

**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.

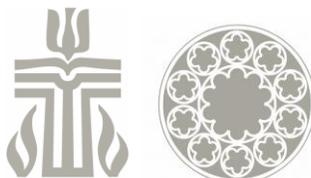
Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly 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.



Hark.

December 22, 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.

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*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 #23

Angels We Have Heard on High Gloria

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*
Traditional

Please remain seated for today's Postlude.

POSTLUDE *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*
Mendelssohn, arr. Gale

+ + +

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:

Robert Brown, Clarence Gillespie, R. 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.

Music Note

We thank the Route Fifty 5 brass quintet for today's music. Members are Ben Richards and Judson Hoffman, trumpets; Kara Pangburn, horn; Ryan Pangburn, trombone and Barret Germain, tuba.

Post Service Refreshments

Everyone is invited to have refreshments in Assembly Hall right after worship. We are always looking for volunteers to bring in food! It can be cookies, cheese and crackers, fruit, or anything you want. Food should be brought around 9:30am. There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall or fill out a white pew card and place it in the offering plate. If any questions, please contact Tani Breitenbach
1streformedpub@gmail.com or 377-2201.

Dates from Dec. 22 forward are still available. Please consider volunteering.

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: M&B Christmas Offering: *Things of My Very Own*; Rayn Boncie, CEO/President

Adult Class: Christmas Bible Talk

Dr. Levering will review the Bible passages about Christmas and give some contextual and linguistic information that will add depth to your season, located in the Poling Conference room.

Dec. 29: Here We Go A'wassailing Frolic

Jan. 5: Mission on State Street. Innovations in Mission - Rev. Stacey Midge

Lenten Devotional

Have you signed up yet for your contribution to the Lenten Devotional? A poem, a response to a Bible verse, or a short piece about an idea you'd like to share with the congregation. If you haven't, sign up outside of Assembly Hall.

Narthex Cases

Please take a moment to view the Narthex display cases for this Christmas season. Nancy Teichner has carefully arranged the David Coons Van Voast Memorial Crèche in the east case and UPC has placed special Christmas items of their congregation in the west case.

Chrismon Tree

Please take a moment to stop in the Dirck Romeyn room to appreciate the Chrismon Tree. The tree was donated this year by the Assini and Welch families in memory of Russell V. Jones, Anne Shepherd Wemple, Robert V. Shepherd, and Susan Shepherd. The Chrismon (Christ and Monograms) ornaments, which depict the principal teachings of work of Jesus, were first created initially for a tree in the Schenectady Museum and later given to Mrs. Harrison Todd to present to her church.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: David Gleason, piano;

Mike Lawrence, bass

Dec. 29: David Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Jan 5: Nap Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Faith Bookshop

Restocked: CDs of Eric Marczak playing the Native American flute and Vantage Import animal items from Kenya. **New:** beaded necklaces and purses from Transylvania brought to us by Sara Bobok and handkerchief angels made by Joanne White to benefit daughter Christy's fund. Please stop in and look around. There's a lot to see, including donated Christmas ornaments, most for 25 cents.

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: Living Nativity at 6pm. Everyone performing should be at church by 4:30pm. After

the Living Nativity, we will have donuts and cocoa, and then everyone is invited to a fundraising concert for an orphanage in Romania at 7pm.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Family Service at 5pm. Everyone who is participating in the service should be at church by 4pm.

Dec. 29: No youth group meeting.

Jan. 5: Ice skating at the Union College rink from 2 – 4pm, for ALL ages. No regular meeting.

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Former member Paul L. Abbey, age 84, passed away in Tucson, AZ, on Dec. 18. He was married to Betty Abbey who predeceased him. Visitation will be from 10am till noon, Monday the 23 of Dec at the Jones Funeral Home in Schenectady and internment will follow at the Saratoga National Cemetery.

Youth Present Living Nativity and Concert

The Living Nativity performance will be held on the church lawn tonight at 6pm. The Senior High Youth Group will act out the story of Jesus' birth, and then we will gather inside for donuts and hot cocoa to celebrate this Christmas season.

Benefit Concert for Transylvania Orphanage

Join us tonight at 7pm (following the Living Nativity) in the sanctuary for a benefit concert supporting the Galospetri orphanage in Transylvania! This concert is being organized by a member of our youth group, Sara Bobok, who has traveled to volunteer at the orphanage. Several of our local and church musicians will be performing. Tickets are available for \$10 per person, or \$25 for a family. All of the money raised will be used to build a fence around the orphanage. We hope to see you there!

Christmas Offering 2013

This year's Christmas Offering is designated for *Things of My Very Own, Inc.* located in Glenville. This 501©3 non-profit corporation provides crisis intervention services and programs to children in emergency situations, specifically, those impacted by extensive abuse or neglect.

The organization provides innovative, ongoing programs to assist children in developing self-confidence, healthy levels of self-esteem, and a reduction in the changes of future victimization.

It is only through the support and generosity of community members that we are able to accomplish all that we do. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today. 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 *Things of My Very Own* with matching in the memo line.

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 copies available in the book shop. They can be used year after year. If any questions call Maria G. Todd at 372-9522, who will also have books. Cost \$7 each or 3 for \$20.

Gift Idea

Is there a copy of *Three Centuries: The History of the First Reformed Church of Schenectady* in your home? A print of Len Tantillo's painting showing our first church building, *Schenectady Town, View from Cowhorn Creek, circa 1690?* *Three Centuries* may also be purchased at the church office.

Christmas Eve Refreshments

Volunteers needed! We are in the process of obtaining volunteers to bring finger food and **helpers for set-up and clean-up** for shared fellowship **after the 9pm service on Dec. 24**. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tani Breitenbach 377-2201 or send an email to 1streformedpub@gmail.com.

Cookies After 9pm Christmas Eve Service

All are welcome. 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.

Office Holiday Hours

The office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 27. We will be open Thursday, Dec. 26.

Home For (some of) The Holidays

Rev. Carlson is on vacation until Dec. 29, when he returns to preach and lead the A'wassailing Frolic (below).

Here We Go A'wassailing

Those of every age are invited to join us for a good cheer frolic after worship on the Fourth Day/First Sunday of Christmas, Dec. 29. We'll travel and carol to those in need of "good tidings this Christmas and a happy New Year!" Finishing with a complimentary lunch - and hopefully some real wassail - is an option for those participating.

Horizon Bible Study

We usually meet on Tuesday mornings from 10 - 11am, in Polling Conference room, but we will not meet Dec. 24 - Jan. 7 and will resume on Tuesday Jan. 14. All are welcome! Topic of study: *The Gospel of Mark*.

Lenten Devotional

Have you signed up yet for your contribution to the Lenten Devotional? A poem, a response to a Bible verse, or a short piece about an idea you'd like to share with the congregation. If you haven't, sign up outside of Assembly Hall.

Epiphany Cake Baking ~ Volunteers Needed

The traditional *Gallet* Epiphany cakes for the party will be made in the Friendship Hall kitchen on Thursday, Jan. 2 from 7 - 9pm. If you're interested in helping, call Mary Jewett at 355-8059.

Levering's Birthday Bash

The Congregation is invited to the 60th birthday celebration of Dr. Levering on Jan. 3 at 7 pm at the Stockade Inn.

Epiphany Party ~ January 4

This year our annual celebration of Christ's manifestation to Magi will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4 from 5-8pm at the home of Marey Bailey and Joseph Yavonditte, 125 Benjamin St. Schenectady. Everyone is invited: young and old, strangers and friends. We'll feast together, sing a few carols, recall the sacred story, and process with the *Three Kings*. Then the hale and hearty will bundle up and go outside to share in the house blessing, followed by prayers around the brilliant blaze of a Christmas Tree Bonfire. All attending should bring a favorite appetizer and beverage to share. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall. Contact Daniel Carlson if you have any questions. Follow that star!

UPC Congregational Meeting

UPC Session has postponed the Special Congregational Meeting in regard to changing By-laws. Special Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday Jan. 5, after worship (snow date will be Sunday Jan. 12.) All UPC members are encouraged to attend.

Future Pillars ~ Post Holiday Gathering

Save the Date! Come to the Van Dyke Restaurant on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 6-9pm for fellowship and desserts. All members age 21 to 40ish are invited. Hot appetizers and drinks available but not included. RSVP in Assembly Hall or by calling the church office. Hope to see you there!

Men's Breakfast Program

The Men's Breakfast group will meet on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 8am in Assembly Hall. Our speaker for that day is George Wise. Dr. Wise is a well-known historian in the local area and has many friends in the FRC community. He will speak to us about *The History of Employment*. This is a very timely topic, considering the recent struggles with high unemployment (or

underemployment) in the U.S. The meeting is open to all men of the FRC and UPC congregations. Please sign up with the office staff or sign the attendance sheet posted in Assembly Hall.

Commissioning New Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministry is a vital part of our congregation's mission of compassionate care for those going through a difficult time in life. On Sunday, Jan. 12, in worship we will commission Joanne Arnold, Tani Breitenbach, Norma Brown, Lisa Etkin, Brad Lewis, Nancy Martin, Bob and Peggy Ridgway, Michelle Smallwood, and Christine Walthers to begin service in our congregation as Stephen Ministers. After worship at Forum each Stephen Minister will introduce themselves and speak about this formative experience and what lies ahead.

Lights. Camera. Jesus!

The new documentary discussion group will be moved to Friday, Jan. 17, just for this month. The group typically meets on the first Tuesday of each month, but Jeremy will be visiting the Iowa tundra making him unable to host the film.

In 2010, the National Study of Youth and Religion asked teens across the country how they would describe Christians. The number one response: anti-gay. The topic of same-sex relationships might possibly be the "hottest of topics" in the global church today. January's film, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, explores the intersection of Christianity and homosexuality. How do insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child? What's the science behind sexual orientation? Should the Bible be used to condemn same-sex relationships? Come watch this provocative film and be part of an important conversation that's happening around the world.

Group VII

On Friday, Jan. 17 we will meet at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Program: Meet the Covenanters; find out what they do. Co-

hostesses: Martha Winchester and Ronnie Bartholic.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will not meet in December, but will resume on Thursday, Jan. 23, 9:30am at the home of Inge-Lise Pangburn. For questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic.

Chili Cook-Off and Auction

The annual Chili Cook-off and Auction will be held on Sunday, Jan. 26 **at noon**. 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.

Fellowship Luncheon

Saving the date for the best luncheon in town. The FRC/UPC Fellowship Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 31, at 11:45am in Assembly Hall. Gay Doolittle, Mary Jewett and Carol Troost will serve as hostesses for the luncheon. Laura Lee Linder, church historian, will share the history of First Reformed Church from the very beginning.

If you are able to join us, please bring a casserole or salad to share. Desserts and beverages will be provided. Reservations are not necessary, but would be appreciated. You can do this by signing up in Assembly Hall or by calling either Amy Brule 785 8201 or Sally Bestgen 346 0304.

Laura Lee Linder has very extensive knowledge about the Dutch heritage of the church and our community. She might even have some new facts for church members. So do not miss out on a delicious lunch and come meet some new friends.

Adult Winterfest

Save the date. On Saturday, Feb. 8, 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 at 3pm. The food, beverage, fellowship 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 will be posted in Assembly Hall; alternatively, call the church office to indicate you'll attend. 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. Car-pooling is encouraged to ease our pollution of the planet and parking at the party. Contact Daniel Carlson if you have any questions; the Todd's for directions (882-6555). Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Fowler Retreat

Join Daniel and Mary Carlson, February 28 - March 2, for a weekend away at Fowler Camp and Retreat Center's newly-renovated lodge in the Adirondacks! A variety of opportunities will be offered to learn and engage in 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 contact either Carlson; to register to www.campfowler.org and click retreats.

Emergency Contact Information

In times of crisis it can be very helpful to have on hand the name and number of the person to be contacted in case of an emergency. The Support and Care Committee urges such information to be shared with the church office, where it will be accessible to the church staff.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Celebrations

Sunday, December 22

5 PM..... Christmas Jazz Vespers with Dave Gleason

6 PM..... Living Nativity Display
The Senior High Youth Group will act out the story of Jesus' birth, and then we will gather inside for donuts and hot cocoa to celebrate this Christmas season.

7 PM..... Benefit Youth Concert
Orchestrated by Sarah Bobok, all proceeds will benefit an orphanage in Romania.

Tuesday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

5 PM..... Family Service
See the story of Jesus' birth lived-out by children and youth to include joyful music and personal testaments from High School students.

8:30 PM..... Music of the Season
We will present a variety of Christmas music including carols from England, Spain, France, and Italy, as well as two carols for harp and organ.

CHRISTMAS EVE CONTINUED

9 PM..... Carols and Candles Service
Familiar songs sung to include candles with refreshments and refreshing good cheer to follow.

11 PM..... Candlelit Service
Peaceful reflections with carols and communion

Sunday, December 29

10 AM First Sunday of Christmas Worship Service

11:30 AM A'wassailing Frolic
We travel and carol to those in need of "good tidings this Christmas and a happy New Year!" Complimentary lunch - and hopefully some real wassail - is an option following this outing.

Saturday, January 4

5 PM..... Epiphany Party
Our annual celebration of the recreation of Christ to the Magi held at a member's home.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Nancy Wainwright	Gay Doolittle, Joe Gallagher
Faith Bookshop	Virginia Laumeister	Virginia Laumeister
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	Chancel Guild
Greeters	Jeanette & Don Davidson	Claire & Tess Hughes
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik, Shannon Kerwin	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Ruth Kuo
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Keith Muse, Gene Zeltmann, Robert Beadle, Art Casey, Tom Lindsay, Linda Witkowski	Rob Dickson, Joyce Griggs, Keith Muse, Roberta Blackmer, Jerry Griggs, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Catherine deSalle	Carol Troost
Refreshments	Shannon Kerwin	NEED VOLUNTEERS
Usher	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Chris Langdon	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins

First Reformed Church

Schenectady, New York

THE CONSISTORY

Bill Levering, Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister
Stacey Midge, Minister of Mission, Outreach, and Youth
Keith Muse & Mary Jewett, Senior Elders
Catherine Lewis, Treasurer
Linnea D'Andrea, Clerk

ELDERS

Veronica Bartholic
Robert Dickson
Joyce Griggs
Mary Jewett
Margaret King
Keith Muse
Katherine Trimarco
William Ward
Johnny Willis
Eugene Zeltmann

DEACONS

Linnea D'Andrea
Fred Daniels
Richard Davis
Gay Doolittle
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes
Bill Martin
Victoria McGowan-Horan
William Rochelle
George Trimarco
Nancy Wainwright

COVENANTERS

Jeremy Bork
Daniel Eckert

CHURCH STAFF

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

Sunday, December 22

- 10:00 am..... Worship
- 10:15 am..... Church School for K-8
- 11:00 am..... Forum & Adult Class
- 12:00 pm..... Membership Committee
- 4:30 pm..... JH&SH Youth Group
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers
- 6:00 pm..... Living Nativity
- 7:00 pm..... Benefit Youth Concert

Monday, December 23

- 9:00 am..... Mens News Group
- 7:00 pm..... Klokken Tower Ringers

Tuesday, December 24

- 5:00 pm..... Family Service
- 8:30 pm..... Music of the Season
- 9:00 pm..... Carols & Candles Service
- 10:00 pm..... Refreshments
- 11:00 pm..... Candlelit Service

Wednesday, December 25

Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Office OPEN 8-4pm

Friday, December 27

Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

- 9:00 am..... Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room
- 9:15 am..... High School Choir
- 9:30 am..... Choir Rehearsal-Poling Chapel
- 10:00 am..... Worship
- 10:15 am..... Church School for K-8
- 10:20 am..... Carol Choir
- 11:30 am..... A'wassailing Frolic
- 11:15 am..... Orff Rehearsal
- 11:20 am..... Kirk Ringers
- 4:00 pm..... Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen. ~Ernest Hemingway

Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply. ~Stephen R. Covey

I've learned to get really good at this - say one thing when I'm thinking about something else, act like I'm listening when I'm not, pretend to be calm and happy when I'm really freaking out. It's one of the skills you perfect as you get older ~Lauren Oliver, Delirium

Listen to God with a broken heart. He is not only the doctor who mends it, but also the father who wipes away the tears. ~Criss Jami

Part of doing something is listening. We are listening. To the sun. To the stars. To the wind. ~Madeleine L'Engle, Swiftly Tilting Planet

You're short on ears and long on mouth. ~John Wayne

Most of the successful people I've known are the ones who do more listening than talking. ~Bernard M. Baruch

It's not at all hard to understand a person; it's only hard to listen without bias. ~Criss Jami

Long before I wrote stories, I listened for stories. Listening for them is something more acute than listening to them. I suppose it's an early form of participation in what goes on. Listening children know stories are there. When their elders sit and begin, children are just waiting and hoping for one to come out, like a mouse from its hole. ~Eudora Welty, One Writer's Beginnings

Friends are those rare people who ask how we are, and then wait to hear the answer. ~Ed Cunningham

We talked for four hours. Well, I talked for four, and she listened for two. ~Jarod Kintz