

# 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 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.

## **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.

## **Non Emergency Number**

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 6, 2013

*Is your cell phone on?*

PRELUDE

*Andante from Sonata in C for organ*  
*Andante con moto*

Naphtali Rothrock  
Josef Rheinberger  
Alexandre Guilmant

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

INTROIT

*Canon for Epiphany*

Shirley McRae

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #63 *As with Gladness Men of Old* Dix

OUR NEED FOR GOD

**Great God, you have given us Jesus, light of the world, but we choose darkness and cling to patterns that hide the brightness of your love. Immersed in ourselves, we have not lifted our eyes to see the stars of your glory. Lead us again in the paths of truth, we pray.**

GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *For Glory Dawns Upon You* John Karl Hirten

All from Sheba, bearing gifts of gold and frankincense, shall come,  
Proclaiming praises of the Lord, proclaiming praises of the Lord.

Arise and shine, Jerusalem, for glory dawns upon you.  
The glory of God.

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Lynne Gilgore

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

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 60:1-6 (page 690)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Grades K-2 are dismissed to church school.*

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12 (page 2)*

SERMON *The Wisdom of Paying Attention* Bill Levering

\*HYMN #66 (vss 1,5) *We Three Kings* Three Kings of Orient

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Look Up and Wonder* Iona Community

Look up and wonder at the stars which fascinate creation.  
Are these not fit to fill God's heart with gladness and elation?  
Yet God forsakes the boundless skies for earth and incarnation.

Look round at worldly wealth and skill, at intellect and labor.  
Are these not fit to handsel\* heav'n and guarantee God's favor?  
Yet God forsakes what we pursue to meet the humblest neighbor.

Look down on makeshift dwelling place for animal or stranger.  
Is this not fit to distance God from trouble, dirt, and danger?  
Yet God forsakes a better home to hallow mess and manger.

Christ must be cradled, not in stars or fame or worldly treasure;  
Instead God chooses those whose hearts hold things that none can  
measure. In justice, kindness, love and peace Christ finds his  
place and pleasure.

\*handsel: inaugurate

\*HYMN #592

*Praise God, from Whom All...*

Doxology

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

*Please come down the center aisle starting from all the FRONT pews. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and then partake. Return by way of the side aisles.*

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

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.**

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #68 *What Star Is This* Puer Nobis Nascitur

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*Variations on "Puer Nobis Nascitor"*

Naphtali Rothrock

Arr. H. Hopson

\*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:

*Walter Betka, James Caufield, Helen Gallagher, Charlotte King, Albert Lawrence, and Barbara Stroebel.*

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.

### **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:** Sarah Foss – Daily Gazette  
**Jan. 13:** Covenanters/Missioners  
**Jan. 20:** SCCC President;  
Dr. Quintin Bullock  
**Jan. 27:** JAC

### **Faith Bookshop**

The answer to last month's trivia question (What movie has the line "What separates us from the animals is the ability to accessorize.") is *Steel Magnolias*. Jewelry and neck ties, accessorizing favorites, are the Shop's current from-me-to-you fund raiser. We need donations! Please bring them to the Bookshop or church office.

Thank you to everyone who visited the Bookshop during the holiday season. Now, Happy New Year to you all.

### **Prayer Circle Meeting**

All those who are a part of the FRC Prayer Circle (formerly known as the Prayer Chain) are urged to attend a reorganizational meeting today after worship in the Poling Conference Room. The new Prayer Circle order and guidelines will be explained, examples given, questions addressed, a sheet containing the basics distributed, and all participants encouraged, thanked, and blessed! If you're not yet signed up but would like to be a part of this ministry of intercession, please contact Vernetta Thuener (355-2543), Ann Gotwals (372-5089), or Daniel Carlson (377-2201).

### **Annie Reilly Ordination**

Today 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.

### **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm**

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

**Jan. 13:** 'Azzaam Hameed

**Jan. 20:** Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

**Jan. 27:** Dave Gleason, 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.

### **New Kerygma Session!**

During this season of Epiphany those gathered Wednesday mornings in Poling Conference Room will explore an ancient, revelatory way of engaging Scripture, called *lectio divina*.

Participants will both read and discuss chapters of *Gathered in the Word: Praying the Scripture in Small Groups*, by Norvene Vest, as well as practice and reflect on this prayerful method of reading the scriptures, through which each may be led to a deeper understanding of, and relationship with, God. We'll meet each Wednesday, 9:30-11am, Jan. 9 – Feb. 13. *Gathered in the Word* is now available in the Faith Bookshop along with this weeks assignment.

### **Midweek Evening Prayer**

Here's a blessed opportunity in the new year for all who long to rekindle awareness of God's loving presence within, among, and beyond us. Held each Wednesday, 7-7:40pm 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!

### **Union Presbyterian Men's Breakfast**

Jan. 12 at 8am, "A Passion for the Possible," Stories and Reflections on the Life, Times, and Legacy of the Reverend William Sloane Coffin given by Alden (Joe) Doolittle

The Rev. William Sloan Coffin lived an activist life of faith. As Chaplain at Yale during the 1960's and later minister of Riverside Church in New York City, he provided a Christian perspective on war, civil rights, the gap between rich and poor and the meek versus prominent. Joe will draw on key aspects of Coffin's life and writings; weave stories and reflections from his readings and encounters with Coffin and provide echoes for the continuing role of prophecy in our time and the Church in addressing issues of social justice. Ample time will be provided for dialogue. As part of our growing relationship with Union Pres., FRC members and their friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

### **Justice Breakfast**

The FRC Justice Action Council invites you to a pre-service breakfast at 9am on Jan. 13 in Assembly Hall. The fee? Just your thoughts on our upcoming agenda. RSVP to Claire Hughes at [eclair@nycap.rr.com](mailto:eclair@nycap.rr.com) or 381-9241.

### **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.

### **Mindfulness for Everyone**

The Stephen Ministry of FRC invites all members and friends of the congregation to attend an introductory presentation on Mindfulness Theory and Practice with Oona Edmands, Thursday, Jan. 17, 7-8:30 pm, in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Oona is a trained Mindfulness instructor, who recently taught a well attended, eight week course on this research based, stress-reduction practice at FRC and anticipates teaching another course this spring. Questions about this opportunity or anything else related to our one-to-one confidential caring Stephen Ministry program, please call any of our Stephen Leaders: Maria Todd (882-6555); Ann Gotwals (372-5089); or Daniel Carlson (377-2201).

### **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.

### **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.

### **Midwinter Contemplative Retreat**

Amidst the chill and darkness of this season come away Jan. 29-31 to our favorite lodge in the Adirondacks to be warmed and enlightened! Daniel and Mary Carlson will offer retreatants a variety of opportunities to learn and engage in spiritual practices - indoors and out - that have blessed seekers for centuries, including spiritual direction. During these days and nights we'll balance our contemplative focus with opportunities for conversation, music, games, food and drink around the blazing hearth. For further information see the fliers on the Adult Ed bulletin board; to register visit Fowler's website: [www.campfowler.org](http://www.campfowler.org) and click retreats.

### **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.

## **Winterfest**

On Feb. 2, Doug and Maria G. Todd have graciously offered their abode (Fox Hill Farm, 6003 Parkis Mills Rd., Galway) as the location for our annual adult winter outing. For the adventurous: skating, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, or a muddy winter hike begin 3pm. The food, beverage, fellowship and laughter indoors around the various blazing hearths of the farmhouse begin at 5:30pm with appetizers and drinks; a dinner of hearty soups, sides, salads, and desserts will follow. To offset the cost of this event, we ask each person attending to contribute \$5. Please also bring some food to share (beverages provided). A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall; alternatively, call the church office to indicate you'll attend. Our most musical minister, Stacey Midge, will be singing and strumming following the feast. The Fellowship Committee is happy to assist with the cost of childcare for this annual event; please simply note this need on the signup sheet or with the church office. Carpooling is encouraged to ease our pollution of the planet and parking at the party. Contact Heather Chestnut (346-7887) or Daniel Carlson if you have any questions; the Todd's for directions (882-6555). Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

## **Youth Leadership Forum**

On **Feb. 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.



	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Darwin Brudos, Nancy Wainwright	Fred Daniels, Douglas Todd
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Chancel Guild	Diane & Maurice Robbins, Nancy Ellen & Dale Swann
<b>Greeters</b>	Ruth & Jeff Cox	Christina & Vilhelm Lund
<b>Kinderwyck</b>	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Darwin Brudos, Rob Dickson, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Catherine Lewis, Tom Lindsay	Caroline Brooks, Bob Beadle, William Brooks, Maria G. Todd, Margaret Schadler, Linda Witkowski
<b>Reader</b>	Lynne Gilgore	Carol Troost
<b>Refreshments</b>		
<b>Offertory Deacons/ Ushers</b>	Richard Davis, Lisa Etkin, Claire Hughes, Bill Martin, Nancy Wainwright, Caroline Welch, Kimberly Burgoyne, Tom Burgoyne	Harlene Bachorik (head usher), Nicholas Blinckmann, Louis Acquasanta, Jeff Cox, William Faulkner, Art Shultes

## Calendar for the Week of January 6, 2012

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Jan. 6	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Prayer Circle Meeting, Poling Conference Room
	11:15 a.m.	First Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Upstairs, Room 20
	12:00 p.m.	JAC, Walton Conference Room
	4:00 p.m.	Annie Reilly Ordination, Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Junior High Youth, Mezzanine
	7:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth, Mezzanine
<b>Monday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
Jan. 7	9:30 a.m.	Chancel Guild-Clean Up, Sanctuary
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Jan. 8	6:00 p.m.	Archives, Archives Room
	6:30 p.m.	Standing Committees, Various Locations
	7:30 p.m.	Consistory, Assembly Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma Class, Poling Conference Room
Jan. 9	1:00 p.m.	Archives, Archives Room
	1:00 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	2:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting, Walton Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Evening Prayer, Poling Chapel
<b>Thursday</b>	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
Jan. 10	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
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Jan. 13	9:00 a.m.	JAC Breakfast, Assembly Hall
	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Upstairs, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:15 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, Poling Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Junior High Youth, Mezzanine
	7:00 p.m.	Senior High Youth, Mezzanine

# 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

## MISSIONERS

Penny Holmes  
Daniel Stone  
John Terry

## DEACONS

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

## 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.*



*January 6, 2013*

*In the heart of the rose,  
In the heat of a star,  
In the colors of dawn,  
In the eyes of a fawn.  
God leads us farther.*

***First Reformed Church***

8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305

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