

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SOUTH HOLLAND

15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473
Office: 708.333.0622 • Prayer Line: 708.333.8150
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FIRST SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 29, 2019



Welcome...

At First Church one of the best ways we can grow together is through Sunday morning worship. Here, you'll find a warm and welcoming community of people from all different walks of life gathered together in unity to lift high the name of Jesus. We do this in all sorts of different ways. We sing new songs with guitars and old songs with an organ. We pray new prayers from the heart and ancient prayers of the faith. We preach the same Good News of Jesus Christ in new and fresh ways in hopes of intersecting the Word of God with the stories of our lives. Whether you grew up Catholic, married a Baptist, or anything in between, you'll find a home in worship here at First Church.

FIRST SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS Sunday, December 29, 2019 WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude Joanne Hoeksema
Welcome & Greeting One Another Pastor Rich Grevengoed
*Congregational Singing #152 "Angels We Have Heard On High" (vs. 1,3 & 4)
#151 "Go! Tell It On The Mountain" (vs. 1,2 & 3)
#140 "Emmanuel"

Prayer of Confession Pastor Al VanderMeer
Song of Assurance #146 "Joy to the World" (vs. 1,3 & 4)

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Matthew 2:13-23
Sermon "Emmanuel, God With Us"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer Roger DeGraff
Offering Joanne Hoeksema
*Doxology Joanne Hoeksema
*Benediction Pastor Al VanderMeer
*Sending in Grace "Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending" (vs. 4)
*Postlude Joanne Hoeksema

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 29

GREETERS: John & Gay Kraai and Craig & Jan Nelson

COFFEE SERVERS: Griff & Mary Decker and Clair & Lynn Hoeksema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Izzy Veldboom

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PROJECTION: Felicia Flowers

SOUND: Charlie Dix

VIDEO: Eric Pradelski

PRAYER ROOM: Ron & Diana Abernathy

WELCOME CENTER: Dave Wright

FIRST RESPONSE TEAMS: First Emergency: Tiffany Buchanan; First Security: Rick Furst

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Carol Barnes, Dorothy Jacobsma, Grace Jacobsma, and Gerri VanBaren

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

Church Office Hours: 9am - Noon

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1

Church Office Closed

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JANUARY 2 & 3

Church Office Hours: 9am - Noon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

GREETERS: Clair & Lynn Hoeksema and Rich Zimmerman

COFFEE SERVERS: Colin & Geni Cutler and Don & Noreen VanDeursen

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Gail Housman

MUSIC TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Daniel Day, Peter Keep, Bill Nyhanna and Abby Veldboom

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Anthony Bolkema

PROJECTION: Darrow Alexander

SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink

VIDEO: Mike Decker

PRAYER ROOM: Bob Asmus & Dan Dieck

WELCOME CENTER: Roger Hommes

FIRST RESPONSE TEAMS: First Emergency: Trina Taylor; First Security: Colin Cutler

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Nyla DeGraff, Pam Furst, Norma Smit and Deb Woltzen

CARE...

Chinedu Akoma continues her recuperation at home.

Bob Griffin continues with his treatments for lung cancer. Pray for signs of improvement.

Dave Schultz, brother of Deb Woltzen, continues with treatments for lung cancer. Deb's mother, Jean Schultz, is recovering from surgery on her wrist and has been able to be released from the hospital and will be staying at Dennis and Debbie's home for about six weeks. She will need to also continue with injection therapy to save her eye.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Lenora Anker, Beecher Manor, Room 504A, 1201 Dixie Highway, Beecher, IL 60401.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of David Besser, who passed away on Monday, December 16. A memorial service and a celebration of Dave's life will be held here on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at noon. Memorial visitation will take place before the service in the church sanctuary from 10:00AM-12:00PM. Luncheon to follow memorial service in church Fellowship Hall - all are welcome to join.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATES...

Rev. James and Raylene Oord, Aniyah and Michael, 7429 West 86th Avenue, Crown Point, IN. 46307.
James – 616.403.0782/jamesoord@gmail.com and Raylene – 269-870-0548/oordfamily@gmail.com

OUR GIFTS...

Sunday, December 15

Basket Total: \$15,624.88; Online Total: \$915.00; Special Projects: \$1,150.00

Gift & Memorial; Dave Besser: \$100.00

Giving Total: \$17,789.88

(Needed Weekly: \$11,250.00)

CHURCH LIFE...

A RECEPTION FOR THE OORD FAMILY will be held on Sunday, January 12 immediately following morning worship. The family will be available in the Fellowship Hall for you to greet and welcome Pastor Jim, Raylene, Aniyah, and Michael. Please join us as we celebrate the beginning of Pastor Jim's ministry at First Reformed Church.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK the congregation for all the cards, prayers, and love that was shown to our family on the passing of our sister/sister-in-law, Julie Field. It was a great comfort to us knowing that we were not in this alone, but we have our church family to help us heal. A special thanks to Pastor Rich for doing such a lovely home going service for Julie and to Barb for her comfort and love. On behalf of the Woltzen and Field family we thank all of you so much. Blessings to all of you.

IN THE PAST 5 YEARS AND IN MOVING FORWARD, all contributions whether designated or undesignated, are deposited into one operating fund and are distributed according to the budget approved by the congregation. During the past 5 years, the designated offerings to specific budgets never exceeded their respective budgets. It is therefore unnecessary to designate to specific budgets. When you contribute, your gifts are applied to the needs defined in the current expense budget. When you contribute, your gifts are applied to the needs defined in the benevolent budget. When you contribute, your gifts are applied to the needs defined in the Mission budget. When you contribute, your gifts are applied to the needs defined in the building budget. Year 2020 envelopes will be distributed in late December. Our envelopes will have a single line selection for BUDGET (Current Expense, Benevolent, Missions and Building). Our envelopes will have a single line for non-budget OTHER (Specify). An example of this is for memorial gifts. Please continue to use the BLUE envelopes for Special Offering for capital improvements. The deacons thank you for your offering. If you have any questions, please contact Griff Decker @708-710-0111. Please leave a message.

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORTS for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 are available in a single marked mail slot located on the north end of our mail slots. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Treasurer, Griff Decker.

MUNCH AND MINGLE has been cancelled for January 19.

PLEASE VISIT THE WELCOME CENTER in the Fellowship Hall after the service to sign cards for our shut-ins who are celebrating birthdays or are hospitalized.

LEARNING...

SUNDAY SCHOOL will be taking a winter break on December 29, January 5, and January 12. All classes will resume on Sunday, January 19th at 11:00am.

BOOK CLUB will next meet on **Tuesday, January 14** at 9:30am in the Library. We will be reading The Pioneers by David McCullough. Questions? Call Nancy Bates @596-7314.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING CAMPAIGN 2019...



We are now addressing the improvements needed for our parsonage. For more information or with any questions please see Don DeGraff, Elder VP, or Ray Ondrejka, Deacon Chairman. "Special Project" envelopes are available on the narthex shelves.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES, as well as Faith & Fellowship formation ministries are in full swing and it's a great time to be part of our First Church Family. The deacons would like to encourage all members to continue your faithful support of the ministry of First Reformed Church through your tithes and donations. Though our expenses are less than budgeted due to our senior pastor vacancy, it's important to note that our weekly giving has also been less than budgeted. We are currently in week 24 of 52 and are behind in receipts vs budget by \$38,513. As we approach the end of this calendar year during this time of transition, please continue your faithful giving. As we grow together in the Grace of Christ, we are so very thankful to God for 1st Church and eagerly anticipate the work He will continue to do in and through us.

WORSHIP...

OUR ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BELLS SERVICE will be next **Sunday, January 5**. We look forward to hearing the bell toll for the loved ones who have gone on to glory, ahead of us, this past year.

MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION will be held on **Saturday, January 11** here at First Reformed Church at 10:00am. Pastor Jim, Pastor Corey, Anthony Bolkema, and our Day Care children will be participating at this event. Everyone invited to attend! This celebration honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with song and scripture.

SERMON NOTES...

Matthew 2:13-23
“Emmanuel, God With Us”
Pastor Al Vander Meer



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STAFF...

Pastor Corey Buchanan
*Director of Mercy & Justice
Ministries*

Dr. Anthony Bolkema
Director of Worship & Student Life

Rev. Dr. Rich Grevengoed
Pastor of Care & Visitation

Nyla DeGraff
Church Administrator

Gerri Van Baren
Administrative Assistant

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

Steve Alexander
Church Custodian

Darcy Daly
Nursery Coordinator

Jane Ackerman
Church Accountant

Judy Gill
Care & Visitation Assistant

Visit us online at www.frersh.org

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.