

**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.



February 1, 2015



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 video and audio 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.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Naphtali Rothrock, piano
The Church's One Foundation Aurelia
The Old Rugged Cross Rugged Cross
This Is My Father's World Terra Beata
Blessed Assurance Assurance
arr. Jonathan Reed
10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Worship We Together*
Old Dutch Tune, Text J. Panke

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN James Hart Brumm
Out of Moments, Days and Eras

Out of moments, days and eras, out of north,
south, west, and east, Jesus gathers and draws
near us, makes us family at his feast.

All our histories are one through the
mystery begun when Love chose us for
salvation, building us as New Creation

Some came seeking earthly glories; some to
live both safe and free. Holy breath takes up
our stories in the Gospel we can be.

All our histories are one through the
mystery begun when Love chose us for
salvation, building us as New Creation

From our time and place God takes us, from
our pasts we have grown strong. As we share
our hope, God makes us saints who follow
and belong.

All our histories are one through the
mystery begun when Love chose us for
salvation, building us as New Creation

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

**Almighty God, despite your arrival in our
world, we are preoccupied with regrets and**

**fears. We have failed to change our lives or
even search for your way. Give us vision and
courage, we pray, to create a better world and
a humbler heart.**

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*

① Dm Round Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F
Lain Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

from Our Song of Hope

Our only hope is Jesus Christ.

**After we refused to live in the image of
God, He was born of the virgin Mary,
sharing our genes and instincts,
entering our culture, speaking our
language, fulfilling the law of our God.
Being united to Christ's humanity,
we know ourselves when we rest in Him.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

God of the Prophets Toulon

God of the prophets! Bless the prophets' heirs;
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast;
Each age in turn for solemn tasks prepares;
Make each one nobler, stronger than the last!

Those, here and now, who catch your mystic voice,
with "Here am I! Speak Lord!" shall bravely stand!
As they dare answer, we with thanks rejoice;
God lead them forth to joyous work and grand.

Anoint your servants, faithful servants they:
Prophets for right, who every evil break; priests,
interceding for a world astray;
rulers who, for their Christ, a kingdom take.

Send them, apostles, heralds of your cross!
Forth may they go to tell all realms your grace:
inspired of you, may they count all but loss,
and stand at last with joy before your face.

O mighty age of Prophecy return!
With truth and faith, enrich our urgent time!
Lord Jesus Christ, again with us sojourn:
a weary world awaits your reign sublime!
Denis Wortman, 15th minister of First Reformed

FIRST LESSON Gene Rowland
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (pg 171)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 1:21-28 (pg 35)*

SERMON *Casting Out Unclean Spirits*

*HYMN *Today, Beneath Benignant Skies* Melita

Today beneath benignant skies,
'Mid scenes Thy favor beautifies,
Our hopes and prayers to Thee we raise,
And found a temple to Thy praise;
Our humble work propitious own,
As now we lay this corner-stone.

Except the Lord the house do build,
Except with grace the work be filled,
All labor's vain. O, Christ, impart
Thy loving spirit to each heart;
By Thee, to Thee, on Thee alone,
We build, Thou fairest Corner-Stone!

Here may the truth and right grow strong,
Here love prevail thy saints among,
Here sinners feel Thy quickening grace,
And seek with hasting joy Thy face;
And thousands gladly make Thee known
As their eternal Corner-Stone.

Build Thou the walls! Make them so glow
With glory, we on earth below
The eternal splendors shall foresee;
Grandeur than Salem's may they be
All luminous with grace Thine own,
From topmost peak to corner-stone!

Denis Wortman, 1881

OFFERING

OFFERTORY
Jesus Took the Cup Scottish Tune arr. H. Hopson

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

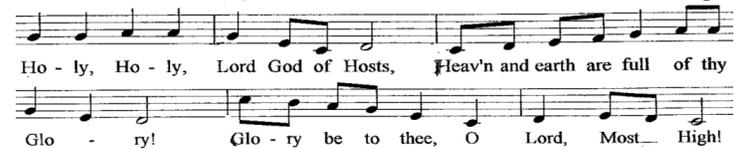
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*) Carl Steubing



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 #543, vss. 1-3
Abide With Me

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Threefold Amen Dale Wood

POSTLUDE

+ + +

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:

Virginia Cleveland, Raymond Fisher, Janice Flom, Philip Mathews, Janet Schwem, Herbert Stare, and George Stroebel.

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.

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Snow Pants Left at Epiphany Party

May be picked up at church office.

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: Heritage Sunday: Life of the Congregation During the Civil War; the impact of Rev Denis Wortman presented by Rev James Brumm, moderator of the Commission on History in the RCA.; & pastor Blooming Grove Reformed Church introduced by Caroline Welch
February 8: Rev. Bill Levering and Fred Daniels
FRC Building Drive

February 15: Attending to Stewardship: Energy Efficiency Actions

Prospective Member Class

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Rev. Carlson will be leading a membership 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 last class is this Sunday, February 1.

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

February 8: My New Kentucky Home - Please plan to be at church at 4pm; the dinner starts at 6pm and the show at 7pm. If you would like to perform, contact Stacey.

February 15-21: Mission trip to Whitesburg, Kentucky. Leave church at 8am on Feb. 15 and return around 10pm on Feb. 21. No regular meetings on Feb. 15 or 22.

My New Kentucky Home

The Youth Group is holding a dinner theater-style event on Sunday, Feb. 8 at 6pm in Friendship Hall, as a fundraiser for their mission trip to Kentucky. Our very talented youth will share their musical and theatrical skills, along with a few special guests from the congregation. Tickets are \$25 and available from the office, Stacey, or youth after the worship services on Sundays.

Post-Service Refreshments, Please!

Everyone is invited to have refreshments in Assembly Hall right after worship. With your help we can we enjoy treats after Sunday service and connect with strangers and friends. Would you please consider being part of the vital ministry of hospitality? Sign up or contact Karen the Taart Baas, 607-725-4521, gonda6@aol.com, to bring snacks of any variety.

The Link on Hiatus

The Link service that has been happening on Saturday evenings is on a break until further notice. If you would like to be part of the future planning process for this service, contact Stacey.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Nat Phipps, piano

February 8: Dave Gleason, piano;

Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

February 15: Skip Parsons Clarinet Marmalade, Mardi Gras Vespers

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.

Group V

On Monday February 2, Hannah Busman will be talking about her life and studies since leaving Schenectady and her current work as a covenanter. Barbara Piper will host at 11 am in the Dirck Romeyn room.

Horizons Bible Study

We will be doing a study of the first half of the book of Psalms (Psalms 1-72). Anyone interested is welcome to join us Tuesdays at 10am.

American Legion Service

The congregation is invited to a service in honor of the Four Chaplains by American Legion Post 91. The service is Saturday, February 7 at 11 am at 427 S. Main Street Mechanicville.

Four Chaplains

This Sunday is Four Chaplains Sunday. It's an annual recognition of the ultimate sacrifice of four chaplains on February 3, 1943. That's the day the United States Army transport ship *Dorchester* was torpedoed off the coast of Newfoundland. On board were 940 service members and four chaplains—including Reformed Church in America chaplain Clark Poling.

As the ship began to sink, the four chaplains organized an orderly evacuation of the ship. When life jackets ran out, the chaplains removed their own and gave them to others. They helped survivors climb into lifeboats. Then the chaplains linked arms, prayed, and sang hymns as the ship sank. They perished with the ship, sacrificing their lives in order that others might live.

New Kerygma Conversations

All are welcome to this lively and inquisitive study and discussion group each Wednesday 9:30 - 11 AM, in Poling Conference room. Starting Feb 4 and meeting through May 20, we'll be exploring the second book of the Bible, Exodus and what this has to do with our faith. If a *Kerygma* study guide is to be used, copies will be available at the first class for \$20 (and a couple used copies will be available for free.) Questions? Contact Daniel Carlson, group leader.

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.

Lenten Programs

The beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is February 18. To begin our spiritual journey to Easter Sunday on April 5 the Adult Education and Nurture Committee will be sponsoring five group programs, weekly worship services and dinners.

The evening will begin with a dinner in Assembly Hall at 6pm followed by the traditional Ash Wednesday service in Poling Chapel

Lenten Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers ! Can you help? Two or three people are needed to set tables on Wednesday afternoons. Three or four people are needed for clean up after the dinners. We also need people to help prepare food. This can be done at home and at least part of the cost of the food will be reimbursed from the offering. If you can help, please contact Mary Jewett at 355-8059 or jewett.mary@gmail.com.

Midweek Evening Meal

Bring any edible contribution to this simple feast with other members and friends at 6 PM on Feb 4 and/or 11. Most, thought not all, stay for Wednesday Evening Worship. Questions? Contact Daniel Carlson

Wednesday Evening Worship

Our contemplative service returns Feb 4 and 11 at 7 PM. It includes acoustic guitar accompanied singing, Biblical reflection, communion, and shared prayers, all with the purpose of rekindling our awareness of God's loving presence within us and all creation

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We will meet on Thursday, February 18 at 9:30am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic. Please note change of date. Any questions, contact Ronnie at 393-7679.

Faith Bookshop Poetry lovers and folks who know Anita Mewherter, former FRC member now living on Cape Cod, can pick up booklets of her poetry in the Bookshop, courtesy of Joe and Gay Doolittle. Sales from donated travel mementoes recently received will benefit our church Youth Group.

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.

What's Your Story?

Everyone has significant life stories to share and doing so with 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! Both the 10 am and 7pm sessions will meet February 9 in the Dirck Romeyn room. All are welcome.

New Middle School Class Offered

Sunday Mornings

The Middle School Church School class will be studying the most interesting people in the Bible. Each week a new Bible character will be discussed, highlighting their strengths, weaknesses, and what God accomplished through them. This class is being offered to 5th-8th graders. If you know anyone in this age group, please encourage them to attend!

Fellowship Luncheon

"Dogs are our best friends," especially when they are seeing eye dogs. Barbara Paquette, Volunteer and Regional Coordinator for the Puppy Raising Program for Guiding Eyes for the Blind will tell the Fellowship Lunch attendees about the process and bring along several four footed friends. Specially bred pups are taken into volunteer homes to provide a foundation of socialization and obedience the pups will need to become service dogs.

Fellowship Lunch will meet at 11:45 on Friday, February 20th. Everyone is welcome and asked to bring a dish to share. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Please sign up in the Assembly Hall. This program will be fun and informative.

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

"I don't want to be a man," said Jace. "I want to be an angst-ridden teenager who can't confront his own inner demons and takes it out verbally on other people instead."

"Well," said Luke, "you're doing a fantastic job."
— Cassandra Clare, *City of Ashes*

"If I got rid of my demons, I'd lose my angels."
— Tennessee Williams

"Men who fear demons see demons everywhere."
— Brom, *The Thief*

"The treachery of demons is nothing compared to the betrayal of an angel."
— Brenna Yovanoff, *The Space Between*

“I suddenly realized. The zebra. It is not something outside of us. The zebra is something inside of us. Our fears. Our own self-destructive nature. The zebra is the worst part of us when we are face-to-face with our worst times. The demon is us!” — Garth Stein, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*

“Demons are like obedient dogs; they come when they are called.” — Remy de Gourmont

“Never trust a demon. He has a hundred motives for anything he does ... Ninety-nine of them, at least, are malevolent.” — Neil Gaiman, *The Sandman, Vol. 1: Preludes and Nocturnes*

“Be kind to people and don’t judge, for you do not know what demons they carry and what battles they are fighting.” — Vashti Quiroz-Vega

Sunday, February 1

- 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 First Futures
- 3:00 pm New Member Class
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, February 2

- 9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
- 11:00 am Group V
- 6:15 pm Yoga
- 7:00 pm Klokken Ringers

Tuesday, February 3

- 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 11:30 am Support & Care
- 1:30 pm Worship Planning

Wednesday, February 4

- 9:30 am Kerygma
- 1:00 pm Thursday Bells
- 6:00 pm Midweek Meal
- 7:00 pm Midweek Worship

Thursday, February 5

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

Friday, February 6

- 1:00 pm Gardeners Workshop

Saturday, February 7

Sunday, February 8

- 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
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vesper
- 6:00 pm My New Kentucky Home

| Sunday Volunteers | This Sunday | Next Sunday |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Counting Deacons | William Martin and Joan Lindsay | Claire Hughes and Doug Todd |
| Greeters | Jack and Sally Bestgen | Norm and Eleanor Shilling |
| Flower Delivery | James Miller and Ruth Roinos | Bill Brooks and Barbara Matthews |
| Faith Bookshop | Linda Witkowski | Bill Clock |
| Liturgist | Daniel Carlson | Stacey Midge |
| Preacher | Bill Levering | Bill Levering |
| Processing Elders | Caroline Welch, Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton, Mary Jewett, Darwin Brudos, Eric Evans, Gay Doolittle, Thomas Lindsay | Joyce Griggs, Robert Dickson, James Gonda, Ellie Rowland, Gene Zeltmann, George Davidson, Jerry Griggs, Maria Todd |
| Reader | Gene Rowland | Barbara Walton |
| Refreshments | Nancy Martin and Lorraine Aumic | Karen Gonda |
| Ushers | Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Jacob Etkin, Nancy Wainwright | Del Pierce (head usher), Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Doug Todd, Carol Troost |