

**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.

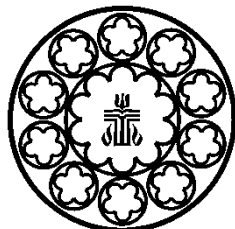
Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.



As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

- John F. Kennedy

November 22, 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. Stop by a welcome table at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-630-0911

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.

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 a hearing aid loop system that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for babies through age four is available from 9:45am until 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 at 11:15am upstairs in room 20.

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 church school activities.

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 a cookie 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

We have a lost and found basket in the Narthex (at the front entrance of the church). If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check this basket.

Reign of Christ Sunday

November 22, 2015

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Grand Triumphal Chorus

Alexander Guilmant

Voluntary John Stanley

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

INTROIT *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*
Johann Steurlein

* HYMN *Let All Things Now Living* #554

* OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Infinite God, forgive us when we cannot see beyond our own interests. We pray your pardon on our selfishness and our constant search for distraction and comfort. Heal our hearts, we pray, so that we may live for a larger vision and love for a noble end.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

Our Song of Hope

**We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true hope.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Rejoice the Lord is King*
Craig Courtney

Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord,
the people He has chosen for His inheritance.
Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear
Him, that hope in His unfailing love
to deliver them from famine and death.

Our souls wait for the Lord, our help and our
shield, for our hearts shall rejoice as we trust in
His holy name. Let thy mercy be upon us, let
thy mercy be upon us even as we hope in Thee,
even as we hope in Thee.

Congregation joins choir with Hymn #155 v 1&2

FIRST LESSON Liz Mastrianni

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Joel 2:21-27 (pg 847)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 6:25-33 (pg 6)*

SERMON *Fear and Gratitude* Stacey Midge

*HYMN *Come Sing a Song of Harvest* #558

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Concerned for the Hungry

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Klokken Tower Ringers

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Arr. Bob Burroughs

*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.

*HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God* #555

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen Dale Wood

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Dolph Ebeling – 11/16/15

John “Jack” Fitts – 11/16/15

Memorial Services were held 11/21/15

Earl Wainwright – 11/19/15

Memorial Service TBA

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 our church who entered into eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Violet Delack, Dick Matthews, Leroy Brandt

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please 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 Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Congregational Meeting TODAY

There will be a meeting of the congregation today, immediately after worship, to consider the action of the Consistory approving the building project.

United Prayer Ministry

Prayers of comfort:

The Ebeling Family

The Fitts Family

Nancy Wainwright and Family

Scientific Reasons To Host December & January Post-Service Refreshments

Our bodies burn more energy when it's cold. Primitive impulses make us stockpile calories for the long Winter. Social supports reduce stress when holiday preparations leave us frazzled. Chocolate contains tryptophan which the brain uses to make serotonin, producing feelings of happiness. For these reasons, please sign up to host in Assembly Hall. Thank you!

Music Notes

Our Response of Praise is a joyful declaration first heard by John Bell at the Sunrise Hospice in S. Africa. Words and transcription copyright 2008 WGRG, Iona Community Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700.

First 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, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

Today: Congregational Meeting

Nov 29: Coffee and Conversation

Dec 6: Soap & Toilet Paper Ministry
Christmas Offering

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: *Thanksgiving Jazz Festival 4-6pm*

Nov 29: Mike Lamkin, piano; Pete Toigo, bass

Dec 6: Nat Phipps Trio

Church School

This year our Pastors will be leading the teaching of Church School, but we need your help. Please sign up ASAP in Assembly Hall, so the Pastors will know ahead of time who they will be working with. Also, if you have any activities you are particularly fond of ie: stories, children in worship, crafts, let us know. Thank you so much!

Orff

We have been blessed with a beautiful ensemble of ORFF instruments that must be played! Join us in the Music Office at 9am each Sunday morning! No experience is needed as we learn songs and accompaniments for worship. Contact Jamie Ipsen, 399-6848, with questions.

Klokken Tower Ringers

Join us at 7pm on Mondays in the Poling Conference room. Questions can be answered by Judy Moore at moorebells@gmail.com

Kirk Ringers and Singers

Kirk Ringers and Singers will meet from 11:15 to noon in room 20 (at the top of the stairs) each Sunday. These rehearsals are VERY important as we will be covering all the Christmas Eve Service music. Please make every effort to attend each week!! Any child of Church School age is invited to join us.

Youth Group Schedule

The youth group is open to all students in grades 6-12, and meets every Sunday night from 5-7pm (unless otherwise indicated) for: discussion, food, learning, fellowship, and service.

Today: - Pie distribution after worship.
No Regular Mtg; Youth will be selling refreshments after the Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers Service

Nov 29: - *Advent Festival 5pm*

Dec 6: - Regular Mtg. & Advent Activity

Remember to pick up your pie after the Congregational Meeting!!!!

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop requests jewelry and Christmas ornaments from the congregation. These items may be brought to the Shop any Sunday where they will be made available for purchase with the proceeds going to a local, worthy cause.

Stitch Group

Our church PHD* stitch group meets every Thursday in Poling Conference room. Work on whatever project you have. For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153. *Projects Half Done

New 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, usually on the first Sunday of the month.

Midweek Feast: Food for Body, Mind & Soul will not meet this week. See you on Dec. 2

>*Dinner at 6*--bring whatever food you like and wish to contribute to the table in Assembly Hall where informal, friendly conversation is enjoyed.

>*Study at 7*--delve into the discussion of various timely topics led by Stacey Midge.

>*Worship at 8*--stay for a brief, reflective service of song, scripture, silence, the Lord's Supper, and prayers of supplication for those in need.

Thanksgiving Offering – TODAY Concerned for the Hungry

Monies collected at our church will be sent to Concerned for the Hungry and are used to purchase supplies in bulk at greatly reduced prices to help stretch the dollars. Checks should be made payable to FRC (*Concerned for the Hungry* in the memo line), **unless it is eligible for GE Matching**, then please make check payable to Concerned for the Hungry.

First Futures Building Campaign - Q&A:

Won't the big new Fellowship Hall be very expensive to build? Actually this space is one of the most cost effective spaces in the plan, because the Poling House was originally constructed with this exact use in mind. Yes, it was originally conceived as an assembly space right next to the sanctuary! In fact, the original trusses which hold up the building make it surprisingly inexpensive to remove the floors and install the proposed Fellowship Hall.

The Short-Short Writing Group – Nov 25

A writing critique group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Walton Conference room at 7pm. Short-Shorts are stories, essays, memoirs, or other non-fiction works told in 1,000 words or less. For more info, contact James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com

Intergenerational Advent Festival - Nov 29

On the evening of the first Sunday of Advent, those of all ages gather in Friendship Hall for a covered dish dinner and seasonal crafts. For dinner at 5pm, bring food you wish to share (seasonal suggestion: anything that begins with the letter A, for Advent, or food that is purple or blue, Advent colors). After our meal the crafts commence, including the making of unique Advent wreaths from natural materials and hand-dipped candles! We'll conclude at 7pm with a brief liturgy around our candlelit wreaths.

New Book Club - *The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

The Justice Action Council and the Adult Education and Nurture Committee are forming a book club to discuss and examine this poignant work by Michelle Alexander. Please join us on Sunday, **November 29** at noon for lunch and conversation on the Mezzanine. We will cover at least the first few chapters. More meeting dates to follow. The book is available now at a discounted rate in the church book store. Contact either Mary Alice Jewett or Jeanne Shoulder with any ???

First Friday Performances – December 4

Avery will be showing the 1987 movie *Babette's Feast* at 7pm in Poling Chapel. This is a heartwarming story of two sisters who take in a cook, Babette, as a refugee from war torn France. This is a foreign movie with subtitles. It will be played as a silent movie, with live accompaniment by Avery. Join us for a night out!

Thursday Musical Club Christmas Concert

Join the Thursday Musical Club all women's chorus directed by Julie Panke and accompanied by Elinore Farnum, for a Christmas concert on **Saturday, December 5 at 2:30pm** in the church sanctuary. The Thursday Belles, directed by Judy Moore, will be guest artists. Complimentary tickets are available for all church members from Julie or the church office.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas – Dec. 6

No matter your age or faith tradition, join us Sunday 8:45-9:45am for a complimentary Dutch breakfast of chocolate sprinkle sandwiches, strong coffee, oatmeal, and speculaas cookies, followed by a visit from the just and generous Sinterklaas, telling stories and giving gifts!

New Word Service

Our congregation is full of stories. **And God has stories of faith for us.** Put this all together, and you have a recipe for a fascinating worship service. Our next service is December 11.

Klokken Tower Ringers, Thursday Belles and Carol Sing December 6

For 90+ years, this Carol Sing has taken place with handbells, carols, and a totally unique version of the 12 Days of Christmas! Please Join us at 3pm, in our Sanctuary, on December 6 and bring your friends and family. There will be a special guest too!

Men's Breakfast Group – December 12

The Men's Breakfast group will meet in Assembly Hall on Saturday, December 12 at 8am. Our speaker will be The Rev. Victoria Brooks. Viki is the Protestant Minister at Union College, and she will talk about trends in the spiritual lives of Union College students. Breakfast will be served at 8am, and the program will follow soon after. There will be a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. For further information, contact Gene Rowland at 250-4302 or erowland@nycap.rr.com.

Tuesday Ladies

Tuesday Ladies meets next on December 15, at the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. All ladies welcome to chat and get to know each other around a cup of tea at 7pm.

Group VII

Our next meeting is our Christmas Lunch at 11:30am on December 18 in Assembly Hall.

Advent Lessons and Carols – Dec. 13

The choirs of St. George's Episcopal Church and First Reformed Church of Schenectady, will come together on Sunday, December 13 at 2pm for a traditional service of Advent Lessons and Carols at St. George's in the Stockade. Music of Brahms, Poston, Sumsion, and Gardner will be included. Andrew Krystopolski will be the organist and Julie Panke will direct the choirs. The Klokken Tower Ringers will assist.

Mark Your Calendars

Join us for the *All Church Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant* on **December 20**. We need participants of all ages to come at **4:30pm** for a run through and people to come at **6pm** to watch us sing and tell the story of the First Christmas. It's going to be an awesome night-- you won't want to miss it!

Jazz Thanksgiving Festival



Thanksgiving Jazz Festival and Vespers will take place TODAY in the main sanctuary from 4-6pm. On the program will be: Nat Phipps, piano; Keith Pray, sax; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Pete Toigo, bass; Peg Delaney, piano; Jim Corigliano, sax; Tim Coakley, drums; Bill Delaney, bass; and Colleen Pratt, vocals. Admission is \$10, \$5 students and retirement community residents.

Youth Group will be selling refreshments as a Fundraiser for their February Mission Trip!

What To Do With Those Bottles and Cans

Turn in your redeemable recyclables at Creating Change Redemption Center at 309 Saratoga Rd. in Glenville, and tell them to donate the deposit to the *First Reformed Church of Schenectady Youth Mission Trip*. The youth group has an account there and will collect donations until the mission trip in February. The Youth Group is heading to Palermo, Italy to do mission work with refugees.

+ + +

Fear keeps us focused on the past or worried about the future. If we can acknowledge our fear, we can realize that right now we are okay. Right now, today, we are still alive, and our bodies are working marvelously. Our eyes can still see the beautiful sky. Our ears can still hear the voices of our loved ones.

- Thich Nhat Hanh

Everything you want is on the other side of fear.

- Jack Canfield

Sunday, November 22

10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Congregational Meeting
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers
 4:00 pm Thanksgiving Jazz Vespers

Monday, November 23

9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
 11:00 am First Things Volunteers
 7:00 pm Klokken Tower Ringers
 7:00 pm Creation Care Meeting

Tuesday, November 24

10:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, November 25

1:00 pm Thursday Belles
 7:00 pm Short-short Writing Group

Thursday, November 26

Happy Thanksgiving
OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 27

OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, November 29

8:30 am Early Bird Sunday Study
 9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship/First Sunday of Advent
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:15 am First Forum & Kirk Ringers
 12:00 pm Justice Action Book Group
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
 5:00 pm Advent Festival

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

-Melody Beattie

The essence of all beautiful art, all great art, is gratitude. - Friedrich Nietzsche

Often people ask how I manage to be happy despite having no arms and no legs. The quick answer is that I have a choice. I can be angry about not having limbs, or I can be thankful that I have a purpose. I chose gratitude. - Nick Vujicic

Counting Deacons	Kim & Tom Burgoyne	Richard Davis
Greeters	Dave & Donna Bundy	Tom & Joan Lindsay
Flower Delivery	Gay Doolittle and Elsa Hjelm	James Gonda and Connie Young
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Bob Beadle, Christine Daniels, George Davidson, Del Pierce, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Liz Mastrianni	Jack Bestgen, James Gonda, Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Tom Lindsay, Richard Rose, Jeanne Shoulder, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Liz Mastrianni	
Refreshments	Ann Hicks and Ann Bish	Lorraine Aumic
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta and Nat Phipps	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy & Robert Allen, Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher