea," "Lover Come Back to Me," and "The Shadow of Your Smile." The chorus will be accompanied by pianist John Norton, bassist Tony Riccobono, and percussionist Leonard Tobler. A reception will follow the concert. Ticket prices are \$10 general admission and \$8 for seniors and students.

College Scholarships

Applications for the Rev. Al Smith Education Scholarship are available through the Church Office. Please submit your completed application to the Church Office by Wednesday, **May 15**. Questions can be directed to Sara Erickson at 374-4161 or ericksonhs@aol.com.

Group VII

We will meet Friday, May 16 for "A Surprise Trip." Join us at 10:30am at Scotia Reformed Church for a tour, after we will meet for lunch at Scotia Diner. Contact Ronnie Bartholic with any questions.

Youth Lead Worship May 18

The youth of the church are taking over! The youth will be doing the readings, prayers, and music that morning, and our graduating seniors will be celebrated at the service. Please plan to attend and support our youth.

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young. We will meet May 20 at 7pm. Hope to see you then.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will be meeting May 22 at 9:30am at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Ronnie at 393-7679 with any questions.

Central College Choir

The Central College A Cappella Choir from Pella, Iowa will present a concert on Friday, May 23 at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. The choir is an auditioned 60-voice ensemble in its 82nd year. Their eclectic repertoire ranges from Renaissance to Modern 21st Century music and there will be two selections presented jointly by the choir and area RCA church choir members. The concert is free but donations will be accepted. Please join us for a festive and spirit-filled evening of choral music.

We are in great need of families or individuals that can host two or more choir members overnight on Friday evening the 23 and for breakfast on Saturday morning. If you are able to be a host please contact Julie Panke, Director of Music at kirkechor@earthlink.net or 370-5434. A sign-up sheet will also be available in Assembly Hall.

Writers Group

A Flash Fiction critique group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm 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.

SICM Book Collection

Wanted: Books for kids 18 and under. Please donate age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction books to enhance SICM's Summer Lunch Program 2014. In addition to feeding thousands of hungry children, the 9-week program provides recreational and educational activities at parks throughout Schenectady. Books can be placed in the bin in the Narthex and will be collected until the program begins. If you have any questions, you can call Karen Gonda at 607-725-4521 or email gonda6@aol.com. Thank you for your support.

Kinderwyck

We are looking for helping hands and arms to play with toddlers and rock babies from 9:50-noon each Sunday. Please call the church office if you are willing and able to help with this vital ministry.

Stitch Group

Our stitch group generally meets every Thursday at 10am in the Poling Conference room, please be advised, the stitch group will **NOT** be meeting again until Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 10am.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Doug Todd	Kim Burgoyne, Caroline Welch
Faith Bookshop	Linda Witkowski	Roberta Blackmer
Flower Delivery	Ann & Emile Walraven, Peggy King	Hendrick & Joanne Arnold
Greeters	Ray & Joyce Beland	Ellie & Darwin Brudos
Kinderwyk	Barbara Walton	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Robert Dickson, Joyce Griggs, Bob Beadle, Gay Doolittle, Jerry Griggs, Maria G. Todd	Robert Dickson, Mary Jewett, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Barbara Walton, George Davidson, Phil Falconer, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Chris Fernandes	Mary Jewett
Refreshments		Please Sign Up!
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher,) Karen Dickson, Tom Lindsay, Joan Lindsay, Doug Todd	Richard Davis, Gay Doolittle, Bill Martin, Victoria McGowan- Horan, Nancy Wainwright, Doug Todd

Sunday, April 27

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School for K-8
- 10:20 am Carol Choir
- 11:15 am Forum
- 11:15 am Pre-Frolic Lunch
- 11:20 am Kirk Ringers
- 12:00 pm Membership Committee
- 12:15 pm Justice Action Council
- 4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
- 5:00pm JH & HS Youth Group

Monday, April 28

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

Tuesday, April 29

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

Wednesday, April 30

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

Thursday, May 1

- 7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 6:45pm Yoga
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Sunday, May 4

- 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
- 12:30 pm CROP Walk!
- 3:00 pm New Members Class
- 4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
- 5:00pm Jazz Vespers

“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.” – W.H. Auden

“Between earth and earth’s atmosphere, the amount of water remains constant; there is never a drop more, never a drop less. This is a story of circular infinity, of a planet birthing itself. – Linda Hogan

“I don’t know what tallies as sacred for you but if water doesn’t qualify, you should check your pulse to see whether you are among the quick or the dead.” – Larry Rasmussen

“Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.” – Kent Busman

“Until he extend the circle of his compassion to all living things, man himself will not find peace.” – Albert Schweitzer

“The fundamental claim that the earth is God’s creation means that those who acknowledge the claim are bound to relate to the natural world with respect and care... The creation has value simply because it is God’s creation. And people who understand themselves as God’s people cannot treat carelessly or destructively God’s world, in which God delights. – Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

“Worldwide nearly a billion people lack access to clean water. 3.5 million people die each year from water-related diseases. Almost two out of three people who need safe drinking water survive on less than \$2 a day.” – RCA Today

“We have the ability to provide clean water for every man, woman and child on the Earth. What has been lacking is the collective will to accomplish this. What are we waiting for? This is the commitment we need to make to the world, now.” – Jean-Michel Cousteau

“Food & Water Watch works to ensure the food, water and fish we consume is safe, accessible and sustainable.” – foodandwaterwatch.org

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee of First Reformed Church is charged to nominate Elders and Deacons to serve two-year Consistory terms. The Committee begins its work soliciting recommendations from the congregation for Elder and Deacon Candidates. Those being recommended and those making recommendations must be members of First Reformed Church. Candidates for Consistory should be representative of the congregation, have vision, leadership skills, and be active participants in the worship and activities of this church.

Elders and Deacons together with the Ministers form the Consistory, which is the governing body of this congregation. Elders exercise particular concern for the interior life and programs of the church (Worship, Fellowship, Education, and Congregational Care). Deacons exercise particular concern for the outreach of the church (Mission and Benevolence, Finance, Justice Advocacy, and Historical Concerns). Elders and Deacons will be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation on **June 1, 2014**.

The names of recommended candidates for Elder and Deacon may be submitted on this form delivered to the church office or given to any member of the Committee: Bill Ward, Bill Brooks, Peggy King, Carol Troost; Senior Elders: Keith Muse, Mary Jewett; Ministers: Bill Levering, Daniel Carlson, or Stacey Midge. The Nominating Committee would appreciate your response as soon as possible.

I recommend that the Nominating Committee consider the following members for nomination as Elder or Deacon:

ELDER

DEACON

First Reformed Church

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.

THE CONSISTORY

MINISTERS

Bill Levering, Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister
Stacey Midge, Associate Minister

OFFICERS

Keith Muse & Mary Jewett, Senior Elders
Catherine Lewis, Treasurer
Linnea D'Andrea, Clerk

ELDERS

Veronica Bartholic
Robert Dickson
Joyce Griggs
Mary Jewett
Margaret King
Keith Muse
Katherine Trimarco
William Ward
Johnny Willis
Eugene Zeltmann

DEACONS

Linnea D'Andrea
Fred Daniels
Richard Davis
Gay Doolittle
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Bill Martin
Victoria McGowan-Horan
William Rochelle
George Trimarco
Nancy Wainwright

COVENANTER

Jeremy Bork

CHURCH STAFF

Naphtali Rothrock, Organist
Julie Panke, Music Director
Sarah Bachorik, Director of Kinderwyck
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Ministry
Judy Moore, Director of Klokken Tower Ringers
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator
Linda Malgieri, Assistant Bookkeeper
Jennifer Anderson, Office Assistant
Lyn Gordon, Sunday Receptionist
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor
Diana Wahid, Housekeeper
Tom Mahan, Sexton