

**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 8, 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

You can live stream worship and events in the chapel by going to www.1streformed.com and clicking the link. A video and audio recording of each of our worship services is also online 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.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Naphtali Rothrock

Near to the Heart of God arr. Lani Smith
Meditation from "Thais" Jules Massenet
Sarabande Giuseppe Tartini

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Choral Call* Robert Campbell

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #466
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

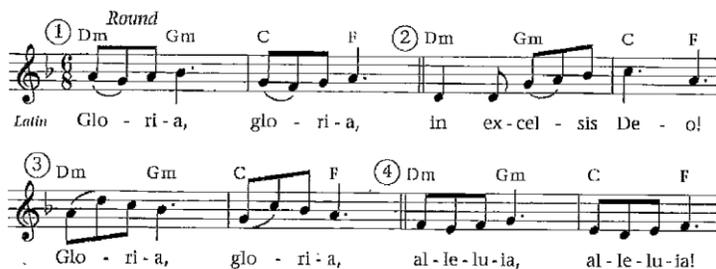
*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

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*

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 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 Kirk Ringers
This is My Fathers World Sheppard

FIRST LESSON Barbara Walton
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Isaiah 40: 21-31 (pg 668)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 1:29-39 (pg 35)*

SERMON *Casting Out: Part Two*

*HYMN *There is a Balm in Gilead* #394

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Heal Me, Hands of Jesus Norman Warren

Heal me, hands of Jesus,
and search out all my pain;
restore my hope, remove my fear,
and bring me peace again.

Cleanse me, blood of Jesus,
take bitterness away;
let me forgive as one forgiven,
and bring me peace today.

Know me, mind of Jesus,
and show me all my sin;
dispel the memories of guilt
and bring me peace within.

Fill me, joy of Jesus;
anxiety shall cease,
and heaven's serenity be mine,
for Jesus brings me peace.

Michael Perry

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 #404
Precious Lord, Take my Hand

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Twofold Amen Robert Bennett

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:

Wayne Harvey, Philip Matthews, Esther Langworthy, Lois Joyce Berner Mix, Bernice Stratton, and Myrtle Wilson

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 in loving memory of Philip R Matthews by his daughters: Christina, Barbara and Jane.

Snow Pants Left at Epiphany Party
May be picked up at church office.

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

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: Rev. Bill Levering and Fred Daniels FRC Building Drive

February 15: Jonathan Terino "The Long Journey to Freedom: History and Identity of the Waldensian Church in Italy"

February 22: Rev Daniel Carlson to introduce Peter Lion, "Attending to Stewardship: Energy Efficiency Actions"

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: 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.

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.

Post-Service Refreshments, Please!

"The people who give you their food give you their hearts." - Cesar Chavez Thank you to all who contribute post-service refreshments! We need more volunteers. If you've thought about participating in our hospitality ministry but aren't sure of what's required, check out the guidelines next to the sign-up sheet posted in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call or email Karen the Taart Baas, 607-725-4521, gonda6@aol.com

Busman Family Fire Fund

If you are looking to assist the Busman's after their house fire, you can donate to the First National Bank of Scotia (201 Mohawk Av., Scotia 12302) under the name "Busman Family Fire Fund".

There will also be a pancake breakfast at Scotia Reformed on Saturday, February 14 at 8:00am. Tickets can be purchased at the door: \$10 adults, \$5 children 10 and under.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Dave Gleason, piano;

Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

February 15: Skip Parsons Clarinet Marmalade, Mardi Gras Vespers

February 22: Peg Delaney Trio

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.

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.

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. Prepare for our Feb 11 class by reading through Exodus aloud. Questions? Contact Daniel Carlson, group leader.

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 11. Most, though not all, stay for Wednesday Evening Worship. Questions? Contact Daniel Carlson.

Wednesday Evening Worship

Our contemplative service is offered again this week 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.

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.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We will meet on Thursday, February 19 at 9:30am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic. Please note change of date. Any questions, contact Ronnie at 393-7679.

Faith Bookshop

Teenagers especially would enjoy one of our newly arrived tote bags. A great I-love-you gift for only one dollar!

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 10am 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!

Ushers Needed!

We still need a few more ushers to fill out our usher groups. It only requires a commitment of once every 6 weeks. It's a great way to serve our church and a wonderful way to meet folks. Please contact Del Pierce in church, by phone 356-0955, or email delpierce@gmail.com. Thanks!

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

Lenten Retreat at Camp Fowler

Mary and Daniel Carlson will again be leading this Adult Education and Nurture supported retreat, 'More life this Lent', Friday, Feb 27-Sunday, March 1. It's open to members and friends of our church and synod, and held in Fowler's lovely Chi Rho Lodge. Opportunities for learning and engaging in contemplative Christian practices will be balanced with times of shared meals, relaxed conversation, and games around the blazing hearth. For more details and to register, visit Fowler Camp and Retreat Center on the web and click retreats; those without internet, call Fowler's office (631-6789)

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 18

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesdays, February 25 – March 25

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Lenten Programs

8pm ~ Lenten Evening Worship

Dinner

Come share a free, delicious meal and good conversation at 6pm any Wednesday of Lent.

Programs

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.

First Reformed Church and the Civil War

presented by the Archives and History Committee and guest speakers.

God in the News

A drop-in class reviewing the headlines of the week and discussing our responses. Presented by Dr. Levering.

Exploring Prayer

Learn and share about our experience of God. Lead by Rev. Annie Riley, Pastor of the State Street Presbyterian Church

What's Your Story?

Lead by Norma and Dale Brown 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.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Kids in grades K-12 are invited to join the FRC Productions team to create and film the story of Jonah. All aspects of video production need to be covered - set design, costumes, lighting, sound, props, music, and of course, acting. No matter what your talent, there is a place for you in this film. We will be meeting on the stage after dinner.

Lenten Evening Worship

A quiet service at the end of the evening includes songs accompanied by guitar, guided reflection on the day, sharing Holy Communion, prayers, and sharing Christ's peace.

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.



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
 11:15 am First Futures
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
 6:00 pm My New Kentucky Home

Monday, February 9

9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
 10:00 am What's Your Story?
 6:15 pm Yoga
 7:00 pm Klokken Ringers
 7:00 pm What's Your Story?

Tuesday, February 10

10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
 10:00 am Morning Prayer
 6:00 pm Archives
 6:30 pm Standing Committees
 7:00 pm Consistory

Wednesday, February 11

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

Thursday, February 12

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

Friday, February 13**Saturday, February 14**

8:00 am Busman Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 15

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
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes and Doug Todd	Dave Hjelm and Rebecca Grande
Greeters	Norm and Eleanor Shilling	Bill and Linda Ward
Flower Delivery	Bill Brooks and Barbara Matthews	Connie Young
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Nancy Wainwright
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joyce Griggs, Robert Dickson, James Gonda, Ellie Rowland, Gene Zeltmann, George Davidson, Jerry Griggs, Maria Todd	James Gonda, Arend van der Veen, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Don Leach, Linda Witkowski, Marilyn Leach, Mary Jewett
Reader	Barbara Walton	Catherine DeSalle
Refreshments	Karen Gonda	
Ushers	Glenn Blinckmann (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, George Davidson