

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
of SOUTH HOLLAND  
Sunday, December 22, 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 the 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Sunday, December 22, 2024

### WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*  
*"Gesu Bambino"*

Welcome & Call to Worship

Pastor Corey Buchanan

\*Opening Hymn

*"Angels We Have Heard On High"*

\*Greeting One Another

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

\*Congregational Worship

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*  
*"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"*

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Lighting of the Peace Candle

### THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 1-2

Message

*"Secret Stanza: Second Adam from Above"*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Corey Buchanan

Offertory

Carol Request Jar

\*Doxology

*"Doxology"*

\*Benediction

Pastor Jim Oord

\*Sending in Grace

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

\*Organ Postlude

*"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*  
*"Jesus the Light of the World"*

\*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 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

**6:00PM:** Worship Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

**11:00PM:** Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary  
**The front doors and the fellowship hall (organ door) will be the only doors unlocked for entry of the Christmas Eve service!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

**GREETERS:** Barry Voss and Dennis Woltzen  
**WELCOME CENTER:** Deb Woltzen  
**PROJECTION:** Jonathan VanderWoude  
**VIDEO:** Keith Flowers  
**SOUND:** Rhonda Hesselink  
**ORGAN:** Steve DeVries  
**PIANO:** Pastor Jim Oord  
**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Sara Jabaay  
**COFFEE SERVERS:** Don & Gerri VanBaren and Roger & Laurel DeGraff  
**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Diana Abernathy, Cindy Paarlberg, and Merley Verhagen  
**PRAYER ROOM ELDER:** Roger DeGraff

*CARE...*

**Bob Brink** (one of our friends from the Tibstra House) was admitted to Silver Cross Hospital, where he is receiving treatment for a variety of health issues.

**Jim Rietveld** has returned home from the hospital and is in hospice 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 Ravesloot** is receiving hospice care at home.

**Ken Groeneveld** is receiving hospice care at home.

**Judith Besser** has moved to 303 East Washington Street, Apt. 142 in Bensenville, IL 60106 in a memory care unit.

**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.

**Linda Capone’s** mother, **Joyce Novak**, has a non-cancerous tumor on her lung and may need surgery.

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

*OUR GIFTS...*

Sunday, December 15

Offering: \$16,459.55; *(Needed Weekly: \$11,500.00)*  
Total Giving: \$18,059.55  
Additional Thanksgiving: \$500.00  
Gift & Memorial for Emily Seefeldt: \$5,000.00  
Reach 175: \$462.48; UPDATED REACH 175 TOTAL: \$119,098.05

## CHURCH LIFE...

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of Bob Rietveld, who passed away on Saturday, December 14. Bob was a brother to Phil Rietveld and brother-in-law to Sherry Gouwens.

**PLEASE REMEMBER FIRST CHURCH** with your tithes and offerings as we near the end of 2024. Any year-end gifts must be given on or before December 31. 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. Today 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!

**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.

## ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER...

**First Security:** Mike Costello; **First Emergency:** Alison VanderWoude

## 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 next week Sunday, December 29!**

## CHRISTMAS EVE OPPORTUNITY...

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**, join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 11:00pm in the sanctuary. This service is always a highlight of the year, as we stay up and greet Christmas Day with carols, candlelight, worship, and sparklers!

## HOLIDAY HOURS...

**December 24 & 25:** Church Office Closed

**January 1 & 2:** Church Office Closed

**Family Life Day Care Closed:** December 23 – January 3

## 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...*

Hebrews 1-2

“Secret Stanza: Second Adam from Above”

Pastor Jim Oord

**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](mailto: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](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.