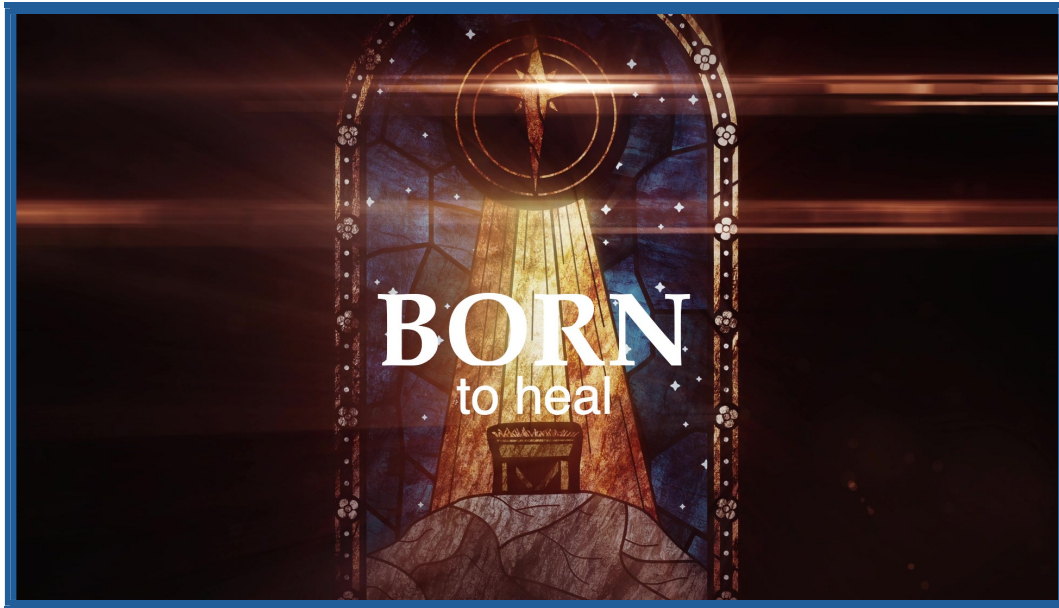


# FIRST REFORMED CHURCH of SOUTH HOLLAND

Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 14, 2025

### WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

*"Angels We Have Heard On High"*  
*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*  
*"The First Noel"*

Opening Song of Worship

*"Ding Dong Merrily"*

Congregational Singing

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Lighting of the Joy Candle

*"Oh, Light"*

\*Congregational Singing

*"Joy to the World! The Lord is Come"*

\*Greeting One Another

\*Congregational Singing

*"Eden is Open"*

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

Song of Assurance

*"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"*

### THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Joshua 1:5-9

Message

*"Never Alone"*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Steve VanderWoude

Offering

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

\*Doxology

*"Doxology (The First Noel)"*

\*Benediction

Rev. Brian Gardner

\*Sending in Grace

*"Savior of the Nations, Come"*

\*Organ Postlude

*"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"*

\*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 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:** Dacia Hill and Amber Fransen

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Don & Noreen VanDeursen 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

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

**7:00PM:** Music Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

**GREETERS:** Steve and Alison VanderWoude

**WORSHIP TEAM:** Kim Bolkema, Peter & Julia Keep, Bill Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, and Lisa Triemstra

**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema

**PIANO:** Anthony Bolkema

**PROJECTION:** Gwen Adams

**VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok

**SOUND:** Lucas Bolkema

**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Sara Jabaay

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Rodger & Sherry Norris and Gerri VanBaren

**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Mary Bosman, Amber Fransen, and Becky Wright

**PRAYER ROOM ELDER:** Roger DeGraff

## *CARE...*

**Mary Ann Gouwens** fell and broke her hip and she is awaiting surgery at Franciscan Crown Point.

**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 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:** Doris Boomsma, Park Place of St. John, 10700 Park Place, St. John, IN 46373

## *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!

## *ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER...*

**First Security:** Dennis Woltzen & Steve VanderWoude

**First Emergency:** Tiffany Buchanan

## *CHURCH LIFE...*

**WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT** this morning Rev. Brian Gardner. Rev. Gardner is a member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Chicago where he serves as the youth Pastor. He also works in full time ministry with Cru inner city, a para church ministry that partners with over 125 churches in the Chicagoland area. He has a Masters in Urban ministry from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and has many years of practical ministry experience. Rev. Gardner loves Jesus and loves to preach and teach the Word. He has been married 20 years to his wife Latoya and together they have 7 children.

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of Sharon Henderson Brooks on the passing of her Aunt Ginger Scott on Saturday, December 6.

**CLOTHING CLOSET:** We rejoice that our Clothing Closet is continuing to be a blessing to our community. 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!

**PLEASE REMEMBER FIRST CHURCH** with your tithes and offerings as we near the end of 2025. Any year-end gifts must be given on or before December 31. Offering envelopes have been issued for 2026 and are in your mail slots. If you should have any questions, please contact Deacon Chair Rodger Norris at 708-337-9953.

**OASIS RETREAT:** Our OASIS students will be going on a WINTERXTREME retreat at Camp TimberLee in Wisconsin on January 2-4, 2026.

**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 the first of January. Make sure to stop by and take a stroll!

## *ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE...*

- **Sunday, December 14**, tonight 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. Refreshments served downstairs after
- **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!
- **Sunday, January 4**, our Annual Tolling of the Bells Service where we hear the bell toll for the loved ones who have gone on to glory this past year. We also have the joy of remembering the baptisms we celebrated this past year.

## *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 11:00-11:0am, then move to their classrooms until noon.**

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

**No Sunday School on Sunday, December 28 & Sunday, January 4!**

**THE LADIES' MORNING BIBLE STUDY** meets next on **Tuesday, January 13**, at 9:30am in the Genesis Room. 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 next on **Wednesday, January 14** 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 next on **Wednesday, January 14** 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...***

Joshua 1:5-9  
“Never Alone”  
Rev. Brian Gardner

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).



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E-mail • [office@frcsh.org](mailto: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](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.