

# FIRST REFORMED CHURCH of SOUTH HOLLAND

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 2026



## Welcome to First Reformed Church!

Did you know that in the church calendar, Easter is not just one day, but it's a whole season, encompassing the 50 days from Resurrection Sunday until Pentecost (May 24 this year)? During this season, we watch the grass get greener, the flowers blooming, and the days getting warmer, and we celebrate the Spring of our souls, the new life we experience in Jesus!

We are so glad that you are here to celebrate this truth with us: Jesus' Resurrection changes everything! For 178 years, First Church has been a loving place where God's people have grown and experienced transformation and new life. Join us in the joy, worship, community, and hope that Jesus brings!

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 3, 2026

### WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

*"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*  
*"Rejoice, the Lord is King"*  
*"Break Through the Bread of Life"*

\*Welcome & Greeting One Another

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

\*Congregational Worship

*"Praise the Lord (Psalm 150)"*  
*"Praise Him! Praise Him!"*

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Corey Buchanan

\*Song of Assurance

*"Christ is Enough"*

### THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Genesis 13:2-18

Message

*"Our Struggle: God's Faithfulness"*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Congregational Prayer

Jim DeGroot

Offering

*"Great Peace is Mine"*

\*Doxology

\*Benediction

Pastor Corey Buchanan

\*Sending in Grace

*"Christ is Alive"*

\*Organ Postlude

*"Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above"*

\*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...*

### COMMUNION SUNDAY, MAY 3

**GREETERS:** Bolkema Family

**WORSHIP TEAM:** Kim Bolkema, Nolan Bolkema, Joe Fransen, Nick Paarlberg, Abby Veldboom, Benjamin Wooley and Robert Wooley

**ORGAN:** Steve DeVries; **PIANO:** Anthony Bolkema

**PROJECTION:** Felicia Flowers

**VIDEO:** Mike Decker

**SOUND:** Aaron Wooley

**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Julia Keep

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Clair & Lynn Hoeksema and Deb & Dennis Woltzen

**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Gwen Adams, Pam Costello, and Ellen Nelson

**PRAYER ROOM ELDER:** Anthony Bolkema

### MONDAY, MAY 4

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

### TUESDAY, MAY 5

**4:30PM:** South Holland Community Garden meeting in the Fellowship Hall

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

**7:30AM:** ACT meets in the Heritage Room

### SUNDAY, MAY 10 – MOTHER'S DAY

**GREETERS:** Verhagen Family

**WORSHIP TEAM:** Nolan Bolkema, Nikki Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, Anna Sikkema, Grant Sikkema, and Lisa Triemstra

**ORGAN:** Bonnie Feenstra; **PIANO:** Nicholas Graves

**PROJECTION:** Lucas Bolkema

**VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok

**SOUND:** Rhonda Hesselink

**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Amber Fransen

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Rick & Amy Veldboom and Clint & Merley Verhagen

**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Mary Koster, Cindy Paarlberg, and Merley Verhagen

**PRAYER ROOM ELDER:** Russ Paarlberg

## *CARE & PRAYER...*

**Pastor Rich Grevengoed** underwent heart surgery on Thursday, April 30 at Christ Hospital.

**Joanne Hoeksema** will begin chemo treatments for cancer early this summer. Please pray for complete healing with minimal side effects.

**Eric Pradelski** is struggling with intense, flaring nerve pain. He has found a new psychiatry provider who ran lab work on Friday, May 1. He is also in the midst of mental health diagnosis testing and nervous system function level testing, and has an EEG on May 11 and a testing appointment on May 21. Please pray for patience, clarity, and guidance for Eric and his medical team.

**Mike Costello** is recovering at home from heart ablation.

**Mark Spiekhout** was transferred to Ignite Rehab in Dyer to continue his recovery from hip surgery.

**Craig Nelson** has been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Also, Craig and Jan's son, **Christopher**, is undergoing a difficult new treatment for his cancer and has been admitted to the hospital.

**Joyce Novak**, Linda Capone's mother, has returned home and is now receiving home health care. Pray for her continued healing and strength.

**David Gardiner**, grandson of Jean Spiekhout, needs your prayers as he is suffering from a brain tumor.

**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Loretta Bovenkerk**, Sunrise of Olympia Fields, Unit 154, 3633 Breaker Dr., Olympia Fields, IL 60461

## *ON DUTY FOR MAY...*

**First Security:** Barry Voss

**First Emergency:** Jessica DeBok

## ***CHURCH LIFE...***

**COMMUNITY GARDEN:** We are excited to partner with the Village of South Holland to launch a new community garden at First Church! Five beds are available for individuals or groups this season: sign up at the Fellowship Hall welcome center to reserve yours. For questions or more information, please see Megan DeYoung.

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, May 12**, from 6:30-7:30pm in the Sanctuary. The main purpose of the meeting will be the election of elders, deacons, and trustees and any other business which rightfully comes before such a meeting. Eligible communicant voters must be at least 18 years of age. If you would like nursery for your child(ren) (up to 5 yrs. old), please notify the church office by Thursday, May 7.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONS** have been placed in nomination for the office of Elder, Deacon and Trustees:

**ELDER NOMINEES:** Larry DeYoung, Rhonda Hesselink, Clair Hoeksema, and Steve VanderWoude

**DEACON NOMINEES:** Tim DeYoung, Grant Sikkema, Travis Stirling, and Dennis Woltzen

**TRUSTEE NOMINEES:** Nyla DeGraff, Steve DeVries, and Rich Zimmerman

**PROCEDURE FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Absentee ballots (also available in the church office) should be placed in a sealed envelope with the eligible voting church member's signature and the date on the outside and delivered to the church office prior to the meeting of May 12. Please note that voting will be by slate (collectively) for each office. Therefore, there may be one vote of "yes" or "no" for Elders, the same for Deacons and Trustees.

**IN YOUR MAIL SLOTS** is a packet with the minutes from the 2025 Congregational Meeting and the proposed annual budgets for 2026/2027. Please review and take this packet along with you to our annual Congregational Meeting on **Tuesday, May 12** at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

**FAMILY LIFE CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL & DAY CARE GRADUATION** is scheduled for **Friday, June 5**, at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. All First Church members are invited to come and support our families in the Family Life Christian Day Care Program.

## ***LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES...***

**FAMILY LIFE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL AND DAY CARE** is excited to share a special part of their monthly learning with our congregation. Each month, the children focus on a Bible verse, and for the month of May, they are learning **Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."** We invite you to join them in their journey by learning and reflecting on this verse together as an opportunity for our whole church family to grow in faith together.

**OASIS** (Junior & Senior High Students) will meet tonight, **Sunday, May 3**, from 6:30-8:00pm in the Activity Center and Loft. If you are or know of a student in 6th – 12th grade who would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Pastor Anthony.

## ***REMINDERS....***

**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.

**BE SURE TO VISIT** the welcome centers and sign cards for our shut-ins and please remember to empty your mailslots.

## ***AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS...***

**SAVE THE DATE:** The annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on **Thursday, May 7**, at 7:00am at Spirit of God Fellowship. This is a powerful opportunity for our community to come together in prayer.

**EVENING OF THANKSGIVING:** Chicagoland Prison Outreach Banquet will be held on **Tuesday, May 19** at the Tinley Park Convention Center, celebrating 32 years of God's faithfulness. Reception begins at 6:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Visit their website [www.cpoministries.org/banquet](http://www.cpoministries.org/banquet) to RSVP or call 708-331-3301.

**JOIN THE MEN AND WOMEN** of the South Holland Ministerial Association for a time of prayer and Bible fellowship. Men meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday from noon to 1:00pm at Heritage House (443 E. 157<sup>th</sup> Street) and the women meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday from 6:00-7:00pm at the Community Center (501 E 170<sup>th</sup> Street). For more information, email [southhollandchurches@gmail.com](mailto:southhollandchurches@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

*SERMON NOTES...*

Genesis 13:2-18  
"Our Struggle: God's Faithfulness"  
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).



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**SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS**  
9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday

*STAFF...*

**Dr. Anthony Bolkema**  
*Interim Executive Pastor*

**Pastor Corey Buchanan**  
*Associate Pastor*

**Jane Ackerman**  
*Church Accountant*

**Nikki Nyhanna**  
*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.