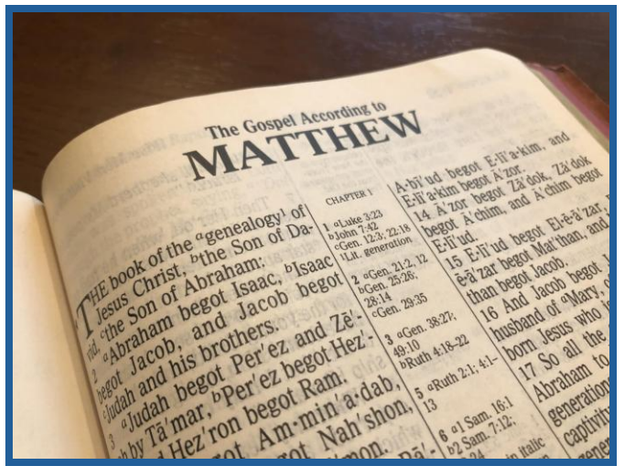
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
of SOUTH HOLLAND
Sunday, October 18, 2026



Welcome to First Reformed Church!

At First Church one of the best ways we can grow together is through Sunday morning worship. Here, you'll find a warm and welcoming community of people from all different walks of life gathered together in unity to lift high the name of Jesus.

We do this in all sorts of different ways. We sing new songs with guitars and old songs with an organ. We pray new prayers from the heart and ancient prayers of the faith. We preach the same Good News of Jesus Christ in new and fresh ways in hopes of intersecting the Word of God with the stories of our lives.

We pray that you'll sense the power and presence of God in our worship this morning and that you will feel welcomed and encouraged throughout the service this morning.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
Sunday, October 18, 2026

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude	*"Little Prelude in G Minor"* *"The Church's One Foundation"* *"Oh The Glory of Your Presence"*
*Welcome & Greeting One Another	Pastor Corey Buchanan
*Congregational Worship	***"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"*** ***"God the Uncreated One"***
Prayer of Confession	Pastor Anthony Bolkema ***"Kyrie Eleison"***
*Song of Assurance	***"Jesus Strong and Kind"***

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture	Matthew 15:21-28
Message	"Mercy"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer	Pastor Corey Buchanan
Offering	*"Til the Storm Passes By"*
*Doxology	
*Benediction	
*Sending in Grace	***"Have Thy Own Way, Lord"***
*Organ Postlude	

*Those who are able please stand.
Please, join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a cup of conversation and a cookie.

CARE & PRAYER…

Doris Boomsma underwent a heart ablation procedure at Franciscan Hospital in Dyer on Thursday, October 15. Pray that the procedure helps to regulate her heartbeat and that the recovery from this procedure is quick and enduring.

Andy DeBoer is scheduled for lumbar fusion surgery on October 19 at Ingalls Hospital to address weakness in his leg caused by spinal stenosis and issues with his lower back. Please pray that the surgery is successful and that he will regain strength and mobility in his leg. We give thanks that testing related to his prostate and bladder cancer has brought encouraging news.

Henry Boender, great-grandson of **Norma Smit,** has been able to return home from the hospital. Please continue to pray for peace and strength for Henry and his family in this time.

Faye Gowens continues to recover at home and is gradually regaining her strength and dexterity, especially when navigating the stairs. Please continue to pray for her recovery, that she will grow stronger and more comfortable with each day, and that she will soon be able to return to worship with us.

Beverly VanDommelen has been released from Franciscan Hospital in Munster; she is now at Hartsfield Village as she continues with her rehabilitation. Pray for Beverly, her medical team, and her loved ones during this time.

Jean Spiekhout was moved to hospice care at Riley House in Munster in September. Please keep Jean and her family in your prayers, asking God to surround them with His peace, comfort, and presence during this time.

Joseph Arojojoye has completed his final week of radiation treatment for cancer. He also had surgery in September. Please pray for peace, strength, and endurance as he continues healing.

Joanne Hoeksema completed her final round of chemotherapy and is awaiting additional test results. Please continue to pray for healing, strength, and encouragement in the weeks ahead.

Eric Pradelski returned back to work this past week and has applied for an additional job. The past 19 months have been a difficult season of relearning and rediscovering much of what he has known about himself throughout his life. Continue to pray that God will guide Eric as he seeks the right path forward in his career and in his relationships with friends and family.

Craig and Jan Nelson's son, **Christopher,** has begun a challenging new cancer treatment. Please keep their entire family in your prayers during this difficult time.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Jean Spiekhout, Riley House, 600 Superior Ave., Munster, IN 46321

UP & COMING AT FIRST…

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

GREETERS: Steve and Alison VanderWoude
WORSHIP TEAM: Nolan Bolkema, Nick Paarlberg, Anna Sikkema, Grant Sikkema and Abby Veldboom
PIANO: Nick Graves **ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema
SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink
PROJECTION: Lucas Bolkema
NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Sara Jabaay
COFFEE SERVERS: Don & Nyla DeGraff and Rodger & Sherry Norris
COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Mary Bosman, Sara Jabaay, and Alison VanderWoude
PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Anthony Bolkema

11:00AM: Sunday School for all ages
3:00PM: OASIS Fall Fest

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

7:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

4:00PM-6:00PM: Clothing Closet in the AC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

GREETERS: Veldboom Family
WORSHIP TEAM: Rhonda DeBok, Jeffrey Fransen, Joe Fransen, Dacia Hill, and Bill Nyhanna
PIANO: Nick Graves **ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema
SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink
PROJECTION: Jonathan VanderWoude
NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Nikki Nyhanna
COFFEE SERVERS: Clair & Lynn Hoeksema and Roger & Laurel DeGraff
COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Felicia Flowers, Grace Jacobsma, and Becky Wright
PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Jim Bosman

CHURCH LIFE…

WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz, a minister of Word and sacrament in the Reformed Church in America. Pastor Edie serves as the executive director of Churches Learning Change and a coach for The Leader's Journey. In addition, she is the part-time executive for the RCA's Regional Synod of Mid-America.

TRUNK N' TREAT: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 5:00–7:00 PM
We're excited to once again provide children in South Holland and the surrounding communities with a safe, fun place to Trunk N' Treat! To make this annual event a success, we need plenty of candy and volunteers willing to share their car trunks - decorated or undecorated! If you can donate candy, please leave it at the donation table in the Fellowship Hall or at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Ready to join the fun? Sign up to host a trunk at either Welcome Center. All car trunks should be in place by 4:45 PM. Questions? Please see Nikki Nyhanna or call the church office. Thank you for helping us welcome and serve our community!

WILL YOU PARTICIPATE IN OUR 2026 THANKSGIVING STUFFING CHALLENGE?

We are excited to be collecting boxes of stuffing for Suburban Access Outreach in Homewood. Our goal as a church is to collect **1000 boxes** and we have currently collected **183 boxes!** All donations will be used by Suburban Access as a part of the 1000 Thanksgiving meals they will give away to families this fall. Please call the church office with any questions. Your donations can be dropped off at the blue table in the Fellowship Hall.

CLOTHING CLOSET: We rejoice that our Clothing Closet is continuing to be a blessing to our community. If you would like to volunteer to help with the setup, serving our clients while the closet is open, and clean up, please contact the church office or Dacia Hill. The Clothing Closet is open on the 4th Thursday of every month, from 4pm-6pm, as well as approximately 30-45 minutes before and after those time slots for setup and cleanup.

If you have clothing items that you would like to give to the Clothing Closet, donations can currently be made at Suburban Access Outreach in Homewood.

REMINDERS…

CHURCH COOKIES AND NUT ALLERGIES: Our wonderful cookies served during fellowship time following church are made by volunteers from our congregation. It is our practice that any cookies containing nuts of any kind are clearly labeled.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES…

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES CONTINUE today 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 11:00-11:20am, then move to their classrooms until noon.

- PreK–2nd Grade meet in the Genesis Room
- 3rd–5th Grade meet in the Library
- 6th–8th Grade meet in the Heritage Room
- 9th–12th Grade meet in the Pastor's Office
- Tibstra House Sunday School will meet at 11:00am in the Heritage Room.

The **WOMEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY** will meet on Tuesday, October 27th, at 9:30am in The Genesis Room. We will discuss the homework from Session 1, "Your Father's House", p. 13-43 and watch the Session 2 video. Hope to see you there!

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDIES will meet again Wednesday, October 28, at 6:30pm. A signup sheet for the women's Bible Study is available at the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office or Alison VanderWoude with questions. For questions about the men's Bible Study, please contact the church office or Steve VanderWoude.

FAMILY LIFE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL AND DAY CARE verse of the month is **Philippians 4:6. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."** We invite you to join them on their journey by learning and reflecting on this verse together as an opportunity for our whole church family to grow in faith together.

SERMON NOTES...

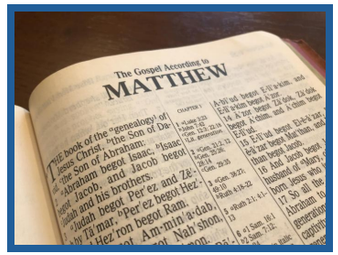
"Mercy"

Rev. Dr. Edie Lenz

Matthew 15:21-28

(Pew Bible: page 1522, Adventure Bible: page 1071)

EVERY SUNDAY, an Elder is assigned to pray in our Prayer Room for 20 minutes following the service. 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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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM / 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.

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google play

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.