

**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.



The Light of Hope is Sometimes a Warning

November 30, 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.

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
The Pizzolo Family

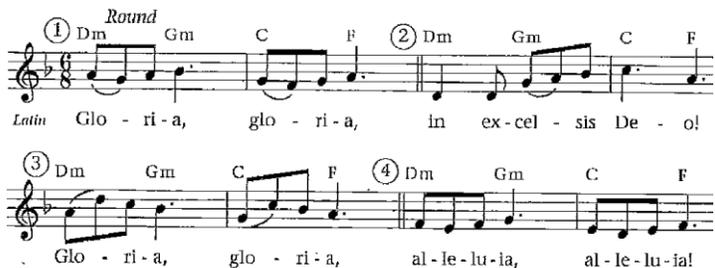
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #2
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)
God of the future, we confess that we aren't ready for the new life you bring. We aren't paying attention. We are impatient and selfish. Our hopes are silent and our hurts deep. Bring your light of the world into our hearts, we pray.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*

Round



Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)
(*From the Brief Statement of Faith*)

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Dylan Thomas Weber

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES

Jaclyn & Kevin Weber

PRAYER AND BAPTISMAL COVENANT

BLESSING AND WELCOME

Welcome our brother in Christ.

Joyfully we receive you. Join us to give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel
arr. Lloyd Larson
Klokken Tower Ringers

FIRST LESSON Amy Brule
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Isaiah 64:1-9 (pg 694)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 12:24-37 (pg49)*

SERMON *uh oh* Bill Levering

*HYMN *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* #11

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *As Servants Working An Estate*
Kingsfold

As servants working on an estate
whose owner is away,
And whose return they all await
though no one knows the day,
So none of us can name the hour,
the season or the year
When Christ with all of heaven's pow'r
will suddenly appear.

Our task is not to calculate
what angels do not know,
But faithfully to watch and wait

and Christ's compassion show.
Not loading fragile human schemes
with hope they cannot bear,
We trust the promise that redeems
the present from despair.

For Christ the Lord will surely come,
the king whom kings will fear,
And with God's perfect justice
plumb the justice we do here,
Revealing that the present age
and ev'ry age that's past
Are not the final moral gauge
that judges us at last.

So guide, Lord Christ, our ev'ry choice
that when our hearts shall hear
Your step, your knock, your calling voice
we will not hide in fear,
But welcome you from realms above
to your estate below,
Where justice, mercy, peace and love
abundantly will grow.

Thomas Troeger

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION Amy Brule
Men of City Mission

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 #555
Now Thank We All Our God

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*
Traditional

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:

*Eulia Arnds, Virginia Cain, Mary Frances Case,
Robert Bruce Crandell, Robert S. Crandall,
Donald Lemon, Rev. Edwin McLane, Arthur E.
Peterson, Edgar Pitzer, Katherine Rozendaal,
Maurice B. Tracy*

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 memory of
our parents Dr. Henry and Emily Nagamatsu,
from Nancy, Brian, and their families. We are
grateful that these flowers, which represent our
prayers and praise, will be taken to church family
members to recognize a special need or
celebration.

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: 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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Tim Olsen, piano

December 7: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

December 14: Dave Gleason, piano

December 21: Blue Jazz Vespers, Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

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: Coffee & Conversation

December 7: "Computer Vision Syndrome" Amy Brule introducing speaker: Robert Fox

December 14: Crèches Show & Tell – Rev. Daniel Carlson

Advent Festival for All Ages – Tonight!

Come gather this evening for dinner, crafts, and devotion. 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 seasonal crafts commence. We'll conclude by 7pm with a brief liturgy around our candlelit Advent wreaths. Questions? Contact Jamie Ipsen or Daniel Carlson.

Faith Bookshop

If you need a little thank you gift for the Thanksgiving hostess, check out what the Bookshop has to offer.

Fall Youth Activities

Youth group will meet every Sunday at 5pm for dinner, discussion, games, etc. All youth in grades 6 – 12 are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Stacey.

Today: No meeting, Advent Festival

December 7: Regular meeting, 5pm; SHYG rehearsing for Living Nativity

December 14: Regular meeting, 5pm; rehearsing Living Nativity & Christmas Eve service, Christmas Party!

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany Church School

Today: Grades K – 5 regular church school;

Special Advent class for middle school grades 6 – 8; important Chimes/Orff rehearsal 11:15 – noon.

December 7: Grades K – 5 regular church school; Special Advent class for middle school grades 6 – 8; important Chimes/Orff rehearsal 11:15 – noon.

December 14: Kirk Singers meet at 9am in Room 20 for final rehearsal, sing at 10am service; regular church school grades K – 5; Special Advent class for middle school grades 6 – 8; costume selection by parents for Christmas Eve; important Chimes/Orff rehearsal 11:15 – 11:45.

December 21: Grades K – 5 regular church school; Special Advent class for middle school grades 6 – 8.

Midweek Evening Meal

All are welcome any Wednesday at 6pm December 3, 10, 17, to partake of the good food and warm fellowship. Bring whatever edibles you wish to share with others.

Advent Evening Worship

Reverent longing for Christ's coming is the theme of these seasonal services of song, reflection, communion and prayers, held the first three Wednesdays of December in Poling Chapel at 7pm.

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.

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.

Coffee & Chocolates for the Holidays

Watch for our festive holiday display in Assembly Hall on December 7 before and after worship. We have new items including single serve coffee, and funky dark chocolate with lemon, ginger, and black pepper. We'll have hot cocoa, teas, and other varieties. We also have our display in the Faith Bookshop, and we are having a sale for 50% off. Shop early and we may be able to handle special orders.

Christmas Eve Refreshments

We need volunteers to bring finger food, and helpers for set-up and clean-up for shared fellowship after the 9pm service on Dec. 24. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Taart Baas, Karen Gonda, at 607-725-4521, gonda6@aol.com.

Christmas Concert

Join the Thursday Musical Club directed by Julie Panke and accompanied by Elinore Farnum, for a Christmas concert on Saturday, December 6 at 2:30pm in the sanctuary. The Thursday Belles, directed by Judy Moore, will be guest artists along with flautists Jean Hayes and Natalie

Posner. Complimentary tickets are available for all church members from Julie.

Breakfast with Saint Nicholas

No matter your age, join us next Sunday, December 7, at 8:30am for a complimentary Dutch breakfast: Hagelslag sandwiches, coffee, juice, oatmeal, and speculaas Koekjes-followed by a visit from the generous and just Sinterklaas, telling stories and giving gifts.

90th Annual Carol Sing

The Thursday Belles invites you to join us on Sunday, December 7 at 3pm in the sanctuary. This family event is a lovely way to start your holiday season with Handbells and Carols galore. It is a fun event to which the entire community is invited. Come and hear why the Thursday Belles continues to be strong and brings joy to so many!

Group V

Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 8 at 11:30am in the home of Barbara Landon. Any questions, contact Barbara Piper, 399-3620.

Men's Breakfast

Our next men's breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at 8am in Assembly Hall. Program: Alden (Joe) Doolittle: Stories of the Season. Join us as Joe sets the scene for Christmas with stories of Holiday times, traditions and places. He will also encourage those gathered to share some of their own tales and experiences of the Holidays. Light breakfast provided. Join us for a seasoning of stories and fellowship. A sign-up sheet is available in Assembly Hall.

Poinsettia Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, December 14 to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our care and support to church members not able to join us for worship.

Crèche Show and Tell at Forum

Do you have a beloved Crèche depicting the nativity scene that you'd like to show and tell others about? Then bring it to Poling Chapel before worship on December 14, set it up on the Lord's Table, next to the others. During First Forum, tell those gathered about its origin and significance to you.

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.

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.

Group VII

We will have our Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 19 at 11:30am in Assembly Hall. Hostesses are Marilyn Leach and Jenny Overeynder. Any questions, please contact Ronnie, 393-7679.

Remember the Men of City Mission

Pick a card off the Christmas Tree in Assembly Hall. Bring in an unwrapped gift any Sunday till December 21. Share the joy of giving a Christmas gift with the Men of City Mission.

Christmas Offering

Our Christmas offering this year will go to the Salvation Army to help with the renovation of their kitchen. They serve 300 lunches daily, Mon. – Fri., for needy people in our community, so are in need of contributions to help with the renovations. Learn more at First Forum on December 21.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Nancy Wainwright, Caroline Welch
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Jeanne Shoulder, Joanne Bedell	Laura Lee Linder, Paul Landis
Greeters	Dave & Donna Bundy	
Kinderwyk		
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Adam Mason, Joyce Griggs, Margaret King, George Davidson, Eric Evans, Jerry Griggs, Don Leach, Caroline Welch	Jeanne Shoulder, Mary Jewett, Elizabeth Mastrianni, Barbara Walton, Art Casey, Gay Doolittle, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Keith Muse
Reader	Amy Brule	Catherine DeSalle
Refreshments	The Bachoriks	Ellie Rowland, Marilyn Leach
Ushers	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeff Cox, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Joan Lindsay	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Linda Malgieri, Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal
How To Classes	How to Write a Press Release	How to Wrap Presents

Sunday, November 30

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
 11:15 am Orff Rehearsal
 5:00 pm Advent Festival
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 2

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
 11:30 am Support & Care
 7:00 pm UPC Session

Wednesday, December 3

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

Thursday, December 4

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

Saturday, December 6

2:30 pm Thursday Musical Club Concert
 5:00 pm Link Service

Sunday, December 7

8:30 am Breakfast w/Saint Nicholas
 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 10:00 am Worship w/Communion
 10:15 am Church School K-8
 11:15 am Forum
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers
 11:15 am How To Classes
 11:15 am Orff Rehearsal
 3:00 pm 90th Annual Carol Sing
 5:00 pm JH & HS Youth Group
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

“This is eternity, Antanasia,” he said, both warning and imploring. “Eternity.” – Beth Fantaskey

“Beware the ides of March.” – William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar

“Just take this as a warning. Know that there’s always a price for not being yourself.” – Benilde Little, Acting Out

“Things never go wrong at the moment you expect them to. When you’re completely relaxed, oblivious to any potential dangers, that’s when bad things happen.” – C.K. Kelly

“A person should try to understand dreams. A person should take warning from them.” – Emily Wing

“The very first part in healing is shattering the silence.” – Erin Merryn

“Future warns us through current symptoms in nature.” – Toba Beta

“God is gracious to always give a warning before He sends judgment.” – Jim George

“History warns us...that it is the customary fate of new truths to begin as heresies and to end as superstitions.” – Thomas Henry Huxley, Collected Essays of Thomas Henry Huxley

“In warning there is strength.” – Lew Wallace, Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ

“And on the pedestal these words appear:
 ‘My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
 Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!
 Nothing beside remains.
 Round the decay
 Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
 The lone and level sands stretch far away.’” – Percy Bysshe Shelley, Ozymandias