

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
of SOUTH HOLLAND
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sunday, December 17, 2023



Welcome to First Reformed Church!

We are currently observing the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival;" it is a period of preparation as the church lives in expectation and hope for the coming of Jesus.

This year, we are going to be placing ourselves in the shoes (or sandals) of God's people in the Old Testament, waiting for the coming Christ with the minor prophets. The stained-glass windows on the southern wall of the sanctuary use symbols representing the four major prophets (window by the piano) and twelve minor prophets.

Today's window represents the prophet Haggai using the symbol of two crossed wooden beams, recalling Haggai's role in rebuilding the temple.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sunday, December 17, 2023

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

"Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices"
"Let Christians All with Joyful Mirth"
"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Organ & Bells Prelude

"A Carol Jubilee"

Welcome & Call to Worship

Pastor Corey Buchanan

*Opening Hymn

"Joy to the World! The Lord is Come"

Lighting of the Joy Candle

"I'm Waiting"

Time of Silence

"Still, Still, Still"

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jim Oord

*Greeting One Another

*Congregational Singing

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"
"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Haggai 2:1-9

Sermon "Minor Prophets, Major Good News – When's the Glory Getting Here?"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Corey Buchanan

Offertory

"Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"

*Doxology

"Christmas Doxology"

*Benediction

Pastor Jim Oord

*Sending in Grace

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

*Postlude

"Arise, Shine"

*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...

Ken and Anna Mae Groeneveld have been discharged from the hospital.

Rich Zimmerman is scheduled for open heart surgery on Friday, December 22 at the University of Chicago Hospital in Hyde Park.

Jean Spiekhout has returned home.

Monty Riddering is home recovering from a 2nd hip replacement surgery.

Kathy Oord, Trina Taylor, and Christopher Nelson continue with their treatments for cancer.

Ruth DeBoer is in Munster Community with COVID.

Alice Kats continues in hospice care in her home.

Howard DeYoung (brother of Harriet Santefort) and father of Lisa Triemstra and Steve DeYoung had a serious fall and is in the ICU at Franciscan Dyer.

Ron & Diana Abernathy’s son-in-law Daniel Pletzke and daughter Debra continue to struggle with various health issues.

Please continue to pray for the Mike & Pam Costello family.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Barb DeWolf, 12565 Renaissance Circle, Room #308, Homer Glen, IL 60491

OUR GIFTS...

Sunday, December 10

Basket Total: \$3,501.25; Online Total: \$4,055.82
Rachel Wooley Gift & Memorial: \$600.00
Giving Total: \$7,557.07
(Needed Weekly: \$11,500.00)
Reach 175: \$746.08; REACH 175 TOTAL: \$1,540.64

ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER...

First Emergency: Mary Decker
First Security: Colin Cutler

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

GREETERS: Steve VanderWoude and Lucas VanderWoude
WELCOME CENTER: Deb Woltzen
WORSHIP TEAM: Nolan Bolkema, Gail Housman, Austin Parks, and Grant Sikkema
PROJECTION: Liam VanderWoude
VIDEO: Rhonda DeBok
SOUND: Lucas Bolkema
ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema
PIANO: Pastor Jim Oord
NURSERY: Kim Bolkema
COFFEE SERVERS: Jim & Bonnie DeGroot and Griff & Mary Decker
COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Mary Bosman, Amber Fransen, and Mary Koster
6:30-8:00PM: OASIS Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00PM: Music Team rehearsal in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

GREETERS: Don & Gerri VanBaren
WELCOME CENTER: Raylene Oord
WORSHIP TEAM: Adeline Larson, Nick Paarlberg, Lisa Triemstra, Bella VanderWoude, and Abby Veldboom
PROJECTION: Lucas Bolkema; VIDEO: Lucas VanderWoude; SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink
ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema
PIANO: Amy Veldboom
NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Abby Veldboom
COFFEE SERVERS: Rodger & Sherry Norris, Cindy Nylen, and Faye Gowens
COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Alison VanderWoude, Felicia Flowers, and Grace Jacobsma

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

11:00PM: Christmas Eve Service

This service is always a highlight of the year, as we stay up and greet Christmas Day with carols, candlelight, and worship (and we just might bring back the sparklers!).

CHURCH LIFE...

THANK YOU to the congregation of First Reformed Church for the outpouring of support shown to me during my recent surgery. I was encouraged by your prayers, cards, and visits during this time. – Dorothy Jacobsma

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Johanna Punt who passed away on Monday, December 11. She is preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Arnold Punt. They together served First Reformed from 1965 to 1973.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE:

- 📅 **Sunday, December 24**, join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am and 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, and worship (and we just might bring back the sparklers!).
- 📅 **Sunday, January 7**, our Annual Tolling of the Bells Service where we hear the bell toll for the loved ones who have gone on to glory this past year.

KITCHEN NEWS: As part of our Reach 175 campaign, work on the Activity Center kitchen has begun! This means that the Fellowship Hall kitchen is currently being used by Family Life Daycare to prepare 2 meals a day (plus snacks) for 80+ kids, 5 days a week. So, if you use the kitchen in any way between now and the end of the year, please 1) keep the counters clear, 2) respect the top two shelves of the fridge, which are being used by Family Life, 3) keep it cleaner than you found it. Thank you!



FIRST WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP: Join us on **January 3** from 6:00-7:30pm for a meal and fellowship. The theme for this meal will be "Midwest Potluck." Sign up at the Welcome Center and bring along your favorite Midwest hot dish, casserole, or goulash. Will it involve potatoes? Rice? Pasta? Tater tots?

Crushed up potato chips? (Did you know that canned cream of mushroom soup is also known as "the Lutheran Binder" because it's used in so many potluck dishes at Lutheran churches? Is it used in yours?). This meal will warm your bellies and your hearts. Salad, dessert, and drinks will be provided. Sign up today!

THE LADIES' BIBLE STUDY will meet again on **Tuesday, January 9**, at 10:00am in The Fellowship Hall. We will be viewing the session 4 video in our study of the book of Revelations, "How to Overcome the Enemy." Hope to see you there.

OFFERING ENVELOPES have been issued for 2024 and are in your mail slots. If you should have any questions, please contact Mike Decker at 708-567-5447.

SUNDAY SCHOOL continues today at 11:10am.

- K-5th grade meet in the Genesis Room at 11:10am, followed by K-2nd class in the library; 3rd-5th in the Loft.
- 6th-12th grade meet in the chapel at 11:10am.
- Tibstra House meets in the Heritage Room immediately following the service.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 AND 31!

TO OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH COOKIE BAKERS, the new Cookie Duty Schedule for January-April 2024 is now in your mailbox. Thank you for all the tasty treats you create for us each and every week. You are so appreciated!

REMINDERS....

PLEASE 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!

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

AREA EVENTS....

ICELESS SKATING RINK OPENING FOR THE SEASON on Fridays from 3:00-8:00pm and Saturday & Sunday from noon-8:00pm at East 161st Street and SoHo Sweets Lane. The rink is located in the lot behind SoHo Sweets and is constructed using panels of synthetic ice. Skates are available for rent—\$3 adults, \$2 kids. Cash and credit card are accepted. In case you get cold skating, SoHo Sweets has coffee and hot cocoa for sale to keep you warm!

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 5, 2024**. Make sure to stop by and take a stroll!

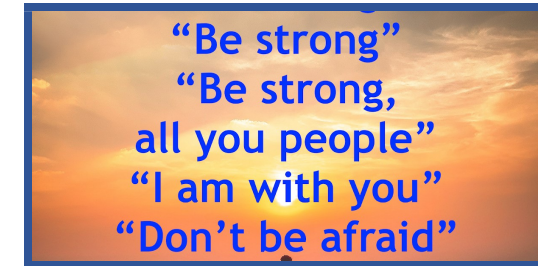
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Our friends from Grace Church in Lansing are hosting their Christmas Program at their church (2740 Indiana Ave, Lansing, IL) tonight (December 17) at 6:00pm. All are welcome to enjoy this opportunity to worship and enjoy beautiful music.

SERMON NOTES...

“Minor Prophets, Major Good News – When’s the Glory Getting Here?”

Haggai 2:1-9

Pastor James Oord



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SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS

9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday

STAFF...

Rev. James Oord
Senior Pastor

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

Anthony Bolkema
Pastor of Worship & Ministry

Rev. Dr. Rich Grevengood
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.frcsh.org

Find us in the app store by searching for
"First Reformed Church South Holland" or by visiting get.theapp.co/1779.



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.