

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
of SOUTH HOLLAND  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Sunday, September 15, 2024



*Welcome to First Reformed Church!*

In 1973, Rev. Reinhold Krone, who served as our Minister of Education and Youth, wrote: "The times have changed greatly, but the mission through the total span of First Church's history has always been the same: to tell others of our Savior."

More than 50 years later, we're still at the same work - telling others about our Savior Jesus Christ and growing together in his grace.

We're glad you're here with us today as we worship and meet the one who walks with us on life's journeys. Through all the changing scenes of life, he will never let us go. At First Church, you'll find an adventurous community of fellow travelers pointing each other to Jesus as we walk.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Sunday, September 15, 2024

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude	Joanne Hoeksema
Call to Worship & Greeting One Another	Pastor Jim Oord
*Congregational Worship	<i>"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"</i> <i>"10,000 Reasons"</i>
Prayer of Confession	Pastor Corey Buchanan
Song of Assurance	<i>"Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed"</i>
Congregational Prayer	Pastor Corey Buchanan

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading	Galatians 5:13-6:5
Song	<i>"The Fruit of the Spirit"</i>
Message	"Growing Together"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Offertory	<i>"God Is So Good"</i>
People are invited to come forward (as in intinction) to give their tithes and offerings, then move to side aisles to exit to Fellowship Hall for an "intermission" for coffee and cookies. We'll conclude our service in the Activity center during the Church Picnic!	

\*Those who are able please stand.

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

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**GREETERS:** Don DeGraff and Barry Voss; **WELCOME CENTER:** Raylene Oord  
**WORSHIP TEAM:** Kim Bolkema, Joe Fransen, Gail Housman, Bill and Nikki Nyhanna, Lisa Triemstra, and Robert Wooley  
**PROJECTION:** Jonathan VanderWoude  
**VIDEO:** Mike Decker  
**SOUND:** Aaron Wooley  
**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Amy Veldboom  
**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Abby Veldboom  
**COFFEE SERVERS:** Don DeGraff, Cindy Nylen, and Don & Gerri VanBaren  
**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Joanne Hoeksema, Gail Housman, and Ellen Nelson  
**PRAYER ROOM ELDER:** Rick Veldboom  
**11:00AM:** Church Picnic in the Activity Center/Outdoors

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

**7:00PM:** Music Team rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

**11:00AM:** So. Holland Ministerial Assoc. meets in the Genesis Room

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

**10:00AM:** Tour of Chinatown/Lunch (see announcement)

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

**GREETERS:** Steve VanderWoude and Alison VanderWoude  
**WELCOME CENTER:** Gerri VanBaren  
**WORSHIP TEAM:** Nolan Bolkema, Grant Sikkema, and Lisa Triemstra  
**PROJECTION:** Gwen Adams; **VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok  
**SOUND:** Lucas Bolkema  
**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Anthony Bolkema  
**NURSERY:** Mary Decker and Sara Jabaay  
**COFFEE SERVERS:** Rodger & Sherry Norris, Nyla De Graff, and Faye Gowens  
**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Nyla DeGraff, Nancy DeVries, and Barb Grevengoed  
**PRAYER ROOM ELDER:** Clint Verhagen

***CARE...***

**Ruth DeBoer** fell and broke 3 bones in her hip and pelvis. Her prognosis is good, and she is undergoing therapy at Hartsfield Village Rehab. Ruth is now able to welcome calls and visits.

Ellen Nelson's daughter **Colleen** is going through a variety of serious health issues.

**Craig and Jan Nelson** continue to struggle with a variety of health issues and need prayers for health and strength. Craig and Jan's new address is 9724 W. 130<sup>th</sup> Pl., Unit B, Cedar Lake, IN 46303.

**Mary Berumen** has been able to return home and will receive home health care.

**Adina Holloman**, Trina Taylor's daughter, continues her recovery at home while on antibiotics.

**Continue to pray for those** battling cancer, going through treatments, facing side effects, or caring for a loved one with cancer.

**And for those** giving care to parents, spouses, siblings, children, and/or friends who are struggling.

**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:** Dorothy VanVuren, 1039 Sterling Court, Crown Point, IN 46307

***OUR GIFTS...***

**Sunday, September 8**

Offering: \$3,551.17

*(Needed Weekly: \$11,500.00)*

Total Giving: \$8,271.42

Reach 175: \$2,923.43

UPDATED REACH 175 TOTAL: \$65,137.64

***ON DUTY FOR SEPTEMBER...***

**First Security:** Colin Cutler

**First Emergency:** Alison VanderWoude

CHURCH LIFE...



**THE CHOSEN:** Episode 3 of Season 3 does an amazing job at balancing Jesus' humble attitude and his confident conviction. There's no sign that Jesus doubts who he is or what he has been called to do. When he avoids proclaiming his identity openly, it's clearly a decision that's born out of his character and/or strategy - not out of doubt. When pressed to speak, he speaks boldly and doesn't hesitate to call out the spiritual issues in his hometown. When pressed about his identity, he acknowledges that he is not only a rabbi and not only a prophet, but the one the prophets foretold and the pure embodiment of God's salvation and justice. Indeed, the attempt to execute Jesus testifies to how lofty his claims were perceived to be. To proclaim himself to be the Law of Moses would be blasphemy, if it weren't true. This study continues on **Wednesday, September 25**, and will include a light meal at 6:00pm. Please sign up at the Welcome Centers.

FUTURE WEDNESDAY “THE CHOSEN 3” NIGHTS

October 9 & 23, November 6 & 20, and December 11  
December 4: First Christmas Party (no study)  
December 18: Chapel Vespers Service  
6:00 – 7:30pm

**DNA** (Diversity In Action) invites you to join us on an enlightening tour of Chinatown, led by the Pui Tak Center. This tour will offer a deeper understanding of Asian culture, highlight the impactful work being done for the Kingdom, and explore the ways they are embracing and living out racial and ethnic reconciliation.

- **Departure:** Saturday, September 21 at 10:00am from the church
- **Return:** 1:30pm to the church
- **Lunch:** Provided at the Pui Tak Center
- **Cost:** \$10.00 per person (includes tour and lunch)

Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn, connect, and grow together. We hope to see you there! Please sign up at the Welcome Centers.

**CONTENT WARNING:** Beginning on October 13, there will be a 7-week sermon series about death and the hope that Christians have, along with answering common questions that Christians might have about dying, heaven, funerals, cemeteries, and what happens to our bodies. This will be augmented with some Sunday School discussions led by Pastor Jim and Tim Smits from Smits Funeral Homes. We realize that some of this content might be sensitive for those who are grieving, but our prayer is that this biblical exploration will provide a resource for comfort and hope to all. If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Jim or Anthony. In addition, feel free to submit some questions you might have that can be considered for sermons and/or Sunday School (there's a box in the Fellowship Hall marked "questions about death").



**GAME NIGHT: Saturday, October 12**, from 6:00-8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall, we'll be playing UNO, Ticket to Ride, various party games (Catchphrase, etc.), and King's Court (instructions provided by Jack Olthoff). There will also be a table of games for young children. Pizza will be served. Sign up at the Welcome Centers!

**DID YOU KNOW:** since their founding in 2000, the "Piecemakers" quilting group has completed and donated 1,989 quilts to PASS, Elim, and other local ministries. We thank this dedicated group of quilters for their love and service. Their goal is to complete at least 11 more by the end of the year so that they'll reach 2,000! Thank a quilter today (or if you want to join them, speak to Becky Wright).

**THE LADIES' BIBLE STUDY KICKOFF** will be on **Tuesday, September 24** at **9:30am** (note the change in time) in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having a brunch followed by a session of our new Bible study for the season: “Jesus & Women in the First Century and Now” by Kristi McLelland. Please contact Mary Koster if you have not ordered your study book and need one. Thank you!

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU:** When you go downstairs for coffee, take a look at the screens in the Fellowship Hall. We're continuing a series of "Getting to Know You" slides where our church family can meet various members and learn interesting tidbits about each other. Stay tuned ... maybe you'll be interviewed next!

**CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORTS** for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, are available in a single marked mail slot located on the north end of our mail slots. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Chairman, Eric Pradelski.

**MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT:** This month we are highlighting our mission partner, Grace Covenant (formerly known as Jackson County in Annville, Kentucky). In your bulletin, you’ll find a bookmark with prayer needs from Grace Covenant. Please keep them lifted in prayer throughout the month and stop by the Welcome Center in the narthex to sign a card for them.

**PRAYER ROOM:** Every Sunday, an elder is assigned to pray in our Prayer Room for 20 minutes following the service. The Prayer Room is located through the doors and down the hallway from the Chapel (exit the Sanctuary from the door by the piano). The praying elder will be praying for those who attended the service, the needs of our congregation, and various parts of our church's life together. If you have a particular prayer request, stop by and the praying elder will pray with you (or you can join her or him in prayer for our church).

**OUR NEW 2024 PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY** is available in your mail slot. Our new directories can be inserted into your existing notebooks. If you currently do not have a notebook, please contact the church office. Also, if you have any corrections and/or additions, please contact the church office. These corrections will be posted in the bulletin in the weeks ahead.



**WILL YOU PARTICIPATE IN OUR 2024 THANKSGIVING STUFFING CHALLENGE?**

Beginning **Sunday, September 29**, we will be collecting boxes of stuffing. Our goal as a church is to collect 1000 boxes! These boxes will be

donated to Open Access who will use them as a part of the 1000 Thanksgiving meals they will give away to families this fall. Please call the church office with any questions. Your donations can be dropped off in the narthex at our Welcome Center, or at the blue table in the Fellowship Hall.

**2024-2025 Sunday School**

Sunday School meets from 11:10am-12:00pm on Sundays from Sept. 22-April 17. Breaks will be: October 27, December 29, February 16, and April 20.

**PreK-5th Grade** gather to sing, work on memory verses, and collect an offering in the Genesis Room from 11:10-11:30am, then move to their classrooms from 11:30am-noon

**PreK-2nd Grade**

- Teachers: Jenne DeYoung, Sara Jabaay, Julia Keep, Katie Sikkema
- Helpers: Megan DeYoung, Amber Fransen, Mykah Lett, Clifton Rhodes
- Room: Genesis Room
- Material: “The Gospel Project” curriculum, covering Acts and the letters of Paul

**3rd-5th Grade**

- Teachers: Kim Bolkema, Jenne DeYoung, Gail Housman, Katie Sikkema
- Helpers: Anthony Bolkema, Laurel DeGraff, Sarah Jabaay, Mykah Lett
- Room: Library
- Material: “The Gospel Project” curriculum, covering Acts and the letters of Paul

**6th-8th Grade**

- Teachers: Rhonda Hesselink, James Oord
- Helpers: Anthony Bolkema, Kim Bolkema, Dacia Hill, Julia Keep, Peter Keep
- Room: Loft
- Material: “HC and Me” (the Heidelberg Catechism)

**9th-12th Grade**

- Teachers: James Oord, Grant Sikkema, Rick Veldboom
- Room: Chapel
- Material: Book Club

**Tibstra House**

- Teacher: Raylene Oord
- Room: Heritage Room
- Meets from 10:40-11:30am

**Adult Classes** (also attended by high schoolers)

- “Let’s Talk about Death” (led by Jim Oord and Tim Smits) – Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3
- “Reformation Rockstars” – Nov. 24, Dec. 1 & 8 (led by Jim Oord & Russ Paarlberg)
- “How to Do Devotions” Workshop - January 19, January 26, February 2 (led by Jim Oord and Joanne Hoeksema)
- TBD - March 30, April 6

REMINDERS....

BE SURE TO VISIT the welcome centers to sign up for church events, sign cards for our shut-ins, and sign the card for our missionary of the month.

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!

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

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS...

COME JOIN US FOR THE SOUTH HOLLAND FUN RUN 5K on Saturday, September 21 at 7:00am beginning in Veterans Memorial Park! This year's race will include new and fun surprises along the course and in the park before/after the race. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes or accessories. There will be a costume contest with prizes! A portion of all registration fees will benefit the [Family Centered Educational Agency](#), a South Holland organization that provides education-based services such as college preparation, tutoring, and financial literacy.

ELIM DUTCH FESTIVAL is Saturday, September 28, at Elim Christian School in Crestwood, IL. A day of fun, friends, and fantastic Dutch food and treats. Please join us. We need your help to make this day a success in supporting the ministry of children and adults with disabilities. We will need baked goods, craft items, and volunteers to work that day of the festival. If you are willing to help, please contact Lynn Hoeksema, Tricia Paarlberg, or Judy Gill.

THE BIBLE LEAGUE VOLUNTEER AMBASSADORS of First Reformed Church have placed a special fundraising letter in your church mailbox. Together we are equipping Christians and churches all over the globe to engage people in the Word of God. As a result, God's Kingdom is growing! Look for this letter and as you read it, please sincerely pray for God's Word to change lives. We appreciate any contribution you can make to purchase Bibles. Kindly respond on or before Monday, September 30. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Wright or Judy Gill.



15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473  
Office: 708.333.0622 • Prayer Line: 708.333.8150  
E-mail • [office@frcsh.org](mailto:office@frcsh.org)  
**SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS**  
9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday

STAFF...

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

**Visit us online at [www.frcsh.org](http://www.frcsh.org)**  
Find us in the app store by searching for  
"First Reformed Church South Holland" or by visiting [get.theapp.co/1779](http://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.