

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH of SOUTH HOLLAND

Sunday, August 24, 2025



Welcome to First Reformed Church!

Life can be confusing, overwhelming, and sometimes scary.

But you don't have to face it alone:

God's Word offers wisdom,

The Holy Spirit offers presence,

and the Church offers community.

For 175+ years, First Reformed Church has been gathering every week for worship, for fellowship, and for equipping. Whatever your struggle, whatever your song, whatever your burden, this is the right place to be today!

We're glad you're with us as we enter a new week together with the gracious forgiveness, warm welcome, and courageous hope we receive from Jesus.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

August 24, 2025

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"
"Here I Am to Worship"

*Welcome & Greeting One Another

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

*Congregational Worship

"God's Holy Way Are Just & True"
"Goodness of God"
"Lord, I Need You"

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Corey Buchanan

Song of Assurance

"There Is a Fountain"

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 1

Message

"From Comfort to Calling"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Joanne Hoeksema

Offering

Hymn Request Jar

*Doxology

*Benediction

Pastor Corey Buchanan

*Sending in Grace

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

*Organ Postlude

"Postlude in C"

*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, AUGUST 24

GREETERS & WELCOME CENTER: Sikkema Family

WORSHIP TEAM: Nolan Bolkema, Dacia Hill, and Nick Paarlberg

PROJECTION: Liam VanderWoude

VIDEO: Keith Flowers

SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Anthony Bolkema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Sara Jabaay

COFFEE SERVERS: Don & Nyla DeGraff and Dennis & Deb Woltzen

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Felicia Flowers, Grace Jacobsma, & Alison VanderWoude

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Anthony Bolkema

OASIS: 3:00-4:30PM Veteran's Park Hang Out

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

9:30AM: Piece Makers meet in the Fellowship Hall

7:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

4:00-6:00PM: Clothing Closet in the Activity Center

6:30PM: Outreach Team meets in the Heritage Room

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

GREETERS & WELCOME CENTER: Barry Voss and Larry DeYoung

WORSHIP TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Nolan Bolkema, Nikki Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg,

Benjamin Wooley, and Robert Wooley

PROJECTION: Lucas Bolkema

VIDEO: Mike Decker

SOUND: Aaron Wooley

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Amy Veldboom

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Kim Bolkema

COFFEE SERVERS: Clint & Merley Verhagen and Rick & Amy Veldboom

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Diana Abernathy, Nancy DeVries, and Kathy Rhodes

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Joanne Hoeksema

CARE...

Eric Pradelski has been admitted to Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox due to complications from his medication.

Clifton Rhodes continues his physical therapy. Please pray for complete healing.

Sharon Dinkel will permanently be at Burgess Square Health Care and Rehab Centre in Westmont for ongoing rehab.

Pray for **Christopher Nelson** as his cancer has returned and further treatment is no longer an option.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Anita Decker-Steenbergen, 15959 Marian Drive, South Holland, IL 60473

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.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) reads, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".*

ON DUTY FOR AUGUST...

First Security: Barry Voss

First Emergency: Alison VanderWoude

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS...

PAARLBERG FARM HERITAGE FEST on **Monday, September 1**, from 10:00am to 4:00pm at Paarlberg Park (17234 Paxton Ave., SH). The South Holland Historical Society invites you to Heritage Fest, the annual celebration of local history and tradition. Spend the day exploring handcrafted goods from crafters and wood carvers, sampling traditional Dutch favorites, and enjoying live performances by the South Holland Municipal Band and Master Chorale.

CHURCH LIFE...

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Dottie VanVuren who passed away Saturday, August 16.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPANTY is extended to the family and friends of Margene Paarlberg who passed away on Sunday, August 17.

A SPECIAL THANY YOU to my First Church family for all the cards and phone calls I received remembering me for my recent birthday. – Viola VanDam

THERE WILL BE A BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING following today's service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve changes to our bylaws as a part of the process of dual affiliation, to provide a congregational update on the Now2Next Strategic Plan, and other matters which may come before the meeting. In your mail slots you will find the modified bylaws for your review prior to our meeting.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Every now and then our Outreach Team will need the assistance of someone to take a picture of a church activity. If you feel the call to this important ministry, please see or call Jim DeGroot at 708-951-5634 for details.

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC is on **Sunday, September 7**, starting at 11:15am (so you can all enjoy cookies and coffee beforehand). BBQ pulled pork will be served in the Activity Center and our church yard will be available for games! We are asking all families to bring a sensational salad or side dish to share (serving spoons provided). Drinks and desserts will be provided. This will be fun for all ages! Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Centers!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: On **Sunday, September 21**, we will begin another year of Sunday School for all ages at 11:10am. Class information to follow.

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, 2025, 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, Rodger Norris.

EACH YEAR BIBLE LEAGUE VOLUNTEER AMBASSADORS share a special fundraising letter. Together we are equipping Christians and churches all over the globe to engage children and youth in the Word of God. As a result, God's Kingdom is growing! Look for this letter in your church's mailbox, and as you read it sincerely pray for God's Word to change lives. Contributions you provide will supply Bibles and materials.

- Judy Gill and Becky Wright

PLEASE JOIN US AS the First Church Ladies' Bible Study begins its new season on **Tuesday, September 23**, at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having a Kickoff Brunch, handing out the new study guides and watching the first video of our study. This year, our DVD study will be by Melissa Spoelstra. It is entitled, "The Gospel of John: Savoring the Peace of Jesus in a Chaotic World." We will join Melissa as she teaches that in the book of John, and we are to look at the pace of Jesus's life and ministry and realize we need to slow down and enjoy His presence. The cost of the study guide is \$24.00 (which includes access to the videos online should you miss a session). If you are an Amazon Prime member you may order your own study guide. Please text or call Mary Koster at 708-380-4316 by Tuesday, September 9 if you want to be a part of this exciting Bible study. Hope you can attend!

SAVE THE DATE: The 29TH Annual Elim Dutch Festival will be held on **Saturday, September 27**, at Elim Christian Services in Crestwood. Be sure to mark your calendar.

REMINDERS....

BE SURE TO VISIT THE WELCOME CENTERS to sign up for church events and sign cards for our shut-ins. Please also remember to empty your mail slots.

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!

CHURCH COOKIES AND NUT ALLERGIES: Our wonderful cookies served during fellowship time following church are made by volunteers from our congregation. It's our practice that any cookies containing nuts of any kind are clearly labeled.

COOKIE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS: Please check your mailbox for the September-December Cookie Duty schedule. Thank you for your commitment to this vital ministry at First Church.

SERMON NOTES...

Nehemiah 1
“From Comfort to Calling”
Pastor Corey Buchanan

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...

Anthony Bolkema
Interim Executive Pastor

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

Jane Ackerman
Church Accountant

Rev. Dr. Rich Grevengoed
Pastor of Care & Visitation

Nyla DeGraff
Church Administrator

Gerri VanBaren
Administrative Assistant

Steve Alexander
Church Custodian

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.