

**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.*



Something about streaming light.  
The evidence of a brightness beyond us.  
Rays moving out, pointing in.

*August 31, 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.



## 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:

*Mary Grupe, Eleanor Mae Hart*

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 Norma & Arthur Peterson, from their daughter Anne. As a symbol of our care, each Sunday the flowers are delivered to members of FRC or UPC who are not able to join us here.

### **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.

**Music Note:** A New York Times music reviewer some time ago asked his readership to rate the top ten composers of all time. The top four? 4.) Franz Schubert; 3.) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; 2.) Beethoven; and the golden cigar goes to (drum roll please)....Johann Sebastian Bach. The moral of the story is that glorifying God through artistic

endeavor just might grant you immortality in the media. – JN

**Music 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.

### **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.

### **Sunday Church School**

We need Church School teachers! There are 3 terms and three classes in each term:

Fall term: Sept 7 – Nov 23 (K-2)(3-5)(6-8)

Winter term: Nov 30 – Feb 15 (K-2)(3-5)(6-8)

Spring term: Feb 22 – May 24 (K-2)(3-5)(6-8)

The curriculum is the lectionary based “Seasons of the Spirit.” It is very easy to follow and gives lots of background information and ideas for each class. I will happily meet with you to go over the format. No experience is needed! Please call Jamie, 399-6848, if you are able to help out teaching, even if it is for only a few Sundays!

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

**Today:** Paul Mastriani, piano; Linda Brown, bass; Tom D’Andrea, drums

**September 7:** Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass, Tom D’Andrea, drums

**September 14:** Scott Bassinson, piano

### **Labor Day Weekend Presentation Today**

In honor of Labor Day, we will have a special speaker after the worship service at 11:15am today 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.

## **Forum Resumes in September**

After worship most Sundays at 11:15am in Poling Chapel, suggestions for programs are welcome from any committee or member; simply contact Amy Brule 785-8201, Peggy King 370-1885, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

**September 7:** Fall Picnic

**September 14:** Perspectives on Unity FRC/UPC – Open Discussion to prepare both congregations for approval of the vote Sept. 21

**September 21:** Separate Congregation Meetings for VOTE on the Union of FRC and UPC

**September 28:** Meet Cameron, Kendra, and Kelsey – Led by Rev. Stacey Midge

## **Post Service Refreshments**

Beginning September 14 we will return to having post service refreshments in Assembly Hall. We are always looking for volunteers! 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 volunteers for **Sept 14**.

## **Stitch Group**

Come stitch with us any Thursday morning from 10 – noon in the Poling Conference room! Work on whatever project you have. Finish something old, make something new, work on something borrowed, or make something blue. Questions? More info? Contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153.

## **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.

## **Ice Cream Social**

The SICM Summer Lunch Program would like to thank all those who volunteered to serve the meals this summer. It was a great success! You are all invited to an Ice Cream Social at the Central Park Pavilion on Sunday, September 7 at 3pm.

## **Yoga Returns**

Weekly classes will begin Monday September 8 from 6:15pm – 7:15pm in Assembly Hall, \$10 per class. The class is for all levels and you can come on a regular basis or just drop in when you can. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat/towel. If you have any questions please contact Douglas at: 229-7291 or dagoods1@gmail.com.

## **“Vatican II: 50 Years and For Today”**

Wednesday, September 10 at 6:45pm at Emmanuel Friedens Church, 218 Nott Terrace. with Fr. Chris DeGiovine, Director of Spiritual Life and Chaplain at the College of St. Rose. Father DeGiovine is an articulate and insightful speaker and will share with us his perspectives on Vatican II. It is truly the fact of Vatican II that makes many of our ecumenical church endeavors possible. All are welcome.

## **Fall Kerygma Conversations**

Beginning September 10, a new season of individual and communal Bible exploration begins with...the first book of the Bible! Those who've been in this group for years and those who come for the first time will alike be warmly greeted and actively engaged each Wednesday, 9:30-11AM, through the fall in Poling Conference room, as we consider the message of Genesis for its ancient audience and for us today. The accompanying study guide will be available in our church's Faith Bookshop for perusal and/or

purchase (\$20) by September 7, and, if supplies last, at the first class. Those with questions regarding this Adult Education and Nurture opportunity should 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.

### **What's Your Story?**

Everyone has significant life stories to share and doing so within the context of a small group committed to gently holding such stories in the light of God's love enables us to come to better know and appreciate others--and ourselves! That was definitely the experience of those within last fall's What's Your Story? group. This fall two new What's Your Story? small groups, led by enthusiastic members of the initial group, will be offered on the **third Monday** of Sept-Dec. Both the morning group, led by Norma Brown and Joe Lovell, meeting 10-12 in the Dirck Romeyn room, and an evening group, led by Dale Brown with Linda Ward, meeting 7-9 in the same comfortable location, will begin Monday, September 15. Contact any of the above leaders or the church office to sign up.

### **Tuesday Ladies**

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young. We will resume Tuesday, September 16. Hope to see you then. Please call Connie at 393-7061 if you have any questions or for more information.

### **Group VII – September 19**

We will have our Fall Luncheon at the Mohawk Golf Club at 11:30am. Please make a reservation with Connie Young, 393-7061 or cyoung50@nycapp.rr.com.

### **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.

### **Peoples' Climate March**

Concerned about the effects of human-caused climate change and our current inadequate responses to this global emergency? Move beyond anxiety, despair, and inaction: join members of our Creation Care Commission and the Fellowship Committee on Sunday, September 21 to participate in what is shaping up to be the largest environmental gathering yet, to be held in New York City, just ahead of a UN-Climate Summit meeting there. We plan to depart via van very early Sunday morning, and join in the People's Climate March. Afterwards we'll find dinner and depart for Schenectady, returning before midnight Sunday. Further details and sign-up found on the Green Space in Assembly Hall or contact the church office to talk with Daniel Carlson.

### **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](http://www.rrwl4l.com), or sponsor Stacey in running the 5K.

## 54<sup>th</sup> 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.

|                          | <b>This Sunday</b>  | <b>Next Sunday</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Counting Deacons</b>  | Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels  | Gay Doolittle, Joan Lindsay  |
| <b>Faith Bookshop</b>    | Committee Member  | Committee Member   |
| <b>Flower Delivery</b>   | Joyce & Jerry Griggs, Brad & Cathy Lewis  | Carol Troost, Lauren Cleworth                                      |
| <b>Greeters</b>          | Ellie & Gene Rowland  | Bob & Sally Clark  |
| <b>Kinderwyk</b>         | Sarah Bachorik  | Sarah Bachorik   |
| <b>Liturgist</b>         | Daniel Carlson  | Daniel Carlson   |
| <b>Preacher</b>          | Bill Levering   | Bill Levering  |
| <b>Processing Elders</b> | Adam Mason, Joyce Griggs, Amy Brule, George Davidson, Jerry Griggs, Joe Lovell                    | Adam Mason, Amy Brule, George Davidson, Joe Lovell                 |
| <b>Reader</b>            | Amy Brule   | Nancy Davidson   |
| <b>Refreshments</b>      |   | Fall Picnic!   |
| <b>Ushers</b>            | Art Shultes (head usher), Jeff Cox, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Jean Lindsay, Ron Lindsay | Vickie McGowan-Horan, Claire Hughes, Darwin Brudos, Caroline Welch |

**Sunday, August 31**

10:00 am ..... Worship  
10:15 am ..... Summer Church School for K-8  
11:00 am ..... Refreshments  
11:15 am ..... Labor Day Presentation  
5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

**Monday, September 1, Labor Day  
Office Closed**

**Tuesday, September 2**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer

**Wednesday, September 3**

6:00 pm ..... UPC Session

**Thursday, September 4**

10:00 am ..... Stitch Group  
7:30 pm ..... Chancel Choir

**Sunday, September 7**

9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary  
9:15 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Poling Chapel  
10:00 am ..... Worship w/Communion  
10:15 am ..... Church School K-8  
11:15 am ..... Fall Picnic  
5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

“I used to tell young preachers, in order to preach you’ve got to have the power of God on your life. Now I tell them, in order to tie your shoes you’ve got to have the power of God on your life.” – Paul Washer

“The wizard [of Oz] says look inside yourself and find self. God says look inside yourself and find [holiness]. The first will get you to Kansas. The latter will get you to heaven. Take your pick.” – Max Lucado

“God loves to pour out His Spirit with power on those who will dare to align radically their purposes with His.” – Steve Childers

“Your call will become clear as your mind is transformed by the reading of Scripture and the internal work of God’s Spirit. The Lord never hides His will from us. In time, as you obey the call first to follow, your destiny will unfold before you. The difficulty will lie in keeping other concerns from diverting your attention.” – Charles R. Swindoll

“The average man has no central core of moral assurance, no spring within his breast, no inner strength to place him above the need for repeated psychological shots to give him the courage to go on living. He has become a parasite on the world, drawing his life from his environment, unable to live a day apart from the stimulation which society affords him.” – A.W. Tozer

“It’s hard to hear the gentle whisper of the Spirit amid the noise of Christendom.” – Shane Claiborne

“Seek God’s inspiration first, then you will become an inspiration to someone else.” – James Tamara