

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
OF SOUTH HOLLAND
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2022



Welcome...

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 Obadiah using the symbol of a pitcher and loaves of bread.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 18, 2022
WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude	Pastor Jim Oord
Welcome & Greeting One Another	Pastor Corey Buchanan
Opening Song of Worship	<i>"Of The Father's Love Begotten"</i>
Lighting of the Peace Candle & Grapevine Chrismon	
Congregational Worship	<i>"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"</i> <i>"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"</i>
Prayer of Confession	Pastor Anthony Bolkema
Song of Assurance	<i>"We Have a Savior"</i>

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture	Obadiah
Sermon	"Minor Prophets, Major Good News: But There Will Be Deliverance"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer	Pastor Jim Oord
Offertory	<i>"Do Not Fear"</i>
*Doxology	<i>"What Child Is This?"</i>
*Benediction	Pastor Jim Oord
*Sending in Grace	<i>"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"</i>
*Organ Postlude	<i>"May the Peace of God My Father"</i>
*Those who are able please stand.	

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

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 10 more weeks to go.

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

Carol Snyder is recuperating from a broken elbow; please pray for continued healing.

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 which he expects on December 21.

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

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Betty Paarlberg, 2608 186th, Unit 106, Lansing, IL 60438

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

GREETERS: Jim DeGroot and Dennis Woltzen

WELCOME CENTER: Gerri VanBaren

PROJECTION: Tiffany Buchanan

VIDEO: Mike Decker

SOUND: Kevin Hesselink

MUSIC TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Peter Keep, Bill Nyhanna, Austin Parks, and Rachel Wooley

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Anthony Bolkema

NURSERY: Gerri VanBaren

COFFEE SERVERS: Don & Gerri VanBaren and Jim & Bonnie DeGroot

COOKIE LADIES: Mary Bosman, Grace Jacobsma, and Trina Taylor

OASIS CHRISTMAS PARTY: 6:30-8:00PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00PM: Worship Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

10:00AM: CPO Graduation in the Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

11:00PM: Candlelight Service in the sanctuary

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

GREETERS: Trina Taylor and Cindy Nylen

WELCOME CENTER: Raylene Oord

PROJECTION: Felicia Flowers

VIDEO: Eric Pradelski

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

PIANO: Pastor Jim Oord

CHURCH LIFE...

A BIG THANK YOU to my family at First Church for all your thoughts and prayers while in hospice care. I so enjoy having my beautiful poinsettia in my room and a special thank you for the delicious cookies. - Alice Kats

THANK YOU for the lovely birthday cards I received! – Arleta Hommes

THANK YOU for the cookies and lovely poinsettia. – Ruth DeBoer

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!

DURING ADVENT OUR SUNDAY SERVICES will use our stained-glass windows to introduce the minor prophets who anticipated the coming of Christ. We will light our Advent candles to mark the passage of the weeks toward Christmas and sing beautiful hymns and carols to celebrate.

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 on **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.

OTHER ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE:

 **Saturday, December 24**, join us for 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.

THE FRONT DOORS AND THE FELLOWSHIP HALL (ORGAN DOOR) WILL BE THE ONLY DOORS UNLOCKED FOR ENTRY OF THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE!

 **Sunday, December 25**, join us for a cozy and festive Sunday morning worship service at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

 **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.

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!

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

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

OUR GIFTS...

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Basket Total: \$8,099.00; Online Total: \$4,652.00

Giving Total: \$12,751.00; (Needed Weekly: \$11,500.00)

ON DUTY TODAY...

First Emergency: Mary Decker

First Security: Barry Voss

SERMON NOTES...

Obadiah

“Minor Prophets, Major Good News: But There Will Be Deliverance”

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