

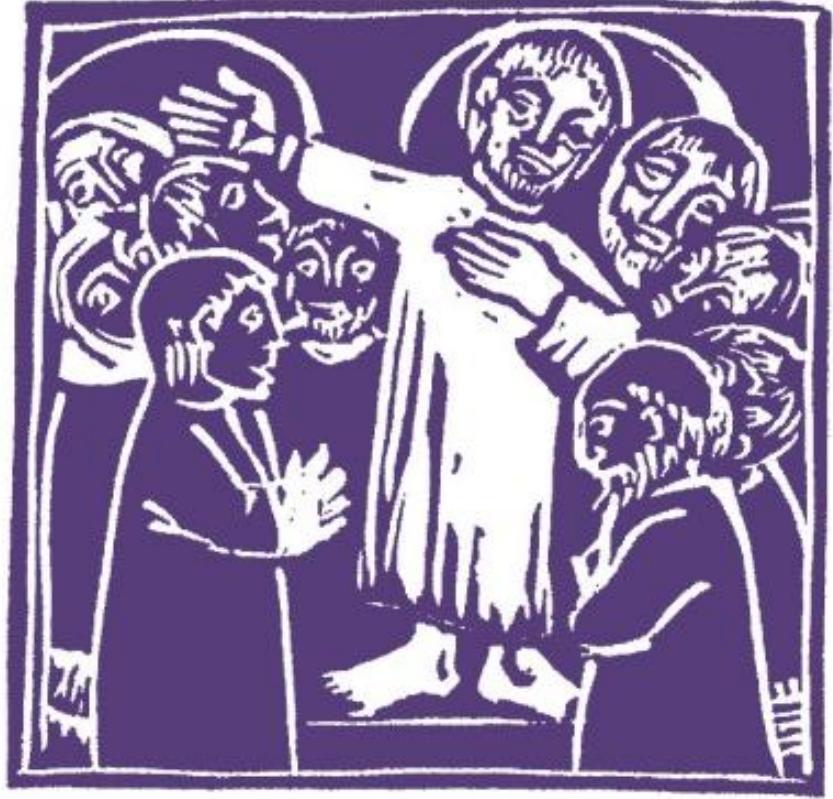
**The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962**

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.

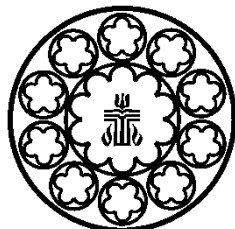
Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly 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.



woodcut by Helen Siegl

February 21, 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.

Second Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin
Sten Isachsen, guitar

Sonata in D Major for Guitar & Violin 1796
Carlo Cannobio (1741-1822)

Larghetto-Allegro
Minuetto: Allegretto

Sonata in A Minor for Guitar & Violin
Fandango con Variazioni: Andantino
Allegretto

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Create in Me a Clean Heart*
John Erickson

* HYMN *Micah 6:8*

God has shown you... **God has shown you**
O people ... **O people**
What is good and what the Lord
requires of you:

But to do justice... **But to do justice**
And to love mercy... **And to love mercy**
And to walk humbly with your God.

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Beginning with silent prayer...

Greek Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
English Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*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

All the Day Long K. Lee Scott

Show me your ways; teach me your paths;
guide me in truth; instruct my heart.
You are my God and Savior strong;
for your my soul waits all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your loving kindness
and tender mercies,
for they are ever of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth,
nor my transgressions;
according to your mercy,
Lord, remember me.

Psalm 25: 4-8

FIRST LESSON

Jim Miller

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalm 27:1-3 (pg 503)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 13:31-35 (pg 77)*

SERMON

Prophetic Clarity, Courage, Lament, & Longing

*HYMN *God of the Prophets* tune: TULON

**God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs!
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast:
Each age for your own solemn task prepare;
Make each one stronger, nobler than the last.**

**Anoint us prophets! Teach us your intent:
To human need our quickened hearts awake;
Fill us with power, our lips make eloquent
For righteousness that shall all evil break.**

**Anoint us priests! Help us to intercede
With all your royal priesthood born of grace;
Through us your church presents in word and deed
A living sacrifice with thanks and praise.**

**Anoint us leaders; doing justice, Lord!
Enflame us with your Spirit freely known:
Ours not a monarch's crown or tyrant's sword;
But loving kindness ever humbly shown.**

**Make us apostles, heralds of your cross;
Forth may we go to tell all realms your grace:
By you inspired may we count all but loss,
And stand at last with joy before your face.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Crane Dance Ludovico Einaudi (b. 1955)

*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 *God of Grace and God of Glory* #420

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen

Greek

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Margaret Sager – 2/17/16

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.

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.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Peg Delaney Trio

Feb 28: Mike Lamkin, piano

Mar 6: Nat Phipps Trio

Thanks Be To God For Our Fellowship!

Please join us immediately after service in Assembly Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Music Notes

Micah 6:8, Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing. Used by permission. CCLI #11256325.

Our first stanza of our second hymn, *God of the Prophets* was written by a former minister of FRC, Rev. Dennis Wortman; stanzas 2, 4, & 5 have been altered since then; stanza 3 was written by Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1981. Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Used by permission. 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: Basic Climate Science, Phil Falconer

Feb 28: Science & Religion, Kirk Wegter-McNelly

Mar 6: Genghis Khang, Islam in Schenectady

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.

Kids Cooking is Back!

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

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.

Fellowship Luncheon - February 26

Join us on Friday, Feb. 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.

Winter Frolic February 27

The Membership and Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a Winter Frolic at Indian Meadows Park (off of Droms Road in Glenville) on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 3-5pm. Activities are dependent on weather conditions. Possible activities include: cross country skiing, sledding, skating, hiking and/or a bon fire. Hot chocolate and light refreshments will be provided. Please sign-up in Assembly Hall.

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.

The Short-Short Writing Group – Feb. 24

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

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.

Call for Submissions

The Beverwyck Anthology is now accepting submissions for its March 2016 issue. The deadline is February 29. Submissions should be appropriate for a church publication. Please email submissions to Rudy and Kathy Petersen, Editors-in-Chief, at thebeverwyck@gmail.com.

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.

Horizons Bible Study

We meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Poling Conference room. The study on Luke's gospel continues as we take 2 weeks to cover chapter 6.

Tuesday Ladies

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.

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**.

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. The next service is Friday, **March 11**.

SICM Food Pantry Needs Volunteers

Can you help?!? The SICM food pantry is looking for volunteers who are able to commit to helping at the pantry 1 day a week or every other week from 9am to 12pm to help distribute groceries to our pantry guests. Volunteering for the pantry is a great way to serve your community and to spend time with a fun group of people. Please contact Shelly Ford 346-4445 or sford@sicm.us or Ellie Rowland 250-4302 for more information on this and other volunteer opportunities at the SICM food pantry.

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 Schedule

Wednesdays, through 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 is sponsoring 3 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) are available in the Faith Bookshop; check with Paige for reading assignment.

Science and Religion

Feb. 24: *Church & Darwin*

Presented by FRC member Norm Kuchar

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

Union College Visiting Professor of Science and Religion, Kirk Wegter-McNelly leads this exploration.

History Class

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

Feb. 24: Joe Doolittle will tell of our 7th minister, Domine 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*.

March 9: Author and Daily Gazette Reporter Bill Buell will discuss his research on the life of our 19th minister, the Rev. George R. Lunn, D.D. in *The Socialist Takeover of Schenectady*

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 Boomwhackers 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 21

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 22

9:00 am Mens Newsgroup
 7:00 pm Creation Care Mtg

Tuesday, February 23

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

Wednesday, February 24

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner
 7:00 pm Lenten Classes
 7:00 pm The Short-short Writers Group
 8:00 pm Lenten Service

Thursday, February 25

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

Friday, February 26

11:30 am Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, February 28

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Church School K-5
 11:00 am Refreshments
 11:00 am Youth Ed. Feedback Session
 11:15 am First Forum
 12:00 pm JAC Book Club
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	George Trimarco and Carol Troost	Claire Hughes and Bill Rochelle
Greeters	Joanne & Kip Arnold Carol & Dave Schweizer	Barbara Walton Jeanette & Don Davidson
Flower Delivery	Carol DeLaMarter Cathy & Elizabeth Barker	Bill Clock Larry & Faye Phillips
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Linda Witkowski
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Paige Convis
Processing Elders	Richard Rose, Mary Jewett, Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Peggy King, Barbara Walton	George Davidson, James Gonda, Liz Mastriani, Bill Rochelle, Maria Todd, Bill Ward
Reader	Jim Miller	Liz Mastriani
Refreshments	Ann Bish and Ann Hicks	Liz Mastriani
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Joe Gallagher, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Doug Todd, Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan