

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 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

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

Daniel Carlson

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 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 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.

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.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Darwin Brudos, Nancy Wainwright	Fred Daniels, Douglas Todd
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	Diane & Maurice Robbins, Nancy Ellen & Dale Swann
Greeters	Ruth & Jeff Cox	Christina & Vilhelm Lund
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Gay Doolittle	Sarah Bachorik, Inge-Lise Pangburn
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
Processing Elders	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
Reader	Lynne Gilgore	Carol Troost
Refreshments		
Offertory Deacons/ Ushers	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

Sunday	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
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Mens News Group, Poling Conference Room
Jan. 7	9:30 a.m.	Chancel Guild-Clean Up, Sanctuary
Tuesday	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
Wednesday	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
Thursday	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
Sunday	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

DEACONS

Darwin Brudos

Rachael Cox

Linnea D'Andrea

Richard Davis

Lisa Ettkin

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.



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