

**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.



You want the cross Christ?
Unfortunate, but necessary, I suppose.
If you insist.

You want the crown Christ?
The power?
I think not.

November 24, 2013



First Reformed Church
8 North Church Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com

Welcome to First Reformed Church

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and 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. The welcome tables at the entrance to the sanctuary and in Assembly Hall have some helpful church information.

Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

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; a baby changing station is in the women's bathroom.

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.

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.

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 after worship on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs.

Church School on Communion Sundays

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.

Children's Worship Bulletins

Special bulletins for children, ages 3-6 and 7-12 are available each Sunday. If the ushers are not handing them out, just ask for one.

After Worship

Typically after worship, people stop for a chat and refreshments in Assembly Hall before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. Visitors are welcome to join in.

Service Online

A recording of each of our worship services is at 1stReformed.com one or two days following the service.

Lost and Found Basket

We have a lost and found basket in the Narthex at the Union St. entrance of the church. If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check there.

Christ the King Sunday

November 24 2013

PRELUDE *A Warrior's Honoring Song*
Eric Marczak
Cherokee Morning Song Walela
Eric Marczak, flute; John Norton, piano

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT *Jesus Loves Me, Jesus Loves Me*
Swedish Folk Tune
Kirk Ringers; Julia Etkin; cello

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #488
The God of Abraham Praise Leoni

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)
Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. We have failed to care for the people and the world you created. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)
God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)
The Apostles' Creed (traditional)
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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Benicio Elway Martinez

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES
Guadalupe and Keri Martinez

PRAYER AND BAPTISMAL COVENANT

BLESSING AND WELCOME
Welcome our brother in Christ.

Joyfully we receive you. Join us to give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*
J.S. Bach; Amy Forando, oboe

FIRST LESSON Lynne Gilgore
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Psalm 46 (pg 517)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Colossians 1:1-11 (pg 199)*

SERMON *Thy Kingdom Come* Bill Levering

*HYMN #450 *O Day of Peace* Jerusalem

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Reading Program*
Andrew Chestnut

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *The Lonely Shepherd*
James Last (1977)

*THANKSGIVING #591
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore.
Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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 #447
Lead On, O King Eternal Lancashire

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Fourfold Amen*
Ken Barker

POSTLUDE *Sicilian Mariners*
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Worship Notes: Today's Baptism

We're delighted to welcome Benicio Elway Martinez into God's family this morning. In addition to his parents Lupe and Keri Martinez, Benicio is joined at the baptismal font by his Godparents, Andrew and Deirdre Bodden.

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:

Leroy Brandt, Virginia Cain, Elsie Anderson Emory, and Rev. Dr. Edwin McLane

Chancel Flower Delivery Cards

The new location of the cards listing the two designated recipients of Sunday flowers is the flower sign-up bulletin board, located in the hallway just outside the sanctuary.

Pick up your Pies

Your homemade apple and pumpkin pies will be available for pickup today, Nov. 24. Proceeds from this sale support the youth mission trip. Thank You!

Forum

Held after worship most Sundays at 11:15am in Poling Chapel. Suggestions for programs are welcome from any committee or member; simply contact Joe Doolittle, 384-1700 or Amy Brule, 785-8201.

Today: Worship and Sermon talk-back and conversation with Rev. Bill Levering:
So, how's it going?

Dec. 1: Reception for Heather Chestnut

Dec. 8: Alternative Gift Fair

Dec. 15: Crèche Show and Tell

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday

Today; 4pm: Thanksgiving Jazz Fest

Annual Jazz Festival from 4-6pm in the Sanctuary on Nov. 24 will feature David Gleason and Scott Bassinson on piano; Mike Lawrence and Pete Toigo on bass; Jim Corigliano, sax; Dylan Canterbury, trumpet; Tom D'Andrea, drums. Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance, students \$5. Call or pick up ticket(s) in the Church Office.

Dec. 1; 5pm: Mike Lamkin, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Dec. 8; 5pm: 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

ALL youth in grades 6-12, will meet from 5-7pm on Sunday nights unless otherwise noted, all will meet for dinner, fellowship, service, and learning activities.

Today: SHY distributes pies after the worship service. Regular meeting at 5pm; we will travel to the Glendale Home for carol singing and games with the residents.

Dec. 1: Instead of our normal meeting we will attend the Advent Festival.

Dec. 8: We will be selling soup, hot dogs, coffee, and hot cocoa at the Alternative Gift Fair to support the mission trip. Please be in Assembly Hall at 11am (after the service). For our evening meeting we will have rehearsal for the Living Nativity and Christmas Eve Family Service.

Faith Bookshop

On our feature table today you will find books recommended by our clergy, Kerygma members and others in the congregation.

Donated Christmas ornaments, for the sale that starts in December, are happily received at any time. You may leave them in the Bookshop on Sundays or in the church office during the week.

Johnson Library

Would you like to volunteer some of your time? If yes, stop by and pick a day on the sign-up sheet. Volunteering means you sit at the desk for thirty minutes before the service on Sunday and a

few minutes afterward; just to be sure people sign the cards in the back of the book and drop it in the box.

Stephen Ministry Training Continues

This coming week our Stephen Ministry training class will be considering the subject of *Confidentiality*. In this presentation they will be learning the principles of confidentiality so that anyone who is cared for by a Stephen Minister can be assured that any communication will be held in confidence. We give thanks for the continuing enthusiasm of our Stephen Ministry trainees, and ask your continued prayers for them as they are trained for their ministries of compassion.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Looking for tranquil Thanksgiving Eve worship service or a peaceful place to take a break from the preparations for the next day? Then come, you thankful people come, and join us this Wednesday at 7pm in Poling Chapel for Midweek Evening Worship. Through song and reflection, communion and prayer we'll express our gratitude to the Lord and Giver of life.

Thanksgiving Left Over's

Save your Thanksgiving left over's for the Soup Kitchen. Put them in the freezer in Assembly Hall, clearly marked for the Soup Kitchen.

Concerned for the Hungry

Monies collected at our church will be sent to *Concerned for the Hungry* to assist in thousands of families receiving all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The funds collected are used to purchase supplies in bulk at greatly reduced prices. Checks should be made payable to First Reformed Church, with *Concerned for the Hungry* in the memo line.

Again this year we are eligible for GE Matching Funds. For GE employees or retirees, a donation of \$25 or more will be matched by General Electric. To make a donation with matching funds please contact the GE Matching Gifts

Program at 1-800-305-0669, or access the Foundations website at www.gefoundation.com/matchinggifts. Make the check payable to *Concerned for the Hungry* with matching in the memo line.

Horizon Bible Study

On Tuesday mornings from 10 - 11am, in Polling Conference room. For 4 weeks in Advent, which began on Nov. 19, Rev. Ruth Kuo will lead a study on Advent and Christmas Hymns: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, and *People, Look East, Silent Night, Holy Night, O Little Town of Bethlehem*, and others. We will learn their historical, theological, and cultural contexts.

Advent Festival for All Ages – Dec. 1

Join us for a reinvigorated church tradition of gathering in the evening of the first Sunday of Advent, for a seasonal dinner and activities. Those coming for dinner at 5pm should bring food to share beginning with the letter A (all Appetizers accepted) or food that is purple or blue (contemporary Advent colors). After dinner several seasonal crafts commence including the opportunity to make an Advent wreath out of natural materials to bring. We'll end the evening just before 7pm with a brief Advent prayer around the candlelit wreaths and distribute devotional resources and a calendar for the season. Those with questions may contact Jamie Ipsen, 399-6848 or Daniel Carlson.

Reception for Heather Chestnut

Join us for a festive post-service reception on December 1, as we honor Heather at the conclusion of her ministry as Hospitality Coordinator.

Women's Advent Tea

On Sunday Dec. 1 at 11:15am in the Dirck Romeyn room, all ladies of UPC & FRC are invited to attend this annual event which includes fellowship, beverages and finger foods, and sharing of our Christmas traditions and stories. Sign-up in the FRC's Assembly Hall. Bring a dish of finger food to share.

Holiday Events

Dec. 7: Thursday Musical, 2:30pm

Dec. 8: Breakfast with St. Nicholas

Dec. 15: Blue Christmas Service

Dec. 22: Living Nativity, 6pm

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services

Family Service, 5pm

Music of the Season, 8:30pm

Candles & Carols Service, 9pm

Candlelit Service, 11pm

Thursday Musical Club Christmas Concert

Saturday, Dec. 7 at 2:30pm; join the Thursday Musical Club women's chorus directed by Julie Panke and accompanied by Elinore Farnum, for their Christmas concert in the church sanctuary. The Thursday Belles, directed by Judy Moore, will be guest artists. Complimentary tickets are available for all church members from Julie or the church office.

Choir and Orchestra to Present Vivaldi

On Sunday, Dec. 8, an expanded choir and a 20-piece orchestra will present seven movements of the Vivaldi *Gloria* as part of the 10am worship service. Artistic Coordinator, Corine Salon will be conducting players from all over the up state area and Vermont. Come hear some beautiful music and be part of this festive Advent Sunday worship service.

Alternative Gift Extravaganza

On Sunday, Dec. 8; 11am – 3pm. Skip the crowds and do your Christmas shopping here at FRC where your **gift gives twice**. Enjoy a cup of coffee and bowl of soup made by our own youth group. Your lunch purchase will support their mission trip. Mission shares for a variety of excellent causes are also being arranged. If you have another idea or an appropriate cause to support, please contact Peggy Ridgway via email at peggyridgway@gmail.com or phone (280-4269); Carol Troost via email at troostcarol@gmail.com or phone (372-7502) **no**

later than Nov. 30. We hope you tell your friends and come to the fair!

Poinsettia Delivery – Volunteers Needed

We need your help on Sunday, Dec. 15 to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our love to those not able to join us for worship.

Dedicated Christmas 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 December 24. The donation is \$20. Even if you have donated in

previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2013. Please call the church office **no later than Thursday, Dec. 19**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

Christmas Eve Cookies – Volunteers needed

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 contact Tani Breitenbach 377-2201 or send an email to 1streformedpub@gmail.com.

Music Notes

Eric Marczak's CD, Dragonfly Days, is available in the Faith Bookshop.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Victoria McGowan-Horan, George Trimarco	Fred Daniels, Bill Martin
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	
Greeters	Linda & Bill Ward	
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik, Barbara Walton	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joyce Griggs, Keith Muse, Darwin Brudos, Jerry Griggs, Del Pierce, Linda Witkowski	Veronica Bartholic, Keith Muse, Caroline Brooks, Bill Brooks, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Eric Evans, Tom Lindsay
Reader	Lynne Gilgore	Amy Brule
Refreshments	Ellie & Gene Rowland, Tricia Shaw	
Usher/ Offertory Deacon	Earl Wainwright (head usher), Hendrick Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Philip Yourno, Richard Davis, Adam Kerwin	Fred Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Bill Martin, Nancy Wainwright, David Bundy, Kim Burgoyne, Tom Burgoyne, Caroline Welch

Sunday, November 24

10:00 amWorship
10:15 amChurch School for K-8
11:00 amCoffee & Conversation
11:15 amForum
11:30 amChoir & Orchestra Rehearsal
12:00 pmMembership Committee
4:00 pmThanksgiving Jazz Fest
5:00 pmJH & SH Youth Group

Monday, November 25

9:00 amMens News Group
1:00 pmThursday Belles
6:30 pmStephen Ministry Training
7:00 pmKlokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, November 26

10:00 amMorning Prayer
6:00 pmCRTC
7:00 pmCreation Care Committee

Wednesday, November 27

9:30 amKerygma Conversations
1:00 pmArchives
1:00 pmThursday Belles
6:00 pmDinner & Faith Discussion
7:00 pmMidweek Evening Worship

Thursday, November 28

Office Closed

Friday, November 29

Office Closed

Sunday, December 1

9:00 amCancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 amChoir with Corine
9:15 amHigh School Choir
10:00 amWorship with Communion
10:15 amChurch School for K-2
11:00 amReception for Heather Chestnut
11:15 amOrff Rehearsal
11:20 amKirk Ringers
11:30 amChoir & Orchestra Rehearsal
11:30 amWomen's Advent Tea
4:00 pmYouth Orchestra
5:00 pmJazz Vespers
5:00 pmAdvent Festival

We can only know what we can truly imagine. Finally what we see comes from ourselves. ~Marge Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time*

Utopia is the process of making a better world, the name for one path history can take, a dynamic, tumultuous, agonizing process, with no end. Struggle forever. ~Kim Stanley Robinson, *Pacific Edge*

[A] permanent possibility of selfishness arises from the mere fact of having a self, and not from any accidents of education or ill-treatment. And the weakness of all Utopias is this, that they take the greatest difficulty of man and assume it to be overcome, and then give an elaborate account of the overcoming of the smaller ones. They first assume that no man will want more than his share, and then are very ingenious in explaining whether his share will be delivered by motor-car or balloon. ~G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

Oh my soul, be prepared for the coming of the Stranger. Be prepared for him who knows how to ask questions.

There is one who remembers the way to your door:
Life you may evade, but Death you shall not.
You shall not deny the Stranger.

They constantly try to escape
From the darkness outside and within
By dreaming of systems so perfect that no one will need to be good.

But the man that is shall shadow
The man that pretends to be. ~T.S. Eliot

She said all a body would have to do there [Heaven] was to go around all day long with a harp and sing, forever and ever. ~Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

My sense of the holy is bound up with the hope that someday my remote descendants will live in a global civilization in which love is pretty much the only law. ~Richard M. Rorty

Our ambition should be to rule ourselves, the true kingdom for each one of us; and true progress is to know more, and be more, and to do more. ~Oscar Wilde

The 'kingdom of Heaven' is a condition of the heart - not something that comes 'upon the earth' or 'after death.' ~Friedrich Nietzsche