

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
of SOUTH HOLLAND
Sunday, December 15, 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 15, 2024

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

"A Bethlehem Pastoral"
"Prelude on Veni, Veni, Emmanuel"
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Organ & Bells Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship

Pastor Jim Oord

*Opening Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Greeting One Another

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

*Congregational Worship

"While By the Sheep We Watched"
"Eden is Open"

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Lighting of the Joy Candle

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Psalms 98

Message

"Secret Stanza: What To Do?"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Jim Oord

Offertory

Carol Request Jar

*Doxology

"Doxology"

*Benediction

Pastor Andy Sons

*Sending in Grace

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*Organ Postlude

"Good King Wenceslas"

*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 15

GREETERS: Don and Nyla DeGraff
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: Steve DeVries; **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
6:00PM: Annual Service of Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:00PM: Chapel Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

5:00PM: Family Life Christian Pre-School & Day Care Christmas Program in Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

GREETERS: Jim DeGroot and Steve VanderWoude
WELCOME CENTER: Alison VanderWoude
WORSHIP TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Nolan Bolkema, Julia Keep, Nick Paarlberg, Lisa Triemstra, and Abby Veldboom
PROJECTION: Joey Nyhanna
VIDEO: Rhonda DeBok
SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink
ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema
PIANO: Jim Oord
NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Abby Veldboom
COFFEE SERVERS: Jim & Bonnie DeGroot and Griff & Mary Decker
COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Felicia Flowers, Grace Jacobsma, and Alison VanderWoude
PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Jim DeGroot

CARE...

Anita Decker-Steenbergen is Hartsfield Village Rehab recovering from successful hip surgery.
Mike Hoeksema is now home receiving physical therapy.
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 receiving 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.
OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Harriet DeYoung, Elevate Health Care #108, 16300 Wausau Avenue, South Holland, IL 60473

OUR GIFTS...

Sunday, December 8

Offering: \$14,283.79; *(Needed Weekly: \$11,500.00)*
Total Giving: \$14,283.79
Reach 175: \$981.59
UPDATED REACH 175 TOTAL: \$118,635.57
Additional Thanksgiving Offering: \$200.00

ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER...

First Security: Mike Costello
First Emergency: Alison VanderWoude

CHURCH LIFE...

OFFERING ENVELOPES have been issued for 2025 and are in your mail slots. If you should have any questions, please contact Eric Pradelski at 708-228-8956.

CHURCH CAMPOUT 2025: We are planning our fifth annual Church Campout for August 1-3, 2025. This year we will try to secure reservations somewhere along Lake Michigan (no more than 2.5 hours away). If that doesn't work, we will default to Potato Creek State Park in Indiana. Sign-up forms with more information are available at the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall. Please return your completed form to the church office by Sunday, January 19. We hope you can join us for some summer fun! Questions? Ask Pastor Jim or Nikki Nyhanna.



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!

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.

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

No Sunday School on Sunday, December 29!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE...

✚ **Sunday, December 15**, at 6:00pm tonight, 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.

VETERANS PARK LIGHT DISPLAY: The Christmas lights at Veterans Memorial Park are now aglow! A spectacular light display will shine every night between now and **January 4, 2025**. Make sure to stop by and take a stroll!

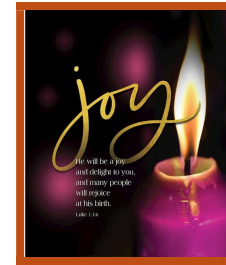
SERMON NOTES...

Psalm 98

“Secret Stanza: What To Do?”

Pastor Andy Sons

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).



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
Senior Pastor

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

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.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.