

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH of SOUTH HOLLAND

Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Communion Sunday, December 7, 2025

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

Opening Song of Worship

Opening Invocation

Lighting of the Love Candle

Greeting One Another

*Congregational Singing

Prayer of Confession

Song of Assurance

"The Holly and The Ivy"

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

"Comfort, Comfort You My People"

"Advent Hymn"

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Roger and Judy Gill

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

"We Have A Savior"

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

"Love Has Come!"

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Message

Testimony

Silent Reflection

Psalm 42

"Depression Can Be Overcome"

Kimberly Williams

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Offering

*Doxology

*Benediction

*Sending in Grace

*Organ Postlude

*Those who are able please stand.

Jim DeGroot

"As the Deer"

"Doxology (The First Noel)"

Pastor Corey Buchanan

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

"Redeeming Love"

Please, join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a cup of conversation and a cookie.

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

COMMUNION 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 Flowers

SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Julia Keep

COFFEE SERVERS: Steve & Nancy DeVries and Verhagen Family

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

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Anthony Bolkema

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:30AM: Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall

6:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

7:00PM: Consistory meets in the Genesis Room followed by Elder & Deacon meetings

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:30AM: Trustees meet in the Fellowship Hall

8:15AM: Vision Team meets in the Heritage Room

9:30AM: Women's Bible Study meets in the Genesis Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

5:00PM: Family Life Christian Day Care Center Christmas Program in the sanctuary

6:30PM: Women's Bible Study meets in the Genesis Room

6:30PM: Men's Bible Study meets in the Heritage Room

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:00-11:00AM: Clothing Closet in the Activity Center

2:00PM: Visitation for Marla Owens in the Sanctuary

3:00PM: Marla Owens Memorial Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

GREETERS: Tibstra House

WORSHIP TEAM: Nick Paarlberg, Bill Nyhanna, Anna Sikkema, Grant Sikkema, Benjamin Wooley, and Robert Wooley

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

PROJECTION: Felicia Flowers; **VIDEO:** Eric Pradelski; **SOUND:** Aaron Wooley

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Amber Fransen

COFFEE SERVERS: Don & Gerri VanBaren and Don & Nyla DeGraff

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Megan DeYoung, Judy Gill, and Katie Sikkema

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Jim DeGroot

6:00PM: *Lessons & Carols Service in the sanctuary followed by refreshments in FH*

CARE...

Charles Dinkel is home recovering from orthopedic surgery that repaired his broken arm.

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

Anna Mae Groeneveld is home in hospice care.

Matthew Koster, fell and broke his arm. Pray for speedy recovery.

Lisa Magnon, Anna Collins daughter and primary care giver for Anna, has been diagnosed with lung cancer and is starting immunotherapy and chemotherapy.

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: Ruth DeBoer, Hartsfield Village, 10002 Columbia Ave., Munster, IN 46321

CHURCH LIFE...

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Marla Owens who passed away on Monday, November 24. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 13 with visitation at 2:00pm and service at 3:00pm.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is also extended to Ruth DeBoer, on the passing of her son-in-law, Craig Porter, who passed away on November 17.

THE PRAYER AND CARE COMMITTEE will be meeting today in the Sanctuary by the organ directly after the church service.

CLOTHING CLOSET: We rejoice that our Clothing Closet is continuing to be a blessing to our community. Our next scheduled date is this **Saturday, December 13** from **9:00-11:00am**. 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 Ave., Homewood. Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00am-4:30pm.

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...

- **Sunday, December 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, 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!

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.

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| • 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 this **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 an evening Bible study on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. We meet this **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 this **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.

ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER...

First Security: Dennis Woltzen & Steve VanderWoude
First Emergency: Tiffany Buchanan

SERMON NOTES...

Psalm 42

“Depression Can Be Overcome”

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.