

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.

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 Sunday of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for babies through age four is available from 10am and 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 on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs.

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.

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.

No Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2012

Is your cell phone on?

PRELUDE

Helderberg Madrigal Singers

Allons, gay bergeres

Guillaume Costeley (c. 1531-1607)

Nowel syng we both al and som

Anon. 15th century

O magnum mysterium

Tomas Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)

"O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in a manger! Blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to carry the Lord Jesus Christ!"

Patapan

Anonymous

10:00 a.m.

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

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

ADVENT SONG

Come, O Lord

Robert Ridgway



f Come, O Lord! Come to ev-ry heart and wa-ken all who
sleep to Your joy; O Em-man-u-el, come to my heart,
I still look for the joy Your Christ-mas brings, and
I would be Your Pres-ence in the world.

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Marty Haugen

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Joyce & Raymond Beland

A candle is lit each week of Advent as a sign of our longing for God's light.

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

God of past and future, hear our cry, for we are stuck in empty patterns and long to embrace new depth and joy. God of light and dark, hear our request, for we need your guidance to find our way. God of here and now, hear our prayer, for we need help to focus on your presence in our lives.

*GOD’S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*

Round

① Dm Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F

Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Luke 2:14

Music: Jacques Borthlör (1923-1994) All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA*)

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!”

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Alleluia! Rejoice! The Lord Shall Come*

arr. Patrick Liebergen

O come, O come, Emanuel and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Alleluia! Rejoice! The Lord shall come on earth to dwell.
Alleluia! Rejoice! God will bless us with joy! Noel!
Sing we noel! Sing! He shall come!
The holy child so small, meek and mild! Emmanuel!

O come, O come that holy night,
bring peace and love with your light shining bright.
Sing we noel! Emmanuel! Alleluia! Rejoice!
God will bless us with joy! Emmanuel!

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

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

FIRST LESSON *Philippians 4:4-7 (page 198)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Zephaniah 3:14-17 (page 877)*

SERMON Want, Hope, Plan Bill Levering

+ + + **The Response to the Word** + + +

*HYMN #12 *People, Look East* Besancon

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Christmas Offering*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Klokken Tower Ringers
Go Tell It On the Mountain' Traditional Spiritual
arr. Douglas Wagner

*HYMN #592 *Praise God, from Whom All...* Doxology

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 #464 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Hymn To Joy

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Rob Landes

POSTLUDE (*please be seated*) Helderberg Madrigal Singers
Veinticinco de diciembre Spanish traditional
La tierra s'esta gozando Francesco Guerrero (1528-1599)
"The earth is rejoicing, the whole sky smiling,
seeing God sighing, being born in mortal flesh."
We wish you a merry Christmas Traditional

*The congregation may stand.

Music Notes

We thank the Helderberg Madrigal Singers for their music this morning. Singers are: Martha Bond, soprano; Dawn Dana, alto; Dick Dana, tenor; Tom Johnston, tenor; Dave Metz, bass; and Sarah Johnsen Popiel, soprano.

remember a loved one or to honor a special event. Please inform the office of your wishes. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for the two bouquets. You may send your check payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., 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 this congregation who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Ruth Arthur, Robert Brown, and John Young.

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

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

Delivery of Poinsettia Plants

Volunteers are needed today to deliver poinsettia plants to those not with us today that they can be enjoyed this season. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service today. Volunteers simply need to pick up a card and plant to be delivered. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring some cheer to members of our church family. Please join us in doing so!

Post Service Refreshments

We are always looking for volunteers to bring in food! It can be cookies, cheese and crackers, fruit, or anything you want. There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. Food should be brought around 9:30am, unless it is already set up on a platter. If any questions, please contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

First Forum

Today: M&B Update - Results of the Sticker Survey and Directions for 2013
Jan. 13: Covenanters/Missioners
Jan. 27: JAC

Faith Bookshop

Gift suggestion: For a special church friend - child or adult - consider a gift certificate from the Bookshop. It can be used on any item in the shop and book orders. See the person at the Bookshop desk.

Daily Devotional Books

Group V has their Devotional books available again this year. These make great holiday gifts, hostess gifts and just thoughtful gifts for friends and family. There are a few copies available in the book shop. Or call Maria Greskovich at 372-9522 or Sandy Moynihan at 372-0604. Cost \$7 each or 3 for \$20.

Equal Exchange

We continue to have chocolates and cocoa through the holidays so stop by the Faith Bookshop (yes, there is more dark chocolate and candy bars, perfect for stocking stuffers.) We have a selection of ground and whole bean coffees and a wide selection of teas. New this year, commuter mugs for \$2.50 with message about support of Small Farms, suitable for any gift basket. Additionally there are a range of products priced to sell from our inventory. Look for blue dots on the packages. As always the display is self-serve. Questions or suggestions look for Carol DeLaMarter or leave message in the tin at the display.

Seasonal Table Prayers

These Advent and Christmastide devotional resources are once again available! On one side of the small, paper tri-fold is a lovely prayer especially suited before meals during Advent; on the opposite side, one for Christmastide. The Adult Education and Nurture bulletin board (next to the Church Library) is where these are found.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
Dec. 23: Dave Gleason, piano
Dec. 30: Peg Delaney, piano

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

The **JHYG** will meet at 5pm on Sundays (unless otherwise noted) for dinner, games, discussion, and other fun activities. Youth in grades 6-8 are welcome.

The **SHYG** will meet on Sundays at 7pm (unless otherwise noted). All youth in grades 9-12 are welcome, and snacks will be provided.

Today: Christmas Party at 5pm

Dec. 23: Final rehearsal for Christmas Eve service, meet at 5pm

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve family service at 5pm. Participants should arrive by 4pm if in costume, 4:30pm if reading.

Dec. 30: No Youth Group, enjoy your Christmas break!

Advent Midweek Evening Prayer

Amidst the deepening darkness of Dec. here's an opportunity for all who long to rekindle awareness of God's loving presence within, among, and beyond us. Held each Wednesday, 7-7:30pm in Poling Chapel, led by Mary and Daniel Carlson and Cheryl and David Olsen. Midweek Evening Prayer includes

gentle singing, guided reflection, engaging Scripture, shared prayers, and the Lord's supper. Come share the peace and promise of God's light!

Christmas Memorial Flowers

As we prepare for the Holiday season, remember a loved one by participating in the Christmas Memorial Flowers. Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on Dec. 24. The donation is \$20.

Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2012. Please call the church office **no later than Tuesday, Dec. 18**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Holiday Events

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services

- Family Service, 5pm
- Music of the Season, 8:30pm
- Traditional Service, 9pm
- Communion Service, 11pm

Christmas Eve Cookies

Celebrate the season by meeting up with friends and family after the 9pm service on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Refreshments and refreshing good cheer will greet you all in Friendship Hall. If you are interested in volunteering to bring cookies, please call Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

Christmas Offer 2012

This year's Christmas Offering is designated for Advocating for Youth at Risk ~CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). This program provides trained volunteers who are appointed

by the court to advocate for the best interest of children in cases of abuse and neglect. Your support will help in the training and supervision of volunteers for this important program that acts for the benefit of children in the court system. Please make checks payable to Center for Community Justice (or CCJ) with CASA in the memo line. GE matching funds do apply to a CCJ donation; please don't forget to include CASA in the memo line.

Epiphany Cake Bakers Needed

On Friday, Jan. 4 at 7pm we'll be baking delicious La Galette des Rois cakes in the Friendship Hall kitchen in preparation for the Epiphany Party (see below). If you're interested in helping, call Heather Chestnut at 346-7887.

Epiphany Eve Party

Keith and Susan Muse will host our annual celebration of Christ's manifestation to the Magi on Saturday, Jan. 5, at 5pm at their home, 309 Mohawk Dr., Rotterdam Junction 12150. Everyone is invited: young, old, family, friends, and strangers. We'll feast together, sing a few carols, recall the story, process with the Magi, and share in the house blessing.

Traditional Gallet Epiphany cakes will be provided. All attending the Epiphany Party should bring a favorite appetizer and beverage to share. A signup sheet will be posted in Assembly Hall for those who wish to commit ahead. Contact Heather Chestnut at 346-7887 or Daniel Carlson at 377-2201 if you have any questions. Follow that star!

Group V

There will not be any meeting in January. We will resume on Monday, February 4 at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Covenanters Program by Anne Reilly. Hostesses: Maria Greskovich and Ann Walraven.

Group VII

On Friday, January 18 we will meet at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Support & Care Committee by Veronica Bartholic, and Stephen Ministry by Ann Gotwals. Co-hostesses: Carol Schweizer, and Anne Robb.

Youth Leadership Forum

On **February 18-20** (during Presidents Week recess) the NY State Council of Churches will sponsor a leadership forum for students in grades 9-12. The group will visit the United Methodist Seminar Office at the United Nations for a 2-day interactive seminar on peacemaking at home and abroad. The seminar will include a guided tour of the U.N. The cost for the trip will be **\$325** which includes transportation, housing, seminar costs and 3 group meals. For more information, contact the Rev. Brooke Newell, Director of Public Policy Advocacy for the NY State Council of Churches at 518-946-2573 or brooke@cjgreen.net.

Narthex Display

This Christmas the Narthex display cases contain the David Coons Van Voast Memorial Crèche of hand carved wooden figures put in place by Nancy Teichner. Also, a hand carved holy family from India, with the *Jesus Bible Story Book*, a favorite children's Bible, open to a Christmas passage, shared by Annie Reilly.

Hurricane Sandy Relief

First Reformed Church is acting as a donation hub for the Capital Region during recovery efforts following Hurricane Sandy. The needs in the affected areas change daily, so the most effective way to help is to donate money. Checks can be made out to First Reformed Church, with "hurricane relief" in the memo line. Some items are consistently needed, including: hygiene supplies, NEW socks, underwear, and sweatsuits, bleach, antibacterial wipes, sponges, work gloves, and N95-rated face masks. Please, no more used clothing is needed at this time. Stacey Midge will be making deliveries to affected areas approximately once a week and donations can be dropped off in her office.

Wreaths

FRC Troop 1 has a few more wreaths left. If you would like to purchase one, they are \$21. Please call the church office if you would like one or stop by on Sunday.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Carol Troost	Caroline Welch, Douglas Todd
Faith Bookshop	Veronica Bartholic	Bill Clock
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	Chancel Guild
Greeters	Donna & Dave Bundy	Ruth & Ken Roinos
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Rob Dickson, Maria G. Todd, Margaret Schadler	William Ward, Gene Zeltmann, Bob Beadle, Darwin Brudos, Phil Falconer, Linda Ward
Reader	Nancy Wainwright	Chris Fernandes
Refreshments	Betty Bumgarner	Doolittle, Diana & JieJie Bennett
Ushers	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Louis Acquasanta, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins, William Faulkner	Del Pierce (head usher), David Bundy, Chris Langdon, Joe Gotwals, Linda Stanhope, Alida Rice

Calendar for the Week of December 16, 2012

Sunday Dec. 16	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.	JH & SHYG Christmas Party	
Monday Dec. 17	9:00 a.m.	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.	African Drumming, Dirck Romeyn Room
	7:00 p.m.	Klokken Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday Dec. 18	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
	11:00 a.m.	Support & Care, Poling Conference Room
Wednesday Dec. 19	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma Bible Study, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Midweek Evening Prayer, Poling Chapel
Thursday Dec. 20	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
	10:00 a.m.	Stitch Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:30 p.m.	Purls of Wisdom, Walton Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry, Dirck Romeyn Room
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary	
Saturday Dec. 22	9:30 a.m.	Chancel Guild-Vesting, Sanctuary
Sunday Dec. 23	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.	JH & SHYG Final Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Service	

First Reformed Church

Schenectady, New York

THE CONSISTORY

Bill Levering, Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister
Stacey Midge, Minister of Mission, Outreach, and Youth
Caroline Brooks, Keith Muse, Senior Elders
Fred H. Daniels, Treasurer
Linnea D'Andrea, Clerk

ELDERS

Veronica Bartholic
Caroline Brooks
Joyce Griggs
Daniel Ipsen
Mary Jewett
Keith Muse
Katherine Trimarco
William Ward
Johnny Willis
Eugene Zeltmann

DEACONS

Darwin Brudos
Rachael Cox
Linnea D'Andrea
Richard Davis
Lisa Etkin
Claire Hughes
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Bill Martin
Nancy Wainwright
Caroline Welch

MISSIONERS

Penny Holmes
Daniel Stone
John Terry

COVENANTERS

Isaiah Buchanan
Daniel Kosten
Annie Reilly
Courtney Van Norden

CHURCH STAFF

Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Ministry
Julie Panke, Director of Music
Jamie Ipsen, Director of Children's Music
Judy Moore, Director of Klokken Tower Ringers
Sarah Bachorik, Director of Kinderwyk
Naphtali Rothrock, Interim Organist
Heather Chestnut, Hospitality Coordinator
Heather Scribner, Office Administrator
Linda Malgieri, Assistant Bookkeeper
Tani Breitenbach, Office Assistant
Lyn Gordon, Sunday Receptionist
Gary Nelson, Facility Supervisor
Diana Wahid, Housekeeper
John Phillips, Sexton

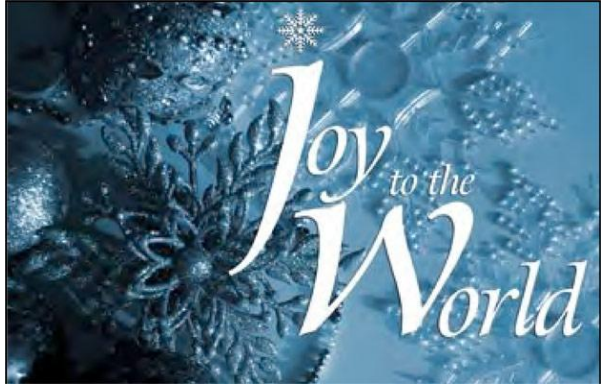
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



December 16, 2012

*And when the strife is fierce,
the warfare long, steals on the ear
the distant triumph song*

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street

Schenectady, New York 12305

(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com