

**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 offer of healing

February 15, 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.

Transfiguration Sunday

February 15, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Kaelan Hansson, organ

10:00 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Hallelujah* Zimbabwean

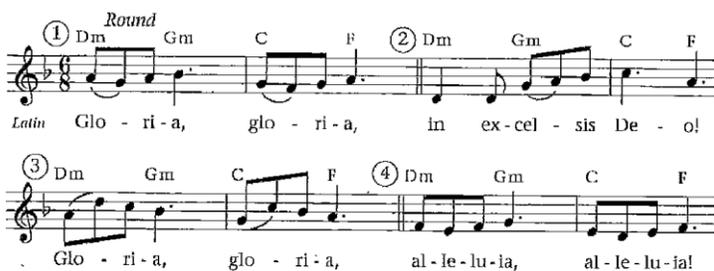
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #380
O Christ, the Healer

*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

FIRST LESSON Catherine DeSalle
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. 2 Kings 5:1-14 (pg 336)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON Mark 1:40-45 (pg 35)

SERMON *Healing*

*HYMN #261
God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Kaelan Hansson, organ

*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.

*CLOSING HYMN #324
Open My Eyes That I May See

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE
Sweet Halleluia Mark Miller
Don Lester, string bass
Tom D'Andrea, drums, Susan Hale, piano

POSTLUDE Susan Hale, piano

+ + +

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Janet Gardner
February 8, 2015

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:

Mary Bee, J Marie Herman, Mary Reimherr, Gladys Toung, F David Sheldon

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 Jean Kemp Bundy and George Bashor by David and Donna Bundy.

Music Notes: Thank you to Susan Hale 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.

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: 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"

March 1: Joe Doolittle to introduce Gwen Bondi, "Improving Care at End of Life"

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Mardi Gras Vespers Skip Parsons Clarinet Marmalade,

February 22: Peg Delaney Trio

March 1: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass, Tom D'Andrea, drums

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.

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.

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

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.

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 – 11am, 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. For February 18: read through Exodus (preferably in one sitting; definitely aloud.) Questions? Contact Daniel Carlson, group leader.

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

There's a mystery in the Bookshop, and it's not a book! One of the framed church photographs which hung behind the Bookshop desk is missing. Got any clues?

Lenten Retreat at Fowler

There's still time to register and room to join about a dozen others in the Adirondacks and try out some contemplative practices fostering deeper awareness of God's presence and guidance! Feb 27- March 1, Daniel and Mary Carlson will lead *More Life this Lent*, supported by Fowler and our Adult Education and Nurture Committee. Presentations and practices are balanced with tasty meals, time for individual pursuits (indoors or out), relaxed conversation, and games around the blazing hearth. To register: visit Fowler Camp and Retreat Center on the web and click retreats or call Fowler's office (631-6789); further questions: contact Daniel or Mary.

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.

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!

Intergenerational Game Night Feb 28

Mark your calendar and join the Fellowship and Youth Education Committees for a night to enjoy each other's company playing board games, puzzles, and cards from 6pm-8pm on Saturday, February 28th. Plan to bring a favorite game and a drink and/or snack to share; we'll order pizza so you don't need to cook that night. We're looking forward to it!

Stitch Group

Our church PHD* stitch group meets every Thursday at 10am in the Poling Conference room. Come, finish a project and enjoy good company and conversation. Please drop in for a few minutes, a day, a month, as long as it takes for you to finish your project. All are welcome! For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153. *Projects Half Done

Four Chaplains Memorial Service

You are cordially invited to attend the 50th annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service and Brotherhood Award Program on Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in the Samuel S. Stratton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chapel. Dr. Levering will be speaking about the importance of remembering Rev. Clark Poling and his time in Schenectady before his military duties and destiny aboard the *Dorchester*.

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.

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!

| Sunday Volunteers | This Sunday | Next Sunday |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Counting Deacons | Dave Hjelm and Rebecca Grande | Cynthia and Joseph Gallagher |
| Greeters | Bill and Linda Ward | Ken and Ruth Roinos |
| Flower Delivery | Connie Young | Liz Mastrianni and Ann Gotwalls |
| Faith Bookshop | Nancy Wainwright | Virginia Laumeister |
| Liturgist | Daniel Carlson | Daniel Carlson |
| Preacher | Bill Levering | Bill Levering |
| Processing Elders | James Gonda, Arend van der Veen, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Don Leach, Linda Witkowski, Marilyn Leach, Mary Jewett | Arthur Casey, Del Pierce, Liz Mastrianni, George Davidson, Richard Rose, Bob Beadle, Roberta Blackmer, Bill Rochelle |
| Reader | Catherine DeSalle | Marilyn Leach |
| Refreshments | Joanne Arnold | Connie Young, Fred and Christine Daniels |
| Ushers | Earl Wainwright (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin, George Davidson | Art Shultes (head usher), Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough, Joan Lindsay |

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 delicious meal and good conversation at 6pm any Wednesday of Lent. A free will donation of \$5 is suggested.

Programs

Driving our spiritual journey to the Adult Education and Nurture Committee will be sponsoring five group programs:

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.

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. Lead by Norma and Dale Brown.

Exploring Prayer

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

Prayer Shawls Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? Or would you like to learn? Please join us to make a prayer shawl to share with someone in need of prayer, attention and warmth!

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 following programs includes songs accompanied by guitar, guided reflection, Communion, prayers, and 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 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 Vesper

Monday, February 16

Office Closed

Tuesday, February 17

- 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, February 18

- 9:30 am Kerygma
- 1:00 pm Thursday Bells
- 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Dinner
- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 19

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

Friday, February 20

- 11:45 am Fellowship Luncheon

Saturday, February 21

- 11:00 am Janet Gardner Memorial Service

Sunday, February 22

- 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 Vesper