

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473

Office: 708.333.0622 • Prayer Line: 708.333.8150

E-mail: office@frcsh.org • Online at www.frcsh.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020



Welcome...

Advent, which means "the coming," is a time when we wait expectantly for the celebration of Jesus' First Coming at Christmas. For Christians in the Northern Hemisphere, Advent comes at the coldest and darkest time of the year.

During Advent....

- ✚ *we light candles each Sunday to remind us that darkness doesn't last forever,*
- ✚ *we sing carols of hope and joy to remind us that our tears do not define us,*
- ✚ *we share the warmth of Christian fellowship to remind us that loneliness will not last, and*
- ✚ *we wait, we work, we cry, we pray, we ache, always knowing that Jesus is coming to make things right and end all sorrow.*

Come wait with us. Our doors are open to all who wait and all who need hope.

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent
WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude Joanne Hoeksema

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Welcome & Greeting One Another

*Congregational Singing #135 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (vs. 1 & 2)
#140 "Emmanuel"

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance Pastor Corey Buchanan

Song of Assurance "Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

THE WORD OF GOD

Song of Response: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 2)

Scripture Isaiah 28

Sermon "It's Hard to Wait: Wisdom in Waiting"
Pastor Jim Oord

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer Pastor Corey Buchanan

Offering

*Doxology

*Benediction Pastor Jim Oord

*Sending in Grace "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Postlude Joanne Hoeksema

*Those who are able please stand.

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

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

GREETERS: Gwen Adams, Don & Nyla DeGraff, and Don & Gerri VanBaren

USHERS: Russ Paarlberg, Clifton Rhodes, Ron Rietveld, Dennis & Deb Woltzen, and Trina Taylor

MUSIC TEAM: Anthony Bolkema, Nate Krygsheld, Nikki Nyhanna, Austin Parks, Matthew Rietveld, and Rachel Wooley

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Amy Veldboom

PROJECTION: Felicia Flowers

VIDEO: Lucas VanderWoude

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:00PM: Music Team meets in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:00PM: DNA meets in the Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:30AM: Management Team meets in the Fellowship Hall

COMMUNION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

GREETERS: Clair & Lynn Hoeksema, Rodger Norris, Mike & Cindy Nylen and Ray Ondrejka

USHERS: Andy DeBoer, Don & Nyla DeGraff, Jim & Bonnie DeGroot, and Roger DeGraff

MUSIC TEAM: Anthony & Kim Bolkema, Joe Fransen, Bill Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, Abby Veldboom, and Robert Wooley

ORGAN: Bonnie Feenstra

PIANO: Joanne Hoeksema

PROJECTION: Gwen Adams

VIDEO: Rhonda DeBok

CARE...

Don Spiekhout has been admitted to Munster Hospital with pneumonia.

Nancy Bates is recovering from surgery she had Monday, November 23.

Dorothy Ravesloot fell and broke some ribs. She will be staying with her daughter in Wisconsin for a few weeks.

Dave and Becky Wright are going through COVID. Both Dave & Becky are doing better.

Christopher Nelson, son of Craig and Jan Nelson, continues needing prayer as he struggles with non-hodgkins lymphoma.

Marla Owens continues at Great Lakes Nursing Home in Dyer Room 4A.

Leona Jacobs is out of Hospice Care and in an Assisted Living Apartment at Park Place in Elmhurst.

Dottie VanVuren's son, **Brian**, had testing done for a recurring problem on his lip. Pray for good results and a treatment plan.

Joy Poulos, daughter of Clarence & Judy Brouwers is under doctors' care as her lymphoma has come back; a treatment plan is being decided.

Chad and Dara VandenBosch, our missionaries in Mozambique, need your prayers as they await a final court date with their adoption of Zinha.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Mary Thompson, 16418 S. Dobson Avenue, South Holland, IL 60473

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING CAMPAIGN 2020...



AS INDOOR WORSHIP HAS RESUMED and Faith & Fellowship Formation ministries are starting up again, it is a great time to be a 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 your donations. Currently, we need to complete raising funds to pay for the renovation work that was done in the parsonage. We are 1/3 of the way there already, but we still need to raise \$70,000 to add to the \$50,000 that has been raised thus far. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

SERMON NOTES...

Isaiah 28
"It's Hard to Wait: Wisdom in Waiting"
Pastor Jim Oord

WORSHIP...

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020: "Advent" is the beginning of the Church Calendar, a period of longing and preparing for Christmas. "Advent" means "waiting," and doesn't that feel appropriate for the way things are in our world right now? We are all waiting for this pandemic to be over, waiting for restrictions to be lifted, waiting for life to return to normal. Our Advent sermon series will begin today **Sunday, November 29**, titled "**It's Hard to Wait.**" We are praying that we will meet the Jesus who answers our longings and gives us wisdom and strength to wait with hope.

Here are some Advent & Christmas Dates to keep in mind:

Sunday, December 13 at 6:00pm

A special evening celebrating the story and songs of Christmas!

Thursday, December 24 at 11:00pm

Christmas Eve service

Sunday, January 3 at 9:30am

Tolling of the Bells service

This year, we will not be doing our traditional Wednesday night Advent gatherings due to the pandemic, but we have several other opportunities for pandemic-appropriate community encouragement and celebration planned. Stay tuned!

OUR GIFTS...

Sunday, November 22

Basket Total: \$1,772.00

Online Total: \$2,225.00

Giving Total: \$3,997.00

(Needed Weekly: \$11,250.00)

There are several ways to bring your gifts to the church:

- Online
- Mail
- Bring to church office
- Put them in the mailbox right outside of the church office door

CHURCH LIFE...

THANK YOU for your wonderful prayer support. Lenore is home and doing quite well. We want to express our appreciation to the congregation for their prayers and cards. Thank you, everyone. - Albert and Lenore Vander Meer

THANK YOU for all of the kind words, cards, thoughts and prayers on the sudden passing of my dad. A special thank you to each of the pastors and Rachel Wooley for the wonderful tributes at his Celebration of Life service. Many lives were touched that day. - With sincere appreciation and love, The Bill Rietveld Family

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of John Isom who passed away on Saturday, November 22 in Tennessee. John attended First Church before moving and was a friend to many.

THE QUILTERS AND KNITTERS have temporarily suspended their meeting together. More information will follow when they decide to meet again.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITES...

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE: There will be no Sunday School on Nov. 29 for Thanksgiving Break or on Dec. 27, Jan. 3, and Jan. 10 for Christmas Break.

THE LADIES' BIBLE STUDY finished up their last session for the fall this past Tuesday. The 2021 session will begin on **Tuesday, January 12**, with the study, "Jonah, Navigating A Life Interrupted" by Priscilla Shirer.

SECRETARIES' COVID OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM – NOON
Monday – Friday



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STAFF...

Rev. James Oord
Senior Pastor

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

Dr. 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.frersh.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.