

This commitment to “faith in action” resonates deeply with both longtime members and newer attendees who seek a spiritual home that aligns with their values. Sunday services often include announcements about volunteer opportunities, community vigils, and advocacy campaigns, making it clear that worship extends far beyond the sanctuary walls.

WORSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Old First Reformed Church Brooklyn is affiliated with the Reformed Church in America (RCA), one of the oldest Protestant denominations in the United States. However, the congregation embraces an open and inclusive theology, welcoming people of all backgrounds, denominations, and faith traditions.

Worship services are typically held on Sunday mornings and blend traditional liturgy with contemporary relevance. Hymns from the Reformed tradition are sung along with modern praise music, while scripture readings and sermons address both ancient texts and current events. Communion is open to all, and the church offers baptism, confirmation, and marriage ceremonies for members and non-members alike.

The church also runs Sunday school for children, youth groups, adult education classes, and a vibrant music program. Its choir performs regularly, and the sanctuary’s excellent acoustics make it a popular venue for classical and choral concerts throughout the year. Special services are held during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, drawing large crowds that fill the historic pews.

VISITING OLD FIRST REFORMED CHURCH BROOKLYN: PRACTICAL INFORMATION

For those eager to see this historic landmark firsthand, Old First Reformed Church Brooklyn is located at 729 Carroll Street at the corner of Seventh Avenue. It is easily accessible via the F, G, and R subway lines at the Seventh Avenue station, as well as several bus routes. The church is open for Sunday worship at 11:00 AM, and visitors are always welcome to attend services. Guided tours of the building are offered periodically, especially during neighborhood events like the Park Slope House Tour or Open House New York.

If you visit, take time to walk around the exterior and admire the intricate stonework. The surrounding neighborhood—Park Slope—is itself a historic district filled with brownstone row houses, independent bookstores, cafes, and Prospect Park just a few blocks away. Combining a visit to the church with a stroll through the area makes for an enriching cultural experience.

Old First Reformed Church Brooklyn also hosts a number of public events, including classical music concerts, lecture series, and seasonal festivals. Check their website or social media pages for the latest schedule. Photography is generally permitted during designated hours, but it is always best to ask at the office.

PRESERVATION AND THE FUTURE

Like many historic churches, Old First Reformed Church Brooklyn faces ongoing challenges related to maintenance and funding. The 19th-century brownstone requires constant upkeep, and the congregation has launched capital campaigns to restore the tower, repoint the masonry, and repair stained-glass windows. These efforts are supported by grants from preservation organizations, donations from members, and community fundraising.

The church’s leadership is also working to ensure that the building remains relevant in the 21st century. Recent renovations have included upgrading the HVAC system, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, and expanding digital capabilities for livestreaming services. The goal is to honor the past while adapting to the needs of a modern congregation.

As Brooklyn continues to evolve, Old First Reformed Church Brooklyn stands as a powerful symbol of continuity and change. It reminds us that history is not merely something to be preserved behind glass—it is a living, breathing force that shapes our present and guides our future. The church’s enduring presence on Seventh Avenue is a testament to the vision of its founders and the dedication of generations of members who have kept the spirit of faith and service alive.

CONCLUSION

Old First Reformed Church Brooklyn is far more than a historic building or a Sunday worship space. It is an anchor of the Park Slope community, a beacon of social justice, and a masterpiece of Gothic Revival architecture. From its roots in the Dutch colonial era to its vibrant role in contemporary Brooklyn, the church embodies a unique blend of tradition and progress. Whether you come to admire the soaring spire, to participate in a service, or to engage with its outreach programs, you will find a warm welcome and a deep sense of connection. In a rapidly changing city, Old First Reformed Church Brooklyn remains a steadfast reminder of what it means to build community across generations.