

**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.



Only half full?
Drink it.

March 23, 2014



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.

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.

Hearing Assistance

We have hearing reinforcement units that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

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.

Third Sunday in Lent
 March 23, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin
 Sten Isachsen, guitar
Minuet & Trio from the Grand Sonata. Op. 22
 Fernando Sor (1778-1839)
Suite Popular Espanola;
El Pano, Moruno, Cancion, Jota
 Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)
 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 *Create In Me* John Erickson

***HYMN** *Come to the Water*

1 O let all who thirst, let them come to the
 2 And let all who seek, let them come to the
 3 And let all who toil, let them come to the
 4 And let all the poor, let them come to the

wa-ter. And let all who have noth-ing,
 wa-ter. And let all who have noth-ing,
 wa-ter. And let all who are wea-ry,
 wa-ter. Bring the ones who are la-den,

let them come to the Lord: with-out mon-ey,
 let them come to the Lord: with-out mon-ey,
 let them come to the Lord: all who la-lor,
 bring them all to the Lord: bring the chil-dren

with-out price. Why should you pay the price,
 with-out strife. Why should you spend your life,
 with-out rest. How can your soul find rest,
 with-out might. Ea-sy the load and light:

ex-cept for the Lord?
 ex-cept for the Lord?
 ex-cept for the Lord?
 come to the Lord.

***OUR NEED FOR GOD (unison)**

Forgive us Lord for our apathy and for our lack of courage to speak up. Forgive us when we walk past and don't help. Forgive us when we get it wrong. We confess that we are afraid and don't want to change in order to be with those who are different. We ask that you would lead us into action: give us strength to be a voice crying for justice and peace and whatever is needed to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you.

***GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE**

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
 O my soul! What wondrous love is this,
 O my soul!**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)**

(adapted from Isaiah 58)

This is the fast to which we are called: to free those who are wrongly imprisoned and lighten the burden of those who work, to let the oppressed go free and remove the chains that bind people, to share our food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, to give clothes to those who need them, and not hide from those who need our help. Then our salvation will come like the dawn, and our wounds will quickly heal. Then our light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around us will be as bright as noon.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

ANTHEM *O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord*
 Gordon Young

O Come, let us sing unto the Lord:
 Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King
above all gods.

In his hand are the deep places of the earth:
The strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his, and he made it:
And his hands formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down:
Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is our God; an we are the people
of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand..

Psalm 95: 1-7

FIRST LESSON Mary Jewett
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy
Spirit. **Amen.** *Psalm 95 (pg 550)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 4:5-42 (pg 94)*

SERMON *Thirsty Questions* Bill Levering

*HYMN #521
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Suite Popular Espanola Nana*
Manuel de Falla

*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.

*HYMN #356
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*
Dale Wood

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

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 FRC & UPC who entered eternal rest
in previous years about this time:

Sylvia Ebeling, Leroy Jewett

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.

Entered Into Eternal Rest

John Hillers
March 14, 2014

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the
sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving
memory of Leroy Jewett from his family. We are
grateful that these flowers, which represent our
prayers and praise, will be taken to church family
members to recognize a special need or
celebration.

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 church office of
your wishes. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for
two bouquets. You may send your check payable

to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

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 the church office. **We are in need of 3 volunteers for Mar. 30.**

Easter Reception Volunteers

We are in need of **one or two leaders** for our Easter Sunday reception in Friendship Hall. If you would simply like to contribute in another way, we are looking for volunteers with set up, cleanup and/or bringing a food item to share. Food items desired are deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, dip and chips, fruit and veggies, and cookies. You can sign up for any of these tasks by calling the church office at 377-2201, by using a white pew card, or by signing up on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall.

Forum

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, Peggy King 370-1885, or Amy Brule 785-8201.

Today: Challenge & Innovations in Our Library; Trustees of Schenectady Library Cheryl Cufari; Library Director, Karen Bradley

Mar 30: Community Conversation to Stop Bullying; Robyn King, Counselor, SCCC

April 6: New Approaches to Cancer Awareness and Early Treatment, Schenectady Cancer Foundation, Tom Goodman, MD, Tina Versaci, Exec. Director

April 13: Union Presbyterian & First Reformed leaders will chat together about how the Joint Witness is going and what the future might hold.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Scott Bassinson, piano

March 30: Azzaam Hameed, piano

April 6: Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums; Dylan Canterbury, trumpet

Faith Bookshop

Folks who attend Jazz Vespers and other jazz lovers will be pleased to know that a CD featuring pianist/vocalist Azzaam Hameed is available in the Bookshop titled "Peaceful Journey." Sale items and books chosen specifically for the Lenten season are also featured.

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: Regular Meeting

March 30: Mission Shareholders Dinner 6pm

April 6: Regular Meeting

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will be meeting on Mar. 27 at 9:30am at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. For questions, contact Ronnie Bartholic 399-7679.

Mission Shareholders Dinner March 30

Thanks to all those who supported the youth group on their mission trip right here in Schenectady. Those who purchased mission shares are invited to join us for a dinner on March 30 at 6pm, where the youth will show pictures and tell stories about their adventures, while providing a meal inspired by the trip. If you have not purchased a mission share but wish to attend the dinner, it's not too late! Shares are \$25 and available from Stacey.

Chancel Choir to Sing Faure Requiem April 6

The FRC Chancel Choir will be performing the Faure Requiem on April 6 during the Sunday service. They will be accompanied by string orchestra and Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harpist.

Horizon Bible Study

The Horizons Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays at 10am in the Poling Conference room. April 1 will begin a new 6 week Lenten study: *Gospeled Lives: Encounters with Jesus*. Study guides are available at the church office for \$10 each. All are welcome to attend.

Group V

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 7 at 11am in Assembly Hall. Refreshments and coffee will be served. Co-hostesses: Madelyn Young and Barbara Piper. Program: Easter – significance, signs, stories, etc. All women of the church and their friends are invited. Contact Maria G. Todd with any questions.

Group VII

We will meet Friday, April 11 at 11:30am. “Small Lunches in Homes.” Co-hostesses TBA. Please note our meeting this month is the second Friday rather than the third Friday of the month. Contact Ronnie Bartholic with any questions.

Movie Screening: “A Place at the Table.”

Did you know that over 50 million Americans are food insecure (meaning that they do not know where their next meal will come from), or that hunger affects over 70% of students in Schenectady? *A Place at the Table* is an eye-opening film about the hunger crisis in the United States. This film will be shown on April 16 at 7pm in Poling Chapel, with discussion to follow.

Shares Available to Help Youth Mission

FRC has a rich history of sending youth on mission trips where they have the opportunity to help people in need while also experiencing diverse cultures and circumstances, building community, and learning about how they relate to the wider world. As a result of these trips, many FRC youth have gone on to service-related careers and lifestyles of volunteerism. Your support is invaluable as the Senior High Youth Group. Please support the Youth Group and participate in their journey by purchasing a Mission Share from any member of the youth

group, or from Stacey Midge, for only \$25. Mission Shareholders will also be invited to a dinner on March 30 to hear directly from the youth about their experience and to enjoy food inspired by the trip.

New Writers Group Starts

A Flash Fiction critique group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Walton Conference Room. Flash Fiction is a COMPLETE story, fiction or nonfiction, written in 1,000 words or less. For more info and signups, contact James Gonda at jamesgonda63@yahoo.com or the church office.

SICM Easter Baskets

SICM is making Easter baskets to give to families who use the Food Pantry. Please bring donated items and put in the boxes by the church doors. Please bring your items in by Sunday, March 30. Needed are: small games, puzzles, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, healthy snacks, coloring books, crayons, craft supplies, and 8”x10” pastel colored gift bags.

Earth Sunday Frolic Along the Mohawk

Plan on joining our Creation Care Commission (CCC) April 27 for an environmental outing! We’ll be picking up trash on the bike-hike trail starting behind Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) as part of the “Canal Clean Sweep” initiative. A nutritious lunch of soup and bread will be shared following worship; we’ll leave the church at 11:45 to meet up with others at the SCCC trail head by noon. Participants wanting an event tee shirt should sign up on the CCC bulletin board in Assembly Hall. Work gloves required. Together we’ll make a difference.

Lenten Schedule 2014

Wednesdays, March 26 – April 9

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Lenten Classes

8pm ~ Lenten Evening Worship

Dinner

Come share a free, delicious meal and good conversation at 6pm any Wednesday of Lent.

Classes

Race: The Power of an Illusion

Rev. Daniel Carlson

Employing an exceptional documentary, we'll explore race from many perspectives.

Lent For Kids - Jamie Ipsen

A class for children in grades K-8 full of art projects, music, and stories. (childcare also available for our little stones)

Scarves - Carol Troost

Learn to crochet different styles of ruffle scarves, the different yarns and resources. Attendance limited; sign up in Assembly Hall.

God Talk with Local Leaders

March 26: City Council President Peggy King

April 2: St. Supreme Court Judge Christine Clark

April 9: Union College Dean Therese McCarty

Learn the Art of Pysanky

Rev. Abby Norton-Levering

Learn to decorate eggs the Ukrainian way.

First Reformed Church and the Civil War

March 26: Isaac Duryee, Slavery, and Abolitionism in Schenectady – Marsha Mortimer

April 2: The Great Fire of 1861 ~ Building a New Church during Wartime – Dr. Carl George

April 9: How Schenectady was Positioned for the War – Overview from the church archives with comments on effects of the war on religion and FRC. How did FRC cope with the war?

Lenten Evening Worship

A quieter briefer service of songs accompanied by guitar, guided reflection, Holy Communion, shared prayers, and Christ's peace.

Movie Screening in Holy Week

April 16 at 7pm: *A Place at the Table*

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Claire Hughes, Carol Troost	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, George Trimarco
Faith Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Roberta Blackmer
Flower Delivery	Claire Hughes, Jeanne Shoulder	Ken & Ruth Roinos, Linda Malgieri
Greeters	Tom & Joan Lindsay	Tom & Joan Lindsay
Kinderwyk		
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Mary Jewett, Robert Beadle, Arthur Casey, Brad Lewis, Linda Witkowski	Joyce Griggs, Margaret King, Eugene Zeltmann, Darwin Brudos, Jerry Griggs, Margaret Schadler
Reader	Mary Jewett	Barbara Walton
Refreshments	Ann Hicks, Karen Gonda	<i>Please Sign Up</i>
Ushers	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeff Cox, Jim McCullough, Sharron McCullough	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Linda Malgieri, Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal

Sunday, March 23

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School for K-8
- 10:20 am Carol Choir
- 11:15 am Forum
- 11:15 am Orff Rehearsal
- 11:20 am Kirk Ringers
- 3:00pm New Members Class
- 4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
- 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, March 24

- 9:00am Mens Newsgroup
- 7:00pm Klokken Ringers

Tuesday, March 25

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Horizon Bible Study
- 6:00 pm CRTTC

Wednesday, March 26

- 9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
- 1:00 pm Thursday Belles
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00pm Lenten Classes
- 8:00pm Lenten Evening Worship

Thursday, March 27

- 7:30 am Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 10:00 am Stitch Group
- 6:45pm Yoga
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Sunday, March 30

- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary
- 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
- 11:15 am Forum
- 11:15 am Orff Rehearsal
- 11:20 am Kirk Ringers
- 4:00 pm Youth Orchestra
- 5:00pm Jazz Vespers
- 6:00pm Mission Shareholders Dinner

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Deuteronomy 8:15 He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.

Psalms 78:15-16 He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them abundant drink like the ocean depths. He brought forth streams also from the rock and caused waters to run down like rivers.

Psalms 23:1-2 The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

Psalms 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirst for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?

Isaiah 55:1 Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat.

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.