

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
of SOUTH HOLLAND
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sunday, December 10, 2023



Welcome to First Reformed Church!

We are currently observing the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival;" it is a period of preparation as the church lives in expectation and hope for the coming of Jesus.

This year, we are going to be placing ourselves in the shoes (or sandals) of God's people in the Old Testament, waiting for the coming Christ with the minor prophets. The stained-glass windows on the southern wall of the sanctuary use symbols representing the four major prophets (window by the piano) and twelve minor prophets.

Today's window represents the prophet Zephaniah using the symbol of the sword, recalling Zephaniah's warning to the city of Jerusalem who thought they were safe in their own strength.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sunday, December 10, 2023

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"
"What Child is This"
"First Noel"

Welcome & Call to Worship

Pastor Jim Oord

*Opening Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Lighting of the Love Candle

"I'm Waiting"

Time of Silence

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jim Oord

*Greeting One Another

*Congregational Singing

"Love Has Come"
"Eden Is Open"

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Zephaniah 1:2-3, 7, 3:14-17

Sermon

"Minor Prophets, Major Good News – Getting Ready"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Ron Abernathy

Offertory

"Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"

*Doxology

"Christmas Doxology"

*Benediction

Pastor Jim Oord

*Sending in Grace

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

*Postlude

"Joy to the World"

*Those who are able please stand.

Please, join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a cup of conversation and a cookie.

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

GREETERS: Jim DeGroot and Cindy Nylen; **WELCOME CENTER:** Nyla DeGraff

WORSHIP TEAM: Bill Nyhanna, Nikki Nyhanna & Nick Paarlberg

PROJECTION: Izzy Veldboom; **VIDEO:** Keith Flowers; **SOUND:** Lucas Bolkema

ORGAN: Steve DeVries

PIANO: Joanne Hoeksema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Amber Fransen

COFFEE SERVERS: Don & Nyla DeGraff and Don & Gerri VanBaren

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Megan DeYoung, Raylene Oord, and Katie Sikkema

6:00PM: Lessons & Carols Christmas Program in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:00AM: Trustees meet in the Heritage Room

9:30AM: Piece Makers meet in the Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

10:00AM: Women's Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:00PM: First Fellowship and The Chosen Study meets in the Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

GREETERS: Steve VanderWoude and Lucas VanderWoude

WELCOME CENTER: Deb Woltzen

WORSHIP TEAM: Nolan Bolkema, Gail Housman, Austin Parks, and Grant Sikkema

PROJECTION: Liam VanderWoude

VIDEO: Mike Decker

SOUND: Lucas Bolkema

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Pastor Jim Oord

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Kim Bolkema

COFFEE SERVERS: Jim & Bonnie DeGroot and Griff & Mary Decker

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Mary Bosman, Amber Fransen, and Mary Koster

6:30-8:00PM: OASIS Christmas Party in the Activity Center

CARE...

Rich Zimmerman suffered a heart attack and is anticipating open heart surgery soon.

Jean Spiekhout is at Community Stroke and Rehab Center in Crown Point, Room #3012 for therapy.

Monty Riddering is home recovering from a 2nd hip replacement surgery.

Shirley Van Deursen continues at Park Place, Room #106 for rehab.

Dorothy Jacobsma is home recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Kathy Oord, Trina Taylor, and Christopher Nelson continue with their treatments for cancer.

Ruth DeBoer is in rehab at Hartsfield Village recovering from a broken elbow.

Alice Kats continues in hospice care in her home.

Daniel Pletzke, son-in-law of Ron & Diana Abernathy, continues to recover from heart issues. Ron and Diane's daughter **Debra** is recovering from a heart procedure.

Please pray for the **Costello family**: for **Sean**, who continues to regain strength and is now able to walk with the use of a cane; for **Mike**, who is recuperating at home from his heart surgery complications; and for **Pam**, who is trusting God to uphold, strengthen, and provide for her and the family during this time.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Carol Housman, Cedarhurst of Dyer, 1763 Calumet Ave. #10, Dyer, IN 46311

OUR GIFTS...

Sunday, December 3

Basket Total: \$9,714.00; Online Total: \$1,745.70

Rachel Wooley Gift & Memorial: \$100.00

Giving Total: \$11,559.70; (Needed Weekly: \$11,500.00)

Additional Thanksgiving Offering: \$250.00

REACH 175 Campaign: \$794.56

ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER...

First Emergency: Mary Decker

First Security: Colin Cutler

CHURCH LIFE...

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE:

- ✚ **TODAY** at 6:00pm, join us for our Service of Lessons and Carols, a musical celebration of the story of Jesus' arrival. If you love Christmas music, you won't want to miss it!
- ✚ **Wednesday, December 13**, our last Chosen Bible study will be from 6:00-7:30pm. Includes a meal followed by an episode screening with discussion.
- ✚ **Sunday, December 24**, join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am and our Christmas Eve Service at 11:00pm. This service is always a highlight of the year, as we stay up and greet Christmas Day with carols, candlelight, and worship (and we just might bring back the sparklers!).
- ✚ **Sunday, January 7**, our Annual Tolling of the Bells Service where we hear the bell toll for the loved ones who have gone on to glory this past year.

KITCHEN NEWS: As part of our Raise 175 campaign, work on the Activity Center kitchen has begun! This means that the Fellowship Hall kitchen is currently being used by Family Life Daycare to prepare 2 meals a day (plus snacks) for 80+ kids, 5 days a week. So, if you use the kitchen in any way between now and the end of the year, please 1) keep the counters clear, 2) respect the top two shelves of the fridge, which are being used by Family Life, 3) keep it cleaner than you found it. Thank you!

THE FIRST CHURCH LADIES' BIBLE STUDY will meet this **Tuesday, December 12**, at 10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having our 2nd Annual Cookie Exchange and Packing Party at this time. Please bring a batch of homemade or store-bought goodies to gift to our sweet friends. We will also review our findings in Session 3, workbook pgs. 59-72. Hope to see you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL continues today at 11:10am.

- K-5th grade meet in the Genesis Room at 11:10am, followed by K-2nd class in the library; 3rd-5th in the Loft.
- 6th-12th grade meet in the chapel at 11:10am.
- Tibstra House meets in the Heritage Room immediately following the service.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 AND 31!



THE CHOSEN, SEASON 2 OPPORTUNITY!

We invite you to come out every other Wednesday to watch *The Chosen, Season 2* together. *The Chosen* is a carefully researched and well-made dramatization of the life of Jesus as told in the biblical gospels. This study concludes on **Wednesday, December 13**, and will

include a meal at 6:00pm. The episode screening will be followed by discussion and a deeper dig into the Bible's stories of the life of Jesus. Please sign up at the Welcome Centers.

OFFERING ENVELOPES have been issued for 2024 and are in your mail slots. If you should have any questions, please contact Mike Decker at 708-567-5447.

REMINDERS....

PLEASE KEEP THE PARKING AREA that is lined in the front and on the north side of the church - which is closest to the elevator - available for those who have difficulty walking. Thank you!

VISIT THE WELCOME CENTER in the narthex to sign cards for our shut-ins and hospitalized.

AREA EVENTS....

ICELESS SKATING RINK OPENING FOR THE SEASON on Fridays from 3:00-8:00pm and Saturday & Sunday from noon-8:00pm at East 161st Street and SoHo Sweets Lane. The rink is located in the lot behind SoHo Sweets and is constructed using panels of synthetic ice. Skates are available for rent—\$3 adults, \$2 kids. Cash and credit card are accepted. In case you get cold skating, SoHo Sweets has coffee and hot cocoa for sale to keep you warm!

VETERANS PARK LIGHT DISPLAY: The Christmas lights at Veterans Memorial Park are now aglow! The spectacular light display will shine every night between now and **January 3, 2024**. Make sure to stop by and take a stroll!

SERMON NOTES...

“Minor Prophets, Major Good News – Getting Ready”

Zephaniah 1:2-3, 7, 3:14-17

Pastor James Oord



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SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS

9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday

STAFF...

Rev. James Oord
Senior Pastor

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

Anthony Bolkema
Pastor of Worship & Ministry

Rev. Dr. Rich Grevengoed
Pastor of Care & Visitation

Nyla DeGraff
Church Administrator

Gerri VanBaren
Administrative Assistant

Steve Alexander
Church Custodian

Jane Ackerman
Church Accountant

Darcy Daly
Nursery Coordinator

Toni Smith
*Director of Family Life
Christian Pre-School & Day Care*

Visit us online at www.frcsh.org

Find us in the app store by searching for

"First Reformed Church South Holland" or by visiting get.theapp.co/1779.



PRAYER ROOM: Need a word of encouragement or someone to pray with? Come to the prayer room after church until 11am. It is located outside the double doors west of the Chapel. A team of dedicated volunteers would welcome the opportunity to pray with you this morning.

To get to know you better, please fill out our [Welcome Card](#) in the pew and place it in the offering plate. If you want more information about the life of First Church, make sure to include your email address.