

**FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
OF SOUTH HOLLAND**
Sunday, December 25, 2022
Christmas Day



Merry Christmas...

The Twelve Days of Christmas run from December 25 - January 6 and are a time of celebration!

Our message today comes from the book of Nahum. This is the symbol used in our Nahum window (the Minor Prophet windows are along the south wall of our main sanctuary). Nahum promised a time where God would "break the yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away" (Nahum 1:13). This is the Christmas good news that we celebrate and shout from the mountains (Nahum 1:15)!

Hope, love, joy, and peace are ours through the coming of Christ. We're so glad you're celebrating with us today!

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

GREETERS: Trina Taylor and Cindy Nylen

MUSIC TEAM: Anthony Bolkema, Nolan Bolkema, and Nick Paarlberg

PIANO: Pastor Jim Oord

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office and Family Life Day Care Closed

(Family Life Day Care will be closed through January 6)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Church Office Closed

TOLLING OF THE BELLS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

GREETERS: Don VanBaren and Rodger Norris

WELCOME CENTER: Deb Woltzen

PROJECTION: Gwen Adams

VIDEO: Mike Decker

SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink

MUSIC TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Bill Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, and Bella VanderWoude

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Anthony Bolkema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Abby Veldboom

COFFEE SERVERS: Pastor Rich & Barb Grevengoed and Clair & Lynn Hoeksema

COOKIE LADIES: Gwen Adams, Mary Decker, and Gail Housman

CARE...

Alice Kats has been transitioned to hospice care in her home. Pray for her comfort and peace.

Jan Nelson continues in physical therapy due to her fall.

Craig Nelson is recovering from successful neck surgery he had on Thursday, December 8.

Norma Knopf has been diagnosed with breast cancer and started chemo treatments on Wednesday, November 30, and will be followed by radiation treatments.

Kathy Oord has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. She has finished her first regime of bi-weekly chemo and has begun a set of weekly chemo treatments and has 9 more weeks to go.

Rachel Wooley continues with chemotherapy and the good news is her tumors are shrinking.

Carol Snyder is doing well and has healed from her broken elbow; she is thankful for your prayers.

Pray for **Marsha Pilipow** as she tends to the health of her aging mother.

Christopher Nelson continues in a monitoring mode watching for new lump growth. His next oncologist appointment is in February.

Dianne Gruger, the mother of Megan DeYoung, completed her radiation treatments but will continue with her chemo treatments for lung cancer.

Lula Brown, Felicia Flowers' mother, has breast cancer and continues her recovery from surgery.

Ron Abernathy, Jr. son of Ron and Diana Abernathy, had a mass removed from his leg and is waiting for the biopsy results.

Debra Pletzke, daughter of Ron & Diana Abernathy, is recovering from hernia surgery and is doing well.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Harriet DeYoung, Elevate Senior Living #409, 16300 Louis Ave., South Holland, IL 60473

CHRISTMAS DAY Sunday, December 25, 2022

WE APPROACH GOD

Piano Prelude

"Ding Dong Merrily on High"
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Invitation to Stand and Sing

Pastor Jim Oord

Congregational Worship

"Joy to the World" The Lord Is Come"
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain!"
"What Child is This"

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Nahum 1:12-2:2

Sermon

Minor Prophets, Major Good News: Shackles Torn Away"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Song of Gratitude

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Jim Oord

Offertory

"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"

*Benediction

Pastor Jim Oord

*Sending in Grace

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

*Postlude

*Those who are able please stand.

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

CHURCH LIFE...

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Claude and Sharon Brooks on the passing of Sharon's 48-year-old sister, Chanel Nelson, who had a massive heart attack on Wednesday, December 14.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is also extended to Rev. Al VanderMeer and family in the passing of Lenore on Thursday, December 15.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the ladies of First Church who lovingly and graciously provide the cookies for our fellowship time after the church services. Your spiritual gift of providing the treats is so appreciated and is a vital part of our church life. Everyone loves to gather around the cookie table and their satisfied smiles are proof of your efforts! Please check your mailbox for the list for the new year. Thanks, Cookie Ladies!

SMALL GROUP RESTART: As we begin a new year, we are going to restart a small group ministry. This will be a great way to jump start your year alongside your church family. For 90 days (from Monday, January 9 through Palm Sunday), small groups of 6-8 people will work through a devotional together. If you're interested in joining a small group for the first quarter of 2023, sign up at the Welcome Center!

THE FIRST CHURCH LADIES' BIBLE STUDY will next meet on **Tuesday, January 10**, at 10:00am in The Fellowship Hall. Please complete the homework on Session 4, "Trust God's Comfort" pages 71-97 in the study guide and memorize the beautiful words of Isaiah 40:31. At this time, we will also view the Session 4 video and fill in p. 98 in the study guide. Hope you can attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will be taking a Christmas break today, **Sunday, December 25**, and **Sunday, January 1**. All classes will resume on **Sunday, January 8**.

OFFERING ENVELOPES have been issued for 2023 and are in your mail slots. If you should have any questions, please contact Mike Decker at 708-567-5447.

DID YOU KNOW? Our church has a Facebook page! Like and follow the page to get information about upcoming events, historical tidbits, and snapshots of what's going on at First. If you take the time to like or share our posts, it helps get the word out about events and services to bless our community.

OUR ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BELLS SERVICE will be **Sunday, January 1**. We look forward to hearing the bell toll for the loved ones who have gone on to glory this past year. We also have the privilege of remembering the baptisms we celebrated this past year.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION will be held on **Saturday, January 14** at the Spirit of God Fellowship at 10:00am. Everyone is invited to attend! This celebration honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with song and scripture.

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, 2023**. Make sure to stop by and take a stroll!

REMINDERS...

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

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!

PLEASE CONTACT the church office if you know of a friend or family member who has been admitted to the hospital.

OUR GIFTS...

THE DEACONS would like to encourage you to remember First Reformed Church in your year-end giving this Christmas season.

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Basket Total: \$14,408.00; Online Total: \$1,540.00

Giving Total: \$15,948.00; (Needed Weekly: \$11,500.00)

ON DUTY TODAY...

First Emergency: Mary Decker

First Security: Barry Voss

SERMON NOTES...

Nahum 1:12-2:2

“Minor Prophets, Major Good News: Shackles Torn Away”

Pastor Jim Oord



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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

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.

SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS

9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday