

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
OF SOUTH HOLLAND

December 12, 2021



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 pray, we anticipate, we gather, always knowing the good news that Jesus is coming to make things right and end all sorrow.

Come wait with us. Our doors are open to all who need hope, light, and good news.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 12, 2021

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

*"O Come Rejoicing"*  
*"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"*  
*"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"*

Processional Hymn

*"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"*

Lighting of the Joy Candle

Roger and Laurel DeGraff

Closing

*"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"*

Welcome & Greeting One Another

Pastor Jim Oord

\*Congregational Worship

*"While By the Sheep We Watched"*  
*"Joy to the World"*

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Corey Buchanan

Song of Assurance/Response/Preparation

*"Eden is Open"*

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon

*"The Light of Redemption"*

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Jim Oord

Offertory

*"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"*

\*Doxology

*"What Child is This?"*

\*Benediction

Pastor Corey Buchanan

\*Sending in Grace

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

\*Organ Postlude

*"Jesus, The Light of the World"*

\*Those who are able please stand.

Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for fellowship and refreshments.

## CARE...

**Abby Veldboom** is scheduled for knee surgery on Wednesday to rebuild her ACL and repair a torn meniscus.

**Betty Paarlberg** is experiencing a lot of pain from a fractured vertebra.

**Craig Nelson** recently found out he has an enlarged heart and is waiting for test results from an echocardiogram.

**Barry Voss** is recuperating from cataract surgery on one eye and will be having surgery on his other eye in two weeks.

**Lenora Anker** is in hospice care at Beecher Manor.

**Celeste DeBoer** has returned home from the hospital.

**Bev VanDommelen** will be undergoing a needed back surgery in February to address numbness and a compressed spine.

**Don Rietveld**, son of Betty Paarlberg, has been approved for a lung transplant. Pray that a donor will be found soon.

**Lindsay Robertson**, brother-in-law to Larry and Phyllis De Young, has his different blood chemistry levels holding in the normal range. His chemo will continue, and he is tolerating it well. Pray this progress will continue.

**Jean Schultz**, Deb Woltzen's mother, has been re-admitted to Munster Franciscan.

Felecia Flowers' mother, **Lula Brown** was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Rob, a roommate of Michael Spitz, has a daughter, **Olivia Morin** from Elgin, who is 16 years old and is missing. Prayers are needed to help find Olivia and to comfort her family.

**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:** Don & Myrna Eytcheson, 17324 Greenwood Ave., South Holland, IL 60473

## OUR GIFTS...

**Sunday, November 28, 2021**

Basket Total: \$15,935.45; Online Total: \$1,940.00  
Giving Total \$ 17,875.45; (Needed Weekly: \$11,250.00)

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES...

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES TODAY;** all ages are welcome to join us as we spend time learning more about God and His Word. Sunday School runs from 11:00am – noon.

- All children from preschool to fifth grade will meet in the Genesis Room for a time of singing and celebration. They will be dismissed to their classrooms from there.
- 3 - 4-year-olds – Elisha Room (behind the Heritage Room)
- K – 2nd grade – Library
- 3rd – 5th grade – Genesis Room
- The 6th – 8th graders will meet in the Heritage Room. The high schoolers will meet in the Loft.
- Our adult class will meet in the chapel from 11:00am – 11:50am.
- Need help finding a class? Ask at the Welcome Center in the narthex or in the Fellowship Hall.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be taking a Christmas break on Sunday, December 26 and Sunday, January 2. All classes will resume on Sunday, January 9.

**THE FIRST CHURCH LADIES' BIBLE STUDY** will meet this **Tuesday, December 14** in the Fellowship Hall. We will briefly discuss the homework from Session 5, "The Holy Spirit's Voice", p. 72-101 in your study guide, then have a time of fun and Christmas festivities. Hope you can attend.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING CAMPAIGN 2021...



Let's reach our goal! 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 making steady progress, but we still need to raise \$34,324.94 to add to the \$90,553.46 that has been raised thus far. For more information or with any questions please see Jim DeGroot, Elder VP, or Robert Wooley, Deacon Chairman. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

## *UP & COMING AT FIRST...*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

**USHER:** Robert Wooley

**GREETERS:** Jim DeGroot and Rodger Norris

**WELCOME CENTER:** Keith Durkin and Cindy Nylén

**MUSIC TEAM:** Joe Fransen, Nick Paarlberg, Matthew Rietveld, and Robert & Rachel Wooley

**PROJECTION:** Tiffany Buchanan; **VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok

**SOUND:** Rhonda Hesselink

**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Amy Veldboom

**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Mykah Lett

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Don & Nyla DeGraff and Don & Gerri VanBaren

**COOKIE LADIES:** Dorothy Jacobsma, Chandra Ondrejka, and Raylene Oord

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

**7:00AM:** Trustees meet in the Heritage Room

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

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

**10:00AM:** Women's Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall

**7:00PM:** DNA meets in the Fellowship Hall

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

**6:00PM:** Advent Service in the Chapel

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

**USHER:** Mike Nylén; **GREETERS:** Deb Oord and Kathy Oord

**WELCOME CENTER:** Wybren Oord and Trina Taylor

**MUSIC TEAM:** Dacia Hill, Julia Keep, Addie Larsen, Bill Nyhanna, and Nick Paarlberg

**PROJECTION:** Felicia Flowers; **VIDEO:** Eric Pradelski

**SOUND:** Kevin Hesselink

**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Pastor Jim Oord

**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Izzy Veldboom

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Jim & Bonnie DeGroot and Griff & Mary Decker

**COOKIE LADIES:** Grace Jacobsma, Sherry Norris, and Rachel Wooley

**6:30PM:** OASIS Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall

## *CHURCH LIFE...*

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of Roger Bovenkerk, who passed away on Monday December 6.

**WE ALSO EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY** to the family and friends of Charlotte Mitchell, a former member of First Church, who passed away on Tuesday, November 30.

**COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT:** Meet our Quilters and Knitters! They meet every other Monday morning to work on blankets. In the last 15 years, they've made 1,880 blankets which were donated to PASS, Elim, Bethshan, and other ministries. If you'd like more information about the Knitters and Quilters (or if you'd like to join them some Monday morning), speak to Becky Wright.

**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, 2022. Make sure to stop by and take a stroll!

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION** will be held on **Saturday, January 15** at the Spirit of God Fellowship at 10:00am. Everyone invited to attend! This celebration honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with song and scripture.

## *REMINDERS...*

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

**KEEP THE PARKING AREA** that is lined in the front and on the north side of the church - which is closest to the elevator - available for those who have difficulty walking. Thank you!

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

### ON DUTY TODAY:

First Emergency: Trina Taylor

First Security: Keith Durkin

WORSHIP...

TODAY is the 3rd week of Advent, the season where the church waits and prepares our hearts for the coming of Christ. Advent is followed by the season of Christmas, where we celebrate the fulfillment of God's promises in the coming of Jesus. There are so many exciting opportunities to participate in this time of year.

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES will continue through the story of Jesus' coming in the gospel of Luke, chapter 2. We will light our Advent candles to mark the passage of the weeks toward Christmas and sing beautiful hymns and carols to celebrate.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS is tonight at 6:00pm. Join us in the Sanctuary for a celebration of Christmas music including Vocal Ensembles, Instrumental Pieces, and a Children's Choir as we hear and sing the story of Christmas. Let's fill the Sanctuary as we celebrate this Advent Season.

Continuing this Wednesday, December 15,  
we will hold Wednesday Advent Services  
at 6:00pm every Wednesday.

- Wednesday, December 15: A Carol Sing! (sing hymns old and new celebrating the coming of Christ).
- Wednesday, December 22: Evening Prayer (a quiet and contemplative service as we prepare for the busyness of the holidays).
- Friday, 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, bells, and worship. The front doors and the Fellowship Hall (organ door) will be the only doors unlocked for the Christmas Eve Service.

OUR ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BELLS SERVICE will be Sunday, January 2. We look forward to hearing the bell toll for the loved ones who have gone on to glory this past year and the young ones who have been baptized.



15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473  
Office: 708.333.0622 • Prayer Line: 708.333.8150  
E-mail: office@frcsh.org • Online at www.frcsh.org

STAFF...

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Rev. James Oord</b><br><i>Senior Pastor</i>                            | <b>Gerri VanBaren</b><br><i>Administrative Assistant</i>                                    |
| <b>Pastor Corey Buchanan</b><br><i>Associate Pastor</i>                   | <b>Steve Alexander</b><br><i>Church Custodian</i>   |
| <b>Dr. Anthony Bolkema</b><br><i>Pastor of Worship &amp; Ministry</i>     | <b>Jane Ackerman</b><br><i>Church Accountant</i>  |
| <b>Rev. Dr. Rich Grevengoed</b><br><i>Pastor of Care &amp; Visitation</i> | <b>Darcy Daly</b><br><i>Nursery Coordinator</i>   |
| <b>Nyla DeGraff</b><br><i>Church Administrator</i>                        | <b>Toni Smith</b><br><i>Director of Family Life<br/>Christian Pre-School &amp; Day Care</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.

SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS  
9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday