

# FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473

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## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COMMUNION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018



### Welcome...

The great proclamation "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14) assures us that God has entered human history through the incarnation of the Son. The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions—past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us—people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way, Advent highlights for us the larger story of God's redemptive plan.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Communion Sunday, December 2, 2018

### WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude

Joanne Hoeksema

Lighting of the Hope Candle

Anthony Bolkema & Pastor Corey

Welcome & Greeting One Another

\*Time of Worship

#135 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

#140 *"Emmanuel"*

*"Living Hope"*

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Corey Buchanan

Song of Assurance

*"Eden is Open Again"*

### THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Luke 1:5-17

Sermon

"The Gospel of Hope"

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Congregational Prayer

Barb Grevengoed

Offering

Joanne Hoeksema

\*Doxology

\*Benediction

Dr. Aaron Kuecker

\*Sending in Grace

#754 *"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.

CARE...

**THANK YOU**, congregation, for all the prayers and cards that we both received while we were convalescing together. We also want to thank Pastor Grevengoed and Rick Veldboom for the encouraging phone calls. God is good all the time. – Deb Woltzen & Jean Schultz

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of Gwen Adams on the passing of her mother, Alice Washington, on Tuesday, Nov. 20. On Saturday, December 8 the viewing will take place from 9:00 – 9:30am and the funeral service will begin at 10:00am, both being held at the Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, IL.

**Ralph Knopf** is recovering at home.

**Lillian Kortum** had an angiogram on Wednesday morning. She is recuperating.

**Colton Smit**, Clarence and Judy Brouwers’ infant great grandson, is in the Comer Children’s Hospital with bacterial meningitis.

**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:** Paulette Adams, 16301 Drexel Avenue, South Holland, IL 60473

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

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS...

**ILLIANA ORATORIO SOCIETY** cordially invites you to attend their annual presentation of **Handel’s Messiah**. The concert will be on **Sunday, December 2, 2018** at 2:00pm at First Christian Reformed Church of South Holland, IL located at 16248 South Park Ave., South Holland, IL. Please join us for the Christmas season as we present this marvelous work to God’s praise!

**FAITH CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH** invites you to attend their annual Journey of Joy. This live nativity will take place **Saturday, Dec. 1** and **Sunday, Dec. 2**, from 1:00-6:00 pm. All ages will enjoy the 40-minute guided tour through eight scenes (complete with live animals) leading up to the birth of Christ. Tours begin every 10 minutes. For shorter wait times, we suggest coming on Saturday. There is no charge for admission and the event is wheelchair accessible. Faith is located at 8383 W. 171st Street in Tinley Park. Call 708.532.8300 for more information.

**COME CELEBRATE** the Christmas season with song! The **Men of A-Chord** cordially invites you to join them in **A Festival of Nine Lessons in Carols for Christmastide** on **Saturday, December 15** at 7 pm at Thorn Creek Reformed Church of South Holland, IL. Come join the singing with the Carols and Songs of the Season celebrating Christ’s birth! Justin Rich is the director, Beverly Hoitsma is the pianist, and Nancy Venema is the organist. Betsy Archer will be with us this year as soprano soloist. A free-will offering will be taken.

SERMON NOTES...

“The Gospel of Hope”  
Dr. Aaron Kuecker  
Luke 1:5-17

**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.

CHURCH LIFE...

**WE WELCOME** Dr. Aaron Kuecker to our pulpit this morning. He currently serves as the Provost at Trinity Christian college. After earning his M.Div. from Western Theological Seminary, Dr. Kuecker served a congregation in Zeeland Michigan before returning to school to earn a Ph.D. in New Testament studies.

**PLEASE SUBMIT** any address/phone number/email updates to the church office for our new upcoming directory. We would like to incorporate updated pictures in this directory, but we will not be hiring a photography company to take photos of all church members. Instead, we ask that you please submit a recent, clear photo of your family (cell phone photos are perfect) to the church office by emailing to office@frch.org. Please keep those photos coming.

**BEGINNING JANUARY 13**, a six-week adult Sunday School class will be offered. We will be learning about the 1628 origin of the Reformed Church in America and the beginnings of First Reformed Church of South Holland in 1848. The elders are also working on plans for spring and fall adult Sunday School for 2019 and would value your input for topics of interest. If you have any recommendations, please contact Anthony Bolkema at (708)333-0622, Ex. 13.

**ANGELS OF HOPE CHRISTMAS PROJECT:** Our Angel Tree gifts are due back **today**. Please make sure the tags are on the gifts.

**MUNCH & MINGLE** meets at 11:30am in the Activity Center on **Sunday, December 9**. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office if you are planning to attend.

**A MEMORIAL SERVICE** was held Friday, November 30 at Third Reformed Church in Holland, MI for **I. John Hesselink**, a missionary, author and former President of Western Theological Seminary. He passed away October 28, 2018.

OUR GIFTS...

Thanksgiving Offering

\$4,745.00

Sunday, November 25

Basket Total: \$3,996.00; Online Total: \$1,065.00; Special Projects: \$25.00

Giving Total: \$5,086.00 (Needed Weekly: \$11,000.00)

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING CAMPAIGN 2018...



We are now addressing the improvements needed for our organ. For more information or with any questions please see Clair Hoeksema, Elder VP, or Mike Decker, Deacon Chairman. "Special Project" envelopes are available on the narthex shelves.

MEMORY VERSE...

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6

WORSHIP...

**ADVENT** is a time of waiting and preparation. Join us for a mid-week gathering during the season of Advent as we pause, reflect and wait for the coming Messiah. We will gather in the Chapel at 6:00pm on **Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19** for a time of worship. Nursery provided.

**OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** is next **Sunday, December 9** at 6pm. Join us in the Sanctuary for a celebration of Christmas music including Vocal Ensembles, Instrumental Pieces and a Children's Choir. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Let's fill the Sanctuary as we celebrate this Advent Season. Nursery provided.

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** is **Monday, December 24** at 11:00pm in the Sanctuary. Come to greet the infant King through song, prayer, proclamation, the lighting of the Birth Candle and a candlelit sending.

LEARNING...

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** today for all ages at 11:00am.

- **PRESCHOOL** (Ages 3–4) – This class will meet in the Genesis Room.
- **PRIMARY** (Kindergarten–4<sup>th</sup> Grade) – This class will meet in the rooms across from the drinking fountain in the Activity Center.
- **SECONDARY GROUP** (5<sup>th</sup> Grade – High School) – This class will meet at the east end of the Fellowship Hall studying the Heidelberg Catechism.
- **JOIN PASTOR MEL** as he leads a class in the Heritage Room.

**FIRST CHURCH WOMEN'S AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be **Tuesday, December 11** at 1:00pm at Tricia Paarlberg's home (15942 Parkside Avenue, SH). Come for a time of festive fun, food, and fellowship. RSVP to Mary Koster @708-380-4316.

**EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will next meet on **Tuesday, January 8** at 6:30pm at Cindy Nylen's home (16009 School Street). We will be finishing up the study of the book "Uninvited" by Lysa TerKeurst. For more information, please call Cindy Nylen at 708-217-3713.

**BOOK CLUB** will not meet in December. Their next meeting is **Tuesday, January 8** at 9:30am in the Library. We are reading "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate. Questions? Call Anne Koval @ 331-4338.

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

**GREETERS:** Mike & Cindy Nylen and Ray & Barb Housman  
**COFFEE SERVERS:** Jim & Bonnie DeGroot and Don & Myrna Eytcheson  
**NURSERY:** Gerri VanBaren and Abby Veldboom  
**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema  
**PIANO:** John DeVries  
**MUSIC TEAM:** Julia Keep, Nate Krygsheld, Bill Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, and Rachel Wooley  
**SOUND:** Kevin Hesselink; **PROJECTION:** Darrow Alexander; **VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok  
**PRAYER ROOM:** Roger & Arleta Hommes  
**WELCOME CENTER:** Don VanBaren  
**FIRST RESPONSE TEAMS:** First Responder: Tiffany Buchanan; First Response: Rick Furst  
**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Rhonda DeBok, Norma Smit, Jeannie Spike and Deb Woltzen

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

**7:00PM:** Music Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

**7:30AM:** Management Team meets in Genesis Room  
**6:00PM:** Advent Service  
**7:00PM:** Choir Practice  
**7:00PM:** Family Life Day Care Board meeting in the Heritage Room  
**8:15PM:** Bell Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

**GREETERS:** Griff & Mary Decker  
**COFFEE SERVERS:** Clair & Lynn Hoeksema and Russ & Heidi Paarlberg  
**NURSERY:** Dawn Kuyper and Merley Verhagen  
**ORGAN:** Margaret Oetjen; **PIANO:** Joanne Hoeksema  
**MUSIC TEAM:** David Besser, Jacob Bonnema, Peter Keep, Nick Paarlberg, & Abby Veldboom  
**SOUND:** Kevin Hesselink; **PROJECTION:** Gwen Adams; **VIDEO:** Ron Rietveld  
**PRAYER ROOM:** Roger & Judy Gill; **WELCOME CENTER:** Russ Paarlberg  
**FIRST RESPONSE TEAMS:** First Responder: Tiffany Buchanan; First Response: Rick Furst  
**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Barb Grevengoed, Gail Housman, Nancy DeVries, & Mary Koster



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*STAFF...*

<b>Pastor Corey Buchanan</b> <i>Director of Mercy &amp; Justice Ministries</i>	<b>Toni Smith</b> <i>Director of Family Life Christian Pre-School &amp; Day Care</i>
<b>Anthony Bolkema</b> <i>Director of Worship &amp; Student Life</i>	<b>Ben Plascencia</b> <i>Church Custodian</i>
<b>Rev. Dr. Rich Grevengoed</b> <i>Pastor of Care &amp; Visitation</i>	<b>Darcy Daly</b> <i>Nursery Coordinator</i>
<b>Rev. Mel De Vries</b> <i>Pastor Emeritus</i>	<b>Jane Ackerman</b> <i>Church Accountant</i>
<b>Nyla DeGraff</b> <i>Church Administrator</i>	<b>Gerri Van Baren</b> <i>Administrative Assistant</i>

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