

# Welcome to First Reformed Church

*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 in the room to the left of the front of the sanctuary after the service for coffee and refreshments.

## **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.

## **Child Care on Sunday**

Childcare for babies through age four is available between 10am and noon in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

## **Church School**

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 music and crafts. Other Sundays all children 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 on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs.

## **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.

## **Communion**

Our congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sundays of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

## **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 and are particularly encouraged to visit the Dirck Romeyn Room to the left of the sanctuary for five or ten minutes.

## **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.

## **Service Online**

A recording of each of our worship services is at [1stReformed.com](http://1stReformed.com) one or two days following the service.



\*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #579 *Glory Be to the Father* Gloria Patri

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(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.**

ANTHEM *The Lord is My Shepherd* Andrew Carter

The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth  
beside the waters of comfort.

The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of  
righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;  
Thy rod and staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:  
Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.  
But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

+ + **The Word of God** + + +

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Anne Putnam

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Ephesians 5:8-14 (page 194)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 9:1-41 (page 102)*

SERMON

*The Blindness of Pride*

Bill Levering

\*HYMN #339

*Be Thou My Vision*

Slane

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*A Lenten Meditation*

Douglas E. Wagner

Jesus, in thy dying woes, even while Thy lifeblood flows,  
craving pardon for thy foes: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May our hearts to Thee incline, looking from our cross to Thine;  
cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

When we seem in vain to pray, and our hope seems far away;  
In the darkness be our stay: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May we thirst Thy love to know; Lead us in our sin and woe  
where the healing waters flow: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

Brighten all our heav'ward way with an ever holier ray  
till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May Thy life and death supply grace to live and grace to die,  
grace to reach our home on high: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

\*DOXOLOGY #592 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*CROP Walk*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

Bill Levering

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

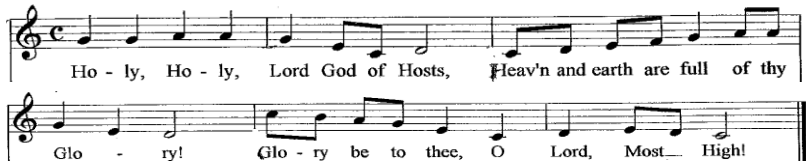
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*)

Carl Steubing



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy  
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

*After the choir comes forward, please quietly follow them down the center aisle starting from all the FRONT pews. Return by way of the side aisles. The servers will bring the elements to any who choose to remain seated.*

+ + + **The Response to God** + + +

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 #411 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* Festal Song

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen* Vincent Persichetti

\*POSTLUDE *Fugue in C Major* Johann Sebastian Bach

\*The congregation may stand.

**Easter Flowers**

Each Easter, members of Chancel Guild adorn our church with beautiful Easter Flowers. Your family can contribute to remember a loved one or honor a loved one. Please send your suggested donation of \$20 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309 and contact the Church Office with the

name of the person the flowers are in honor or memory of. Even if you have donated in previous years, please place an order for 2011 by Monday, April 18. Thank you.

## **Easter Offering**

The Mission & Benevolence committee has selected Roots and Wisdom, a youth agriculture and community program of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County, (CCE, SC) as the recipient of our Easter Offering. Roots and Wisdom's mission is to engage the diverse population of Schenectady County – particularly youth – in serving their community through the support of a sustainable local food system. The program inspires teens to improve their community by instilling a sense of purpose and accomplishment in their actions, and serves as a unifying force within Schenectady County.

Roots and Wisdom is eligible to receive matching gifts from corporations. For those of you who have access to gift matching, please make checks payable to **CCE, SC** and note Roots and Wisdom in the memo. For matching gifts, CCE, SC's Federal Tax I.D. number is: **146036884**. Otherwise, make them out to First Reformed Church with Easter offering – Roots & Wisdom in the memo line.

## **Celebratory or Memorial Flowers**

The Chancel Guild has a flower calendar for 2011 on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the sanctuary. We encourage you to choose an open date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event such as an anniversary, birthday or graduation. After signing up on the calendar, please inform the office of your wishes so records can be kept correctly. If the date you want is already taken, it may be possible to share the chosen date by consulting with the other donor. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for the two

bouquets unless something special is requested. You may send your check for \$30 payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

## **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 this congregation who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time: *Virginia Bard, Roberta Hambleton and Roy Peters*.

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please speak with one of our ministers or contact the church office.

## **Faith Bookshop**

The Bookshop recently received a catalogue from *The Thoughtful Christian*. It offers books on Christian living, religion and culture, spirituality, bible studies and more at greatly reduced prices. The titles are tantalizing (some even provocative), and many of the authors are well known in their field. This catalogue is available for your perusal on the table with our books relating to Lent. Please look it over, and if you find a book you would like The Shop to order for you, complete the relating order form and give it to the person at the Bookshop desk.

### **Johnson Library**

Harvey Cox, Professor of Divinity at Harvard, in his book, *The Future of Faith*, describes how religious people are shifting their focus to ethical guidelines and spiritual disciplines, not doctrine. His book describes how community and social justice are becoming the new goals. *Transforming Leadership* by Leighton Ford is directed to executives, pastors, and professionals who want to look at leadership in a new light. The book includes a study guide for groups and individuals. Betty Goldberg's *Traditional Jewish Cooking* offers recipes from soup to nuts. Find out how to make those dishes you have heard about but never tried.

The SICM food pantry is most grateful for the children's books we gave them, donated by members of our congregation. If you have children's books in good condition and no longer in use, bring them in. We will see that they get to SICM. They are placed in food bags picked up by Schenectady's needy families.

### **Post Service Refreshments**

There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall to bring goodies of any sort to share at Post Service with everyone. Please bring your food around 9:30am, unless it is already set up on a platter.

### **God in the News Bible Study**

Will break for the next several weeks. The class will resume May 1, the Sunday after Easter, returning to its original time slot of 11:15- 12pm. See you then!

### **First Forum**

Christine Horigan from Roots and Wisdom will speak about this locally popular program of youth development through gardening in Schenectady.

### **Vespers Every Sunday, 5 p.m.**

#### **Today – Jazz**

Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums, and special guest, Brain Patneau, sax

#### **April 10– Jazz**

Yuko Kishimoto, piano

#### **April 17 – Jazz**

Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

### **Youth Schedule**

Unless otherwise noted, the JHYG (grades 6-8) meets every Sunday at 5pm in Friendship Hall for dinner, games, and discussion. The SHYG (grades 9-12) meets every Sunday at 7pm in Friendship Hall for snacks, discussion, and games. Friends are always welcome.

**Today** - Regular meetings

April 10 - Regular meetings

April 17 - Regular meetings

April 24 - Easter, No youth meetings

### **Confirmation Class**

Meets every first and third Sunday through Pentecost, June 12 at 6:30pm in the Schermerhorn room.

### **Lenten Wednesday Schedule**

6pm Dinner, Assembly Hall

7pm Classes, Various Locations

8pm Contemplative Communion

Childcare provided by advance notice

### **Wednesday Lenten Dinners**

Everyone is invited to the simple yet sufficient Lenten suppers at 6pm on April 6, and 13 in Assembly Hall. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall for those willing and able to assist with the Lenten Dinners set up, food, and clean up.

### **Wednesday Classes Childcare**

If childcare is needed, we will provide this service. Please contact the office and let us know if your child or children will be needing care.

### **Wednesday Lenten Classes**

Three adult classes continue this Wednesday, 7-8pm. No registration is required.

Linda Witkowski, Wales Brown, and others lead conversations on the writings found in this year's Lenten Devotional composed by church members.

Bill Levering and the Justice Advocacy Committee lead:

April 6 – GLBT – Gay Doolittle

April 13 – Ecojustice

Ty Remington from General Electric will give a presentation/discussion on solar energy.

David Olsen, from the Samaritan Counseling Center, will lead *The Spiritual Work of Marriage*, based on his book of the same title-available in the Faith Bookshop!

### **Lenten Contemplative Communion**

At 8pm a brief service of prayer, song, silence, and communion, fitting for this season, will be shared in the candle lit sanctuary.

### **Music Highlights for Lent and Easter**

The fourth and fifth Sundays in Lent will feature two anthems by English composers sung by the Chancel Choir. Today, April 3 a wonderfully evocative version of the 23rd Psalm, *The Lord is My Shepherd* by Andrew Carter will be sung, and on April 10 the choir will sing John Ireland's *Greater Love Hath No Man*, one of the greatest English church anthems ever written.

On Palm Sunday our children and youth choirs will present *Hosanna, Loud, Hosanna* accompanied by organ and the Kirk Ringers, and the Chancel Choir will sing *Ride On* by Grayston Ives which is an alternative musical depiction of the text of the familiar hymn, *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*.

Maundy Thursday service participants will hear *When You Woke that Thursday Morning*, accompanied by guest flutist, Emily Peterson.

Our Easter anthems and hymns will be accompanied by brass quartet with the Tower Ringers joining the choir for the introit and the anthem, *Now the Green Blade Rises*, arranged to the French carol tune, *Noël Nouvelet*.

### **Group V**

"God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform...", as Group V is finding out in its study of the book, *God's Ordinary People*. On Monday, April 4, at 11am, we will meet for a short business meeting, followed by a discussion of the second chapter of the book with Mary Carlson leading the discussion. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverages will be provided. The Group V devotional books are available in the book shop and from Group V members; the books make useful and thoughtful gifts for any occasion.



## **Group VII**

On Friday, April 15 at 11:30am Group VII will meet for small lunches at the homes of Ronnie Bartholic, Mary Jewett, Gini McDermott and Connie Young.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Looking for something to do over Spring Break? Don't let your kids be bored! SPRING VBS will keep them busy with drama, songs, games & crafts. A healthy snack will be provided each day. VBS will meet April 18-22 from 3-5pm. Kids from 5 - 95 are welcome (helpers too!). Please call the church office to register 377-2201.

## **New member – Book Signing**

Sharon Swain is having a book signing at Open Door April 30. She has written the second in a series of children's books.

## **College Bound??**

Applications for the Rev. Al Smith Education Scholarship are available through the Church Office. Please submit your completed application to the Church Office by May 15th. Questions can be directed to Sara Erickson at 374-4161 or [ericksonhs@aol.com](mailto:ericksonhs@aol.com).

## **Wales Brown to Lead Book Review**

Wales Brown (Social Justice Committee of the First Reformed Church) will be co-leading a book review of *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*, written by Jack Rogers, 2009. Rogers is a Presbyterian Minister and Reformed theologian who spent years studying and researching the Church's discriminatory practices in regard to people that identify as Gay,

Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgendered (GLBT). Through his scholarly research and personal journey of exploration, Rogers helps readers to see how the hate-filled rhetoric of the debate about homosexuality clouds the central message of Christ's redemptive ministry. He has come to believe and shows readers how people of faith have not always had the information and support they need to counteract the inaccurate things they have been told about the Bible as it relates to people that are GLBT.

The classes will be held on Wednesday evenings May 4, 11, 18, 25 June 1, 8 and 15 from 7-8:30pm at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady. There is no fee for the class. Each person should have a copy of the book so that they can complete the readings for each week. The book was republished in 2009 and has an accompanying leader's guide that will be used to facilitate the group. You will need to reserve a space as the group is limited in size. You can call Wales Brown at 518-701-1927 or email [wbrown6@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wbrown6@nycap.rr.com) to make a reservation. Books will be available at the FRC Faith Bookstore or by making arrangements with Wales; books will also be available at Barnes & Noble at the Mohawk Commons.

## Holy Week Worship Schedule

17 – Palm Sunday, 10am  
 20 – Christian Seder, 6:30pm  
 21 – Maundy Thursday, 7:30pm  
 22 – Good Friday, 12pm  
 24 – Easter Sunday, 10am  
 24 – Easter Vespers, 5pm

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Communion Elders	Carrie & Bill Brooks	
Counting Deacons	Ellie Brudos & Joan Lindsay	
Faith Bookshop	Linda Witkowski	Veronica Bartholic
First Forum	Roots and Wisdom – Christine Horigan	Sexuality, the Bible and Church – Stacey Midge
Flower Delivery	Lorraine & Eugene Cox, Carol Troost	Chris & John Van Oort, Anne & Walter Robb
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin, Inge-Lise Pangburn
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Procession Elders	Ronnie Bartholic, Carrie & Bill Brooks, Art & Millicent Casey, Linda Ward	
Reader	Anne Putnam	Brad Lewis
Refreshments		Betty Bumgarner, Karen Dickson
Ushers	Darwin Brudos, Tom & Kim Burgoyne, Leah, Cathy Lewis, Joan Lindsay	Mike Beals (head usher), Karlyne Drimalas, Nelson Drimalas. Jeanne Shoulder, Griffin Laycock, Steve Breitenbach

## Calendar for the Week of April 3, 2011

Sunday April 3	9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Musical/HS Choir, Music Office Communion, Sanctuary Post Service Refreshments, Assembly Hall First Forum, Poling Chapel Kirk Ringers/Singers, upstairs - Room 20 Archives & Historical Concerns, Dirck Romeyn Room Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home Vespers, Poling Chapel JHYG, Friendship Hall Confirmation Class, Schermerhorn SHYG, Friendship Hall
Monday April 4	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	Men's News Group, Poling Conference Room Group V, Dirck Romeyn Room Klokken Ringers, Poling Conference Room Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday April 5	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel M&M Women's Bible Study, Lisa Etkin's Home
Wednesday April 6	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room Lenten Dinner, Assembly Hall Lenten Classes, Various Locations Lenten Communion Service, Sanctuary
Thursday April 7	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Stitching Group, Poling Conference Room Staff Meeting, Walton Conference Room Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Sunday April 10	9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Musical/HS Choir, Music Office Worship, Sanctuary Post Service Refreshments, Assembly Hall First Forum, Poling Chapel Kirk Ringers/Singers, upstairs - Room 20 Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home Vespers, Poling Chapel JHYG, Friendship Hall SHYG, Friendship Hall

***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.*



April 3, 2011

*We take our tottering  
steps to God  
as if they are our  
first  
full of fear and wonder*

*While God strides  
towards us  
catching us  
just  
in time*

*First Reformed Church*

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