

**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.



July 13, 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 after Pentecost

July 13, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE
Melodie Naphtali Rothrock
Sarabande Ignace Paderewski
The Lord's My Shepherd Giuseppe Tartini
Arr. Mark Sedio

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

*HYMN #417
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O God, you know us completely. You know how we have failed to both love you above all others, and love our neighbors as ourselves. You know how we have failed to be faithful members of Christ's body. You know how we have failed to expect, embrace and employ your Spirit's gifts for the common good. O God, in your complete knowing and unfailing love, forgive us, we pray.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

Our Song of Hope

The Holy Spirit builds one church,
united in one Lord and hope,
with one ministry around one table.
The Spirit calls all believers in Jesus to
respond in worship together,

to accept all the gifts from the Spirit,
to learn from each other's traditions,
to make unity visible on earth.

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING Todd Sisley, piano
Chris Trombley, baritone

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit and always green.
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel.
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have bought.
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest a while.
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit does make my soul to thrive.
It keeps my dying faith alive.
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

FIRST LESSON Ellie Rowland
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalm 65:1-13 (pg 527)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (pg 13)

SERMON *Good Soil* Stacey Midge

*HYMN #349
Let All Who Pray the Prayer Christ Taught

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Give Me Jesus*
arr. Edward Boatner

*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 #420
God of Grace and God of Glory

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Musical Note: Halle, Halle, Halle, words: traditional liturgical; music: Caribbean; arr. John L Bell, 1990 WGRG, Iona Community, GIA Pub. Inc. All rights reserved. One License #A-700700

Summer Church School is ON!

After the children's message we will gather at Kinderwyck where it is air conditioned and close to the after-worship goodies! We are looking to become a little more Bible savvy so we will play "5 Questions" each week with interactive learning (drama, music, art, games, etc..) Everyone gets smart! We need one or two helpers (18 yrs+) to keep the program running. Call Jamie if you are available even for just one week, 399-6848.

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:

Ida May Bacon, Elmer Baldwin, Jean Buchanan, Mary Jane Hasler, Jim Shapland, Anne Shepherd 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.

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Tim Olsen, piano

July 20: Mike Lamkin, piano; Linda Brown, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

July 27: Dave Gleason, piano

Faith Bookshop

Today and during the rest of the summer, the Bookshop will be open briefly before and after most church services. In September, we will go back to our usual schedule and resume taking book orders.

Post Service Summer Refreshments

Over the summer whenever possible, our post service refreshments will be served in the Huntley Garden. Please consider signing up for set-up, refreshments, and clean-up by yourself or with a friend. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall along with a sheet on "how to" suggestions. Please read these instructions prior to signing up as it is very important in that the set-up and clean-up is done

differently. Any questions, please contact the church office at 377-2201. We are in need of volunteers for **July 20**.

Schenectady Bike Share

As noted in the Friday's Gazette, as part of an exploratory Bike Share program in medium sized NY cities, from Thursday, July 10 through Wednesday, July 16 there will be free bicycles available for use between 10am and 8pm from three hubs: outside our churches front fence, at the corner of State St. and Jay St., and at the corner of Union and Seward in front of Union College's Webster House. Bike Share staff are at the Jay St. location to sign users up and orient users to the bikes operation. There's no cost to use the bikes, but a credit card will be needed as security for the bikes. Ride on!

Mid-month Evening Meal & Worship

All those who hunger for good food and table fellowship are invited to bring something edible to share this Wednesday, July 16 at 6pm in Assembly Hall. Following dinner and cleanup will be a contemplative communion service held in Poling Chapel at 7 for all who wish to conclude the evening with reflective and re-centering worship of God. Those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

Summer Biking Frolic

Pack a picnic lunch, peddle down to church, lock-up on our sturdy front fence, worship, and then join cyclists of all sorts for a relaxed ride after service on Sunday, July 20! Leaving from church, we'll ride west on the Mohawk Hudson Bikeway for 5.5 miles, stopping at Rotterdam Kiwanis' Park along the river for leisurely lunch, before returning the way we came. A longer bike hike to the east is being considered for a Sunday in August; for more details contact Daniel Carlson.

Writers Group

A Flash Fiction critique group meets 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.

Farewell Reception for Jeremy Bork

We will bid farewell to our Covenanter and student under care, Jeremy Bork, with a reception after worship on July 27. Have some cake, thank him for his service with us in the last year, and wish him well as he goes to pursue a Master of Divinity at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI.

Fowler Summer Camp in Schenectady

We will be providing volunteers for the Camp Fowler Day Camp at Steinmetz Park from July 28-August 1. We are especially in need of volunteers who are available to be there all week as "cabin counselors" from about 8am – 4pm, to spend time with the same group of campers throughout the week. No previous camping experience necessary, just a willingness to build positive relationships with children. A sign-up sheet is available in Assembly Hall.

Donations Needed for Camp Steinmetz

We will be collecting donations for the children at Camp Steinmetz. Here is the list of needed items: 4 square and playground balls, basketball, volleyball (balls and net,) lots of sidewalk chalk, gator balls (these are balls that you can throw at each other but not hurt each other,) pool noodles, poly spots (ways of marking the ground, think "paper plates" but durable, hula hoops, playing cards, bandanas, frisbees, tennis balls, ping pong balls, bubbles, jump ropes, tie dye (dye, rubber bands, soda ash,) paper (construction and white,) markers, crayons, glue, scissors, paint, paint brushes, boondoggle, supplies to make ice cream, musical instruments appropriate for campers. The donations can be brought to the church office for Stacey Midge. Thank you!

Summer Kerygma Conversations

If you are interested in meeting up with other members to discuss whatever is currently of interest to you (e.g., an experience, event, book, movie, trip, issue) then you are invited to join us for a leisurely yet engaging conversation, 9:30 – 11am, Wednesday, July 30 in the Dirck Romeyn room (also to be held August 27.) No preregistration required; those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

Summer VBS!

Children ages 5-95 are invited to attend “Spy School-VBS” August 4-8 from 3-5pm. Students will learn to decode and encode Bible verses. There will be psalm writing with invisible ink. We will speculate on what God’s fingerprints look like while we examine our own. All will become masters of disguise dressing up as our favorite Bible characters. God will be uncovered in amazing places! Healthy snacks each day! Fun guaranteed for all! Please call the church office at 377-2201 to reserve your spot. Helpers are always needed! Call Jamie at 399-6848 to volunteer.

Senior Recital

Olivia Cox will be presenting her Senior Recital at First Reformed Church in Poling Chapel on Friday, August 15 at 6pm. All are welcome!

SICM Summer Lunch Program

Our joint congregations have responsibility for five weeks of the SICM Summer Lunch Program this year. Volunteers are needed! A sign-up sheet is available in Assembly Hall for the following dates: July 28-August 1, August 4-8, August 11-15, August 18-22, and August 25-29.

As volunteers, we provide a valuable service for the children of Schenectady which requires a commitment of less than two hours each day. Please check the list and sign-up for as many dates as you are available. If you have questions, contact Ellie Rowland, 250-4302.

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.

At Camp Fowler in Speculator

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 (377-2201), who will be spending the week as chaplain for the senior high campers.

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. Contact Stacey Midge 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!

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Nancy Wainwright, Richard Gardner	Rebecca Grande, Joan Lindsay
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Andy Chestnut, Jeanne Shoulder	Karen Gonda, Virginia Laumeister
Greeters	Ellie & Gene Rowland	Tom & Joan Lindsay
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	Jeanne Shoulder, Robert Dickson, Gene Rowland, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Joe Lovell, Bill Rochelle	Amy Brule, Elizabeth Mastrianni, Darwin Brudos, Wayne Brule, Gay Doolittle, Ron Lindsay
Reader	Ellie Rowland	Carol Troost
Refreshments		Please sign up!
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

Sunday, July 13

10:00 am Worship

10:15 am Summer Church School for K-8

5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

“Increase of material comforts, it may be generally laid down, does not in any way whatsoever conduce to moral growth.” – Mahatma Gandhi

Monday, July 14

9:00 am Men’s Newsgroup

“People are like dirt. They can either nourish you and help you grow as a person or they can stunt your growth and make you wilt and die.” – Plato

Tuesday, July 15

10:00 am Morning Prayer

“Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle.” – Napoleon Hill

Wednesday, July 16

6:00 pm Mid-month Evening Meal

7:00 pm Mid-month Evening Worship

“The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another’s, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me continual spiritual exercises.” – Leo Buscaglia

Sunday, July 20

10:00 am Worship

10:15 am Summer Church School K-8

11:15 am Mohawk Bike Frolic

5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

“To see things in the seed, that is genius.” – Lao Tzu

“Talk unbelief, and you will have unbelief; but talk faith, and you will have faith. According to the seed sown will be the harvest.” – Ellen G. White