

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH of SOUTH HOLLAND

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 17, 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!

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 17, 2026

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

"Psalm 46"

"Austrian Hymn"

"Be Still and Know"

*Welcome & Greeting One Another

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

*Congregational Worship

"A Mighty Fortress"

"Cornerstone"

"Praise the Name of Jesus"

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

*Song of Assurance

"Out of the Depths (I Will Wait for You)"

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

"When The Bottom Falls Out"

Message

Psalm 46

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Don DeGraff

Offering

"Just When I Need Him Most"

*Doxology

*Benediction

Pastor Ted Powers

*Sending in Grace

"Christ is Alive"

*Organ Postlude

"The Solid Rock"

*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, MAY 17

GREETERS: Steve and Alison VanderWoude

WORSHIP TEAM: Kim & Nolan Bolkema, Dacia Hill, Peter & Julia Keep, and Nick Paarlberg

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Anthony Bolkema

PROJECTION: Jonathan VanderWoude

VIDEO: Keith Flowers

SOUND: Lucas Bolkema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Sara Jabaay

COFFEE SERVERS: Russ & Heidi Paarlberg and Jim & Bonnie DeGroot

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Rhonda DeBok, Nyla DeGraff, and Gerri VanBaren

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Joanne Hoeksema

MONDAY, MAY 18

9:30AM: Piecemakers meet in the Fellowship Hall

6:00PM: F-PEC meets in the Fellowship Hall

7:00PM: Music Team meets in the Sanctuary

THURSDAY, MAY 21

4:00-6:00PM: Clothing Closet is open in the Activity Center

PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 24

GREETERS: Jim and Bonnie DeGroot

WORSHIP TEAM: Nolan Bolkema, Jeffrey & Joe Fransen, Lisa Triemstra, and Liam VanderWoude

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Nicholas Graves

PROJECTION: Gwen Adams

VIDEO: Eric Pradelski

SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Dacia Hill

COFFEE SERVERS: Dave & Becky Wright and Roger & Judy Gill

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Amber Fransen, Joanne Hoeksema, and Deb Woltzen

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Don DeGraff

CARE & PRAYER...

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

Rhonda DeBok will have testing on her heart Monday, May 18. Please pray for peace and that all will go well.

Eric Pradelski is struggling with intense, flaring nerve pain and is in the midst of mental health diagnosis testing and nervous system function level testing. Please pray for patience, clarity, and guidance for Eric and his medical team.

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

Ellie Schmidt, great niece of Rick and Lisa Triemstra, had surgery on May 11 to remove a large tumor in her brain.

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.

Pastor Rich Grevengoed underwent heart surgery on Thursday, April 30 and has been able to return home.

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: Viola VanDam, Providence Downers Grove, 3450 Saratoga Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515

ON DUTY FOR MAY...

First Security: Barry Voss

First Emergency: Jessica DeBok

CHURCH LIFE...

WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT this morning Pastor Ted Powers. Ted has been an ordained Teaching Elder in the PCA since 1980, with robust educational and experiential background in church planting and church renewal. He currently serves as the Director of the Midwest Alliance, coaching, training, and equipping church planters and church planting initiatives in the PCA.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION for your nominations, attendance, and vote at this year's congregational meeting. The following members were elected to office: Elders: Larry DeYoung, Rhonda Hesselink, Clair Hoeksema and Steve VanderWoude. Deacons: Tim DeYoung, Grant Sikkema, Travis Stirling and Dennis Woltzen. Trustees: Nyla DeGraff, Steve DeVries and Rich Zimmerman. The Consistory and congregation take this opportunity to give thanks to God for the leading of these individuals to service in our church. We pray for God's blessings on each of them as they lead and serve among us. We also bless God for the humble leadership and service of Don DeGraff, Russ Paarlberg, Clint Verhagen, Randy DeBok, Sara Jabaay, Lisa Triemstra, and Noreen VanDeursen, who are outgoing members of Consistory.

OUR FOOD PANTRY continues to serve many families in our community and beyond and your support makes a real difference. We invite you to help by bringing in non-perishable food items now through the end of June. Donations can be left on a special food pantry table set up in the Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: We are excited to partner with the Village of South Holland to launch a new community garden at First Church! Beds are still 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.

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.

THE CLOTHING CLOSET will be open this month on **Thursday, May 21**. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Anthony Bolkema. The Clothing Closet will be open from 4:00-6:00pm, as well as approximately 30-45 minutes before and after those time slots for setup and cleanup.

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 submit to 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 17**, 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....

BE SURE TO CHECK the table in the Fellowship Hall for any platters, serving trays, plates, or other items that may belong to you! The table will be up through the month of May, so please make sure you take home anything that belongs to you before then.

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...

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

SERMON NOTES...

Pastor Ted Powers
Psalm 46
“When The Bottom Falls Out”

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).



15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473
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E-mail • 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

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

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.