

**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.



Where shall we complain?

September 21, 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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *The Morning Breaks* Carol Mathew

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Holy One, we confess that we have made excuses for not following your call. In our laziness, we have avoided and denied you. We do not look for you in the face of others, nor do we let others see your holiness in us. We have doubted your presence and failed to let you change our lives. Help us. Make us more complete and faithful in all that we do, we pray. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

from the Accra Confession

We believe in God, Creator and Sustainer of all life, who calls us as partners in the creation and redemption of the world. We live under the promise that Jesus Christ came so that all might have life in fullness. Guided and upheld by the Holy Spirit we open ourselves to the reality of our world. We believe that God is

sovereign over all creation. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Cantate Domino*

Giuseppe Pitoni

Cantate Domino canticum novum,
laus ejus in Ecclesia Sanctorum.

(Sing to the Lord a new song,
praise Him in the company of His saints.)

Laetetur Israel in eo, qui fecit eum,
et filii Sion, exultant in rege suo.

(Let all of Israel rejoice in Him who made all,
the sons and daughters of Zion, be joyful and
praise God on high.)

*CHOIR DEDICATION

FIRST LESSON

Marilyn Leach

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

Amen. *Exodus 16:2-15 (pg 62)*

*PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 20:1-16 (pg 21)*

SERMON

Bill Levering

The Joy of Grumbling

*HYMN *By Gracious Powers* #342

(alternate tune)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Never Grow Old

J.C. Moore

I have heard of a land on the faraway strand,
'Tis a beautiful home of the soul;
Built by Jesus on high,
where we never shall die,
'Tis a land where we never grow old.

Never grow old, never grow old,
In a land where we'll never grow old;
Never grow old, never grow old,
In a land where we'll never grow old.

In that beautiful home
where we'll never more roam,
We shall be in the sweet by and by;
Happy praise to the King
through eternity sing,
'Tis a land where we shall never die.

*DOXOLOGY #555
Now Thank We All Our God

*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.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #446
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*
Dale Wood

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:

*David Erwin Bain, Loisanna Hager Veeder,
Patricia Herman, Thomas Teichner*

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.

Music Note: Our Response of Praise is a joyful declaration first heard by John Bell at the Sunrise Hospice in S. Africa. Words and transcription copyright 2008 WGRG, Iona Community Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

Congregational Meeting Call Today

There will be a meeting of the congregation of First Reformed Church to act on the Joint Witness with the Union Presbyterian Church and related business following worship today in the sanctuary.

Memorial Receptions

Pastoral care needs to update its list of people who would like to work in some capacity on the memorial receptions. We need people to provide refreshments, set ups and clean ups. You may already be on the list, but if you haven't been asked or just want to make sure that you're on the list, call Heather in the church office. We'll be collecting names for a few weeks. After the list has been completed, we'll have a meeting to reacquaint ourselves with the procedures. Being part of these receptions is a good way to help a family during a sad time. We want to make sure that the family can rely on us to relieve them of some of their cares. For more information, you may contact Linda Witkowski, 374-7904.

Johnson Library

Can you help us? We're looking for a few good books. Some of our library books are missing: No Ordinary Time by Doris Kearns Goodwin, and Kira Kira (a young adult book) by Cynthia Kadohata. Please check and see if any of our books have found their way into your house or automobile. There's no fines, just leave them on the library desk. Thank you.

Faith Bookshop

Butterflies! You won't find a Karner Blue in the Bookshop, but you will find some very pretty butterflies that just came from South America. This month we resume taking book orders. You may order any book in print at a 30% discount, and orders are processed quickly.

Fall Youth Activities

Youth group will meet every Sunday at 5pm for dinner, discussion, games, etc. All youth in grades 6 – 12 are welcome, including friends who do not normally attend this church. If you have questions, please contact Stacey.

Upcoming special events:

Today: North Star Peace Walk in Albany; meet in the church parking lot at 1pm.

September 28: Regular Meeting

October 5: Regular Meeting

Peace Walk Today!

Today is International Peace Day! FRC is a sponsor of an 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 multi-generational representation! Share interfaith prayers, teachings, singing and fellowship. Join other community members to reaffirm common roots.

Classis Assessments

Did you know that when First Reformed Church pays Classis Assessments, we are helping to support 18 other churches in our Classis. Your financial support of our Classis Assessments is encouraged. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Lewis at 428-5830.

Forum

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, Olivia Mancuso 381-8860, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

Today: Separate Congregation Meetings for VOTE on the Union of FRC and UPC

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

October 5: Rev. Phil Grigsby

Post Service Refreshments

Everyone is invited to have refreshments in Assembly Hall right after worship. We are always looking for volunteers to bring in treats of any kind. It can be cookies, cheese and crackers, fruit, or anything you want. Please contact our Taart Baas, Karen Gonda, via email at gonda6@aol.com or at 607-725-4521, to indicate the dates you are available. We are in need of volunteers for **Sept. 28**.

"How to" Classes on Sunday Morning

There are so many things to learn about in the world. This fall, our congregation will begin tackling this problem by having tiny little how-to classes about a wide variety of things in the church and in the world. The class will be after the Forum and will meet in the Dykstra Chapel.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

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

September 28: Dave Gleason, piano

October 5: Nat Phipps, solo piano

Mission and Benevolence

Is there an agency or organization that you know of that would benefit from our Christmas offering? The Mission and Benevolence Committee is gathering information about possible recipients for that offering. Please provide the name, a brief description of the agency/organization and the name of a contact person to Rev. Stacey Midge or Peggy King.

Yoga

Weekly classes are Mondays 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.

Fall Kerygma Conversations

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. Those with questions regarding this Adult Education and Nurture opportunity should contact Daniel Carlson.

Midweek Evening Meal

Each Wednesday, those who appreciate eating with others gather in Assembly Hall at 6pm for a pot-luck dinner and friendly conversation. Bring whatever edibles you enjoy and wish to share; ice water and hot coffee provided. We clean up after ourselves, and a contemplative communion service in Poling Chapel follows for those who wish to stay.

Midweek Evening Worship

Gentle singing accompanied by acoustic guitars; contemplative listening for God's word; sharing Holy Communion around the Lord's Table; offering spoken or silent prayers; extending and receiving Christ's peace...Midweek Evening Worship, 7pm Wednesdays in Poling Chapel. All are welcome.

Breakfast Bible Bunch

Dr. Levering leads an early morning Bible reflection in the Poling Conference room. The Bible study will review a text to be used the following Sunday, expose a little background of the passage, and mostly delve into its relevance to us. Coffee and carbs will be served. More if you are lucky. We will be finished at 8:30am for those who work.

Saturday Worship Service

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.

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.

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.

Evening Circle

We will meet on Wednesday, September 24 at 7:30pm at Theo Lovell's home, 664 St. David's Lane. Please bring a poem or two that you would like to share. All women are invited.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We meet every fourth Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 25 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.

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.

Campus Protestant Ministries Dinner

Campus Protestant Ministries of Union College will be sponsoring THREE Community Dinners with International Students this fall. All invited are to bring LARGE dishes to share, as well as their families and friends, and their openness to interesting conversation. The dates are Sunday, September 28 and Sunday, October 26 in Breazzano Hall, and Monday, December 1 in Old Chapel; all starting at 6pm. RSVP's are

appreciated, but not required to Abby Norton-Levering at applekale@gmail.com.

Stockade Inn Dinner

Please take notice of the dinner being held at the Stockade Inn on Wednesday, October 1. It is a spin-off of our 2013 Heritage Sunday when we "polished the silver chain" between the Mohawks and our congregation. Thomas R. Porter, or "Sakokwenionkwas," founder, spokesperson, and spiritual leader of the Mohawk Community of Kanatsiohareke, will be speaking on the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. New research on the many Mohawks in our church records of the late 1600s and early 1700s will be shared at the dinner's open house and reception. Flyers are on FRC bulletin boards and information racks. Questions, last minute tickets, contact Laura Lee Linder, 281-4764.

Choir 'Exchange' with Scotia

On Sunday, October 5, the Chancel Choir will be singing 'across the river' with the choir of First Reformed, Scotia. In exchange, the Scotia choir will join us on Sunday, October 12 at FRC. For the joint anthem the directors have chosen the inspiring "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord" by Craig Courtney with Judson Hoffman on trumpet. In the Spring there will be a joint instrumental program. We look forward to an ongoing partnership with our friends in Scotia.

Prospective Member Class October 5

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 in the church office at 3pm on the first Sundays of October through February.

Group V

We will resume our monthly meetings on Monday, October 6 at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn room. Co-hostesses are Ilah DePaoli and Cynthia

Hamilton. Please contact Barbara Piper if you wish to join us, 399-3620.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast group will resume monthly breakfast meetings on Saturday, October 11, 2014. We will plan to meet the second Saturday of each month at 8am, unless we reschedule because of conflicts or speaker availability. You will be notified in advance if that happens. The breakfast format will be simplified this season and our menus will feature cold cereal, bagels or pastries, fruit, juice, and coffee. Hopefully, this will encourage more men to volunteer for "cooking" duty. We will try to have an interesting program each month, and all attendees will be encouraged to suggest topics of interest. There will be a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall for those interested. Bring a friend if you can. Any questions or suggestions, please contact Gene Rowland, erowland@nycap.rr.com; or Joe Doolittle, aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com.

Justice Action Committee

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 12 at noon, following the Forum. All are welcome to attend and join our group in taking a stand on important issues in our community and in our world. Issues on the forefront include LGBT rights, economic disparity, care of our planet, bullying, access to mental health, and health care. Please join us and have your voice heard.

Fall Outing October 12

We are planning a moderate hike to Vrooman's nose in the Schoharie Valley, across the river from Middleburgh. The route is from the parking lot on the West Middleburgh Rd to the overhanging rock ledge (referred to as "The Dance Floor" in earlier history) over a wooded road and new trail, gaining about 600 feet in 1 ½ miles in easy climbing. The ledge looks to the

south down the Schoharie valley to the Northern Catskills. More views toward Middleburgh and the Valley North can be reached by following the trail a few hundred feet further. Bring a lunch and drink to eat together on the ledge. The trail is child and dog friendly. A sign-up sheet is available in Assembly Hall. You may also sign up to ride in the FRC van if you would rather not drive your own vehicle. Van seating is limited to 9. Any questions, please contact Nancy, 377-3573.

Group VII

Our next group will be Friday, October 17 at 10:30am in the Dirck Romeyn room. Speaking will be Things of My Very Own. Please make a reservation with Connie Young, 393-7061 or cyoung50@nycap.rr.com.

New Readers Discussion

Do you enjoy reading and discussing books with fellow readers? If your answer is yes, come join us on Sunday, October 19 at 12pm to join in our discussion of Matthew Vines book, God and the Gay Christian. More details will be available soon. If you are interested in joining us, and have questions, please contact Jeanne Shoulder, 781-724-5030 or Mary Jewett, 355-8059.

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! This fall two new What's Your Story? groups, will be offered on the **third Monday** of Sept-Dec.

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 21. Hope to see you then. Please call Connie at 393-7061 if you have any questions or for more information.

Interfaith Friendship Celebration

Interfaith Community of Schenectady is having a celebration on Thursday, October 23 at 7pm to increase awareness on peace and harmony in our community through understanding. There will be a buffet dinner, silent auction, and interfaith entertainment. The cost is \$25 per person and seating is limited. For more info or to make a reservation, call 346-5779.

Fellowship Luncheon

Our monthly pot-luck luncheon will resume on Friday, October 31 at 11:30am. Hostesses are Gay Doolittle and Mary Jewett. Peggy King will be joining us to discuss our program: Casinos? What's the latest? Please bring a dish to share, beverage and dessert is provided. A sign-up sheet is available in Assembly Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Bestgen, 346-0304; or Amy Brule, 785-8201. We encourage both men and women to join us. We hope to see you there!

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Christine Daniels, Claire Hughes	Dave Hjelmar, Bill Rochelle
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Adam & Rebecca Mason, Donna & David Bundy	Sally & Bob Clark, Nelson & Karlyne Drimalas
Greeters	Bob & Sally Clark	Richard Rose, Joanne Bedell
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Bill Ward, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Darwin Brudos, Gay Doolittle, Joe Lovell, Del Pierce, Gene Zeltmann	Adam Mason, James Gonda, Joyce Griggs, Mary Jewett, Barbara Walton, Bob Beadle, Jeanette Davidson, Jerry Griggs
Reader	Marilyn Leach	George Davidson
Refreshments	Karen Gonda, Heather Chestnut	Please sign up!
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Chris Langdon, Karen Gonda, Jerry Wergedal	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins
How To Classes	How to Usher – Del Pierce	How to Work the Sound system and Lights – Bill Levering

Sunday, September 21

- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Summer Church School for K-8
- 11:00 am Refreshments
- 11:15 am Forum/Joint Congregational Mtg.
- 11:15 am Kirk Ringers
- 11:40am How To Classes
- 5:00 pm JH & HS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, September 22

- 9:00 am Men's News Group
- 6:45 pm Yoga
- 7:00 pm Creation Care
- 7:00 pm Klokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, September 23

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study

Wednesday, September 24

- 9:30 am Kerygma
- 11:00 am First Things Volunteers
- 12:30 pm Thursday Belles
- 6:00 pm Midweek Evening Dinner
- 7:00 pm Midweek Evening Worship
- 7:00 pm Writers Group

Thursday, September 25

- 7:30 am Bible Bunch
- 10:00 am Stitch Group
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, September 26

- 3:00 pm Walkabout Baking

Saturday, September 27

- 11:00 am Stockade Walkabout
- 5:00 pm Link Service

Sunday, September 28

- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School K-8
- 11:15 am Forum
- 11:15 am Kirk Ringers
- 11:40 am How To Classes
- 12:00 pm Membership Committee
- 4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm JH & HS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

“Hell begins with a grumbling mood, always complaining, always blaming others...but you are still distinct from it. You may even criticize it in yourself and wish you could stop it. But there may come a day when you can no longer. Then there will be no you left to criticize the mood or even to enjoy it, but just the grumble itself, going on forever like a machine. It is not a question of God “sending us” to hell. In each of us there is something growing, which will BE hell unless it is nipped in the bud.” – C.S. Lewis

“What you’re supposed to do when you don’t like a thing is change it. If you can’t change it, change the way you think about it. Don’t complain.” – Maya Angelou, *Wouldn’t Take Nothing for My Journey Now*

“I personally believe we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain.” – Jane Wagner, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*

“Never tell your problems to anyone...20% don’t care and the other 80% are glad you have them.” – Lou Holtz

“Complaining does not work as a strategy. We all have finite time and energy. Any time we spend whining is unlikely to help us achieve our goals. And it won’t make us happier.” – Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

“If you can quit, quit. If you can’t quit, stop complaining – this is what you chose.” – J.A. Konrath

“Neurotics complain of their illness, but they make the most of it, and when it comes to taking it away from them they will defend it like a lioness her young.” – Sigmund Freud

“A good conversation always involves a certain amount of complaining. I like to bond over mutual hatreds and petty grievances.” – Lisa Kleypas, *Christmas Eve at Friday Harbor*
“If you complain to someone, you assume that it’s someone who really cares about you.” – Scott Hahn, *Hope for Hard Times*

“Legalism breeds a sense of entitlement that turns us into complainers.” – Tullian Tchividjian, *Jesus + Nothing = Everything*

“He never complained. He seemed to have no instinct for the making much of oneself that complaining requires.” – Wendell Mary, *Jayber Crow*

“There is no health in those who are displeased by an element in Your creation, just as there was none in me when I was displeased by many things You had made. Because my soul didn’t dare to say that my God displeased me, it refused to attribute to You whatever was displeasing.” – Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*

“When people complain of your complexity, they fail to remember that they made fun of your simplicity.” – Michael Bassey Johnson

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

Mary Jewett, Bill Ward, Senior Elders
Catherine Lewis, Treasurer
Linnea D'Andrea, Clerk

ELDERS

Robert Dickson
James Gonda
Joyce Griggs
Mary Jewett
Margaret King
Adam Mason
Jeanne Shoulder
Katherine Trimarco
William Ward
Caroline Welch

DEACONS

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

COVENANTERS

Kelsey Kleinwolterink & Kendra Kleinwolterink
Claudette Martin

CHURCH STAFF

Julie Panke, Music Director
Naphtali Rothrock, Organist
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music & Children's Ministry
Judy Moore, Director of Klokken Tower Ringers
Sarah Bachorik, Director of Kinderwyck
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