



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
SCOTIA

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTIA

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26th, 2026

Bold invites you to join in the reading.

* invites you to rise in body or spirit, as you are able.

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude “Brother James’ Air” *J.L Macbeth Bain (1840-1925)*

Welcome & Announcements

Votum

* Call to Worship

Friends, let us walk in a manner worthy of our calling!

The Lord calls us each by name!

Let us be humble and gentle!

Let us be patient and loving!

Let us help to bear each other’s burdens!

Let us be unified in pursuing peace!

For we are the body of Christ, the church!

There is one body and one Spirit!

There is one hope and one Lord!

There is one faith and one baptism!

One God and Father of us all!

One God revealed to us in love!

One God who is above all things, through all things and in all things! One God whose love is from everlasting to everlasting! Let us worship God!

* Hymn No. 376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling HYFRYDOL

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

O Lord, we confess that we have repaid evil for evil and abuse for abuse. Our sympathy has lagged and our love for others has faltered. Our hearts are hardened and our minds full of pride. Our tongues speak evil and our lips deceit. We have turned away from the good. We have not been hospitable or good stewards of your blessings and gifts. Forgive us, O God. By your love change our ways.

~ Silent Personal Confession ~

O Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Truly God's love for us is from everlasting to everlasting! Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Summary of the Law

Passing of the Peace

Peace be with you!

And also, with you! (Please greet those around you)

Call to Gratitude

Offering

Offertory - 8:00am The Old Rugged Cross *George Bennard (1873-1958)*

- 10:00am O Sacred, Wondrous Love *Heather Sorenson*

*O sacred Head, now wounded with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns Thine only crown.
How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!
What Thou, my Lord, has suffered was all for sinners' gain.
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place.
Look on me with Thy Favor. Vouch safe to me Thy grace.
What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for Thee!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
O sacred Head now wounded with grief and shame weighed down.*

Response

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

* Prayer of Dedication

We Proclaim the Word of God

Unison Prayer for Illumination

O Spirit, in love sustain us - in love enlighten us - in love guide us - in love challenge us - in love change us - in love never let us go. Amen.

1st Lesson

John 13:34-35

p. 83

Song of Praise

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

by Donald Fishel

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His Name.**

Children's Sermon

Rev. McCloskey

2nd Lesson

1 Peter 3:8-11 & 4:8-11

p. 183 & 184

Sermon

Maintain Love

Rev. McCloskey

We Respond with Gratitude to God

* Hymn No. 438

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

* Statement of Faith

The Confession of 1967

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of [the human] mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals [God's] love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful [humanity]. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of...love.

Announcements:

Our Life in Worship

WELCOME! We are so glad that you have joined us this morning to worship God! We strive to be a warm and welcoming community of Christian people who seek to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do. You are encouraged to introduce yourself to the pastor and to those around you.

IF YOU ARE VISITING US FOR THE FIRST TIME - We encourage you to fill out a visitor card which you can find in each pew with the offering envelopes. Once completed these can be given to an usher so we can contact you. If you would rather, there is also a QR Code on the narthex bulletin board, which will allow you to digitally submit to us the same information. We also have a welcome bag for you, please speak to an usher to receive one.

LISTENING DEVICES & LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS - are available for those who need them. Speak to an usher if you would like to try one.

RESTROOMS - There is one restroom just off the narthex. Other bathrooms are through the door on the right-hand side of the sanctuary then to the left or down the long hall to the right.

THE FLOWERS - You can enhance worship by providing flowers for the sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone or some event special to you. Suggested donation is \$50. To reserve a Sunday, please call the church office at 518-370-4751 or sign up in the narthex.

FAITH FORMATION - All Kindergarten - 12th graders are welcome to join Miss Diana for a time of worship, learning and fun each Sunday at 10:30am. Our topic for today will be *People in Need*.

NURSERY CARE - Nursery care for children, infants through 4 years old, is available every Sunday from 9:30am to 11:30am. The nursery is located in the first room on the right as you exit the sanctuary down the education wing. Parents are welcome to stay in the nursery with their little one(s) if they would like. We ask that a parent stay with babies younger than six months old.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - On Sunday May 17th at the 10am worship we will be welcoming the teenagers of our confirmation class as members of the congregation. There will be a celebration to follow in Brink Hall.

Our Life in Community

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER'S OFFICE HOURS - Rev. McCloskey will be available in his office this Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00-4:00pm for anyone who would like to drop by. If you would like to schedule an appointment with him outside of this time please email him at pastorchristopher@firstreformedscotia.org. For pastoral emergencies, please call his cell at (203) 430-1990.

THE CHURCH OFFICE - will be open this week from 9am-1pm Monday through Friday.

RENEW BIBLE STUDY - The group will be reading The Upper Room, a devotional booklet available for free at church. There are daily readings, suggested scriptures and a discussion guide to assist our discussion. This study began on Tuesday, April 14th, at 12 noon via Zoom. For questions and a Zoom link, contact Sunny Baldwin, at 518-320-4562 or csunnyb53@gmail.com

BIBLE STUDY - Led by Miss Diana: "Christianity and World Religions" Tuesdays at 6:30pm from April 14th - May 19th. Please let Diana know if you are interested so we can order you a book education@firstreformedscotia.org.

Our Life in Service

MISSION OF THE MONTH: The Mission of the Month for April is the Community Cupboard. The Community Cupboard is our 24-hour food cabinet located outside of the Brink Hall entrance. Since its opening in June 2024, the cupboard has become a vital resource for the food insecure in our area. It is constantly in use providing not just food, but also personal care items and pet food. Please consider donating to the Community Cupboard this month!

BLOOD DRIVE - Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood. The American Red Cross will be in Brink Hall on Tuesday April 28th from Noon-5:00pm. Walk-ins welcome or schedule an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code ReformedChurchofScotia or call 1-800-733-2767. Donors can go to rcblood.org/hope to learn about a \$15 e-gift card for the merchant of your choice.

PAINT AND SNACK - Scotia-Glenville Relay for Life invites you to a Paint and Snack class to be held on Thursday May 14th from 5pm-7pm in Brink Hall. The registration deadline is May 8th. The fee is \$45 per person and 100% of your donation will support the American Cancer Society. Contact Diane Skibinski at dskibins@gmail.com to save your spot.

OVER THE BRIDGE UPDATE - A huge thank you to everyone who donated winter clothes, jackets, blankets and sleeping bags. They were all appreciated by so many and helped them brave the cold. Now that the warmer weather is here, we are accepting donations of gently used men's, women's, and children's tee shirts, socks, sweatshirts and sweatpants. Also coloring books as well as gently used books for both children and adults. Thank you to our church family who help to keep Doug Bartling's mission going over the bridge alive for people in great need every Sunday. - The Over The Bridge Crew

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD UPDATE - The donations of food and personal care items are so very appreciated by many in our community. This from a guest who stopped by today. "Thank you for being here. This [the Cupboard] allows me to give my children cereal with milk." Being part of the Community Cupboard brings joy to those receiving!

It also offers the joy of caring and giving. Caring for the Community Cupboard is like preparing for having company at your home. Clean and organize the Cupboard, grocery shopping, and fill the shelves for the next guest. We welcome everyone to assist with keeping the Cupboard well cared for. If you would like more information about how you can be involved, please see Cindy Taft or Karen Wentworth.

Specific grocery items needed this week include canned chicken, tomatoes, and tomato sauce, snacks, and prepackaged easy to prepare meals. Personal care items including toothpaste, bar soap, and period products (tampons & pads) go quickly. As always, monetary donations to support this mission are welcome.

This Week's Calendar

SUN, Apr 26	8:00 & 10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary
	9:00 & 11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	9:15am	Choir Assembles, Choir Room
	11:15am	Kid's Hope Training, Diana's Room
	11:30am	Personnel Committee, Memorial Lounge
TUES, Apr 28	12:00pm	Renew Bible Study, Zoom
	12:00pm-5:00pm	American Red Cross Blood Drive, Brink
	2:00pm	Care Council, Memorial Lounge
	6:30pm	Bible Study, Diana's Room
	9:00am	Backpack Packing, Brink Hall
WED, Apr 29	11:00am	Fellowship Council, Memorial Lounge
THUR, Apr 30	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
SUN, May 3	8:00 & 10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary
	9:00 & 11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	9:30am	Choir Assembles, Choir Room
	11:15am	Board of Elders, Memorial Lounge

The Consistory of First Reformed Church of Scotia

President: Rev. Christopher McCloskey

Elders

Don Bowers
Kevin McCann
Paul Munson
Debbie Perretta
David Schalekamp, VP
Kathe Sheehan

Deacons

John Ackner
Laura Taft Bull
Erikka Gravell
Allison Beauchemin
Lee Poremba
Bill Shave, Clerk

Our Congregation's Covenant

*First Reformed Church of Scotia is a fellowship of people,
each called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit
to be disciples of Jesus Christ,
and instruments of his presence in the world.*

*We sustain our fellowship through worship
and the celebration of the sacraments, through prayer,
and through the encouragement of each other's spiritual growth.
Our shared task is to follow Christ in mission and ministry
in our lives, our homes, our community, and our world so loved by God.*

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