

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH of SOUTH HOLLAND

First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025



Welcome to First Reformed Church!

In this season of Advent, we rejoice in *the already and the not yet*. Jesus has already come entering our world to bring light, hope, and healing to our broken lives. Because of His first coming, we can walk in the healing, forgiveness, and restoration He freely provides today.

But we also live with *holy expectation*, waiting for the day when Jesus will come again to bring ultimate healing when every wound will be mended, every tear wiped away, and every broken thing made whole.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, November 30, 2025 WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

*"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"*

"O Come"

*Opening Song of Worship

Opening Invocation

*Congregational Singing

Lighting of the Hope Candle

Greeting One Another

Congregational Singing

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

"Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

"Our Great Savior"

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:14-15

Message

"Forgiveness Breeds Freedom"

Testimony

Cyrus Harris

Silent Reflection

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Rick Veldboom

Offering

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

*Doxology

"Doxology (The First Noel)"

*Benediction

Pastor Corey Buchanan

*Sending in Grace

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

*Organ Postlude

Joanne Hoeksema

*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, NOVEMBER 30

GREETERS: Dennis & Deb Woltzen

WORSHIP TEAM: Joe Fransen, Bill Nyhanna, Nikki Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, and Bella VanderWoude

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

PROJECTION: Liam VanderWoude; **VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok; **SOUND:** Lucas Bolkema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Izzy Veldboom

COFFEE SERVERS: Jim & Mary Bosman and Trina Taylor

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Diana Abernathy, Mykah Lett, and Kathy Rhodes

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Joanne Hoeksema

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

6:00PM: Handbell Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall

7:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:00PM: Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:30AM: ACT meets in the Heritage Room

6:00PM: First Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:30AM – 12:50PM: Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

GREETERS: Bolkema Family

WORSHIP TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Nolan Bolkema, Joe Fransen, Dacia Hill, Nikki Nyhanna, and Nick Paarlberg

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Amy Veldboom

PROJECTION: Lucas Bolkema; **VIDEO:** Keith Floweres; **SOUND:** Rhonda Hesselink

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Julia Keep

COFFEE SERVERS: Steve & Nancy DeVries and Mary Koster

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Laurel DeGraff, Sherry Norris, and Nikki Nyhanna

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Anthony Bolkema

OASIS: 6:30-8:00PM in the Activity Center & Loft

CARE...

Charles Dinkel is recovering at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn from orthopedic surgery that repaired his broken arm.

Phil Capone has an angioplasty scheduled on Monday, December 22 to address the most-blocked artery.

Wayne Deinema has been able to return home to Park Place of St. John, #3307.

Anna Mae Groeneveld is home in hospice care.

Clifton Rhodes continues his physical therapy.

Lisa Magnon, Anna Collins daughter and primary care giver for Anna, has been diagnosed with lung cancer and is going through tests to determine treatments.

Sharon Brooks' mom, Paula Amos, no longer needs to undergo chemotherapy. Sharon's aunt, Ginger Scott, continues rehab at Rush Specialty Hospital. Sharon's grandfather has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer and is going through additional tests.

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

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Loretta Bovenkerk, Sunrise of Olympia Fields #154, 3633 Breaker Drive, Olympia Fields, IL 60461

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 NOVEMBER...

First Security: Dennis Woltzen & Steve VanderWoude

First Emergency: Jessica DeBok

CHURCH LIFE...

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Marla Owens who passed away on Monday, November 24.

CHICAGOLAND PRISON OUTREACH ANGELS OF HOPE CHRISTMAS PROJECT: Thank you for helping support these families! The gifts must be returned by today!

CLOTHING CLOSET: We rejoice that our Clothing Closet is continuing to be a blessing to our community. Our next scheduled date is **Saturday, December 13**. If you are able to volunteer to help with the setup, serving our clients while the closet is open, and/or clean up, please contact Anthony Bolkema. Reminder: If you have items for the Clothing Closet, please take your donations to Open Access, 900 Maple Avenue, Homewood. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:30pm.

THE PRAYER AND CARE COMMITTEE will be meeting next **Sunday, December 7** in the Sanctuary by the organ directly after the church service.

DEAR COOKIE COMMITTEE LADIES: The new cookie schedules for January-April 2026 are now in your mailbox. Thank you for your willingness to be part of this Ministry of Hospitality at First Church. Your creations are a hit every coffee time!

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.

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.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: When you go downstairs for coffee, take a look at the screens in the Fellowship Hall. A series of "Getting to Know You" slides allows our church family to meet various members and learn interesting tidbits about each other. Maybe you'll be interviewed next!

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!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE...

- **Wednesday, Dec. 3**, come join us at 6:00pm for our (fifth) First Christmas Party. Enjoy a delicious meal, festive games, sparkling conversation, and holiday cheer with your church family! Sign up at the Welcome Center(s).
- **Wednesday, Dec. 10**, our Wednesday night men's and women's Bible studies will meet from 6:00-7:30pm. Join us!
- **Sunday, Dec. 14**, at 6:00pm, join us for our annual Service of Lessons & 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, Dec. 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!

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES...

SUNDAY SCHOOL continues for all ages from 11:00am - noon. **PreK-8th Grade** gather to sing, work on memory verses, and collect an offering in the **Genesis Room** from 11:00-11:00am, then move to their classrooms until noon.

• PreK–2 nd Grades/Genesis Room	• 9th–12th Grades/Chapel
• 3 rd –5 th Grades/Library	• Tibstra House/Heritage Room
• 6 th –8 th Grades starts/Genesis Room	

THE LADIES' MORNING BIBLE STUDY meets on **Tuesday, December 9**, at 9:30am for our 4th annual Cookie Exchange Christmas Party. Please bring a batch of homemade or store-bought cookies to share as we fill containers to gift our emeritus Bible Study friends. We will also be viewing the Session 3 video so bring your study guides along as well. Hope to see you there!

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED to join a new evening Bible study on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. We meet on **Wednesday, December 10** at 6:30pm in the **Genesis Room**. All are welcome to attend! Contact Joanne Hoeksema or Alison VanderWoude if you have any questions.

ALL MEN ARE INVITED to join a new evening Bible study on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. We meet on **Wednesday, December 10** at 6:30pm in the **Heritage Room**. Please consider joining the men of First Reformed as we seek to grow in the grace and truth of the gospel. See Steve VanderWoude if you have any questions.

SERMON NOTES...

Matthew 6:14-15

“Forgiveness Breeds Freedom”

Pastor Corey Buchanan



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SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS

9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday

STAFF...

Dr. Anthony Bolkema
Interim Executive Pastor

Gerri VanBaren
Administrative Assistant

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

Darcy Daly
Nursery Coordinator

Jane Ackerman
Church Accountant

Steve Alexander
Church Custodian

Nyla DeGraff
Church Administrator

Toni Smith
Director of Family Life
Christian Pre-School & Day Care

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).

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.