

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"

"Ding Dong Merrily"

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

"Oh, Light"

"Joy to the World! The Lord is Come"

"Eden is Open"

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

Opening Song of Worship

Congregational Singing

Lighting of the Joy Candle

*Congregational Singing

*Greeting One Another

*Congregational Singing

Prayer of Confession

Song of Assurance

Scripture

Joshua 1:5-9

Message

"Never Alone"

THE WORD OF 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.

WE RESPOND TO GOD

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

- PreK-2nd Grades/Genesis Room
- 3rd-5th Grades/Library
- 6th-8th 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



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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

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.



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).

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.