

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
of SOUTH HOLLAND
Sunday, September 21, 2025



Welcome to First Reformed Church!

“In the beginning, God....”

Amidst our world’s chaos and confusion, through our lives’ struggles and strife, these are the words where Christians begin to hang their hope. These first words of the Bible remind us that before all else, God was – that our God spoke chaos into order; that our God spoke everything into being.

And we believe that our God is still speaking today, breathing words of life to us through His Word, calling us home through Jesus, and encouraging us through the power of the Holy Spirit. As you prepare for worship, ask God to open Your heart to hear Him speak today.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
Sunday, September 21, 2025

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

*“The Heavens Are Telling”
“For the Beauty of the Earth”
“We Have Come into This House”*

*Welcome & Greeting One Another

Pastor Corey Buchanan

*Congregational Worship

*“God the Uncreated One”
“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

Song of Assurance

“His Glory & My Good”

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:1-2

Message

“God is the Beginning”

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Russ Paarlberg

Offering

Hymn Request Jar

*Doxology

*Benediction

Pastor Corey Buchanan

*Sending in Grace

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

*Organ Postlude

“This Is My Father’s 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, SEPTEMBER 21

GREETERS: The Verhagen Family

WORSHIP TEAM: Nolan Bolkema, Dacia Hill, Nick Paarlberg, Anna Sikkema, and Grant Sikkema

PROJECTION: Gwen Adams

VIDEO: Keith Flowers; **SOUND:** Rhonda Hesselink

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

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Amber Fransen

COFFEE SERVERS: Roger & Laurel DeGraff, Gwen Adams, and Faye Gowens

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Nyla DeGraff, Mary Koster, and Gerri VanBaren

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Don DeGraff

OASIS: Meets tonight at 6:30pm in the Activity Center and Loft

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:30AM: Piece Makers meet in Fellowship Hall

7:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9:30AM: Women's Bible Study Kick-Off meets in the Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

GREETERS: The Bolkema Family

WORSHIP TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Bill & Nikki Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, Benjamin Wooley, and Robert Wooley

PROJECTION: Liam VanderWoude; **VIDEO:** Eric Pradelski

SOUND: Aaron Wooley

ORGAN: Steve DeVries; **PIANO:** Joanne Hoeksema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Sara Jabaay

COFFEE SERVERS: Jim & Mary Bosman and Trina Taylor

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Amber Fransen, Joanne Hoeksema, and Mary Koster

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Jim Bosman

CARE...

Don and Noreen VanDeursen's nephew, Eric Hettinga (43 yrs old), had a severe heart attack. He had open heart surgery on Thursday morning and is in very serious condition in the ICU unit.

Wayne Deinema fell at Park Place. He did not sustain any injuries from the fall, but he did elect to be admitted to rehab at Cedarhurst in Lowell.

Anna Mae Groeneveld has been transferred to Lightways in Joliet, IL.

Dorothy Jacobsma has moved to hospice care at Palos Heights Community Hospital.

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

Debbie Garretto is recovering at home from eye surgery.

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

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Anne Koval, 713 E. 156th Place, 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.

MALACHI 3:10 (NIV) reads, *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. "Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*

ON DUTY FOR SEPTEMBER...

First Security: Rich Thornton

First Emergency: Tiffany Buchanan

CHURCH LIFE...

TRUNK N' TREAT is **Friday, October 31**, from 5:00 - 6:30pm (car trunks needed by 4:45pm). We will once again give the children of South Holland and surrounding areas a safe and fun place to Trick N' Treat. We need lots of car trunks and lots of candy (we ran out last year) to make this fun event possible. Let's make 2025 our biggest turnout for First Church! There is a candy donation table in the Fellowship Hall, or you can leave your candy at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. We also need you to volunteer your 'decorated' or 'undecorated' car trunk. Please sign up at the Welcome Centers in the narthex or in the Fellowship Hall.



WILL YOU PARTICIPATE IN OUR 2025 THANKSGIVING STUFFING CHALLENGE?

Beginning today, 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.

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. They have been re-alphabetized, and remember your mail is *above* your name.

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.

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.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES...

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS today for all ages from 11:00am - 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 11:00-11:30am, then move to their classrooms until 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 Loft

THE FIRST CHURCH LADIES' BIBLE STUDY BRUNCH KICKOFF is on **Tuesday, September 23**, at 9:30am (please note the time change) in the Fellowship Hall. Come for a time of food, fun, and fellowship as we begin our study of the book of John. If you requested a study guide to be ordered it is in your church mailbox. Hope to see you at the kickoff!

OASIS (Junior & Senior High Students) meets tonight, **Sunday, September 21**, from 6:30-8:00pm in the Loft and Activity Center. If you are or know of a student in 6th – 12th grade who would like to participate in this ministry, please email Anthony at anthony@frcsh.org.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS....

ELIM DUTCH FESTIVAL is **Saturday, September 27** at Elim Christian School in Crestwood, IL. Please join us for a day of fun, friends, and fantastic Dutch food and treats. 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 or Judy Gill.

PARADE OF LIGHTS is **Tuesday, October 7** at 6:30pm at Thorn Creek Reformed Church, 1875 E. 170th St., S.H. The South Holland Fire Department will be hosting this 29th annual Parade of Lights. Fire and rescue vehicles will conduct a "lights only" parade to honor those who have experienced a fire, loss of life, or fire-related injuries after the short service at Thorn Creek Reformed Church. The parade of vehicles will travel through South Holland and conclude at the Thornton Fire Department. Residents are invited to stand along the route with candles and lights.

SERMON NOTES...

Genesis 1:1-2
“God is the Beginning”
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...

Dr. Anthony Bolkema
Interim Executive Pastor

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

Jane Ackerman
Church Accountant

Nyla DeGraff
Church Administrator

Gerri VanBaren
Administrative Assistant

Darcy Daly
Nursery Coordinator

Steve Alexander
Church Custodian

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.