

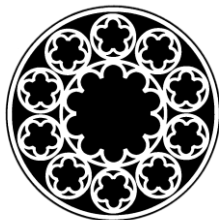
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



August 20, 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.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2017

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

10:00 a.m.

GREETING

Bill Levering

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN

#263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O God, you know us completely. You know how we have failed to both love you above all others, and love our neighbors as ourselves. You know how we have failed to be faithful members of Christ's body. You know how we have failed to expect, embrace and employ your Spirit's gifts for the common good. O God, in your complete knowing and unfailing love, forgive us, we pray.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**God welcomes all!
Strangers and friends!
God's love is strong
And it never ends! (2x)**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed – Traditional version
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of

God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 67 (pg 529)

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

Amen.

Barbara Walton

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Romans 11:1-2, 29-32 (pg 160)

SERMON

Bill Levering

Irrevocable

*HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

#361

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*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

Lift High the Cross

#371

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Elyne Schulte – 8/16/17

Service will be held on August 26 at 11am

Music Notes

God Welcomes All. John Bell. ©2008 GIA Publishing. OneLicense #700-700.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Norma Knapp Peterson by her daughter Ann.

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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

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:

Anne Marie Buchanan, John Herring, Beth Herring, Frances Shuey

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.

Church Meeting – Today

After worship, we will gather to talk in very broad terms about the next steps for our professional staff and our music program. All members are invited. No decisions will be made but committees might be formed.

Vacation Bible School

Wednesdays August 23 and 30 from 5-7pm (we will have a break for pizza at 5:30) upstairs from the office. Come play some games, listen to some stories, make some crafts and more! Open to ages 4 and older. You are encouraged to bring a friend.

Bible Sunday – September 24

Any child in 3rd grade or higher that has not received a Bible, will be presented with one during worship on Sunday, September 24. Please let Dorothy Linder-Mitchell know.

Preparatory Communion Celebration Class

The Children's Preparatory Communion Celebration Class will be taught by Pastor Daniel on Sunday, September 24 from 11:15-12:15pm in the Walton House. Communion Class is offered to our Third Graders and any older children who are anxious to learn about the Lord's Supper. This class will prepare them to participate in World Communion Day on Sunday October 1. Please contact the church office if you'd like your child to participate or if you have any questions.

Kinderwyk & Church School Volunteers Needed!

Come get to know the youth of our church by volunteering in Kinderwyk or Church School as a teacher or an assistant! Our church is your family, support the education of our youngsters. Senior High Youth are encouraged to volunteer too, just need to be at least 14 years old. Fill out your information on the sign-up forms in the Narthex, table by the Dirck Romeyn room, the church office or contact Dorothy Linder-Mitchell at 1stReformedEducation@gmail.com or 518-281-5673.

Youth Group Call for Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering for youth group this coming fall as a youth leader or would be willing to host the youth group for an evening or make snacks, please contact Pastor Jonathan. You will be notified about a volunteer meeting to be held near the end of the summer.

Columbarium Accessible on Sundays

Those wishing to visit the columbarium during construction may do so on Sunday mornings from 11-11:30am. Our sexton, Tom Mahan will be stationed at the church office entrance to provide safe passage to the columbarium during this time.

Healing Moments – Aug 22

A community conversation on issues involving refugee, immigration and Diversity, to build trust and heal divisions. When? Tuesday, August 22 from 10am-12pm. Located at the Islamic Center of the Capital District, 21 Lansing Road N, Schenectady 12304. Please RSVP by August 17 with Mary Rozak, (518)447-7218 or Mary.Rozak@albanycountyny.gov. Ample parking available.

Kerygma Summer Talks and Treks – Aug 23

Join the jovial group of those committed to continuing to gather and learn year-round for a final off-site exploration: a day visit to a Bruderhof Community in the Hudson Valley, August 23. Contact Rev. Carlson to participate.

Thrills in the Catskills continues – Aug 26

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a hike to Huckleberry Point on Saturday, August 26, a 2.4 mile trek up on moderate terrain. The Guidebook states: “One of the truly magnificent views in the Catskills.” Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9 AM. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Church Picnic – September 10

All invited, please bring a dish to share, enough for 10 – 12 adults. A – R side dish or salad, S – Z dessert. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and cold drinks. Also volunteers are needed for set-up before the picnic and breakdown /clean-up after the picnic. Sign-up at the church office.

Living History and Family Fun – Sept 17

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a trip to the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome on Sunday, Sept. 17, directly after church. The show starts at 2pm; Admission is \$25 for ages 18-64; \$20 for military and 65+; \$12 for youth 6-17; 5 and under, free. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Updated Church Directory

Updated issues of the directory will be coming out in September. Please submit a photo of yourself to 1streformedpub@gmail.com if we do not already have one or wanted to add an updated one. If you have had any address or phone number changes since prior years or wanted to make sure something was changed, please contact church office by August 27.

Support & Care

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.

An Opportunity To Serve

Snack Facilitator - duties include coordinating the after-worship treats in the Dirck Romeyn room. A tasty job that promotes fun and fellowship. Contact James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed for Stockade Walkabout

Each Walkabout First Reformed Church opens its doors to the community during the Stockade Walkabout. This year's Walkabout is Saturday September 23. One theme of this year's event is "transformation". FRC has lots of stories to share including the history of six church buildings, founding of Union College and current building project to serve the future. We are in need of volunteers to greet and share stories in the sanctuary, Dirck Romeyn and Heritage room and Mohawk House. If you can participate for two hours between 11-5 pm, please sign-up in Dirck Romeyn room or by calling church office. Questions contact Carol DeLaMarter or Laura Lee.

Casting Call

The Archives and Historical Concerns Committee is sponsoring a play reading on Sunday, Oct. 29 and needs voice actors. No memorization required! This post-Civil War drama calls for seven men and one woman. Please contact James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Where Do I Put The Garbage?

There's now assistance in figuring out what goes where when you are done with it: three dimensional signage is affixed to the three distinct bins in the Dirck Romeyn room. The big green container is a compost bin; the medium blue container is a recycle bin, and the place of last resort is the smallest receptacle of all: a gray trash bin. Our Compo-pros are on hand each such Sunday to assist us in doing what is right with what we use when we're done with it. Thanks for doing your part in taking better care for God's creation.

New Edition of Beverwyck

The fourth edition of The Beverwyck Anthology, First Reformed's literary magazine, is printed and bound and awaiting your perusal. Complimentary copies are in the Archives Room /Bookstore and on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Get Ready To Change The Way You Dial

Starting this summer, all telephone calls made in our area code will require the person making the call to include the area code when dialing. Why? Because the number of phone numbers available in our area are running out, a new area code (838) is being added to the area currently served by 518. This is known as an area code overlay. As of August 19th of this year, you will HAVE to dial the area code or the call will not be able to be completed.

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.

Time is the most
valuable thing that we
have, because it is the
most irrevocable

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Coming Up				
See the newsletter or call the church office for more information				
Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Aug 20	11am	Church Meeting	We will talk in broad terms about the next steps for our professional staff & our music program	Dirck Romeyn
Aug 23	5pm	Vacation Bible School	Crafts, games, stories, music and more! Pizza will be provided at 5:30. For everyone ages 4 and up.	Sanctuary
Aug 23	6pm	Cords of Love	Kids Ukulele will meet every Wednesday. Open to kids ages 8-16 are welcome. Free pizza at 5:30pm.	Sanctuary
Aug 23	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesday evenings till 8pm No experience is needed. Call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Sanctuary
Aug 23	9:30am	Kerygma Talk	Visit to the Bruderhof; contact Rev. Carlson.	Off-site
Aug 23	7pm	Contemplative Worship	Guitar-accompanied songs, guided meditation on Scripture, communion & prayers.	Sanctuary
Aug 26	9am	Thrills in the Catskills	Hike to Huckleberry. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am. RSVP to James Gonda at 607-765-5349 or jgonda12309@gmail.com.	Offsite
Sept 1	7pm	Avery Presents	We will be showing the 1927 silent movie "The General" starring Buster Keaton with live piano accompaniment by Avery Tunningley.	Sanctuary
Sept 10	11am	Church Picnic	All are welcome for a time of fun, food, and fellowship! Please bring a dish to share.	Church

“He sighed deeply: to fall in love at first sight with this malodorous sleeping girl, with, as far as he could see, no pretensions to beauty or even good looks, was something he had not expected. But falling in love, he had always understood, was unpredictable, and, as far as he was concerned, irrevocable That they hadn't exchanged a word, nor spoken, made no difference. He, heart whole until that minute, and with no intention of marrying until it suited him, had lost that same heart.” — Betty Neels

“I keep having this fantasy about some wide river or channel I'm on the bank of. I can look up, and on the far side is another, better self, holding hands with Mercer—that's his name, my ex—and both of them are watching me flail over here, watching me from the life I'm supposed to have had. When did it become impossible to get there from here? When did that bridge get burned?” — Garth Risk Hallberg, *City on Fire*

“...true love is an irrevocable act - you can only give your heart away once - after that, you give as much as you have left ...” — John Geddes, *A Familiar Rain*

“In the past, nothing is irretrievably lost, but rather, on the contrary, everything is irrevocably stored and treasured. To be sure, people tend to see only the stubble fields of transitoriness but overlook and forget the full granaries of the past into which they have brought the harvest of their lives: the deeds done, the loves loved, and last but not least, the sufferings they have gone through with courage and dignity. From this one may see that there is no reason to pity the old people. Instead, young people should envy them. It is true that the old have no opportunities, no possibilities in the future. But they have more than that: Instead of possibilities in the future, they have realities in the past -the potentialities they have actualized, the meanings they have fulfilled, the values they have realized -and nothing and nobody can ever remove these assets from the past.” — Viktor E. Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

Sunday, August 20

10:00am..... Worship
 10:15am..... Church School K-5
 11:00am..... Church Meeting
 5:00pm..... Jazz Vespers

Monday, August 21

9:00am..... Men's News Group

Tuesday, August 22

10:00am..... Morning Prayer
 11:00am..... Staff Meeting

Wednesday August 23

11:45am..... First Things Volunteers
 1:00pm..... Pastoral Team Meeting
 5:00pm..... Vacation Bible School
 5:30pm..... Cords of Love
 7:00pm..... Adults Summer Ukulele

Saturday, August 26

11:00am..... Schulte Service & Reception

Sunday, August 27

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

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums	Tim Olsen, Piano
Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Bill Clock
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes, Joan Lindsay	Gay Doolittle, Richard Gardner
Greeters	Peggy King	Vernetta Thuener
Flower Delivery	Peggy King, Barbara Walton	Joe & Gay Doolittle John & Karen Norton
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Barbara Walton, Darwin Brudos, Peggy King, Tom Lindsay	Birdie Blackmer, Keith Muse, Jerry Griggs, Joyce Griggs,
Reader	Barbara Walton	George Trimarco
Ushers	Michael Horan (head usher), Christine Lund, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Carol Troost	Alden Brown, Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin