

**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.



May 18, 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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Olivia Mancuso

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

INTROIT *Jesus Loves Me* Kirk Ringers

*PROCESSIONAL HYMNS

Psalm 9

I will praise (echo)

You, oh Lord (echo)

With all of my heart (echo)

I will tell (echo)

Of your wonders (echo)

I'll be glad and exalt in you (echo)

Chorus: (sung twice)

I will sing praise to your name, Most High,

I will sing praise to your name.

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Come let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord our God,
our Maker.

Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord our God,
our Maker.

For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture,
And the sheep of God's hand,
And the sheep of God's hand.

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

God, you show us perfect love by how you
love us. And yet, we fail to love each other,
the creation you entrust to us, and you.

Forgive us when we do not speak or act in
ways that are loving. Inspire us to follow you
in your great love for this world.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE HYMN #579
Gloria Patri

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)
Apostle's Creed (RCA, Contemporary)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord. He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *At the Riverside*
Arr. Joel Raney
High School Ensemble

FIRST LESSON Nicole VanOort
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (pg 505)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 14:1-14 (pg 108)*

SERMON Elena Grande

*HYMN *All in All*

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I seek,

Jane Dike. 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 Risseuw, 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 2 volunteers for May 25.**

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: David Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass

May 25: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

June 1: Nat Phipps, piano

Church Picnic Today

After worship come and join the fun at the annual spring picnic sponsored by the Youth Education and Nurture Committee. We will provide burgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, and beverages for all. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or snack to share. In addition to food and conversation, games will be available for the children. Bring a friend to share in the fun! See you there!

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: Annual Congregational Picnic – Forum around the outside tables!

May 25: A Walk About our Historic Stockade Neighborhood. Over 50 stops with informative brief presentations. Meet in Assembly Hall at 11:30am.

June 1: Congregational Meeting – Coffee & Conversation

UPC Bake Sale

UPC Youth will be having a Bake Sale today to raise money for their summer WorkCamp trip to Staunton, Virginia. We also will be selling Shares should you wish to support this trip without the calorie count!

Faith Bookshop

Today items specially selected with women in mind are featured on the Bookshop's round tables.

Yoga Moved to Monday Nights

Thursday evening Yoga has been moved to Monday's at 6:45pm – 7:45pm in Assembly Hall. If you have any questions please contact Douglas at: 229-7291 or dagoods1@gmail.com.

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

Today: End of Year Party 5pm

Prospective Member Class

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 June, and October through February.

SICM Book Collection

Wanted: New or used 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. Monetary donations accepted. If you have any questions, you can call Karen Gonda at 607-725-4521 or email gonda6@aol.com. Thank you for your support!

Sunday School Schedule Changes

Today, everyone will stay in church, no church school.

May 25: Jeremy Bork will be showing a Veggie Tales episode in Room 20. All children grades K-8 are invited to attend after the Children's Message.

June 1 – August 31: All children K-8 are invited to Kinderwyck after the Children's Message for summer church school.

September 7: Regular church school resumes.

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.

Joint Mission at State Street

First Reformed Church, Union Presbyterian Church, and State Street Presbyterian Church have joined in mission projects at State Street Presbyterian in Schenectady. We meet Monday evenings, 4-5:30pm. The kitchen is in great need of a new range for this project and a future cooking group with adults, so a fundraiser dinner has been planned.

Soulicious Dinner Fundraiser

Thursday, May 22; 4-6:30pm (mainly ordered, pre-paid, take-out meals) Location: State Street Presbyterian Church (5 Catherine Street, church parking lot on State Street)

These soul food dinners are being prepared by local chef, Monica McGill, who has been assisting with the weekly Kids Cooking classes. For \$12, you will get collard greens, mac & cheese, yams and a choice of chicken or ribs. Dessert of sweet potato pie or cake is available for \$3. Orders and payment (cash or checks to State Street Presbyterian Church) can be given to UPC member, Jeanette Davidson, or by calling State Street Presbyterian at 374-2684.

Reservations to be made by today please. (Jeanette will meet you during refreshment time on May 18 for your orders!) Thanks! Any questions? Call Jeanette at 393-1898. Thank you.

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. If you are able to be a host please contact Julie Panke, Director of Music at kirkechor@earthlink.net, 370-5434, or sign-up in Assembly Hall.

Susan Hale in Concert May 30

Susan Hale will be giving an eclectic concert celebrating the Easter season on May 30 at 8pm in our Sanctuary. Admission is free and all are invited.

Kerygma Conversations Delay Notice

The monthly gathering has been postponed a week to Wednesday, June 4, 9:30-11am in the Dirck Romeyn room. Join us to talk about what you've found interesting in summer activities like reading, viewing, traveling, or whatever.

Different Way in Reading Graduation

Join us Friday, June 6 at 6:30pm to celebrate the hard work, determination, and significant progress in literacy skills of ten students, aged 8 to 14. The graduation address will be given by Harvey Hubbell V, award winning documentarian and producer of "Dyslexia, The Movie." He himself has dyslexia and is a most wonderful example of fulfillment and success. We will be presenting certificates of recognition to Assemblyman James Tedisco and Congressman Paul Tonko for their support of students with dyslexia. Please join us and meet the children we are so proud of!

Stephen Ministers Available

Our Stephen's Ministers are ready to help anyone who is going through a difficult period in life. They offer an understanding ear and the caring love of Christ. If you are facing one of life's many challenges contact any of our Stephen Leaders: Daniel Carlson, Maria Todd (429-7931,) Vernetta Thuener (355-2543,) about having a Stephen's Minister. This confidential ministry is available to all members and friends of UPC and FRC. Give yourself a gift; life is much easier with someone by your side!

At Camp Fowler

Registration is now open for summer camp 2014! Campers are students in grades 3-12; Fowler also offers a family camp where children of all ages and parents can experience camp together. Volunteers are also needed as cabin counselors and kitchen and maintenance staff. You can find more information on the website at campfowler.org or by contacting Stacey Midge.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Doug Todd	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Nancy Wainwright
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Linda Witkowski
Flower Delivery	Richard & Natalie Davis, Douglas & Ann Phillips	Robert & Joan Crandall, Connie Young
Greeters	Nancy & George Davidson	Ellie & Darwin Brudos
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Elena Grande	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Keith Muse, Darwin Brudos, Gay Doolittle, Phil Falconer, Joe Lovell, Maria G. Todd	Joyce Griggs, Margaret King, Bob Beadle, George Davidson, Joe Lovell, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Nicole VanOort	Carol Troost
Refreshments	Lorraine Aumic, Amanda Bogatka	Becky Mason
Ushers	Art Schultes (head usher,) Jeff Cox, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Jean Lindsay, Ron Lindsay	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher,) Linda Malgieri, Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal

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 and Deacons will be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation on June 1, 2014.

Recommendations may be submitted on to the church office or any member of the Committee: Bill Ward, Bill Brooks, Peggy King, Carol Troost, Hans Erickson, Jennifer Evans, Joseph Gallagher, Lyn Gordon, Rebecca Draffen-Grande; 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.

ELDER

DEACON

Sunday, May 18

- 10:00 am Youth Lead Worship
- 10:20 am Carol Choir
- 11:15 am Congregational Picnic
- 11:15 am Orff Rehearsal
- 11:20 am Kirk Ringers
- 4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
- 5:00 pm JH & HS End of Year Party

Monday, May 19

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

Tuesday, May 20

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 7:00 pm UPC Session

Thursday, May 22

- 7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, May 23

- 7:30 pm Central College Choir

Sunday, May 25

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School for K-8
- 11:15 am Forum
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers