

**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.

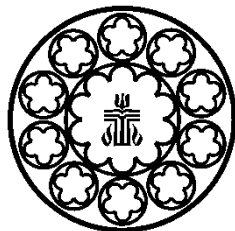
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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 14, 2016



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.

First Sunday in Lent

February 14, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE David A. Vredenburg, organ

Variations on What Wondrous Love is This

David P. Dahl

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Choral Call* Robert Campbell

* HYMN *In Christ Alone*

**In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No Pow'r of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls ne home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Beginning with prayerful silence...

Musical score for "Kyrie Eleison" in G major, 4/4 time. The score includes two systems of music with lyrics in Greek and English. The first system has the Greek text "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." and the English text "Lord, have mer - cy." The second system has the Greek text "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." and the English text "Lord, have mer - cy." The music is written for voice and piano accompaniment.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

(from the United Church of Canada)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is
creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word
made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the
Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live
with respect in Creation, to love and serve
others, to seek justice and resist evil, to
proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our
judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life
beyond death, God is with us. We are not
alone. Thanks be to God.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Land of Rest
Arr. Robert Powell

Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn out sins
and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend
and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,
and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

Claudia Hernaman (1838-98)

FIRST LESSON George Trimarco

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (pg 180)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 4:1-13 (pg 61)*

SERMON *Temptations of Bounty* Bill Levering

*HYMN *The God of Abraham Praise* #488

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The God of Abraham Praise
setting, Lynn Arthur Koch

*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 *What Wondrous Love Is This* #85

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

What Wondrous Love is This Wondrous Love

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

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:

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

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.

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.

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.

Music Notes

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Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Nat Phipps Trio

Feb 21: Peg Delaney Trio

Feb 28: Mike Lamkin, piano

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: Schenectady, Mayor Gary McCarthy

Feb 21: Basic Climate Science, Phil Falconer

Feb 28: Science & Religion, Kirk Wegter-McNelly

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.

Feb 14-21 Mission Trip no Youth Group Mtgs.

Please pray for the Mission Trip Participants while they work with refugees in Palermo, Italy.

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. Any child of Church School age is invited to join us.

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.

Church School

During the Lenten Season, Sundays will still have church school. However, on Palm Sunday and Easter, the children will remain in worship. Please also consider attending the Wednesday evening activities and service for Church School age children and their parents. Adam Mason & Jamie Ipsen have wonderful activities planned for your enjoyment! There will be small child care available in Kinderwyk during these times.

We will be discussing Lent in church school and the various activities that the children can engage in to be part of the Spirit of Lent and be closer to Christ. Please discuss these things at home with your children as well, so that they may share any family Lenten traditions that you already practice.

New Member Class

Dr. Levering leads a membership meeting which includes a tour of the church and a chat about who we are on the first Sunday of the month. It lasts 90 minutes and is held in the church office at 3pm. Next class March 6.

Faith Bookshop

In recognition of Heritage Month (Feb.), we have reduced the price of small framed pictures of First Reformed Church to \$12, plus tax, and are offering note cards featuring the stained glass windows in Poling Chapel at no charge.

Stitch Group

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

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Hope to see you at the new Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 7pm led by Paige Convis in Room 22. We are beginning in the book of Job.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic, 2305 Almeria Road.

Lenten Stewardship

For forty days, Jesus took stock of his life-- who he was and what he wanted to accomplish. We call this forty day period Lent. We are called in Lent to a special period of taking stock of setting priorities, of re-thinking what it means to be a steward of God's gift. May this holy season be a time for you to contemplate anew the many blessings of God and to respond to God by a generous giving of your very selves. Lenten blessings and peace to you.

Johnson Library

The season of Lent is upon us. On the display table today, you will find anthologies of prayers for the season and collections of daily readings, as well as compilations of church members' thoughts on various passages in the Bible. Look inside the grey jacketed folders to find out what others have gleaned from Bible texts in past years. One of the most commented-upon Bible texts of all time, the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, is the subject of a book with that title by Dale Allison.

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 service.

Horizons Bible Study

We meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Poling Conf. room. The study on Luke's gospel continues. This week will be the second half of chapter 5, with Barbara Walton leading. We will also take two weeks to cover chapter 6.

Tuesday Ladies – February 16

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. Please call Connie at 393-7061 for more info.

Fellowship Luncheon Program Change

Join us on Friday, **February 26** at 11:30am in Assembly Hall. We are so pleased that Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill, producing Artistic Director of Capital Repertory Theatre, will be sharing what is planned for the 2016-2017 Cap Rep Season.

Please come, bring a dish to share and enjoy our special program! Oh, and do bring a friend. Sign-up in Assembly Hall or call Sally Bestgen at 346-0304 or Amy Brule at 785-8201.

First Futures Feedback Session – Feb. 28

Our Children's Church Experience

Do you have concerns or are you excited about the future of our children's programs with respect to the building campaign? Come share your thoughts with the Youth Ed committee right after worship in Poling Conference Room.

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

Our fourth meeting is Sunday, **February 28**, at noon on the Mezzanine. We will finish up the book, covering chapters 5 & 6. Contact either Mary Alice Jewett or Jeanne Shoulder with any questions. Lunch will be provided.

Attendance Is Up! Refreshments Are Needed!

Please sign up in Assembly Hall. Thank you! Your participation means so much.

Kids Cooking is Back!

Wednesdays 4-5pm on school days at State Street Presbyterian Church. Adult help needed.

Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays, February 17 – March 16

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Lenten Programs

8pm ~ Lenten Evening Worship

Dinner

Dinners will be simple-but-hearty meals with provisions for vegetarian and vegan diners. To help cover the cost of the dinners a free will offering (\$5 per person/\$10 per family) is requested from those able to contribute.

Programs

To begin our spiritual journey to Easter Sunday on March 27 the Adult Education and Nurture Committee will be sponsoring three group programs, weekly worship services, and dinners.

Activities for children will be provided by the Youth Education and Nurture Committee.

Childcare will be available in Kinderwyk.

Lenten Evening Worship

Following class and before heading home, join others for an abbreviated service of song, communion, and prayers.

Lenten Volunteers Needed

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 Marilyn Leach at 374-1022 or marilyn.leach64@gmail.com.



Jesus in Jerusalem

A book study led by Covenanter and Pastoral Intern, Paige Convis, *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem*. Books (\$11) and reading assignment for Feb. 17 still available in the Faith Bookshop.

Science and Religion

FRC member Norm Kuchar will speak about:

Feb. 17: *Church & Galileo*

Feb. 24: *Church & Darwin*

Union College Visiting Professor of Science and Religion, Kirk Wegter-McNelly

March 2, 9, 16: *Faith & Physics: Duet or Duel?*

History Class

Presented by the Archives & Historical Concerns Committee. Charting Our Historical Voyage; Five Notable Ministers of our Congregation.

Feb 17: Paul Gorgen, a local researcher will speak about our 2nd minister, Domini Bernardus Freerman, in a presentation *Mohawks of Schenectady: First Nation, First Families – Members of First Reformed*.

Feb. 24: Joe Doolittle will tell of our 7th minister, Domini Dirck Romeyn, in *Frontier Collaborator – Forming a New Nation*.

March 2: The Rev. William Elliot Griffis, D.D., L.H.D., played again by James Gonda, will be interviewed by Caroline Welch asking *16 Intriguing Questions for Our 16th Pastor*.

Lenten Series For Kids

Join the Wonderful Wednesday Wackers in the music office after dinner each Wednesday during Lent. Adam Mason and Jamie Ipsen will be teaching the group rhythms, riffs, and improvs using the Boomwackers and Orff instruments. They hope to perform several spiritual and contemporary songs at the completion of the series. Regular attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. No musical experience is needed.

Sunday, February 14

10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:15 am First Forum
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, February 15**Office Closed – President’s Day****Tuesday, February 16**

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 10:00 am Horizons Bible Study
 7:00 pm Evening Bible Study

Wednesday, February 17

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
 1:00 pm Thursday Belles

Wednesday, February 17, continued

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner
 7:00 pm Lenten Classes
 8:00 pm Lenten Service

Thursday, February 18

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

Sunday, February 21

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:15 am First Forum
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Cathy Lewis and Therese McCarty	George Trimarco and Carol Troost
Greeters	Norma & Dale Brown Marlene Risseeuw	Joanne & Kip Arnold Carol & Dave Schweizer
Flower Delivery	Cynthia Hamilton and Ellie Rowland	Carol DeLaMarter
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Bill Clock
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	George Davidson, Phil Falconer, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Joyce & Jerry Griggs	George Davidson, Mary Jewett, Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Peggy King, Barbara Walton
Reader	George Trimarco	Jim Miller
Refreshments		Ann Bish and Ann Hicks
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta & Nat Phipps	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright