

**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.



Can You "Own" a Dog?

November 9, 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.

Stewardship Sunday

November 9, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Naphtali Rothrock
Prelude and Fugue in A Major (BWV 536)
J.S. Bach

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 *Alleluia*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #469
Morning Has Broken

*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 *A Thanksgiving Prayer*
Nancy Price & Don Besig
Kirk Ringers

Thank you, Lord, for loving us all.
For your gifts both great and small,
for the faith which keeps us strong,
now we join in thankful song.

For the beauty all around,
ev'ry sight and ev'ry sound,
for the love and friendship we share,
Lord, we bow in thankful prayer.

We gather together to share in God's blessings;
the colors of autumn, the blossoms of spring,
the gift of creation, the promise of salvation.
For all His many wonders our thanks we now bring.

Now we join in worship and praise.
Now with joy our voices we raise.
All of us here united this day,
offering God all glory and praise!
Amen.

FIRST LESSON Therese McCarty
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalm 123 (pg 572)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 25: 14-30 (pg 28)*

SERMON Bill Levering
Being a Better Land Owner

*HYMN *We Give Thee but Thine Own* #428

MINUTE FOR MISSION
Darwin & Ellie Brudos

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *What Gift Can We Bring*
Jane Marshall

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,

what song can we offer in honor and praise?

Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.

Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.

Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,
for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,
the Word is our promise, always, forever;
we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.

This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS
AND PLEDGE

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 #434
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen*
Rob Landes

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:

Alan D. Attanasio, George Graham, Alan F. Kuhn, Richard McCary, Marilyn 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.

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.

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop would like to restock its shelves of looks-like-new, gently read used books. We'll happily accept donations and sell the books at bargain prices to benefit the Bookshop. Biographies, historical and other non-fiction books are most popular.

Post Service Refreshments

The Taart Boss challenges all men who can bake or find their way around the grocery store to bring Sunday refreshments. Team up with a friend, or work it solo. Show the ladies your sweet side! Please sign up in Assembly Hall or

contact the Taart Boss, 607-725-4521,
gonda6@aol.com.

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: Report on Consistory Retreat – Rev. Bill Levering

November 16: *Taking Risks* – A Publishing Adventure – Walter Robb

November 23: American Challenges in the Middle East: New World Disorder – Dr. James Ketterer

Harvest for the Pantry Today

SICM is having a dinner to raise funds for their emergency food pantry today from 4 – 7pm at the First Reformed Church of Scotia. Meal choices are beef bourguignon, rosemary chicken, or vegetarian pasta. Tickets can be purchased from Ellie Rowland for \$30, \$25 is tax deductible.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Azzaam Hameed, piano

November 16: Scott Bassinson, piano

November 23: Thanksgiving Jazz Festival, admission is \$10.

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.

Today: Taking pie orders after worship, regular meeting, 5pm

November 16: Taking pie orders after worship, regular meeting, 5pm

Saturday, November 22: SHYG meet at church at 10am to bake pies, plan to be there until 5pm.

November 23: Distribute pies after worship, regular meeting at 5pm

*Today the Youth Group will be starting to take pie orders to raise money for the Mission Trip to Kentucky. The pie choices are Apple and Pumpkin for \$13 each. They will be available for pick-up after worship on November 23.

Midweek Evening Meal

Each Wednesday in November at 6pm in Assembly Hall, you are invited to come and share the bounty of the harvest with those who appreciate a pot-luck dinner and friendly conversation. There's no sign-up for this weekly dinner, simply bring whatever edibles you wish to share; cold water and hot coffee are provided. We clean up after ourselves; a contemplative communion service follows for those who wish to worship.

Midweek Evening Worship

During the month of November, while leaves show forth their final resplendent colors before falling to the earth, we reverently and gently give thanks in song, Scripture, silence, sacrament, and supplication, for the heart of our faith: in life and in death we belong to God – together with all those who have gone before us. Midweek Evening Worship. Each Wednesday at 7pm in Poling Chapel. All are welcome!

Saturday Worship Service – The Link

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.

Writers Group

The FRC Flash Fiction Critique Group is launching a literary anthology! Expert help is needed with editing, formatting, structure, etc. If you can assist in any of these areas please contact James Gonda at jamesgonda63@yahoo.com.

Midnight Run Nov. 14

The next Midnight Run will be on Friday, November 14. We will meet at church to pack bag lunches at 6pm, leave at 7pm, and return in the wee hours of the morning after we deliver food, hygiene items, clothes, and blankets to homeless people in Manhattan. Please contact Stacey if you are interested in going. We need donations of the following items: blankets and sleeping bags, dark sweatshirts, hoodies, sweaters, new underwear (both men's and women's), sturdy shoes, deodorant, travel-sized hygiene products, and juice boxes. Any donations can be brought to the church office.

Organ Concert

On Friday, November 14 at 7:30pm, our organist, Naphtali Rothrock, will present a concert on the Schantz organ in our sanctuary. Her program will include music of J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, and Cesar Franck. The concert is free and open to the public.

Operation Christmas Child

This program brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Please take a box only if you plan on returning it as we now have to pay for these. Regular shoe boxes are still acceptable. Boxes should be filled with small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, socks, gloves, etc. Please be sure to include the \$7 shipping fee per box. Completed boxes can be dropped off at our blue bin in the church lobby. All boxes are due at church by Sunday, **November 16**.

Reader's Discussion

We will meet again Sunday, November 16 at 12pm in the Mezzanine room to continue our discussion on Matthew Vines' book, *God and the Gay Christian*. Any questions, please contact 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! We meet the 3rd Monday at 10am & 7pm.

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young. We meet again Tuesday, November 18. Please call Connie at 393-7061 if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!

Group VII

Our next group will be Friday, November 21 at 10:30am. We will be welcoming a speaker from the museum, with co-hostesses Elaine Springsted and Ernestine Stevenson. Any questions, contact Ronnie, 393-7679.

Recognition of New Members

We encourage as many former UPC members as possible to join us in worship at 10am on November 23 to be welcomed and celebrated in worship.

Women's Association

A meeting of the "UPC Women's Association" will be held on Sunday, November 23 at 11:30am in Poling Conference room. The agenda will include voting on disbursement of endowment funds and dissolution of our Association. Please make an effort to attend this important meeting.

Horizons Bible Study Material

During Advent, we'll be using a book by Katherine Paterson called *A Stubborn Sweetness*. It is a compilation of stories of real-life people whom have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas because of unfortunate circumstances, and how each are reminded of the first Christmas story. Books are \$9 each and are available in the church office. Anyone interested is welcome to join us Tuesdays at 10am.

Campus Protestant Ministries

Union College is sponsoring a community dinner with International students on Monday, December 1 at 6pm in Old Chapel. All invited are asked to bring large dishes to share, as well as their families and friends, and their openness to interesting conversation. RSVP's appreciated but not required to Abby Norton-Levering at applekale@gmail.com.

Group V

Group V meets the first Monday of the month at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn room. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 1. Any questions, contact Barbara Piper, 399-3620.

Thursday Musical Club Concert

Join the Thursday Musical Club directed by Julie Panke, accompanied by Elinore Farnum, for a Christmas concert on Saturday, December 6 at 2:30pm in the sanctuary. Music of Bach, Healey Willan, and Ola Gjeilo will be among the seasonal selections. Complimentary tickets are available for all church members from Julie.

Dedicated Christmas Flowers

As we prepare for the Holiday season, remember a loved one by participating in the Christmas Memorial Flowers. Each year the church is decorated with beautiful plants during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on December 24. The donation is \$20. Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2014. Please call the church office **no later than Thursday, Dec. 18**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

Christmas Offering

The Mission and Benevolence Committee is gathering information about possible recipients for that offering. Please provide the name and a brief description of the agency/contact person to Rev. Stacey Midge or Peggy King.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Fred Daniels, Therese McCarty	Bill Rochelle, Doug Todd
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Linda Witkowski
Flower Delivery	The Hjelmar Family, Sarah Howes	Kim Burgoyne, Keith Muse
Greeters	Dick & Natalie Davis	Dave & Donna Bundy
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Caroline Welch, Bill Ward, Barbara Walton, John Bestgen, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Bill Rochelle, Linda Witkowski	Bill Ward, Jeanette Davidson, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Joe Lovell, Maria G. Todd, Linda Ward, Eugene Zeltmann
Reader	Therese McCarty	Sarah Bobok
Refreshments	Gay Doolittle, Barbara Walton	Connie Young
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Jacob Etkin, Del Pierce	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd, Carol Troost
How To Classes	How to Sing Hymns – Julie Panke	How to Influence Government – Rev. Stacey Midge

Sunday, November 9

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

Monday, November 10

- 9:00 am Men's Newsgroup
- 6:15 pm Yoga
- 7:00 pm Klokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, November 11

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Archives

Wednesday, November 12

- 9:30 am Kerygma
- 12:30 pm Thursday Belles
- 1:00 pm Archives
- 6:00 pm Midweek Evening Meal
- 7:00 pm Midweek Evening Worship
- 7:00 pm Writers Group

Thursday, November 13

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

Friday, November 14

- 7:30 pm Organ Concert
- Midnight Run

Saturday, November 15

- 5:00 pm Link Service

Sunday, November 16

- 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
- 11:15 am How To Classes
- 12:00 pm Readers Discussion
- 5:00 pm JH & HS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

“Liking is probably the best form of ownership, and ownership the worst form of liking.” – Jose Saramago

“I have a sense of exile from thought, a nostalgia of the quiet room and balanced mind. I am a writer, and there comes a time when that which I write has to belong to me, has to be written alone and in silence, with no one looking over my shoulder, no one telling me a better way to write it. It doesn't have to be great writing, it doesn't even have to be terribly good. It just has to be mine.” – Raymond Chandler

“There was nothing to compare with standing on a piece of land you owned free and clear. No one could push you off it, no one could take it from you, no one could tell you what to do with it.” – Jeannette Walls, *Half Broke Horses*

“No one owns you, I know that. No one owns me. No one owns anyone. We just get to borrow each for a while.” – Jon Courtenay Grimwood

“Ownership is yet another of the endless forms of arrogance engaged in by the lower self.” – Bryant McGill, *Voice of Reason*

“Water power, the right to convert it into electric energy, and the electric energy thus produced constitute property belonging to the United States.” – Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes

“That's what makes it ours-being born on it, working on it, dying on it. That makes ownership, not a paper with numbers on it.” – John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*

“All people have the stars,” he answered, “but they are not the same things for different people. For some, who are travelers, the stars are guides. For others they are no more than little lights in the sky. For others, who are scholars, they are problems. For my businessman they were wealth. But all these stars are silent. You—you alone—will have the stars as no one else has them.” – Antoine de Saint-Exupery, *The Little Prince*