

**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.



What boat are you in?

January 25, 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.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Sonata in G Major for Violin and Guitar

Pietro Locatelli

Adagio, Allegro, Largo, Allegro

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin

Sten Isachsen, guitar

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Let Us Worship* Tom Benjamin

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #292

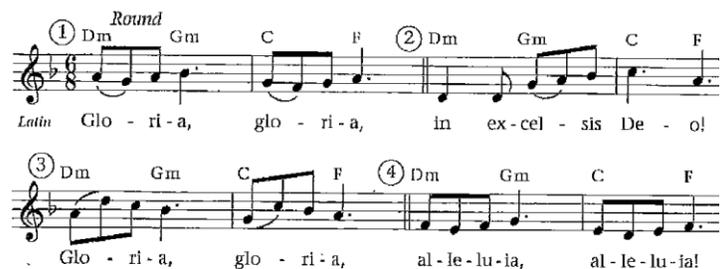
All Beautiful the March of Days

*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 Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F
Latin 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

Come, Follow Me R. Paul Thompson

“Come, follow me,” the Savior said.
Then let us in his footsteps tread,
For thus alone can we be one
With God’s own loved, begotten Son.

Come follow me, a simple phrase,
Yet truth’s sublime, effulgent rays
Are in these simple worlds combined.
To urge, inspire the human mind.

It is enough alone to know
That we must follow Him below
While trav’ling through this vale of tears?
No, this extends to holier spheres.

Not only shall we emulate
His course while in this earthly state,
But when we’re freed from present cares,
If with our Lord, our Savior,
we would be heirs.

We must the onward path pursue
As wider fields expand to view,
and follow Him unceasingly,
What e’er our lot or sphere may be.

For thrones, dominions, kingdoms, powers,
And glory great and bliss is ours.
If we throughout eternity,
Obey His words,
Come, Oh, come follow me.

John Nicholson

FIRST LESSON Therese McCarty

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.

Amen. *Jonah 3:1–5, 10 (pg 860)*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Mark 1:14–20 (pg 34)*

SERMON *Life is a Boat*

*HYMN (*see back of bulletin*)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Suite Buenos Aires (Palermo) Maximo Pujol

*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 #562

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen Dresden

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:

James Stevenson, Janet Buchanan, Donald Mackintosh, Mary Louise Martin-Stern, Mary McCarty, Dorothy Murray, William O'Hare, and Richard Vandercar

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.

Music Notes: 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.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God by Therese McCarty and Johnny Willis in loving memory of Therese's mother, Mary McCarty, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of her death.

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: Kent Busman Director of Fowler Camp and Conference center will share thoughts on living the Gospel and creating stewards of God's environment through experiencing wilderness in community, urban homesteading and other good stuff.

February 1: 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

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Tim Olsen, piano

February 1: Nat Phipps, piano

February 8: Dave Gleason, piano;
Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Memorial Service for Lillian Roe

There will be a memorial service held for Lillian Roe on Saturday January 31 at 11am. There will be a reception following the service in Assembly hall. All are welcome to attend.

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

February 1: No Meeting

February 8: My New Kentucky Home - our dinner and talent show to support the mission trip fund. 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.

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 feedback and future planning process for this service, please contact Stacey.

Post-Service Refreshments, Please!

Everyone is invited to have refreshments in Assembly Hall right after worship. With your help we can 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. Thank you!

Prospective Member Class

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Dr. Levering 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 next class is Sunday, February 1.

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.

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.

Extended Study

Rev. Carlson is out of the office through January 24 working intensively on his thesis proposal.

Winterfest Jan 31 for Adults AND Teens

On Saturday, January 31, Doug and Maria Todd will again host our annual winter outing--which is now inclusive of youth (teens) of the church as well as adults. For the adventurous, a x-c skiing and snowshoeing trek over hill and dale begins at 3 PM; a shorter outing will leave at 4. A bonfire by the pond, where skaters are welcome, begins at 5. Appetizers and drinks indoors around the blazing hearths begins at 5:30; a dinner of hearty soups, sides, salads, and desserts will follow. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall (note if and when you will ski/snowshoe); alternatively, call the church office. Please bring a good-sized dish or two of a favorite food to share (soups and beverages will be provided) and \$5 per person to offset the cost of this event. The Fellowship Committee is happy to assist parents with the cost of childcare; simply contact Nancy Wainwright (377-3573) or Daniel Carlson. Car-pooling is encouraged to lessen our pollution of the planet and simplify parking at the party. See you Jan 31 at Fox Hill Farm 6003 Parkis Mills Rd. Galway. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Horizons Bible Study

Starting January 6, 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.

Evening Circle

Evening Circle will meet Wednesday, January 28th at 7PM at Sally Bestgen's home – 2517 Antonia Dr., Niskayuna. The program will be *Scarves and how to tie them*, presented by Amy Brule. All women of the church are welcome. Join us for dessert, conversation and fellowship. For directions call Sally at 346-0304.

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. They will serve a menu of Chicken Parmesan (with a vegetarian option), Salad, Garlic Bread, and Dessert. 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. If you are a youth and are interested in performing but haven't yet been contacted, please email Stacey ASAP.

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!

Midweek Meal and Worship

With Rev. Carlson away much of January, working intensely on his thesis proposal, these weekly events will resume in February.

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.

On February 18 the evening will begin with a dinner in Assembly Hall at 6pm followed by the traditional Ash Wednesday service in Poling Chapel

Lent 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.

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.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We will meet on Thursday, January 22 at 9:30am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic.

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.

Gardener's Workshop

Gardeners' Workshop Garden Club extends an open invitation to nature enthusiasts to attend the club's monthly meeting on Friday, February 6, at 1 p.m. in Assembly Hall. Peter Olesheski from UpYonda Farm Environmental Education Center in Bolton Landing will present a program on "Monarch Butterflies" -- their history, life cycle, and annual migration to Mexico and back, gardening for monarch butterflies, and the UpYonda Farm tagging program. Light refreshments will be served following the presentation. Please call Ruth Roinos, 399-6915, or Ellen Hubbard, 399-0152, if you plan 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. Y'all come!

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

Name Tag

If you do not have a nametag please fill out a white pew card and your name tag will be available the following Sunday for pickup in the office.

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.

Sunday, January 25

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 Vespers
5:00 pm JH & SH Youth Group

Monday, January 26

9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
6:15 pm Yoga
7:00 pm Creation Care

Tuesday, January 27

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

Wednesday, January 28

11:00 am First Things Volunteers
1:00 pm Thursday Bells
7:00 pm Writers Group

Thursday, January 29

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

Friday, January 30

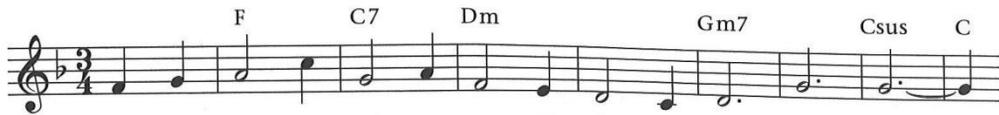
Saturday, January 31

11:00 am Lillian Roe Memorial Service

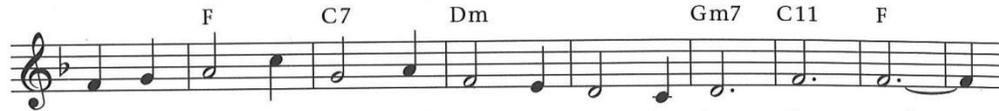
Sunday, February 1

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
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Will You Come and Follow Me



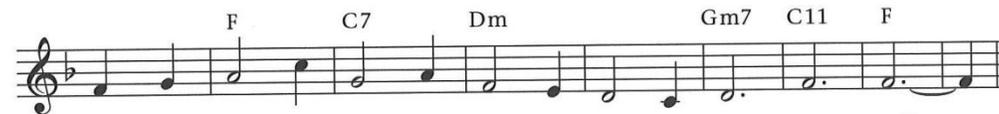
1 Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?
 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	George Trimarco and David Bundy	William Martin and Joan Lindsay
Greeters	Robert and Sally Clark	Jack and Sally Bestgen
Flower Delivery	David and Donna Bundy James and Karen Gonda	James Miller and Ruth Roinos
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Linda Witkowski
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	James Gonda, Mary Jewett, Arend van der Veen, Arthur Casey, Don Leach, Joyce Griggs, Maria Todd, Marilyn Leach	Caroline Welch, Jeanne Shoulder, Peggy King, Mary Jewett, Darwin Brudos, Eric Evans, Gay Doolittle, Thomas Lindsay
Reader	Therese McCarty	Gene Rowland
Refreshments	Barbara Walton and Vickie Horan	Nancy Martin and Lorraine Aumic
Ushers	Earl Wainwright (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Chris Langdon, Karen Gonda, Michael Jablon	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Jacob Ettkin, Nancy Wainwright