

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
of SOUTH HOLLAND  
Sunday, December 8, 2024



Welcome to First Reformed Church!

By God's grace, we've been in South Holland for over 176 years, privileged to shine the light of Jesus into this ever-changing and growing community. We're glad you're here today - your story is being woven together with that of each person sitting around you in the pews, with each person who's worshipped here for the past century, all being gathered up into the Great Story that God is telling here on earth.

Advent is a time for celebrating that Story - and your place in it. Advent is the beginning of church's liturgical year, consisting of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. We celebrate the peace, light, hope, and joy that each one of us is waiting for - all made available to us in Jesus, the one who came to dwell among us. Together, we wait, we long, we worship, and we grow in His light.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Sunday, December 8, 2024  
WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

*"O Come All Ye Faithful"*  
*"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*  
*"Beautiful Savior"*

Welcome & Call to Worship

Pastor Jim Oord

Opening Hymn

*"Love Has Come"*

Greeting One Another

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

\*Congregational Worship

*"We Have a Savior"*  
*"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"*

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Ray, Brad, & Eli Housman

Lighting of the Love Candle

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:15-20

Message

"Secret Stanza: ???"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Jim Oord

Offertory

Carol Request Jar

\*Doxology

*"Doxology"*

\*Benediction

Pastor Corey Buchanan

\*Sending in Grace

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

\*Organ Postlude

*"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"*

\*Those who are able please stand.

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

## UP & COMING AT FIRST...

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

**GREETERS:** Rodger Norris and Cindy Nylen; **WELCOME CENTER:** Raylene Oord  
**WORSHIP TEAM:** Nolan Bolkema, Dacia Hill, Nikki Nyhanna, and Nick Paarlberg  
**PROJECTION:** Gwen Adams; **VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok; **SOUND:** Lucas Bolkema  
**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Amy Veldboom  
**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Mary Decker  
**COFFEE SERVERS:** Claude & Sharon Brooks and Gwen Adams  
**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Megan DeYoung, Raylene Oord, and Katie Sikkema  
**PRAYER ROOM ELDER:** Joanne Hoeksema

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

**6:00PM:** Music Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary  
**7:00PM:** Elders meeting in the Heritage Room  
**8:00PM:** Strategic Planning meeting in the Heritage Room

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

**7:30AM:** Trustees meet in the Heritage Room  
**10:00AM:** Women's Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

**6:00PM:** The Chosen in the Fellowship Hall

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

**1:00PM:** Memorial Service for Emily Seefeldt in the Sanctuary

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

**9:00-11:00AM:** Clothing Closet in the Activity Center

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

**GREETERS:** Steve and Alison VanderWoude; **WELCOME CENTER:** Gerri VanBaren  
**WORSHIP TEAM:** Joe Fransen, Gail Housman, Bill Nyhanna, Austin Parks, Grant Sikkema, Bella VanderWoude, and Robert Wooley  
**PROJECTION:** Liam VanderWoude, **VIDEO:** Keith Flowers; **SOUND:** Aaron Wooley  
**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Amy Veldboom  
**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Amber Fransen  
**COFFEE SERVERS:** Don & Noreen VanDeursen and Russ & Heidi Paarlberg  
**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Mary Bosman, Amber Fransen, and Barb Grevengoed  
**PRAYER ROOM ELDER:** Gwen Adams

## CARE...

**Anita Decker-Steenbergen** is Hartsfield Village Rehab recovering from successful hip surgery.  
**Mike Hoeksema** is recovering from hip replacement surgery he had last week at Lagrange Hospital. Please pray this will relieve his pain.  
**Lindsey Robertson**, husband of Larry DeYoung's sister Donna, is receiving hospice care at their home in New Lenox.  
**Dorothy Raveslout** is receiving hospice care at home.  
**Ken Groeneveld** is in hospice care at home.  
**Judith Besser** is going through physical therapy at Aliya of Homewood.  
**Phil Capone** suffered an injury at work and is recuperating at home.  
**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.  
**Megan DeYoung's** mom, **Dianne**, is slowly regaining use of her new knee and pain has subsided. She continues with her physical therapy and is very appreciative of the cards and prayers.  
**Linda Capone's mother, Joyce Novak**, has a non-cancerous tumor on her lung and may need surgery.  
**Michael Parkman**, Toni Smith, our Family Life Director's father, is recovering from quadruple bypass surgery in Nashville.  
**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Harriet DeYoung**, Elevate Health Care #108, 16300 Wausau Avenue, South Holland, IL 60473

## OUR GIFTS...

### Sunday, December 1

Offering: \$18,426.97; *(Needed Weekly: \$11,500.00)*

Total Giving: \$21,173.35

Reach 175: \$571.38

UPDATED REACH 175 TOTAL: \$117,653.98

CPO: \$591.66; The Exodus Projects: \$641.66; Roseland Christian Ministry: \$941.66

Thanksgiving Total: \$2,174.98

## ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER...

**First Security:** Mike Costello

**First Emergency:** Alison VanderWoude

## CHURCH LIFE...

**ANGEL TREE:** A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Angel Tree gift-giving! Our church was able to provide 163 gifts for children and families who are part of Chicagoland Prison Outreach's ministry! Thank you for your help in making the season bright for these families!

**A MEMORIAL SERVICE** for Emily Seefeldt will be held this **Friday, December 13**, at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary.



**HOLIDAY MISCHIEF:** Each one of our Elders has been made into a tiny Christmas elf. Every Sunday between now and Christmas, 3 of these elf-Elders will be hiding in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone under 18 who finds one or more elf-Elders can find the corresponding human Elder(s) during coffee time (between the end of church and the start of Sunday School) - tell the human Elder you found them, and they'll give you some candy!

**BLUEBERRY FIELD:** Did you know that longtime local favorite restaurant Blueberry Field Pancake House (558 E 162nd Street) has started a new partnership with South Holland churches? Whenever church members enjoy a meal at Blueberry Field, simply write your name and "First Reformed Church" on your receipt - Blueberry Field will then record the receipt and donate 10% of your bill back to the church. Take this as a sign to go get some pancakes!

**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. Maybe you'll be interviewed next!

**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).

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES...

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES** today for all ages from 11:10am - noon. All are welcome to join us as we spend time learning more about God and His Word.

**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–2<sup>nd</sup> Grade meet in the Genesis Room
- 3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> Grade meet in the Library
- 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> Grade meet in the Heritage Room
- 9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grade meet in the Balcony
- Tibstra House meets in the Chapel

**No Sunday School on Sunday, December 29!**

### IN EPISODE 8 OF SEASON 3 OF THE CHOSEN:



Jesus preaches to a crowd, and thousands arrive to listen. Shmuel and Atticus hear what's happening and journey towards the Decapolis to catch Jesus in the act of a possible revolt. The episode also focuses on the faith of the disciples and their opportunity for faith during the Feeding of the 5,000. This study continues this **Wednesday, December 11**, and will include a

light meal at 6:00pm. This episode will conclude Season 3. Please sign up at the Welcome Centers.

**THE FIRST CHURCH LADIES' BIBLE STUDY** will be having their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cookie Exchange and Packing Party on **Tuesday, December 10**, at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a batch (approximately 36 cookies) to pack and share. We will also be doing a short review of pages 55-63 in our study guide. Hope you can attend!

**ATTENTION COOKIE COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS:** The new Cookie Duty Schedule for January - April 2025 is in your mailbox. Thank you for gifting the congregation with your delicious creations each week. This gift of hospitality is a vital ministry to First Church. Thanks again for your willingness to serve.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE...

- Wednesday, December 11, our last Chosen Bible study will be from 6:00-7:30pm. Includes a meal and is followed by an episode screening with discussion.
- Sunday, December 15, at 6:00pm, join us for our annual Service of Lessons and Carols: a night filled with the Scriptures, sights, stories, and sounds of Christmas. Amidst the busyness of the Christmas season, join us to anchor your soul in God's salvation story.
- Wednesday, December 18, at 6:00pm, our Chapel Vespers Service. Come join us for a peaceful and meditative time of worship and prayer, an oasis to center you on Christ during the busy season.
- Tuesday, 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, worship, and sparklers!

REMINDERS....

BE SURE TO VISIT the Welcome Centers to sign up for church events, sign cards for our shut-ins, sign the card for our missionary of the month, and remember to empty your mail slot!

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.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS....

ROUTE 6 RESURFACING: Route 6 (159th Street) is currently undergoing resurfacing, resulting in some lane closures and associated traffic slowdowns. The project is expected to be completed by early December. We appreciate your patience as these long-awaited improvements are made, and we're excited for smoother travels on Route 6 in the near future!

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 4, 2025. Make sure to stop by and take a stroll!



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

STAFF...

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

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.