

# FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 15, 2018



LIVING  
FREE

### Welcome...

For freedom Christ has set us free, my friends. Free to live for Him in gratitude. Free to walk out of here with your head held high knowing you are a forgiven people. Free to tell others this amazing good news about a carpenter turned Savior of the world named Jesus. For freedom Christ has set us free. Brothers and sisters in Jesus, we are a free people. Leading up to Pentecost, we're going to be carefully reading together a circular letter written to a cluster of churches in Galatia. We know it as the book of Galatians. The author is the Apostle Paul. Yes, the same Paul who in a former life was a militant persecutor of Christians. Yes, the same Paul who stood by as St. Stephan was stoned. Yes, the same Paul who had a wild conversion story on the road to Damascus, was blind for three days and with the help of a fellow named Ananias regained his sight and was set free to live for Christ. There is no question as to the purpose of Paul's letter. Paul wanted to make it crystal clear that our salvation was a free-gift of God's amazing grace.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 15, 9:30AM

### WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

Joanne Hoeksema

Welcome & Greeting One Another

Pastor Matt Waterstone

\*Time of Worship

#108 *"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"*  
*"Praise the King"*  
*"Psalm 62"*

Prayer of Confession

Anthony Bolkema

Song of Assurance

#493 *"I Know Whom I Have Believed"* (vs. 1-3)

### THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Galatians 1:1-12

Sermon

Living Free: "What is the Gospel?"

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Russ Paarlberg

Offering

*"The Bible Tells Me So"*

\*Doxology

\*Benediction

Pastor Matt Waterstone

\*Sending in Grace

#97 *"He Is Lord"* (vs 1)

\*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.

LEARNING...

**FIRST CHURCH WOMEN'S AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY** will meet on **April 24** at 1:00pm in the Genesis Room. Study Session 12, “Anna: How to Live A Life Devoted To God.” Treats are provided by Celeste DeBoer and Carol Barnes.

**BOOK CLUB:** Book club meets on **Tuesday, May 8** at 9:30am. We are reading “Dear Leader: My Escape from North Korea” by Jang Jin-Sung. We will be meeting at Beecher Manor (1201 Dixie Highway, Beecher) with Nora Anker. Questions and directions? Call Ann Koval @ 331-4338.

OUR GIFTS...

Online Giving April 1 thru 7

Current Expense – \$2,735.00

Sunday, April 8

Current Expense – \$5,373.80; Benevolent – \$640.00

Missions – \$390.00; Building – \$290.00

**TOTAL – \$6,693.80**

(Needed Weekly: \$10,850.00)

Special Projects – \$1,110.00

Up-to-date 2018 Special Projects Funding Campaign Total – \$59,163.00

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONTINUES TODAY AT 11:00AM...

**PRECHOOL** (Ages 3-5) Teachers: Sara Jabaay, Sarah Waterstone and Rhonda Hesselink. This class meets in the Genesis Room for learning basic Bible Stories and has a craft-time.

**PRIMARY** (Ages 6-10) Teachers: Rachel Wooley, Kim Bolkema and Nikki Nyhanna. This class will meet in the Library for crafts and learning the stories of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.

**SECONDARY GROUP** (Ages 11-17) Teachers: Nyla DeGraff & Pastor Corey Buchanan. This class meets in the Loft and will follow up on themes learned in the Sunday morning sermons.

ADULT CLASSES:

**PASTOR MEL’S ADULT CLASS** meets today in the Heritage Room studying “Follow Me”, John 21:15-25.

**PASTOR MATT’S ADULT CLASS:** Stressed out? Feeling anxious? Overwhelmed? Join Pastor Matt in the Chapel at 11:00am for a time of *Lectio Divina*, a Sacred Reading of Scripture and time of prayer for personal, corporate and global concerns.

CARE...

**Mark Spiekhout** is recuperating at home from hip surgery he had on Thursday, April 5.

**Gabby Gatlin** continues at the University of Chicago with a bowel obstruction.

**Ralph Knopf’s** recent scan showed 3 new spots on his liver.

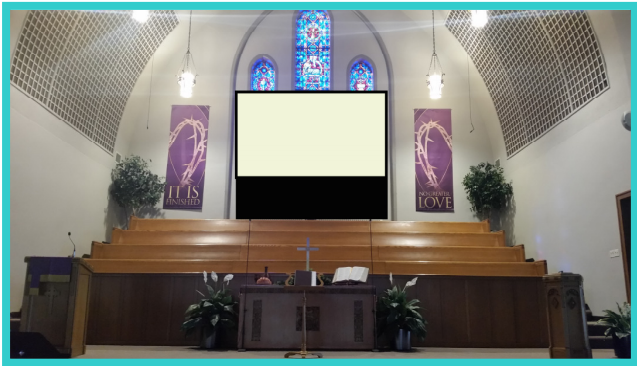
**Kathryn Vinke** is in Hospice Care at Arden Court.

**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:** Claude and Doris Boomsma, Village Woods #601 & 603, 2681 S. Rt. 394, Crete, IL 60417

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS...

**THE MAYOR’S PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be held on **Thursday, May 3** beginning at 7:30am at The Spirit of God Fellowship (16350 State Street, SH). Tickets are available at the door for \$5. Join us as we pray with and for our community.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING CAMPAIGN 2018...



The Consistory has approved a new projection system for the church. The dual screens and the center hanging projectors will be removed and replaced with a center retractable screen and single projector in the chancel area. Your offerings to Special Projects, “over and above” your regular weekly offering are still encouraged. Approximately \$63,000 of the \$75,000 needed for this project has already been raised thanks your

gracious support. Your prayers over generosity to this important project are encouraged. For more information or questions regarding this campaign, please contact Clair Hoeksema, Elder V.P. or Mike Decker, Deacon Chairman. “Special Project” envelopes are available in the narthex or through the church office. To all of you who support this campaign every Sunday - THANK YOU!

## UP & COMING AT FIRST...

### SUNDAY, APRIL 15

**GREETERS:** Rick & Amy Veldboom and Rick & Pam Furst

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Don & Myrna Eytcheson and Rodger & Sherry Norris

**NURSERY:** Deanne Besser and Brianna Besser

**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema

**PIANO:** Amy Veldboom

**VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok

**PROJECTION:** Trina Taylor

**SOUND:** Rhonda Hesselink

**MUSIC TEAM:** Daniel Day, Kevin Hesselink, Bill & Nikki Nyhanna, and Rachel Wooley

**PRAYER ROOM:** Barb Grevengoed; **WELCOME CENTER:** Gwen Adams

**FIRST RESPONSE TEAM:** First Responder: Eric Bruinsma; First Response: Mike Costello

**COOKIE PROVIDERS:** Mary Decker, Diana Abernathy, Arleta Hommes, and Mary Koster

**MUNCH & MINGLE:** Meets at 11:30PM in the Activity Center

### MONDAY, APRIL 16

**9:30AM:** Quilters and Knitters meet in Fellowship Hall

**7:00PM:** Music Team Rehearsal

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

**10:00AM:** Perpetual Care Trust Fund Meeting in the Heritage Room

**7:00PM:** Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### SUNDAY, APRIL 22

**GREETERS:** Colin & Geni Cutler and Roger & Arleta Hommes

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Craig and Jan Nelson and Faye Gowens

**NURSERY:** Amber Fransen and Chandra Ondrejka

**ORGAN:** Margaret Oetjen

**PIANO:** Joanne Hoeksema

**VIDEO:** Mike Decker; **PROJECTION:** Sarah Waterstone; **SOUND:** Kevin Hesselink

**MUSIC TEAM:** Joe Fransen, Bill Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, Abby Veldboom, and Robert Wooley

**PRAYER ROOM:** Ron & Dianna Abernathy; **WELCOME CENTER:** Dave Wright

**FIRST RESPONSE TEAM:** First Responder: Eric Bruinsma; First Response: Mike Costello

**COOKIE PROVIDERS:** Joanne Hoeksema, Alice Kats, Pam Costello and Celeste DeBoer

**OASIS:** Meets in the Loft from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

## CHURCH LIFE...

**I AND MY DAUGHTER BRIANA** would like to extend our warmest regards to the members of the congregation and to Pastor Matt for all the prayers, cards, and visits to the hospital during my grandson's illness and home going viewing. It is truly an honor to be a part of First Church and to be among Christian friends.  
- Gwen and Briana Adams & Family

**THE CHAPEL** is available for you to use to participate in the morning worship service. Please feel welcome to use this space to accommodate your family's needs.

**COFFEE COUNTER** in the Fellowship Hall will be open to those who would like to fellowship prior to the service at 9:00am and enjoy a hot cup of coffee.

**PASTOR MATT** has published a devotional book of his Friday Letters titled "Dear Church." If you would like a devotional book, a signup sheet is located downstairs in Fellowship Hall at the Welcome Center. Books are available for \$15 each and all proceeds go to the Church.

**MUNCH AND MINGLE** meets today, **Sunday, April 15** at 11:30am in the Activity Center.

**OASIS (Junior & Senior High Students)** meets **Sunday, April 22** from 6:00-7:30pm in the Loft.

**FAMILY LIFE CHRISTIAN DAY CARE CENTER** is hosting an all-you-can-eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and dessert night in the Activity Center on **Friday, April 27** from 6:00 - 8:30pm. We are raising money to purchase commercial gym toys and cots for nap time! We thank you in advance for your support. Donation only!

**BROWNIES ARE NEEDED** for Uptown Baptist. Please bring them to church on **Sunday, May 6**. Bake in 9x13 pan and cut into 15 pieces, each wrapped separately in a baggie or saran wrap. No frosting but powdered sugar is okay. If you are willing to bake and have questions, please call Norma Smit @219-864-2958. Thank you!

**EXODUS PROJECTS** needs your help! They are gathering cleaning supplies for a giveaway. Bring in a bucket of supplies or bring in a few items. Items needed: Bucket, dish soap, sponges, SOS pads, toilet bowl cleaner, multi-purpose cleaner and paper towels (feel free to put your donation in the bucket). A suggestion is to shop at DOLLAR TREE and you will be able to purchase all these items for \$7.00. Supplies need to be brought to church by Sunday, May 13. Any questions - see Pastor Corey.

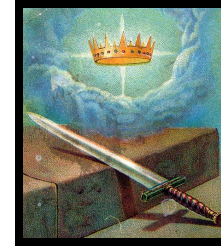
**CHICAGOLAND PRISON OUTREACH'S** Annual Banquet will be **Tuesday, May 15** at 7:00PM (Punch Reception at 6:30). It will be held at the Serbian Social Center in Lansing. For more information or to make your reservations call the office at 708-331-3301. Thank You.

***SERMON NOTES...***

Living Free: “What is the Gospel?”

Galatians 1:1-12

Rev. Dr. Matt Waterstone



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***STAFF...***

**Rev. Dr. Matt Waterstone**

*Senior Pastor*

**Pastor Corey Buchanan**

*Director of Mercy & Justice  
Ministries*

**Anthony Bolkema**

*Director of Worship & Student Life*

**Rev. Mel De Vries**

*Pastor Emeritus*

**Nyla De Graff**

*Church Administrator*

**Gerri Van Baren**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Toni Smith**

*Director of Family Life  
Christian Day Care*

**Ben Plascencia**

*Church Custodian*

**Darcy Daly**

*Nursery Coordinator*

**Jane Ackerman**

*Church Accountant*

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**Visit us online at [www.frcsh.org](http://www.frcsh.org)**

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PRAYER ROOM – Need a word of encouragement or someone to pray with? Come to the prayer room after church until 11am. It is located outside the double doors west of the Chapel. A team of dedicated volunteers would welcome the opportunity to pray with you this morning.

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.