

**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.*



Encouragement takes us higher.

*November 16, 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.

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

November 16, 2014

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Scott Bassinson

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 *Enter Into His Gates* Tom Benjamin

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #464

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

\*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

*The Heart's Offering*  
Antony Baldwin

As I rise with the dawn, may my soul be reborn;  
take this heart, all forlorn,  
and refresh me in the morn.  
Alleluia!

In the warmth of the day I consider thy way.  
May thy love ever stay in my heart, O Lord I pray.  
Alleluia!

In the still of the night, as I think on the light  
in my heart burning bright,  
keep me precious in thy sight.  
Alleluia!

God of each living thing,  
bless the gift that we bring.  
Take our heart's offering while  
in joyful praise we sing.  
Alleluia!

FIRST LESSON

Catherine DeSalle

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

**Amen.**

*Psalms 23 (pg 501)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*  
(pg 205)

SERMON

Bill Levering

*Do You Need Comfort or Challenge?*

\*HYMN

#399

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Scott Bassinson

\*DOXOLOGY

#592

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

*Concerned for the Hungry*  
Carol DeLaMarter

## 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 #447  
*Lead On, O King Eternal*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Onefold 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:

*Jean Anderson, Albert Holland, Norman Reed, Richard Roberts, Josephine Van Nest*

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.

**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 Baas 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.

### Johnson Library

New titles abound on the library's display table this morning. There is something for everyone. Are you an extrovert or an introvert! *Quiet*, by Susa Cain, may answer your questions and give you food for thought. Readers will appreciate finding essays all in one place in *How My Mind Has Changed: Essays from the Christian Century*, edited by David Heim. Touted as being the number one bestseller is Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers, The Story of Success*. The author challenges readers to think about success in a different way. In *The Creative Habit, Learn It and Use It For Life*, author Twyla Tharpe provides practical exercises for "getting out of a rut and into practical grooves."

### 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:** *Taking Risks – A Publishing Adventure – Walter Robb*

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

**November 30:** *Coffee & Conversation*

### **Operation Christmas Child (*Due Today*)**

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. Completed boxes can be dropped off at our blue bin in the church lobby.

### **Reader's Discussion Today**

We will meet again today 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.

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

**Today:** Scott Bassinson, piano; Tom D'Andrea, drums

**November 23:** Thanksgiving Jazz Festival at 4pm, admission is \$10.

**November 30:** Tim Olsen, piano

### **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

**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

\*The Youth Group will be taking 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.

### **Thanksgiving Offering**

Our 2014 Thanksgiving food drive is a way to make sure all families in our community will enjoy a bountiful feast on this day of Thanksgiving. Monies collected at our church will be sent to *Concerned for the Hungry* to assist in this massive effort. This drive, with contributors throughout the community, results in

thousands of families receiving all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The funds collected are used to purchase supplies in bulk at greatly reduced prices to help stretch the dollars. Checks should be made payable to First Reformed Church, with *Concerned for the Hungry* in the memo line.

Again this year we are eligible for GE Matching Funds. For GE employees or retirees, a donation of \$25 or more will be matched by General Electric. To make a donation with matching funds please contact the GE Matching Gifts Program at 1-800-305-0669, or access the Foundations website at

[www.gefoundation.com/matchinggifts](http://www.gefoundation.com/matchinggifts). Make the check payable to *Concerned for the Hungry* with matching in the memo line.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Enjoy your Thanksgiving knowing that you have helped to bring joy to many area families this holiday.

### **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.

### **Midweek Evening Worship**

During the month of November, 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!

### **The Link - Saturday, 5pm 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.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 10am & 7pm. This month's evening group will meet on Monday, November 24.

### **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!

### **Stephen Ministry Meeting**

This Thursday our Stephen Ministers meet to consider how to best minister those with losses related to aging, followed by small group peer supervision. If you or someone you love is experiencing such losses – or others, irrespective of age – and would benefit from the companionship of a skilled, trustworthy, and compassionate Christian friend, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Vernetta Thuener, Maria Todd, or Daniel Carlson.

### **Group VII**

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

### **Mandela Celebration**

Celebrate what we learned from Mandela through music and art – forgiveness, reconciliation, the power of one, change the world, peace, live life to the fullest...Saturday, November 22, 7:30pm,

GE Theatre at Proctors. Come and see Francois le Roux, the Ha! Man from South Africa, poet Joke Debaere, Ensemble Congeros, the Mop and Bucket Theatre Co., the choir of the John Sayles Arts School, Chamber Singers of the SUNY Oneonta Music Department, and the amazing action art of Tom Varano. Art n Soul, Inc. will be exhibiting relevant art works and a new song by Francois (“Mandela Song”) will be premiered as a climax to the program. Contact Marie Bosman mbosman@nycap.rr.com for more information.

### **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. A reception will be held in Friendship Hall after 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.

### **Church Directories**

We will begin taking pictures November 23 for our next church directory that will be produced in house.

### **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.

### **Advent Festival for All Ages – November 30**

Here's a seasonal opportunity to gather on the evening of the first Sunday of Advent for dinner and activities. For dinner at 5: bring food to share that begins with the letter A (for Advent – any Appetizer will do) or food that is purple or blue (contemporary Advent colors). After dinner the crafts commence including the making Advent

wreaths for your home. We'll conclude by 7pm with a brief liturgy around our candlelit wreaths. Questions, contact Jamie Ipsen or Daniel Carlson.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 donated in previous years, you must place an order for Christmas 2014. Please call office no later than Thursday, Dec. 18,** to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

### Facility Use Forms

Please remember, when facilitating ANY groups or events, you must fill out a facility use form and hand it in to Heather. Forms are available in the office or online.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Bill Rochelle, Doug Todd	Dave Hjelmar, Bill Martin
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Linda Witkowski	Bill Clock
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Kim Burgoyne, Keith Muse	Connie Young, Barbara Walton
<b>Greeters</b>	Don & Marilyn Leach	Caroline & Carolyn Welch
<b>Kinderwyk</b>	Ann Gotwals	
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Bill Ward, Jeanette Davidson, Don Leach, Marilyn Leach, Joe Lovell, Maria G. Todd, Linda Ward, Eugene Zeltmann	James Gonda, Rob Dickson, Ronnie Bartholic, Bob Beadle, Louise Dickinson, Keith Muse, Del Pierce, Margaret Schadler
<b>Reader</b>	Catherine DeSalle	Mary Jewett
<b>Refreshments</b>	Connie Young	Cameron & The Covenanters, Amy Brule, Sally Clark, Karen Gonda
<b>Ushers</b>	Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd, Carol Troost	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin, Philip Yourno, George Davidson
<b>How To Classes</b>	How to Influence Government	How to Tell a Story – Joe Doolittle

**Sunday, November 16**

- 9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am ..... Worship
- 10:15 am ..... Church School for K-8
- 11:15 am ..... Forum
- 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers
- 11:15 am ..... How To Classes
- 12:00 pm ..... Readers Discussion
- 3:00 pm ..... UPC Orientation
- 5:00 pm ..... JH & HS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

**Monday, November 17**

- 9:00 am ..... Men's Newsgroup
- 10:00 am ..... What's Your Story? AM
- 6:15 pm ..... Yoga
- 7:00 pm ..... Klokken Tower Ringers

**Tuesday, November 18**

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

**Wednesday, November 19**

- 9:30 am ..... Kerygma
- 12:30 pm ..... Thursday Belles
- 6:00 pm ..... Midweek Evening Meal
- 7:00 pm ..... Midweek Evening Worship

**Thursday, November 20**

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

**Friday, November 21**

- 10:00 am ..... Group VII

**Saturday, November 22**

- 11:00 am ..... Bryant Memorial
- 5:00 pm ..... Link Service
- 7:30 pm ..... Octavo Singers Concert

**Sunday, November 23**

- 9:00 am ..... Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am ..... Worship
- 11:00 am ..... Picture Taking
- 11:15 am ..... Forum
- 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers
- 11:15 am ..... How To Classes
- 11:30 am ..... UPC Women's Association
- 5:00 pm ..... JH & HS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

“All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.” – J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

“Don't let the muggles get you down.” – J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

“Your conscience is the measure of the honesty of your selfishness. Listen to it carefully.” – Richard Bach, *Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah*

“Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Thankfully, persistence is a great substitute for talent.” – Steve Martin, *Born Standing Up: A Comic's Life*

“It's just that in the Deep South, women learn at a young age that when the world is falling apart around you, it's time to take down the drapes and make a new dress.” – Karen Marie Moning, *Faefever*

“A library is a good place to go when you feel unhappy, for there, in a book, you may find encouragement and comfort. A library is a good place to go when you feel bewildered or undecided, for there, in a book, you may have your question answered. Books are good company, in sad times and happy times, for books are people – people who have manage to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book.” – E.B. White

“Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he can be and should be and he will become as he can and should be.” – Stephen R. Covey

“Yelling at living things does tend to kill the spirit in them. Sticks and stones my break our bones, but words will break our hearts.” – Robert Fulghum

“Instruction does much, but encouragement everything.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe