

**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.



Justice Statue
Tehran Courthouse, Iran

August 17, 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.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Cliff Brucker

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Paula Gravelle

*HYMN *Morning Has Broken* #469

*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

Gail Blinckmann, soprano

O Light of Life Mack Wilberg

O light of life! O pure light divine!

Thou art in us; our ember is thine.

Kindle our flame, give hope when we fear,

Deepen our love, our fire appear.

Light of our souls, love's spark at our birth

Grow bright in us, shine in all the earth!

O light of life! O sweet light of grace!

Thou bids us come, we follow apace.

See the bright tree, behold the white fruit!

Feasting we weep, we witness the root!

O light of life! O dear light of love!

Come wash us clean, send forth thy white dove.

Fill us with fire, enlighten our eyes;

Help us to love, 'tis price of the prize.

Then, let us come, enrobe us in white

Clinging to thee, light unto thy light.

David Warner

FIRST LESSON

Amy Brule

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Isaiah 56:1, 6 – 8 (pg 686)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 15:21-28 (pg 76)*

SERMON *Justice for All* Paula Gravelle

*HYMN *Our Cities Cry to You, O God* #437

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Cliff Brucker

*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 #429

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

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:

Cameron Barrie Rowe

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

Mark McDermott

August 11, 2014

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.

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

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

August 24: Dave Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

August 31: Paul Mastriani, piano; Linda Brown, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

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 **Aug. 24.**

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, August 27 in the Dirck Romeyn room. No preregistration required; those with questions may 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.

SICM School Supplies

SICM is collecting school supplies and will continue through the end of August. We hope you will take advantage of those back-to-school sales! All donations can be brought to the SICM business office at 1055 Wendell Ave. or brought to the church office for Stacey Midge. Any questions, you may call 374-2683. Thank you!

Labor Day Weekend Presentation

In honor of Labor Day, we will have a special speaker after the worship service at 11:15am on August 31 in Poling Chapel, in cooperation with the Labor and Religion Coalition. Frank Natalie from the Capital District Area Labor Federation will present about a skilled labor apprenticeship program, followed by discussion about the project and other efforts of the Labor and Religion Coalition.

Upcoming Home Furnishings Program Sales Sale at the “Little Italy” FESTA, in the Rossi-DeToro funeral home parking lot, Saturday, September 6, 10am – 3pm.

All sales support our operating budget and help us to help others!

Home Furnishings Program Needs

Furniture: bunk & trundle beds, room fans.

Furnishings: dish & hand towels, washcloths, juice glasses, spatulas, stirring spoons.

As Always: pots & pans, especially frying pans, large pots.

Call Jamie Doriguzzi, Program Coordinator, 346-2444, to arrange for pick-up or warehouse drop-off of useful items or email us at homefurninc@aol.com.

Fall Picnic September 7

All are invited to stay after worship for a time of food and fellowship at our annual fall picnic! Hamburgers from the grass-fed cows of Buckley Farm will be provided, in addition to hot dogs, veggie burgers, and drinks. In an effort to promote sustainable and healthy farming and feasting those attending are encouraged to use locally-grown and/or made products in the food they prepare; everyone should bring something to share. Volunteers are needed for set up before the picnic and break down/clean up after the picnic. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Nancy Wainwright, 377-3573, or the church office, 377-2201 or 1streformedpub@gmail.com. There is also a sign-up sheet available in Assembly Hall.

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.

New Worship Service Coming Soon

Our new Saturday evening worship service, called The Link, will begin on September 20 at 5pm. This is a family-friendly opportunity to worship through contemporary music and casual liturgy. All people are welcome, but we especially invite families with Sunday sports activities, those who work Sunday mornings, and anyone who is seeking a supportive Christian community in a modern worship setting. Please contact Stacey with any questions about this new service.

North Star Peace Walk

Sunday, September 21, 2014 is International Peace Day! FRC is a sponsor of this interfaith Peace Walk, which begins at 2pm at the Interfaith Center in Albany. The youth group will be walking and it would be great to see multigenerational representation! Please bring banners with the name of your congregation as well as banners of peace (Give Peace a Chance, Peace Now, Peace is the Way, etc.). Please no political banners as this is an inclusive event and all are welcome, regardless of political beliefs. Share interfaith prayers, teachings, singing and fellowship. Join other community members to reaffirm common roots.

Horizons Bible Study Material

Our study for the fall is "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians." We will be resuming September 23; however, study guides are now available in the church office for \$8 for anyone interested.

Run, Ride, Walk 4 Love

Safe Inc. and Love 146 are co-sponsoring a Run, Ride, Walk event to raise money to end human trafficking and support survivors of exploitation on September 27 in Saratoga Spa State Park. You can register to participate in this event at www.rrwl4l.com, or sponsor Stacey in running the 5K.

54th Stockade Walkabout

Plans are underway for September 27, 2014 from 11am – 5pm, and we are looking for volunteers. Will you help welcome visitors to FRC that day? Have you an activity, program, display, or such, for people to do or see as they tour FRC? If you have any questions or wish to sign up to volunteer, you may contact Laura Lee Linder, 882-6866. We are also looking for volunteers to help bake pastries for Saturday's event on Friday, September 26. If you would like to sign-up, you may contact Mary Jewett, 355-8059.

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. 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, Rebecca Grande	William Rochelle, Tom Burgoyne
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Joan & Tom Lindsay, Vickie & Mike Horan	Mary Jewett, Adam Kerwin
Greeters	Ellie & Gene Rowland	Vickie & Mike Horan
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Paula Gravelle	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Adam Mason, Amy Brule, Wayne Brule, Ronnie Bartholic, Darwin Brudos, Jeanette Davidson, Tom Lindsay	Jeanne Shoulder, Mary Jewett, Don Leach, Jean Lindsay, Del Pierce
Reader	Amy Brule	Mary Jewett
Refreshments		Please sign up!
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Carol Troost	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin, Philip Yourno, George Davidson

Sunday, August 17

10:00 am Worship
10:15 am Summer Church School for K-8
11:00 am Refreshments
2:00 pm VanWie Memorial
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, August 18

9:00 am Men's Newsgroup

Tuesday, August 19

10:00 am Morning Prayer

Sunday, August 24

10:00 am Worship
10:15 am Summer Church School K-8
11:00 am Refreshments
2:00 pm Vandenberg Memorial
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.” – Robert F. Kennedy

“Let the first act of every morning be to make the following resolve for the day:
-I shall not fear anyone on Earth.
-I shall fear only God.
-I shall not bear ill will toward anyone.
-I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.
-I shall conquer untruth by truth. And in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering.”
- Mahatma Gandhi

“Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all—the apathy of human beings.” – Helen Keller

“We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow-men; and along those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and come back to us as effects.” – Herman Melville

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.” – Bishop Desmond Tutu

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.” – Elie Wiesel

“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.” – Benjamin Franklin

“Never pray for justice, because you might get some.” – Margaret Atwood, *Cat's Eye*

“For children are innocent and love justice, while most of us are wicked and naturally prefer mercy.” – G.K. Chesterton

“Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.” – Frederick Douglass

“Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.” – Cornel West