

# 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](http://1stReformed.com) one or two days following the service.

## **No Emergency Number**

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2012

*Is your cell phone on?*

PRELUDE

Stacey Midge

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

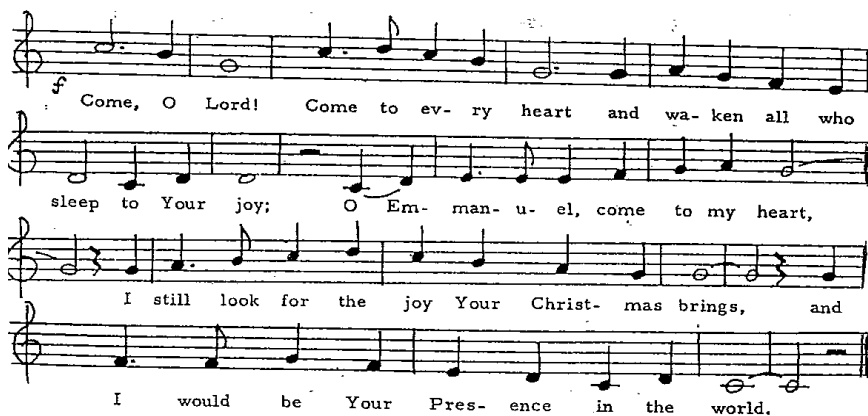
CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Hjelmar Family

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

\*HYMN #8

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Truro

**\*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 Berthier (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**      *He Will Come Down Like Rain*

Ruth Elaine Schram

He will come down to us by humble birth  
He will come down to earth.  
He will come down like rain that falls to earth  
And he will rule from sea to sea as our King  
From sea to sea as our King, our Savior!  
He will come down to us by humble birth  
He will come down to earth.  
He will come down like rain that falls to earth

And we will bow. The Prince of Peace is King  
The Prince of Peace is our King, our Savior!  
He will come down to us by humble birth  
He will come down to earth.  
He will come down like rain that falls to earth

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

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

FIRST LESSON *Luke 1:39-45 (page 57)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Luke 1:46-55 (page 57)*

SERMON *Magnifying the Lord* Bill Levering

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

\*HYMN #48 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Es Ist Ein' Ros'

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Mary Went Up to Hill Country* Carl Schalk

Mary went up to hill country, Elizabeth she came to see.  
Her cousin's greeting which she heard came by the Spirit's inward  
word:  
"You are the mother of my King." Then sweetly did the virgin sing:  
My heart God's greatness voices, my soul in him rejoices.  
He is my Savior, faithful, true; His mercy will enfold you too.  
Stay-at-homes never let us be, but go we up through hill country.  
And there speak kindly, each to each, the Spirit's greeting that can  
reach  
The heart and open it to sing the song that only faith can bring:  
F. Samuel Janzow

\*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 #53

*What Child Is This*

Greensleeves

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Twofold Amen*

Greek

POSTLUDE

Stacey Midge

\*The congregation may stand.

**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:

*Jean Collins, Clarence Gillespie, Ned Landon, and Helen H. Masjoan.*

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 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.

**Entered Into Eternal Rest**

Adeline Graham  
December 15, 2012

**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**

**Jan. 6:** Sarah Foss – Daily Gazette

**Jan. 13:** Covenanters/Missioners

**Jan. 20:** SCCC President; Quintin Bullock, PHD

**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:** 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:** 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!

## **Midweek Evening Prayer**

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

## **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!

### **Annie Reilly Ordination**

On Jan. 6 at 4pm in our sanctuary, our Congregation, the Classis, and area Clergy will gather to ordain our own Annie Reilly to the ministry of word and sacrament.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Chili Cook-Off and Auction**

The annual Chili Cook-off and Auction will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 6pm. If you have a fabulous chili recipe you'd like to share, or a service or item to donate for our silent or live auctions, please contact Stacey Midge or a member of the youth group. Then please join us to taste the chili and bid on a great selection of auction items! All proceeds from this event support the Senior High Youth Group on their mission trip to Staten Island, where they will be helping with Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts.

### **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](mailto:brooke@cjgreen.net).

### **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.

### **Offering Envelopes**

2013 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the Church Office. We have extra envelopes available for anyone who would like ones.



	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Caroline Welch, Douglas Todd	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Nancy Wainwright
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Bill Clock	Nancy Wainwright
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Chancel Guild	Chancel Guild
<b>Greeters</b>	Ruth & Ken Roinos	Ann & Walt Robb
<b>Kinderwyck</b>	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	TBA
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
<b>Processing Elders</b>	William Ward, Gene Zeltmann, Bob Beadle, Darwin Brudos, Phil Falconer, Linda Ward	Veronica Bartholic, Joyce Griggs, Darwin Brudos, Jerry Griggs, Del Pierce, Linda Witkowski
<b>Reader</b>	Chris Fernandes	Mary Jewett
<b>Refreshments</b>	Gay Doolittle, Diana & JieJie Bennett	Betty Bumgarner
<b>Ushers</b>	Del Pierce (head usher), Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Doug Todd, Michael Horan, Victoria McGowan	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourno, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta, Richard Davis

<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Elders</b>	<b>Ushers/Deacons</b>	<b>Counters</b>
<b>5pm</b>		Youth, Darwin Brudos, Caroline Welch	Darwin Brudos, Caroline Welch
<b>9pm</b>	Mary Jewett, Gay Doolittle, Tom Lindsay, Linda Witkowski	Rebecca Grande, Camila Grande, Elena Grande, Joan Lindsay, Nancy Wainwright, Del Pierce	Nancy Wainwright, Joan Lindsay
<b>11pm</b>	Keith Muse, Darwin Brudos	Caroline Welch	Caroline Welch, Darwin Brudos

### Calendar for the Week of December 23, 2012

**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

**Monday**  
Dec. 24  
5:00 p.m. Family Service, Sanctuary  
8:30 p.m. Music of the Season, Sanctuary  
9:00 p.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
11:00 p.m. Communion Service, Sanctuary

**Tuesday**  
**Christmas Day**  
Dec. 25  
**Office Closed**

**Wednesday**  
Dec. 26  
7:00 p.m. **Office Closed**  
Midweek Evening Prayer, Poling Chapel

**Thursday**  
Dec. 27  
7:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary

**Sunday**  
Dec. 30  
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

# 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 23, 2012*

***First Reformed Church***

8 North Church Street

Schenectady, New York 12305

(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://www.1stReformed.com)