

# FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473

Office: 708.333.0622 • Prayer Line: 708.333.8150

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 23, 2018

### WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude Steve De Vries

Lighting of the Peace Candle Gwen Adams and Geni Cutler

Welcome & Greeting One Another

\*Congregational Singing #133 *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* (vs. 1, 3 & 5)  
#155 *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* (vs. 1, 2 & 3)  
*“Midnight Clear (Love Song)”*

Prayer of Confession Pastor Corey Buchanan

Song of Assurance *“Your Name”*

### THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Luke 1:39-56

Sermon *“Praising While Waiting”*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer Russ Paarlberg

Offering Steve DeVries

\*Doxology Anthony Bolkema

\*Benediction Pastor Corey Buchanan

\*Sending in Grace CH#754 *“Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending”* (vs. 4)

\*Postlude Steve DeVries

\*Those who are able please stand.

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

## 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

## CARE...

**Ralph Knopf** is recovering at home and has started chemo treatments. **Shirley Witvoet** is receiving in-home care due to congestive heart failure. **Paul Paarlberg** is going through out-patient tests. **Marla Owens** continues in Munster Community Hospital for further testing. **Chuck Dinkel** is recovering from shoulder surgery. **Claude Boomsma** has been released from the hospital and is in St. John Park Place for rehab. **Lillian Kortum** is home recovering from heart surgery. **Colton Smit**, Clarence and Judy Brouwers' infant great grandson, has been able to leave the hospital but will need therapy. The family is so very appreciative for your prayers and concerns for Colton as he battled bacterial meningitis.

Our RCA missionaries in Mozambique, Chad and Dara Vandenbosch, have been hoping to finalize the adoption of their daughter by the end of this year. They recently were informed that certain procedures were not properly followed by the social services workers resulting in a likely extension of this process. Please join them in prayer that God would open the doors for this adoption to be finalized very soon.

**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:** Diane Snyder, 774 E. 164<sup>th</sup> St., 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.

## OUR GIFTS...

### Sunday, December 16

Basket Total: \$7,223.49

Online Total: \$565.00

Special Projects: \$50.00

**Giving Total: \$7,838.49**

(Needed Weekly: \$11,000.00)

**THE DEACONS** would like to encourage you to remember First Reformed Church in your year-end giving this Christmas season. We have currently received \$229,130.26 of the budgeted \$253,379.91, leaving a shortage of \$16,411.16. Thank you for your generous support of the ministry of First Church!

## CHURCH LIFE...

**JUST A REMINDER** – The Search Team members are Roger DeGraff, Jim DeGroot, Tim DeYoung, Joanne Hoeksema, Peter Keep, Nikki Nyhanna, Ray Ondrejka, Trina Taylor, Amy Veldboom, Clint Verhagen and Rachel Wooley. Your prayers of support are encouraged and each member is open to receive your recommendations or comments for consideration in the search process.

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to Mike and Cindy Nylen in the passing of Mike's father, Art Nylen.

**I, AND THE WASHINGTON FAMILY**, send our warmest regards to the members of 1<sup>st</sup> Church for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, during the trying time of the passing of my mother. It was and is a hard thing to go through, but I couldn't have made it through without you.

Blessing, Gwen Adams

**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](mailto:office@frch.org). Please keep those photos coming.

**OUR CHURCH WANTED TO SHARE** some great news we received from the Institute for Worship Studies. Our own Anthony Bolkema was just awarded the **The Gerald and Doris Borchert Prize for Worship Research**. It is awarded to recognize students who have produced exceptional work during their time at IWS. He has now been recorded as a Borchert Scholar at the Institute. Please take some time to congratulate Anthony (and Kim) and pray for them as he finalizes his thesis and concludes his studies at IWS in 2019.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION** will be held **Saturday, January 19** here at First Reformed Church at 10:00am. Our day care children will be singing at this event. Everyone is invited to attend! This celebration honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with song and scripture.

**OUR CUSTODIAN, BEN PLASCENCIA**, has retired. We need some volunteers to help clean the church until someone is hired to replace Ben. If you know of any candidates, who could be part-time for the church and for our day care center, please notify Nyla DeGraff or Anthony Bolkema.

*SERMON NOTES...*  
"Praising While Waiting"  
Luke 1:39-56  
Pastor Corey Buchanan

**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.

### *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.

### *WORSHIP...*

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** is tomorrow 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.

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

**OUR ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BELLS SERVICE** will be **Sunday, December 30**. We look forward to hearing the bell toll for the loved ones who have gone on to glory this past year and we will light a candle for the times we've gathered around the Baptismal waters.

### *LEARNING...*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is on a holiday break and will resume on **Sunday, January 13**.

**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.

**AFTERNOON WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will be on **Tuesday, January 8**, at 1:00pm in the Genesis Room as we continue Lesson 3 "What Matters Most – Turning Worry Into Worship", Philippians 4:1-9. Study Guide page 113-132; Memory Verse: Philippians 4:6-7. Questions? Please call Mary Koster at 708-380-4316. Treats: Betty Paarlberg and Tricia Paarlberg.

**EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will next meet on **Tuesday, January 8** at 6:30pm at Cindy Nysten'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 Nysten 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 23

**GREETERS:** James & Michelle Kuyper and Craig & Jan Nelson

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Griff & Mary Decker and Craig & Jan Nelson

**NURSERY:** Mary Decker and Gail Housman

**ORGAN:** Steve DeVries

**PIANO:** Joanne Hoeksema

**MUSIC TEAM:** Kim Bolkema, Joe Fransen, Nick Paarlberg, Bill & Nikki Nyhanna, and Robert Wooley

**SOUND:** Rhonda Hesselink; **PROJECTION:** Tiffany Buchanan; **VIDEO:** Ron Rietveld

**PRAYER ROOM:** Ron & Diana Abernathy; **WELCOME CENTER:** Don VanBaren

**FIRST RESPONSE TEAMS:** First Responder: Tiffany Buchanan; First Response: Rick Furst

**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Pam Costello, Celeste DeBoer, Joanne Hoeksema and Alice Kats

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

**11:00PM:** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary

### TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 & 26

Church Office Closed

### THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 & 28

Church Office Hours 9:00am-Noon

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

**GREETERS:** Rich & Barb Grevengoed and John & Ramelle DeVries

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Ray & Barb Housman

**NURSERY:** Amy Veldboom, Isabella Veldboom and Gerri VanBaren

**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema

**PIANO:** John DeVries

**MUSIC TEAM:** Anthony Bolkema, Dacia Hill, & Nick Paarlberg

**SOUND:** James Kuyper

**PROJECTION:** Darrow Alexander

**VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok

**PRAYER ROOM:** Bob Asmus & Dan Dieck; **WELCOME CENTER:** Rick Veldboom

**FIRST RESPONSE TEAMS:** First Responder: Tiffany Buchanan; First Response: Rick Furst

**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Carol Barnes, Dorothy Jacobsma, Nikki Nyhanna and Gerri VanBaren



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## STAFF...

**Pastor Corey Buchanan**

*Director of Mercy & Justice  
Ministries*

**Anthony Bolkema**

*Director of Worship & Student Life*

**Rev. Dr. Rich Grevengoed**

*Pastor of Care & Visitation*

**Rev. Mel De Vries**

*Pastor Emeritus*

**Toni Smith**

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

**Darcy Daly**

*Nursery Coordinator*

**Jane Ackerman**

*Church Accountant*

**Gerri Van Baren**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Nyla DeGraff**

*Church Administrator*

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.