

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 one or two days following the service.

Youth Sunday
May 22, 2011
Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

An Easter Alleluia (1928)

Gordon Slater

Organ Alleluia – Gelobt Sei Gott (1992)

Gilbert Martin

Christ ist erstanden

Johann Sebastian Bach

10:00 a.m.

+ + + **The Approach to God** + + +

GREETING

Stacey Midge

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT

God's Love Is All Around Us

Judy Hunicutt

Kirk Ringers

*HYMN #473

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

Elizabeth Gallagher

God of Easter joy, we confess that we have not always believed in the miracle of new life. We have kept others in the tomb of our own preconceptions. We have not believed that our lives can be transformed. We pray for Easter faith.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Halle Halle Halle

Ha lay ha lay ha lay loo yah. (3x)

Halleluia! Ha lay loo yah.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Apostles' Creed)* Aurora Phillips

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

MUSICAL OFFERING *Each Blade of Grass* Keri Wehlander
HS Choir

Each blade of grass, every wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.

Each laughing child, every gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.

Each silent paw, every rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.

Each fire-brimmed star, every out-stretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

Each icy peak, every patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.

Each cosmic hue, every creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Jacob Ettkin
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 58:6-10 (page 688)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *The Big Red Box* 6th-8th Graders

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 22:34-40 (page 25)*

SERMON Melinda Blinckmann

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

*HYMN *Love the Lord*

Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and all your soul and all your mind
and love all humankind
as you would love yourself

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
with all your soul and mind
and love all humankind

We've got Christian lives to live
we've got Jesus' love to give
we've got nothing to hide
because in God we abide

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Alleluia from Exsultate* Jubilate, K.165 Mozart
Youth Orchestra

*DOXOLOGY #592 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Nicholas Blinckmann

TEACHER RECOGNITION *Number One Teacher* Joanna Fluchs

We're happy that you are our teacher;
We enjoy each lesson you teach.
As our role model you inspire us
To dream and to work and to reach.

With your kindness you get our attention;
Every day you are planting a seed
Of curiosity and motivation
To know and to grow and succeed.

You help us fulfill our potential;
We're thankful for all that you have done.

We admire you each day,
and we just want to say,
As a teacher, you are number one!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Camila Grande

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 *Micah 6:8*

God has shown you (echo) O people (echo)
What is good and what the Lord requires of you. (2x)
But to do justice (echo) and to love kindness (echo)
And to walk humbly with our God. (2x)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Irish Blessing

Linda Spevacek
HS Choir

May the road rise up to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.

May rain fall softly on your fields, rain fall softly on your fields,
Until we meet again, until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.

*POSTLUDE *Organ Alleluia – O Filii et Filiae (1992)* Gilbert Martin

*The congregation may stand.

Thank you

To all the teachers who gave their time and energy to our church school children this year. They successfully took on a new curriculum which bestowed wonder and might upon the kids! We are thankful for the dedicated service of: Tani Breitenbach, Lorraine Cox, Sara & Hans Erickson, Jennifer Evans, Liz Gallagher, Becky Grande, Dave Hjelmar, Claire Hughes, Anna Ipsen (snack chef), Heather Ipsen, and Shannon Kerwin.

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: *William George, Frederick Junker, Ricard Lawton, Arthur Lord, Edmund Sanderson, Virginia Stare, and Martha Wallender.*

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.

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. 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.

Church Picnic - Today

After worship come and join the fun at the annual spring picnic sponsored by the Youth Education and Nurture Committee. We will provide burgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, and beverages for all. In addition to food and conversation, games will be available for the children.

Summer Sign-up Post Service

Beginning Father Day, June 19 whenever possible, our post service refreshments will be served in the garden. Won't you consider signing up for refreshments one of those Sundays? A sign-up sheet will be on the cold drink table in Assembly Hall with plenty of spaces for you to add your name. A sheet with "how to" suggestions will be there, too. Thanks!

Vespers Every Sunday, 5 p.m.

Today – Jazz

Peg Delaney, piano, Bill Delaney, bass; Tim Coakley, drums and Rick Rosoff, trombone

May 22 – Jazz

Yuko Kishimoto, piano

May 29 – Jazz

Peg Delaney, piano

June 5 – Jazz

Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

First Forum

Today - Church Picnic!

May 29 – Memorial Day – Coffee and Conversation

June 5 – Reflections on Christian-Muslim Relations – Genghis Khan

June 19 – Advocating for Youth at Risk – CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Cheryl Lavalle and Regina White, coordinators of the Schenectady CASA

First Forum - Next Season

Planning is ongoing: the aim of First Forum is to provide stimulus to the congregation on current events or issues important to the community and world at large, through informative presentations and conversation. First Forum is scheduled the first and third Sundays September to June allowing other Sundays to be available for other special interests, sermon feedback by our ministers, visiting dignitaries, youth and young person's ministries and sometimes just coffee and conversation. While we work with Adult Education and Nurture Committee, M&B and other committees, suggestions for programs are welcome from any member. Kindly contact Joe Doolittle at 384-1700 or aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com.

Faith Bookshop

You'll find books covering a wide range of topics in the Bookshop, and they are all priced at a 30% or better discount. You will also find note cards - including new ones as a part of the Talents for Talents project – aprons and totes with the FRC logo, candles from South Africa, and Bible related ceramic

pieces from Peru. As a special gift for yourself or anyone who loves FRC, consider the framed print of the church chancel or the church building. Prints are available unframed, too.

To learn more about our Talents for Talents project, see the Bookshop announcement in the May issue of First Things.

God in the News Adult Bible Study

Will not meet today. Class will resume on Sunday, June 5 at 11:15am in the Poling Conference Room.

Confirmation Class

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

Stitch Group

We will meet in May every Thursday at 10am in the Poling Conference Room. Our last meeting will be May 26. Everyone is welcome to join us for stitching and conversation. Coffee and tea are always on. No RSVP required.

New Book Discussion Group

Wales Brown a member of our Justice Action Council is co-leading a book review of *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*, written by Jack Rogers, 2009. Sessions started at FRC on Wednesday, May 4 and will continue on every Wednesday through June 15 from 7-8:30pm. Reservations are required; call Wales Brown at 701-1927 or email wbrown6@nycap.rr.com. Books are available at our Faith Bookshop or Barnes & Noble.

New Book Discussion Group

A study of *The Spirituality of Imperfection* (Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham) is led by David and Cheryl Olsen on five Wednesdays evenings, 7-8:30pm, beginning May 11 and concluding June 8. The book explores the power of stories to lead imperfect people (uh...that's all of us) to meaning and wholeness tapping into the wisdom of Alcoholics Anonymous. Get a copy of the book and join the conversation.

Wednesday Evenings in Eastertide

Each Wednesday, May 11 - June 8, a weekly pot-luck supper will be enjoyed in Assembly Hall from 6-7pm. Come whenever you want and bring whatever you have to this informal feast! Two new book discussion groups (see above) will follow the meal. A brief service of contemplative communion expressing our Easter joy will be held in the candlelit chancel at 8:30pm.

Faith with a Twist – May 26

This group, geared toward young adults in their 20s and 30s, meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Van Dyck Restaurant and Lounge for casual, open-minded conversation about faith, spirituality, God, and life. Participants need not be church members; in fact, we encourage people from a variety of backgrounds to attend and enliven our discussion! Please contact Stacey Midge if you have questions, would like to attend, or know someone who might like to receive an invitation.

Big Bike Ride June 5

Come join your fellow church members for a long afternoon of bike riding. We will depart from the church parking lot after worship and fellowship about noon to follow the Mohawk River to the Cohoes Falls. Here we will spend some serene time viewing the falls, perhaps spotting eagles and other birds. We will then continue through Cohoes and work our way to the bike path along the Hudson, cycling to the Albany Pump Station to enjoy some food and beverage. This is becoming a regular outing for us and is truly a beautiful ride.

For those who would like to double their pleasure, a group will ride back to the church following the same route. However, if a ride to Albany is enough adventure you can take a CDTA bus back to Schenectady. Bring whatever water and food you may want for the ride and some money for the Pump Station. No registration is required.

Storyteller - Marni Gillard

Presents "Granuaile: A Notorious Woman" at Proctors GE Theatre Sunday, June 5 at 7:30pm. You may recall the work produced by Joe Doolittle premiered at First Reformed last May.

Irish Catholic Grace O'Malley (1530-1603) plays a key role in Ireland's political struggle as Elizabeth I claims Gaelic lands, dismantles Brehon Law, and attempts to destroy Catholic beliefs. Grace, a chieftain's daughter, desperate to hold her clan-folk together, suffers imprisonment for 21 months, and then works as a conciliator, negotiating with the Queen. The two converse in Latin, the Church's language, which they both learned as girls. Original Irish music by

Tom O'Hare. Musicians include parishioners Ed and Nancy Munger. Tickets \$16. For information contact Joe Doolittle 399-0499 or go to <http://www.storycircleatproctors.org>

Group V

We will have our annual picnic on Monday, June 6, at the home of Charlotte Greenwood. A brief business meeting will begin at 11am, with lunch to follow. Co-hostesses are Barbara Landon and Ann Walraven. Group V devotional books are available in the bookshop or from Group V members.

Group VII

On Friday, June 17 at 11:30am Group VII will meet at the home of Carol Schweizer for our annual picnic. If there are any questions please contact Veronica Bartholic at 393-7679.

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday at 7:30pm at Connie Young's home All ladies are welcome. Please call Connie (393-7061) if any questions.

Wednesday Dialog

There will not be any Wednesday Dialog, June through September. Next meeting will be in October.

Consistory Meeting Date Change

Beginning in June standing committees will meet at 6:30pm, Consistory will meet at 7:30pm.

Summer Cultural Frolic

Come enjoy picnicking and watching the New York City Ballet on the lawn at SPAC on Saturday, July 16!

Where: We'll meet at the SPAC box office at 6:30pm to purchase lawn tickets for the ballet and then enjoy a

leisurely picnic on the grounds before the ballet begins at 8pm. The program will feature *Jewels*, a three-act ballet with music by Faure, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky and choreography by George Balanchine.

Cost: Lawn tickets are \$20 per person. Children 12 and under are admitted free onto the lawn when accompanied by an adult with a paid lawn ticket.

What To Bring: Bring your picnic food, lawn chairs, and blankets, etc.

How To Sign Up: Call 383-2167 or email (leah@upstateharpist.com) Leah Kidwell-Fernandes to sign up. Please provide a phone number at which you can be reached on the day of the event if the weather doesn't cooperate with our outdoor plans.

Carpooling: Those interested in carpooling to SPAC will meet at 5:45pm at the home of Leah Kidwell-Fernandes (4 Candiwood Ct. in Clifton Park).

CRTC Upcoming Programs

Thus Says the Lord: Listening to the Prophets, Old Testament II, with Rev. Dr. Beth Tanner, Niskayuna Reformed, Begins July 21, A Lay Theological Education Program 20-hour course.

Register online at www.capitalrtc.org or by phone at 518-462-2470. Watch our website for information on these and many other courses available in 2011. Scholarships and group discounts available for most classes; please contact us for an application.

Summer VBS

August 8 – 12 is **Psalm Trees** Summer Vacation Bible School. Each afternoon from 3 – 5pm there will be crafts, games, skits, readings and a healthy snack. Kids from ages 5-95 are invited to participate. Call the church office to register 377-2201. Helpers are also needed.

Purls of Wisdom

I would like to start a fellowship meeting in the evenings for those who can't join an already-established knitting/stitching group. We would be meeting one evening a week starting in September on a drop in basis. The actual day and time will be determined by the day/time that would work for the majority expressing an interest. If you are interested, please email Alida Rice (rice.alida@yahoo.com) with the best day/time for you. I will then pick the time that works best for the most people, and I'll email everyone that responds and also have it posted in the August First Things and in the Sunday bulletin before we start. The meeting will be in the Mezzanine, and coffee and tea will be available (and the possibility of snacks?) Needle-workers of all ages and experience levels are welcome to join. If you would rather bring other projects (cross-stitch, etc.) feel free to do so! I am looking for an opportunity for fellowship. Please come if you can!

Lost and Found

Found a blanket with an elephant on it. If this is yours you can find it in the Narthex on the counter by the entranceway.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Tom Burgoyne, Kim Burgoyne	Therese McCarty, Walter Yang
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Nancy Wainwright
First Forum	Church Picnic	Coffee & Conversation
Flower Delivery	Janet & Richard Gardner, Christine & Fred Daniels	Joan & Tom Lindsay, Heather & Andrew Chestnut
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell	Sarah Bachorik, Tani Breitenbach
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	
Preacher/ Youth Speaker	Melinda Blinckmann	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Christine Daniels, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Roberta Blackmer	Veronica Bartholic, Bob Beadle, Rob Dickson, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Phil Falconer,
Reader	Jacob Etkin	George Trimarco
Refreshments	Church Picnic	Diana & Jie Jie Bennett
Ushers	Del Pierce & Bill Clock (head ushers), Nicolas Blinckmann, Louis Acquasanta, Jeff Cox, William Faulkner	Mike Beals (head usher), Karlyne Drimalas, Nelson Drimalas, Jeanne Shoulder, Griffin Laycock, Steve Breitenbach

Calendar for the Week of May 22, 2011

Sunday May 22	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
	9:15 a.m.	Musical/HS Choir, Music Office
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Church Picnic, Outside
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel
Monday May 23	9:00 a.m.	Men's News Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:30 p.m.	Creation Care Committee, Mezzanine
	7:45 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday May 24	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Wednesday May 25	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Evening Pot-Luck, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Book Discussions, Various Locations
	8:30 p.m.	Contemplative Communion, Sanctuary
Thursday May 26	10:00 a.m.	Stitching Group, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
Sunday May 29	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:30 a.m.	Post Service Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	5:00 p.m.	Vespers, Poling Chapel

***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.



May 22, 2011

**joying, cloying
white lily smell
lurks around
the buds
of tomorrows
colorful promises**

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street
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