

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 20, 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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude	Pastor Jim Oord
Lighting the Candle of Peace	<i>"Pacem"</i>
Welcome & Greeting One Another	Pastor Corey Buchanan
*Congregational Singing	<i>"O Little Town of Bethlehem"</i> <i>"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"</i>
Prayer of Confession	Pastor Corey Buchanan
Song of Assurance	<i>"Your Name (Christmas Version)"</i>

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture	Isaiah 60
Sermon	<i>"It's Hard to Wait: Waiting for the Morning Star to Shine & Guide Us"</i>

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer	Pastor Jim Oord
Offering	
*Doxology	<i>"What Child Is This?"</i>
*Benediction	Pastor Jim Oord
*Sending in Grace	<i>"O Little Town of Bethlehem"</i>
*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, DECEMBER 20

GREETERS: Don VanBaren, Trina Taylor, Alison VanderWoude, Lucas VanderWoude, and Liam VanderWoude

USHERS: Deb Oord, Ray Ondrejka, Russ Paarlberg, Ron Rietveld, Steve VanderWoude, and Mike Spitz

MUSIC TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Dacia Hill, Nick Paarlberg, and Matthew Rietveld

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Pastor Jim Oord

PROJECTION: Felicia Flowers

VIDEO: Eric Pradelski

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

11:00PM: Christmas Eve Service in the sanctuary

GREETERS: Steve & Allison VanderWoude, Debbie Woltzen, Trina Taylor, and Bonnie DeGroot

USHERS: Don & Gerri VanBaren, Dennis Woltzen, Deb Oord, and Jim DeGroot

PROJECTION: Gwen Adams

VIDEO: Mike Decker

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

GREETERS: Don Van Baren, Clifton Rhodes, Liam VanderWoude, Allison VanderWoude, and Dennis Woltzen

USHERS: Gwen Adams, Russ Paarlberg, Ron Rietveld, Mike Spitz, Trina Taylor, and Steve VanderWoude

ORGAN: Steve DeVries

PIANO: Anthony Bolkema

PROJECTION: Trina Taylor

VIDEO: Lucas VanderWoude

CARE...

Wayne and Joyce Deinema have returned home from the hospital.

Diane Snyder is awaiting results from her CT scan.

Carol Snyder is recovering from gall bladder surgery at South Suburban Hospital.

Ralph Paarlberg has returned home from the hospital and is being cared for by family.

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

Marla Owens continues at Great Lakes Nursing Home in Dyer, Room 136.

Leona Jacobs fell and fractured her hip. She is at Elmhurst hospital and had the bone set and her pain is being managed.

Brian Van Vuren will be seeing a doctor in Indianapolis soon and is anticipating surgery for a recurring problem on his lip.

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

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

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Doris Boomsma, Village Woods #601, 2681 S. Rt. 394, Crete, IL 60417

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 approaching the halfway point, but we still need to raise \$65,450.94 to add to the \$59,427.46 that has been raised thus far. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

SERMON NOTES...

Isaiah 60

“It’s Hard to Wait: Waiting for the Morning Star to Shine & Guide Us”

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. 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 Christmas Dates to keep in mind:

Thursday, December 24 at 11:00pm

Christmas Eve service

Communion Sunday, January 3 at 9:30am

Tolling of the Bells service

OUR GIFTS...

Sunday, December 13

Basket Total: \$5,565.00

Online Total: \$2,505.00

Giving Total: \$8,070.00

(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

SECRETARIES' COVID OFFICE HOURS

9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

December 21-23: 9:00AM – Noon

December 24-25: CLOSED

Monday, December 28 – Friday, January 1: CLOSED

(Phone calls, emails, & mail will be monitored. Prayer line will be updated as needed.)

CHURCH LIFE...

THANK YOU one and all for your prayers and cards as I travel this road through chemotherapy. The journey is half over now, and I am feeling fine and praising God for His graciousness and favor daily. He is in control and I am fine with that!

- Ramelle DeVries

THANK YOU for remembering me with cards, calls and a beautiful poinsettia. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to my First Church family!

- Marla Owens

CONGRATULATIONS to Jeremy and Allison Jabaay on the birth of their daughter, Sierra Nicole on Saturday, December 12.

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

OFFERING ENVELOPES have been issued for 2021 and are in your mail slots. If you should have any questions, please contact Griff Decker at 708-710-0111.

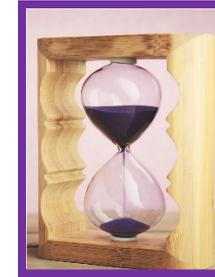
THE SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE'S annual Christmas concert cannot be held this year due to COVID-19. However, the Chorale is gifting the community with a recording of last year's Christmas concert. Go to the South Holland weekly update email to watch the video through December 31.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION will be held on **Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021**. This celebration honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with song and scripture. The program this year will be live streamed. More details will be coming soon.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITES...

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE: There will be no Sunday School on December 27, January 3, and January 10 for Christmas Break.

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



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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.