

**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.



December 14, 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.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Naphtali Rothrock
Noel X, Noel VIII Louis Claude Daquin
10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

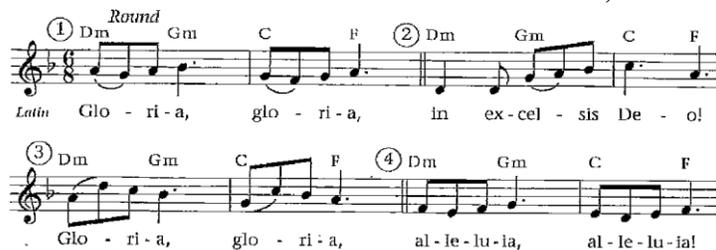
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
Adam, Molly, Laura, Audrey and Julia Mason

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #3
Comfort, Comfort You My People

*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*



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.'

PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *The Lamb from the Flock of David*
arr. Fred Bock

Who's gonna be the King of all kings?
The Lamb from the flock of David,
Well tell me, who's gonna make
all the angels sing?
The Lamb from the flock of David.

chorus
O listen to our song
and then sing it out all the day long.
He is gonna save you from all wrong.
The Lamb from the flock of David.

Who's gonna show us
all the way we should go?
The Lamb from the flock of David,
Well tell me, who's gonna teach us
all the things we should know?
The Lamb from the flock of David.

Who's gonna be the King of all kings?
The Lamb from the flock of David.
Well tell me, who's gonna make
all the angels sing?
The Lamb from the flock of David

FIRST LESSON Ellie Rowland
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-9 (pg 809)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 1:46-55 (pg 78)*

SERMON *Which Lives Matter?* Stacey Midge

*HYMN #409
Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *The Moon with Borrowed Light*
Diadameta

The moon with borrowed light
gives witness to the sun,
Discreetly fading with the night
When morning has begun.
John's borrowed light was drawn

From heaven's vibrant rays,
His life a witness to the dawn
Of Christ's approaching blaze.

When temple Levites asked
What title did John claim,
He said he had a single task
A simple goal and aim:
To redirect their sight
Beyond what he had done
To Christ the pure and primal light
That lightens ev'ryone.

The clouds of sin yet mask
Earth's tangled stubbly ground.
And O how many hearts still ask
Where God's clear path is found.
For borrowed light we pray
So we may be a sign
That points to Christ, the truth, the way,
The life, the light divine.

Thomas Troeger

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

*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 #12
People, Look East

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *People Look East*
Besançon

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:

Paul L. Abbey, Ruth Arthur, Adeline Graham

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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Music Note: The Response of Praise is from the Taizé community, Jacques Bethier ©Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Onelicense.net License #A-700700.

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany Church School

Today: Kirk Singers rehearsal 9am, regular church school grades K-5, Advent class for grades 6-8, costume selection by parents for Christmas Eve, Chimes/Orff rehearsal 11:15.

December 21: Regular church school grades K-5, Advent class for grades 6-8.

December 28: Regular church school grades K-8.

Faith Bookshop

Stocking stuffers and other seasonal items, including books and unique gifts, are now available in the Bookshop. Remember Advent calendars? We have those, too.

Poinsettia Delivery ~ Help Needed Today

Today volunteers will deliver piny poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with an addressed card for each recipient, will be available after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our love to those not able to join us for worship.

Advent/Christmas Resources

Seasonal table prayers and evening devotions for the home are available on the Adult Ed. & Nurture bulletin board (next to the Faith Bookshop).

Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolates – More!

Today in Assembly Hall after worship, we're having another sale. We ordered more chocolate! We have more dark chocolate minis, candy bars, and hot cocoa. These inexpensive priced gifts make great stocking stuffers or hostess gifts.

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. Please also see our announcement for Christmas Eve Refreshments.

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: Crèche Show & Tell by members and friends

December 21: Christmas Offering
Mission & Benevolence Committee

December 28: Christmas Caroling with
Rev. Daniel Carlson



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: Regular meeting, 5pm; rehearsing Living Nativity & Christmas Eve service.

December 21: Living Nativity, 6pm. Performers should arrive by 4:30pm.

December 28 – January 4: No meetings, enjoy the holiday break!

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: David Gleason, piano

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

December 28: Mike Lamkin, piano

Midweek Evening Meal

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

Advent Evening Worship

Joyful hope in Christ's coming is the theme of this seasonal service of song, reflection, communion and prayers, held 7pm Wednesday, December 17 in Poling Chapel.

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. Contact Stacey with any questions about this new service.

Living Nativity

The senior high youth group will act out the story of Jesus' birth on the front lawn, with the help of some four-legged friends, on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 6pm. Gather around the fence to watch the drama and sing along to beloved Christmas carols, and then join the youth groups inside Assembly Hall for hot cocoa and donuts.

Christmas Offering

Our Christmas offering this year will go to the Salvation Army to help with the renovation of their kitchen that serves 300 lunches daily, Mon. – Fri., for needy people in our community. Make checks payable to the church with *Christmas Offering* in the memo line. Checks eligible for the GE match should be made out to *The Salvation Army*. Learn more at First Forum on December 21.

Narthex Display Cases

“And a little child shall lead them.” Take a moment to view the Narthex display cases this Christmas season. Nancy Teichner’s arrangement of the beautifully hand carved ARI Kuolt wooden figures of the David Coons Van Voast Memorial Crèche may be seen along with other special Christmas items.

The Chrismon Tree

Anyone wishing to help decorate the Chrismon Tree please contact Carol Welch, 372-6571. The tree will be decorated the week of December 15. We encourage everyone to stop in the Dirck Romeyn room to admire the tree between Sunday, December 21 and Sunday, January 4.

Horizons Bible Study

We’re reading *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. Anyone interested is welcome to join us Tuesdays at 10am. **Note:** We will **NOT** be meeting Dec. 23 or 30, we resume Jan. 6.

Christmas Flowers – Deadline December 15

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 Monday, Dec. 15**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

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 this Monday, December 15th at 7pm (*the 10am session is cancelled this month*).

Schenectady/Nijkerk Potluck Dinner

Interested in the exchange between these Sister Cities? Come to this year’s Holiday Potluck Dinner Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30pm in Assembly Hall. Please bring your favorite casserole or salad to share. Participants of exchanges will talk about their experiences, especially Schenectady youth who visited Nijkerk in July.

Tuesday Ladies

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

Group VII

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

New Group Forming

Reclaiming God, Faith, and Community: Sharing conversation & inspiration for non-heterosexual-identified individuals and their allies. Our purpose is to provide a meeting space for spiritual seekers who have experienced rejection from organized religion and would like an opportunity to share with others about their experiences as well as spiritual exploration and development to gain support. We will meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 6 – 7:30pm. For more information, contact Deborah Reyome at ridewthwind@yahoo.com or 393-4537.

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.

Readers Discussion Continuation

Come join us on Sunday, December 21 at 12pm for continued discussion of Matthew Vines book, *God and the Gay Christian*. If you are interested in joining us or have questions, please contact Jeanne Shoulder, 781-724-5030 or Mary Jewett, 355-8059.

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.

Flash Fiction 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.

Stitch Group

Our church stitch group meets every Thursday at 10am in Poling Conference room. All are welcome! For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153.

Senior Pastors Open House

Join Dr. Levering on Friday, January 2 from 4 – 9pm, 923 Northumberland Drive.

Epiphany Party

January 3rd - See details on the Christmas events schedule later in the bulletin...Follow that star!

Prospective Member Class

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Dr. Levering will be leading a membership orientation meeting that includes 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. Our next class is January 4.

Fellowship Luncheon

Friday Fellowship Luncheon will not meet in December. Our next luncheon will be Friday, January 16, with hostesses Peg Miller and Sally Bestgen. Fellowship Luncheon is a pot-luck event open to all. Please contact Amy Brule, 785-8201; or Sally Bestgen, 346-0304, with any questions or suggestions. Most importantly, it is a time of Fellowship, so do join us. Enjoy this Christmas season! A sign-up sheet will be available in Assembly Hall.

Daily Devotional Books

Group V has their Devotional books available again this year. These make great holiday gifts, hostess gifts, and just thoughtful gifts for friends and family. There are copies available in the book shop. These books can be used over year after year. The quotes come from religious and non-religious sources. If you any questions, contact Maria G. Todd, 372-9522, who will also have books. The cost is \$7 each or 3 for \$20.

Offering Envelopes

2015 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the church office. If you did not sign up for envelopes on your pledge card, we have extra envelopes available for anyone who would like some.

Church Directory Photos

Ralph Rosenthal will continue to take pictures for our next church directory every Sunday after worship in the Heritage room (off the Dirck Romeyn Room). No appointment necessary.

Church History for Sale

Three Centuries: The History of the First Reformed Church of Schenectady is for sale in the Faith Bookshop and is a great gift idea. Share the story of our congregation; its place in the founding and formation of Schenectady, Consistory, Ministers, six houses of worship, Covenant, issues, solutions, and how we have kept our "inheritance" in order.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We will not be meeting in December, but we will resume on Thursday, January 22 at 9:30am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic.

Kinderwyck

We need church members who are 18 and over to help our professional staff care for our youngest members during worship. Fill out a white pew card and place it in the offering plate to let us know you would like to be a part of this ministry. The church staff will contact you to schedule the Sundays you are willing and available to serve.

Furniture and House Items Needed

Construction has finished on the third floor apartment at the church and we need your help to furnish it! We are looking for donations of furniture, kitchen utensils, and dishware. If you have items for donation please call Lyn Gordon (370-4324) or see her at the front desk after church to make arrangements.

Group V

Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 5 at 11:30am in the Dirck Romeyn room. Any questions, contact Barbara Piper, 399-3620.

Winterfest Save the Date

On Saturday, January 31, Doug and Maria Todd have graciously offered their abode (Fox Hill Farm, 6003 Parkis Mills Rd., Galway) as the location for our annual winter outing. For the adventurous, skating, cross country skiing, snowshoeing begin at 3. The food, beverage, fellowship, and laughter indoors around the various blazing hearths of the farmhouse begin at 5:30 with appetizers and drinks; a dinner of hearty soups, sides, salads, and desserts will follow. To offset the cost of this event, we ask each person attending to contribute \$5. Please also bring a good sized dish of favorite food to share (beverages provided). A signup sheet will soon be posted in Assembly Hall; alternatively, call the church office to indicate you'll attend. The Fellowship Committee is happy to assist parents with the cost of childcare so they may attend without financial burden; simply speak to Nancy Wainwright or Daniel Carlson. Car-pooling is encouraged to lessen our pollution of the planet and simplify parking at the party. Contact Daniel Carlson if you have any questions; the Todd's for directions (882-6555). Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Stephen Ministry Monthly Meeting

For continuing education all active Stephen Ministers will be sharpening their small group peer supervision skills this Thursday, December 18, at 7 PM. Delicious refreshments and warm fellowship will follow before we break into our four supervision groups, enabling us to give the faithful, trustworthy, skilled, and compassionate Christian care to our respective Care Receivers.

| Sunday Volunteers | This Sunday | Next Sunday |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Counting Deacons | Bill Rochelle, Cathy Lewis | Fred Daniels, Joan Lindsay |
| Faith Bookshop | Ginny Laumeister | Linda Witkowski |
| Flower Delivery | Sharon Gazin, Ellie Rowland | |
| Greeters | | |
| Kinderwyk | | |
| Liturgist | Bill Levering | Daniel Carlson |
| Preacher | Stacey Midge | Bill Levering |
| Processing Elders | Peggy King, Bill Ward, George Davidson, Tom Lindsay, Joe Lovell, Margaret Schadler, Maria G. Todd, Linda Witkowski | Jeanne Shoulder, Robert Dickson, Joyce Griggs, Don Leach, Ronnie Bartholic, Bob Beadle, Christine Daniels, Jerry Griggs, |
| Reader | Ellie Rowland | Nancy Davidson |
| Refreshments | Ellie Brudos, Ann Phaup Phillips | Nancy Davidson, Jeanette Davidson |
| Ushers | Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Chris Langdon, Karen Gonda, Jerry Wergedal, Michael Jablon | Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Jacob Etkin |

Advent & Christmas Events Schedule

Sunday, December 14

11 AM Crèche Show & Tell

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.

Sunday, December 21

5 PM Blue Christmas Jazz Vespers

The season brings memories and associations that aren't always so bright. This bluesy service will help. Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

6 PM Living Nativity Display

The senior high youth will perform the story of Jesus' birth, complete with readings from the Bible narrative, sing-a-long carols, and live animals. The Living Nativity will happen on the front lawn of the church at 6pm on December 21. Join us for this fun all-ages event, followed by donuts and hot cocoa in Assembly Hall.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24

5 PM Family Service

See the story of Jesus' birth lived-out by children and youth, includes joyful music and personal testaments from high school students.

8:30 PM Music of the Season

This extended prelude to the 9pm service will present a variety of Christmas music for choir, organ, harp and handbells.

9 PM Carols and Candles Service

Our Christmas celebration will include the warm hope of tiny candles and familiar songs.

11 PM Candlelit Service

Peaceful reflections with carols and communion.



Sunday, December 28

11 AM Caroling

Those of every age are invited to join the moving, melodious frolic after worship on the Fourth Day/First Sunday of Christmas, December 28. We'll carpool and carol to some members especially in need of "good tidings this Christmas and a happy New Year!" There will be treats along the way and the option of lunch afterwards.

Saturday, January 3

5 PM Epiphany Party

This year our annual celebration of Christ's manifestation to Magi--the festive culmination of Christmas--will be held on Saturday, Jan. 3, 5-8 PM at the Hjelmars' home: 9 Homestead Rd., Glenville. Everyone is invited! We'll share snacks and sweets, sip on tasty drinks, sing a few carols, recall the sacred story, and process with the Magi. The hale and hearty, all bundled up, will go outside to share in the house blessing, followed by prayers around the blaze of a bonfire. All attending should bring a favorite beverage and an appetizer or desert to share. Also, bring slipper to wear and plan on leaving shoes/boots at the door. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall. Contact Daniel Carlson if you have any questions. Follow that star!

Sunday, December 14

- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 9:00 am Kirk Singers rehearsal
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School K-5
- 11:15 am Forum
- 11:15 am Kirk Ringers
- 11:15 am How to Classes
- 11:15 am Orff Rehearsal
- 11:15 am Poinsettia Flower Delivery
- 5:00 pm JH & HS Youth Christmas Party!
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, December 15

- 9:00 am Men's News Group
- 6:15 pm Yoga
- 7:00 pm Klokken Tower Ringers
- 7:00 pm What's Your Story? PM

Tuesday, December 16

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Schenectady Nijkerk Dinner

Wednesday, December 17

- 9:30 am Kerygma
- 6:00 pm Midweek Evening Meal
- 7:00 pm Advent Evening Worship

Thursday, December 18

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

Friday, December 19

- 11:30am Group VII Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 20

- 5:00 pm Link Service

Sunday, December 21

- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School K-5
- 11:15 am Forum
- 11:15 am Kirk Ringers
- 11:15 am How to Classes
- 5:00 pm Blue Jazz Vespers
- 6:00 pm Living Nativity

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Racism is man's gravest threat to man - the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason.”

- Abraham Joshua Heschel

“I'm a real person, and I'm angry. I'm trying to use this celebrity thing to get people some help. AIDS, poverty, racism - I want to be one of the hands that helps stop all that. I'll put it on my shoulders. I'll charge it to my account.”

- Jamie Foxx

“Racism oppresses its victims, but also binds the oppressors, who sear their consciences with more and more lies until they become prisoners of those lies. They cannot face the truth of human equality because it reveals the horror of the injustices they commit.”

- Alveda King

“People know about the Klan and the overt racism, but the killing of one's soul little by little, day after day, is a lot worse than someone coming in your house and lynching you.”

- Samuel L. Jackson

“In this country American means white. Everybody else has to hyphenate.”

- Toni Morrison

“Pit race against race, religion against religion, prejudice against prejudice. Divide and conquer! We must not let that happen here.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

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 Hjelm
Bill Martin
Victoria McGowan-Horan
William Rochelle
George Trimarco
Nancy Wainwright

COVENANTERS

Kelsey Kleinwolterink, Kendra Kleinwolterink,
Claudette Martin, Hannah Busman

CHURCH STAFF

Julie Panke, Music Director
Naphtali Rothrock, Organist
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music & Children's Ministry
Corine Salon, Artistic Coordinator
Judy Moore, Director of Klokken Tower Ringers
Sarah Bachorik, Director of Kinderwyck
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator
Linda Malgieri, Assistant Bookkeeper
Lyn Gordon, Sunday Receptionist
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor
Diana Wahid, Housekeeper
Tom Mahan, Sexton