

***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.

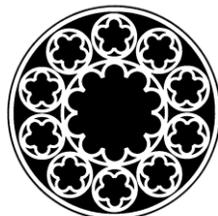
It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

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.



July 2, 2017



*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 children through age four is available from 9:45am until noon Downstairs in Friendship Hall.

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 in the Walton House.

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. Those in grades K-2 are welcome to join church school after children's message.

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 Dirck Romeyn room 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 usually posted at 1stReformed.com after a few days. Live streaming is also available there.

Lost and Found

If you have lost or misplaced an item at church, please check the basket found in the Narthex located at the front of the church.

Columbarium

The Columbarium will remain open during construction except during asbestos mitigation.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Johnny Willis, tenor, harmonica, dobro, guitar
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harp

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Trad. Irish, arr. Ray Pool

Give Me Your Hand

Trad. Irish, arr. Kim Robertson

Be Thou My Vision

Trad. Irish, arr. Nancy Hurrell

Ashokan Farewell

Jay Unger

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Bill Levering

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN *Comfort, Comfort You My People* #3

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

God of Mercy, you call us to be your servant people, but too often we have gone our own way, hoping to avoid your claim on our lives. We have not always trusted your good news to be good for us. We have allowed the empty distractions of the world to draw us from our best efforts in life. Have mercy on us, O God, and in your love forgive us and set us free to respond to your call that brings out our best. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle, lu-jah!
Hallelujah! Halle-lu-jah!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed - Ecumenical version

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. Johnny Willis, Sunita Staneslow

FIRST LESSON *Psalm 145:8-14* (pg 581)

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

Amen.

Therese McCarty

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (pg 11)

SERMON

Bill Levering

The Lights Burden

*HYMN

#408

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Simple Gifts*

Elder Joseph, arr. Sylvia Woods

*DOXOLOGY

#592

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION and PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and
praise!**

SANCTUS (*unison*) Carl Steubing

**Holy, holy Lord God of Hosts, heav'n
and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be
to Thee O Lord, most high.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

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** *Battle Hymn of the Republic*

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the
coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the
grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his
terrible swift sword.
God's truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory, glory hallelujah!

Glory, glory hallelujah!

Glory, glory hallelujah!

God's truth is marching on.

God has sounded forth the trumpet that
shall never call retreat
and is sifting out all human hearts before
the judgment seat;

O be swift, my soul, to answer; O be
jubilant my feet!

Our God is marching on. [Refrain]

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born
across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures
you and me;

as he died to make us holy, let us live to
make all free,
while God is marching on. [Refrain]

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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 eternal rest
in previous years about this time:

*Marjorie Frick, Belle Kozak, Glenn Winchester,
Dorothy Sanderson, Chuck Greskovich,
Linda Malgieri*

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 Celebration

The chancel flowers today are placed in the
sanctuary to the glory of God and in celebration
of Marlene Risseuw's Birthday.

Music Notes

Halle, Halle. Marty Haugen, John Bell. GIA
Publications. OneLicense #700-700.

**The available restrooms are now down one
flight of steps at the rear of the sanctuary.
There is a chair assist available there as well.**

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

Sign up for flowers in the church office where you can choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. 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 Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Youth Group

All youth entering sixth grade to those who just graduated twelfth grade are welcome to join us for any summer events. Our next event is on July 15. Join us for a trip up to Lake Placid for a day at the beach. We'll be cooking out and spending time on the water. We'll leave around 10am and be back around 5pm. Please RSVP soon so we can plan on drivers and food. Questions? Email Jonathan at RevJonathan16@gmail.com.

Summer Lunches

1st Reformed members will be serving lunches to children at the Yates Housing Community the month of August. The SICM lunch menu will be different this year in hopes of better serving the needs of the children. The sign-up schedule for helpers is in the Dirck Romeyn room or you can call the church office at 377-2201.

Support & Care

HELP! If you are able to occasionally provide a meal for members who are recuperating or who are homebound, please let us know. Contact: Kim Burgoyne at 399-1337 or Vickie McGowan-Horan at 852-0113.

Kerygma Summer Talks and Treks

Join a jovial band of those committed to continuing to gather and grow year-round for any of the scheduled conversations and off-site explorations! The lineup includes: a day visit to New Skete Monasteries, July 12; a talk about Intentional Christian Communities, July 26, 9:30-11am; a visit to the Bruderhof, August 23. Contact Rev. Carlson to participate in one or more of these summer educational opportunities.

Thrills in the Catskills

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a hike to Mt. Windham on July 22. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am. This trek is a gentle climb with spectacular views of the Hudson River Valley. RSVP to James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com or 607-765-5349.

July and August Pot Luck Lunches

If you're open to hosting a potluck on Sundays directly after church at your home, let James Gonda know at jgonda12309@gmail.com Please also indicate which Sunday(s) you're available.

Reminder

Greeting visitors to our church is joyful work. The apostle Paul wrote, "Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7) Thank you for showing kindness to strangers in our midst.

Sunday Refreshments

Please consider picking a Sunday in June, July or August to bring in treats of your choice for all to enjoy. Contact Gay Doolittle 399-0499 or Overdoo@msn.com with your choice of Sunday.

Johnson Library

The Johnson Library has added several new books to it's shelf. In *Crossing the waters*, Leslie Fields tells us how to better understand the biblical stories of the fishermen-disciples of the New Testament. Kenneth Woodward in *Getting religion* looks at how religion came to be a contentious factor in the twenty-first century. *Hidden Figures* by Margot Shetterly tells the story of the black female mathematicians who helped NASA send men into space. Elizabeth Rosenthal writes a history of the crisis of American health care in *An American Sickness*. Benjamin Doolittle (son of Joe & Gay Doolittle) shares a collection of sermons from the viewpoint of a Physician-Pastor in his book, *From the pulpit to the bedside*. Also, take home a copy of *The Christian Century*, a periodical whose mission statement is "Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully".

Sunday, July 2

10:00am Worship
 10:00am Communion
 10:15am Church School K-5
 5:00pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, July 3

9:00am Men's News Group

Tuesday, July 4

Office Closed

7:00pm Short Short Writing

Sunday, July 9

10:00am Worship
 10:15am Church School K-5
 5:00pm Jazz Vespers

Coming Up				
See the newsletter or call the church office for more information				
Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
July 12	9:30am	Kerygma	Visit New Skete Monasteries; contact Rev. Carlson to participate.	Offsite
July 15	10am	Youth Group	Day Trip to Lake Placid	Offsite
July 22	9am	Thrills in the Catskills	The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a hike to Mt. Windham, RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.	Offsite
July 26	9:30am	Kerygma	A talk about Intentional Christian communities; contact Rev. Carlson.	Dirck Romeyn
Aug 23	9:30am	Kerygma	A visit to the Bruderhof; contact Rev. Carlson to participate.	Offsite

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Mike Lamkin, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums	Wayne Hawkins, piano duo with Linda Brown, bass
Bookshop/Heritage	Christina Jones	
Counting Deacons	Therese McCarty, Brad Lewis	Sarah Bachorik, Matt Jones
Greeters		Ken Roinos, Ruth Roinos
Flower Delivery	Sarah Howes Christina & Matt Jones	Lauren Cleworth, Daryl & Cathleen Wisniewski
Preacher	Bill Levering	Abby Norton-Levering
Processing Elders	Jeanette Davidson, Brad Lewis, Catherine Lewis	Birdie Blackmer, Peggy King, Kitty Trimarco, Barbara Walton
Reader	Therese McCarty	Peg Miller
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Jacob Etkin, Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler, Nancy Wainwright	Del Pierce (head usher), Michael Horan, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Christine Lund, Carol Troost

Quotes

Stay away from lazy parasites, who perch on you just to satisfy their needs, they do not come to alleviate your burdens, hence, their mission is to distract, detract and extract, and make you live in abject poverty.” — Michael Bassey Johnson

“The pain of the narcissist is that, to him, everything is really a threat. What doesn't surrender in reverence is blasphemous to a high opinion of oneself - the burden of self-importance. The narcissist reconstructs his own law of gravity which states that all things and all creatures must adhere to his personal satisfaction, but when they do not, the pain is far more intense than it is for one who is free from the clamors of 'I'.” — Criss Jami, Killosophy

“Thy will be done, my Lord. Because you know the weakness in the heart of your children, and you assign each of them only the burden they can bear. May you understand my love—because it is the only thing I have that is really mine, the only thing that I will be able to take with me into the next life. Please allow it to be courageous and pure; please make it capable of surviving the snares of the world.” — Paulo Coelho, *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept*

“When you're truly awesome, you know that it's actually a burden and wish day after day to be relieved of such a curse. Think of about 95% of the superheroes.” — Criss Jami, *Diotima, Battery, Electric Personality*

“Kill what you can't save, what you can't eat throw out, what you can't throw out bury, what you can't bury give away, what you can't give away you must carry with you, it is always heavier than you thought.”
— Margaret Atwood, *You are Happy*

“Now you know how badly someone wanted you, Charley. Children forget that sometimes. They think of themselves as a burden instead of a wish granted.”
— Mitch Albom, *For One More Day*

“He said, one time, that no true leader burdened his followers with a greater load than they could carry, and no true leader sets too fast a pace for his follows to keep up.” — Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

“Tell 'em to God. Don' go burdenin' other people with your sins. That ain't decent.”
— John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*

“Sometimes we have to soak ourselves in the tears and fears of the past to water our future gardens.” — Suzy Kassem, *Rise Up and Salute the Sun: The Writings of Suzy Kassem*

“One's days were too brief to take the burden of another's errors on one's shoulders. Each man lived his own life and paid his own price for living it.”
— Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

“I was coming to see the heavier your heart got, the strongest you had to be to keep carrying it around.”
— Alexandra Bracken, *In The Afterlight*

“Was memory always as much of a burden as it could sometimes be a blessing.”
— Mary Balogh, *Simply Magic*

“To be relieved of love, she thought, was to give up a terrible burden.”
— Anita Shreve, *The Pilot's Wife*

First Reformed Church

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.

THE CONSISTORY

MINISTERS

Bill Levering, Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister
Jonathan Vanderbeck, Interim Minister of Youth and Outreach

OFFICERS

James Gonda, Amy Brule, Senior Elders
Catherine Lewis, Treasurer
Joanne Bedell, Clerk

ELDERS

Joanne Arnold
Amy Brule
James Gonda
Marilyn Leach
Brad Lewis
Liz Mastrianni
Del Pierce
Jeanne Shoulder
Barbara Walton
Caroline Welch

DEACONS

Sarah Bachorik
Andy Chestnut
Fred Daniels
Lyn Gordon
Dave Hjelmar
Christina Jones
Matt Jones
Peter Ontkush
Richard Rose
Ralph Rosenthal

MISSIONERS

Isaiah Teeling, Home Furnishings
Anthony Turner, Habitat for Humanity
Nicole Margiasso, Patty's Place
Chris Li, Roots & Wisdom

CHURCH STAFF

Julie Panke, Music Director
Avery Tunningley, Organist
Corine Salon, Artistic Coordinator
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music
Dorothy Linder-Mitchell, Interim Children's Ministry Director
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator
Jani Pittman, Office Assistant
Nancy Marie Mohammadi, Evening Coordinator
Lyn Gordon, Sunday Receptionist
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor
Diana Wahid, Housekeeper
Isha Amzad, Housekeeper
Dave Bogatka, Maintenance
Tom Mahan, Sexton