

**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.



August 3, 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.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harp
Johnny Willis, tenor, dobro,
mandolin, & harmonica

In the Sweet By and By Sanford B. Bennett
Joseph P. Webster

Let Us Break Bread Together
Traditional American Spiritual

Soul of a Man Blind Willie Nelson

Ashokan Farewell Jay Unger

Let All Things Now Living (Ash Grove)
Welsh folk melody

10:00 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

*HYMN *We Meet You, O Christ* #311

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O God, you know us completely. You know how we have failed to both love you above all others, and love our neighbors as ourselves. You know how we have failed to be faithful members of Christ's body. You know how we have failed to expect, embrace and employ your Spirit's gifts for the common good. O God, in your complete knowing and unfailing love, forgive us, we pray.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

Our Song of Hope

The Holy Spirit builds one church,
united in one Lord and hope,
with one ministry around one table.
The Spirit calls all believers in Jesus to
respond in worship together,
to accept all the gifts from the Spirit,
to learn from each other's traditions,
to make unity visible on earth.

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Shall We Gather at the River?
Robert Lowry

FIRST LESSON Barbara Walton
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Isaiah 55:1-5 (pg 685)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 13(pg 13)*

SERMON Stacey Midge
To Bear Fruit and Yield

*HYMN #343
Called As Partners in Christ's Service

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Just As I Am*
William Bradbury

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

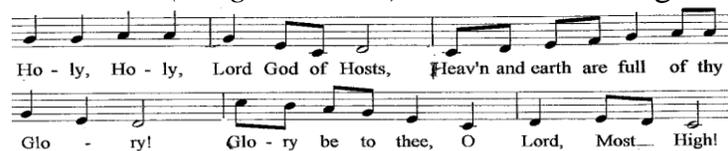
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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



COMMUNION

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 *God of Grace and God of Glory* #420

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Leonard B. Vandenberg

July 27, 2014

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:

*Thomas S. Getty, William Hubbard, Drew Mills,
Bill Piper*

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 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 Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Summer Church School is ON!

After the children's message we will gather at Kinderwyck where it is air conditioned and close to the after-worship goodies! We are looking to become a little more Bible savvy so we will play "5 Questions" each week with interactive learning (drama, music, art, games, etc.,) Everyone gets smart! We need one or two helpers (18 yrs+) to keep the program running. Call Jamie if you are available even for just one week, 399-6848.

Musical Note: *Halle, Halle, Halle*, words: traditional liturgical; music: Caribbean; arr. John L Bell, 1990 WGRG, Iona Community, GIA Pub. Inc. All rights reserved. One License #A-700700

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

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

August 10: TBA

August 17: Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Faith Bookshop

Today and during the rest of the summer, the Bookshop will be open briefly before and after most church services. In September, we will go back to our usual schedule and resume taking book orders.

Post Service Summer Refreshments

Over the summer whenever possible, our post service refreshments will be served in the Huntley Garden. Please consider signing up for set-up, refreshments, and clean-up by yourself or with a friend. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall along with a sheet on “how to” suggestions. Please read these instructions prior to signing up as it is very important in that the set-up and clean-up is done differently. Any questions, please contact the church office at 377-2201. We are in need of volunteers for **Aug. 17**.

Summer VBS this Week!

Children ages 5-95 are invited to attend “Spy School-VBS” this week, August 4-8 from 3-5pm. Students will learn to decode and encode Bible verses. There will be psalm writing with invisible ink. We will speculate on what God’s fingerprints look like while we examine our own. All will become masters of disguise dressing up as our favorite Bible characters. God will be uncovered in amazing places! Healthy snacks each day! Fun guaranteed for all! Please call the church office at 377-2201 to reserve your spot. Helpers are always needed! Call Jamie at 399-6848 to volunteer.

Writers Group

A Flash Fiction critique group meets 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.

Peace Pole Walk This Wednesday

Beginning at the International Peace Pole by the outdoor steps to our Dirck Romeyn Room, the Schenectady Neighbors for Peace will hold a walk this Wednesday, 5-8pm, in order to: commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, remember victims by dressing in white

(the traditional color of mourning in Japan), and call for worldwide nuclear disarmament. All six Peace Poles in Schenectady will be visited, where participants can rest as a prayer, poem, song, and/or another expression of remembrance and witness to be offered, before the walk continues. The schedule: 5pm First Reformed; 5:30pm First Methodist Church; 6:30pm Jackson’s Garden, Union College; 6:45pm Unitarian Universalist Society; 7:30pm Congregation Gates of Heaven; 8pm Monument Hill, near the Rose Garden, Central Park. The Peace Walk may be personalized according to time, ability, and preference, including carpooling, etc. All are welcome—especially members of the congregations hosting the Peace Poles.

Mid-month Evening Meal & Worship

All those who hunger for good food and table fellowship are invited to bring something edible to share on Wednesday, August 13 at 6pm in Assembly Hall. Following dinner and clean-up a contemplative communion service will be held in Poling Chapel at 7 for all who wish to conclude the evening with reflective and re-centering worship of God. Those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

Senior Recital

Olivia Cox will be presenting her Senior Recital at First Reformed Church in Poling Chapel on Friday, August 15 at 6pm. All are welcome!

SICM Summer Lunch Program

Our joint congregations have responsibility for four more weeks of the SICM Summer Lunch Program. Volunteers are needed! A sign-up sheet is available in Assembly Hall for the following dates: August 4-8, August 11-15, August 18-22, and August 25-29. As volunteers, we provide a valuable service for the children of Schenectady which requires a commitment of less than two hours each day. Please check the list and sign-up for as many dates as you are available. If you have questions, contact Ellie Rowland, 250-4302.

At Camp Fowler in Speculator

Registration is now open for summer camp 2014! Campers are students in grades 3-12; Fowler also offers a family camp where children of all ages and parents can experience camp together. Volunteers are also needed as cabin counselors and kitchen and maintenance staff. You can find more information on the website at campfowler.org or by contacting Stacey Midge (377-2201), who will be spending this week as chaplain for the senior high campers.

SICM School Supplies

SICM is collecting school supplies and will continue through the end of August. We hope you will take advantage of those back-to-school sales! All donations can be brought to the SICM business office at 1055 Wendell Ave. or brought to the church office for Stacey Midge. Any questions, you may call 374-2683. Thank you!

Upcoming Home Furnishings Program Sales

Antiques & Collectibles at the Washington County Fairgrounds, off Rte. 29 between Schuylerville & Greenwich. Today from 9am – 4pm. Admission fee is \$3. Make a day of it!

“COW” Sale at Stanford Methodist Church, corner of Consaul Rd. and State St.. Friday, August 8 & Saturday, August 9 from 9am – 1pm. Also a \$3 bag sale on Saturday from 11am – 1pm. Help us clean out the warehouse!

Sale at the “Little Italy” FESTA, in the Rossi-DeToro funeral home parking lot, Saturday, September 6, 10am – 3pm.

All sales support our operating budget and help us to help others!

Home Furnishings Program Needs

Furniture: bunk & trundle beds, room fans.

Furnishings: dish & hand towels, washcloths, juice glasses, spatulas, stirring spoons.

As Always: pots & pans, especially frying pans, large pots.

Call Jamie Doriguzzi, Program Coordinator,

346-2444, to arrange for pick-up or warehouse drop-off of useful items or email us homefurninc@aol.com.

Horizons Bible Study Material

Our study for the fall is “Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians.” We will be resuming in September, however, study guides are now available in the church office for \$8 for anyone interested.

Patty’s Place

This drop-in center is open and providing a safe, warm place for sex workers to find resources so that they can make safer choices now, and have the referrals and support to leave prostitution when they are ready. Those who are interested in volunteering or donating to this ministry should contact Stacey Midge. Volunteers are needed to staff the center from 7-10pm on Wednesday nights. Patty’s Place also accepts donations of supplies and money. Supplies currently needed include: individual sized shampoo and conditioner, soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, ready to eat food items such as soup and microwave popcorn, chocolate, cans of soda (Diet Coke is in high demand,) NEW women’s socks, underwear, bras, shorts, and T-shirts. Donations can be left in Stacey’s office after church or during normal office hours. Financial contributions should be made out to SICM, with Patty’s Place in the memo line. Thank you for your support!

54th Stockade Walkabout

Plans are underway for September 27, 2014 from 11am – 5pm, and we are looking for volunteers. Will you help welcome visitors to FRC that day? Have you an activity, program, display, or such, for people to do or see as they tour FRC? If you have any questions or wish to sign up to volunteer, you may contact Laura Lee Linder, 882-6866. We are also looking for volunteers to help bake pastries for Saturday’s event on Friday, September 26. If you would like to sign-up, you may contact Mary Jewett, 355-8059.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Darwin Brudos, Richard Gardner	Caroline Welch, Christine Daniels
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Flower Delivery	Amy Brule, Darwin Brudos	Rob & Karen Dickson, Linda Witkowski
Greeters	Tom & Joan Lindsay	Gay Doolittle & Nancy Davidson
Kinderwyk	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Lynne Gilgore
Processing Elders	Amy Brule, Nancy Davidson, George Davidson, Gay Doolittle	Mary Jewett, Robert Dickson, Ronnie Bartholic, Ron Lindsay, Jean Lindsay, Linda Witkowski
Reader	Barbara Walton	Jim Miller
Refreshments	Walter & Alison Yang	Ellie & Gene Rowland
Offertory Deacons/Ushers	Nancy Wainwright, Joan Lindsay	Bill Clock (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins

Sunday, August 3

10:00 am Worship w/Communion
 10:15 am Summer Church School for K-8
 11:00 am Refreshments
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, August 4

9:00 am Men's Newsgroup
 3:00 pm VBS

Tuesday, August 5

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 3:00 pm VBS
 7:00 pm UPC Session

Wednesday, August 6

3:00 pm VBS

Thursday, August 7

3:00 pm VBS

Friday, August 8

3:00 pm VBS

Sunday, August 10

10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Summer Church School K-8
 11:00 am Refreshments
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

“It’s the action, not the fruit of the action, that’s important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there’ll be any fruit. But that doesn’t mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.” – Mahatma Gandhi

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.” – Robert F. Kennedy

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.” – Catherine of Siena

“Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good.” – Minor Myers

“I have one life and one chance to make it count for something...My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.” – Jimmy Carter

“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.” – Saint Basil

“No greater thing is created suddenly, any more than a bunch of grapes or a fig. If you tell me that you desire a fig, I answer you that there must be time. Let it first blossom, then bear fruit, then ripen.” - Epictetus