

# FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22, 2018



### Welcome...

For freedom Christ has set us free, my friends. Free to live for Him in gratitude. Free to walk out of here with your head held high knowing you are a forgiven people. Free to tell others this amazing good news about a carpenter turned Savior of the world named Jesus. For freedom Christ has set us free. Brothers and sisters in Jesus, we are a free people. Leading up to Pentecost, we're going to be carefully reading together a circular letter written to a cluster of churches in Galatia. We know it as the book of Galatians. The author is the Apostle Paul. Yes, the same Paul who in a former life was a militant persecutor of Christians. Yes, the same Paul who stood by as St. Stephan was stoned. Yes, the same Paul who had a wild conversion story on the road to Damascus, was blind for three days and with the help of a fellow named Ananias regained his sight and was set free to live for Christ. There is no question as to the purpose of Paul's letter. Paul wanted to make it crystal clear that our salvation was a free-gift of God's amazing grace.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22, 9:30AM

### WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude	Margaret Oetjen
Opening Song of Worship	<i>"With All My Heart"</i> – Chancel Choir
Welcome & Greeting One Another	Pastor Corey Buchanan
*Time of Worship	#17 <i>"Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him"</i> <i>"Praise the King"</i> <i>"In Christ Alone"</i>
Prayer of Confession	Pastor Corey Buchanan
Song of Assurance	<i>"Grace"</i>

### THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture	Galatians 1:13-24
Sermon	<i>"Living Free: A Former Life"</i>

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

Song of Response	<i>"Resurrecting"</i>
Congregational Prayer	Pastor Matt Waterstone
Offering	Margaret Oetjen
*Doxology	
*Benediction	Pastor Matt Waterstone
*Sending in Grace	#97 <i>"He Is Lord"</i>
*Postlude	Margaret Oetjen
*Those who are able please stand.	

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

## LEARNING...

**FIRST CHURCH WOMEN'S AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY** will meet on **April 24** at 1:00pm in the Genesis Room. Study Session 12, "Anna: How to Live A Life Devoted to God." Treats are provided by Celeste DeBoer and Carol Barnes.

**BOOK CLUB:** Book club meets on **Tuesday, May 8** at 9:30am. We are reading "Dear Leader: My Escape from North Korea" by Jang Jin-Sung. We will be meeting at Beecher Manor (1201 Dixie Highway, Beecher) with Nora Anker. Questions and directions? Call Ann Koval @ 331-4338.

## OUR GIFTS...

### Online Giving April 8 thru 14

Current Expense – \$790.00

### Sunday, April 15

Current Expense – \$14,789.26; Benevolent – \$85.00

Missions – \$525.00; Building – \$155.00

**TOTAL – \$15,554.26**

(Needed Weekly: \$10,850.00)

Special Projects – \$1,050.00

Up-to-date 2018 Special Projects Funding Campaign Total – \$60,213.00

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONTINUES TODAY AT 11:00AM...

**PRESCHOOL** (Ages 3-5) Teachers: Sara Jabaay, Sarah Waterstone and Rhonda Hesselink. This class meets in the Genesis Room for learning basic Bible Stories and has a craft-time.

**PRIMARY** (Ages 6-10) Teachers: Rachel Wooley, Kim Bolkema and Nikki Nyhanna. This class will meet in the Library for crafts and learning the stories of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.

**SECONDARY GROUP** (Ages 11-17) Teachers: Nyla DeGraff & Pastor Corey Buchanan. This class meets in the Loft and will follow up on themes learned in the Sunday morning sermons.

### **ADULT CLASSES AT 11:00AM:**

**PASTOR MEL'S CLASS** meets today in the Heritage Room studying "The Lord God Almighty", Revelation 4:1-6, 8-11.

**PASTOR MATT'S CLASS:** The "C" word. Cancer. Each of us know someone right now who is battling, enduring, struggling with cancer. Join Pastor Matt in the Chapel as we look for comfort in the Scriptures and pray fervent prayers for those who know cancer.

## CARE...

**Gabby Gatlin** has returned home from the hospital. **Ralph Knopf's** recent scan showed three new cancer spots on his liver. **Kathryn Vinke** is in Hospice Care at Arden Court.

**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:** Leona Jacobs, Park Place, 1050 S. Euclid Ave. Room #3208, Elmhurst, IL 60126

**DON SPIEKHOUT** has been invited to participate in the Honor Flight being held on Saturday, May 5. Letters of appreciation can be sent to CLHF, Attn: Don Spiekhout, Post Office Box 8001, Naples, FL 34101 prior to the flight.

**NURSERY REMINDERS:** Nursery begins at 9:15am. Please do not drop off children earlier. Our nursery is for babies and children up to the age of 4 years-old. As much as we try to keep down the spread of germs, if your child is sick (runny nose, cough, fever, vomiting, etc.) we ask that they do not come to nursery on that Sunday. Chapel available for participation in worship.

## AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS...

**THE MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be held on **Thursday, May 3** beginning at 7:30am at The Spirit of God Fellowship (16350 State Street, SH). Tickets are available at the door for \$5. Pastor Matt will be the MC. Join us as we pray with and for our community.

**EXODUS PROJECTS** needs your help! They are gathering cleaning supplies for a giveaway. Bring in a bucket of supplies or bring in a few items. Items needed: Bucket, dish soap, sponges, SOS pads, toilet bowl cleaner, multi-purpose cleaner and paper towels (feel free to put your donation in the bucket). A suggestion is to shop at DOLLAR TREE and you will be able to purchase all these items for \$7.00. Supplies need to be brought to church by **Sunday, May 13**. Any questions - see Pastor Corey.

**CHICAGOLAND PRISON OUTREACH'S** Annual Banquet will be **Tuesday, May 15** at 7:00PM (Punch Reception at 6:30). It will be held at the Serbian Social Center in Lansing. For more information or to make your reservations call the office at 708-331-3301. Thank You.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING CAMPAIGN 2018...



The Consistory has approved a new projection system for the church. The dual screens and the center hanging projectors will be removed and replaced with a center retractable screen and single projector in the chancel area. Your offerings to Special Projects, "over and above" your regular weekly offering are still encouraged. Approximately \$64,000 of the \$75,000 needed for this project has already been raised thanks your gracious support. Your prayers over generosity to this important project are encouraged. For more information or questions regarding this campaign, please contact Clair Hoeksema, Elder V.P. or Mike Decker, Deacon Chairman. "Special Project" envelopes are available in the narthex or through the church office. To all of you who support this campaign every Sunday, THANK YOU!

## UP & COMING AT FIRST...

### SUNDAY, APRIL 22

**GREETERS:** Colin & Geni Cutler and John & Gay Kraai  
**COFFEE SERVERS:** Craig and Jan Nelson and Faye Gowens  
**NURSERY:** Nikki Nyhanna and Chandra Ondrejka  
**ORGAN:** Margaret Oetjen; **PIANO:** Joanne Hoeksema  
**VIDEO:** Mike Decker; **PROJECTION:** Sarah Waterstone; **SOUND:** Kevin Hesselink  
**MUSIC TEAM:** Joe Fransen, Bill Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, Abby Veldboom, and Robert Wooley  
**PRAYER ROOM:** Ron & Dianna Abernathy; **WELCOME CENTER:** Dave Wright  
**FIRST RESPONSE TEAM:** First Responder: Eric Bruinsma; First Response: Mike Costello  
**COOKIE PROVIDERS:** Joanne Hoeksema, Nancy DeVries, Pam Costello, and Celeste DeBoer  
**OASIS:** Meets in the Loft from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

### MONDAY, APRIL 23

**9:30AM:** Quilters and Knitters meet in Fellowship Hall  
**7:00PM:** Elders and Deacons meet  
**7:00PM:** Music Team Rehearsal

### TUESDAY, APRIL 24

**1:00PM:** Women's Bible Study meets in the Genesis Room

### THURSDAY, APRIL 26

**7:00PM:** Family Life Christian Pre-School & Day Care Board meeting in the Heritage Room

### FRIDAY, APRIL 27

**5:00-7:30PM:** Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner for Family Life Christian Pre-School & Day Care in the Activity Center

### SUNDAY, APRIL 29

**GREETERS:** Roger & Arleta Hommes and Roger & Judy Gill  
**COFFEE SERVERS:** Mike & Cindy Nylén and Wendy Stehle  
**NURSERY:** Mary Decker and Sara Jabaay  
**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** John DeVries  
**VIDEO:** Mike Decker; **PROJECTION:** Brittany Paarlberg; **SOUND:** James Kuyper  
**MUSIC TEAM:** David Besser, Kim Bolkema, Dacia Hill, and Nick Paarlberg  
**PRAYER ROOM:** Roger & Arleta Hommes; **WELCOME CENTER:** Don VanBaren  
**FIRST RESPONSE TEAM:** First Responder: Eric Bruinsma; First Response: Mike Costello  
**COOKIE PROVIDERS:** Rhonda DeBok, Alice Kats, Jeannie Spike, and Gerri VanBaren

## CHURCH LIFE...

**THE CHAPEL** is available for you to use to participate in the morning worship service. Please feel welcome to use this space to accommodate your family's needs.

**COFFEE COUNTER** in the Fellowship Hall will be open to those who would like to fellowship prior to the service at 9:00am and enjoy a hot cup of coffee.

**LAVERNE KAMPEN WILL CELEBRATE** her 95th birthday on April 25. Please join us at an open house at the Holland Home Activity Room for cake and coffee to share in her celebration on **Sunday, April 29**, from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Please, no gifts. - Ruth, Tom, and John Kampen

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help with Senior Luncheon on Sunday, May 6. Sign-up downstairs.

**PASTOR MATT** has published a devotional book of his Friday Letters titled "Dear Church." If you would like a devotional book, a signup sheet is located downstairs in Fellowship Hall at the Welcome Center. Books are available for \$15 each and all proceeds go to the Church.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONS** have been placed in nomination for the office of Elder, Deacon and Trustees:

**ELDER NOMINEES:** David Besser, Don DeGraff, Russ Paarlberg, and Don VanBaren  
**DEACON NOMINEES:** Griff Decker, Brad Housman, Ray Ondrejka, and Clint Verhagen  
**TRUSTEE NOMINEES:** Charles Dix, Ron Scheffers, and Rich Zimmerman

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, May 8** at 7:00PM. The main purpose of the meeting will be the election of elders, deacons and trustees and any other business which rightfully comes before such a meeting. Eligible communicant voters must be at least 18 years of age.

**PROCEDURE FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Absentee Ballots (available from the church office) should be placed in a sealed envelope with the eligible voting church member's signature and the date on the outside and delivered to the church office prior to the meeting of May 8. Please note that voting will be by slate (collectively) for each office. Therefore, there may be one vote of "yes" or "no" for Elders, the same for Deacons and Trustees.

**FAMILY LIFE CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL & DAY CARE CENTER** is hosting an all-you-can-eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and dessert night in the Activity Center on **Friday, April 27** from 6:00 - 8:30pm. We are raising money to purchase commercial gym toys and cots for nap time! We thank you in advance for your support. Donation only!

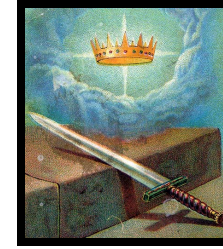
**BROWNIES ARE NEEDED** for Uptown Baptist. Please bring them to church on **Sunday, May 6**. Bake in 9x13 pan and cut into 15 pieces, each wrapped separately in a baggie or saran wrap. No frosting but powdered sugar is okay. If you are willing to bake and have questions, please call Norma Smit @219-864-2958. Thank you!

***SERMON NOTES...***

**Living Free: "A Formal Life"**

**Galatians 1:13-24**

**Rev. Dr. Matt Waterstone**



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***STAFF...***

**Rev. Dr. Matt Waterstone**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Pastor Corey Buchanan**  
*Director of Mercy & Justice  
Ministries*

**Anthony Bolkema**  
*Director of Worship & Student Life*

**Rev. Mel De Vries**  
*Pastor Emeritus*

**Nyla De Graff**  
*Church Administrator*

**Gerri Van Baren**  
*Administrative Assistant*

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

**Ben Plascencia**  
*Church Custodian*

**Darcy Daly**  
*Nursery Coordinator*

**Jane Ackerman**  
*Church Accountant*

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**Visit us online at [www.frcsh.org](http://www.frcsh.org)**

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**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.**