



All are welcome, because God is Welcome!

We're so glad you're here! Whether you're visiting for the first time or worshipping with us regularly, you are part of what makes this community a place of faith, hope, and love. You are welcome here.

- Scan the QR code to stay connected with everything happening at First Church—from weekly events and opportunities to serve, to today's scripture lessons.
- Sign up for *Faith Forward* and weekly *e-Alert* and prayer request emails, explore online worship, and visit our website.
- Access our secure online giving platform.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Services are recorded and available on Facebook and our website.

*Indicates that the congregation may rise in body or spirit. Words we all say are in **bold print**.

Generally, we celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions.

Offering plates are available in the Narthex (sanctuary entrance) before and after worship, or you may give online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for helping to make Christ's love shown within our community and beyond. We are *"blessed to be a blessing!"*

CONNECTION, LEADERSHIP, AND STAFF

WE ARE A CONGREGATION IN CONNECTION WITH

- The Presbytery of Florida
- The Synod of South Atlantic
- The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE SESSION

The Rev. Julie Thompson,
Moderator
Bob Plank, Clerk of Session

Elected spiritual leaders of this congregation:

- Claire Calohan ('28)
- Ann Fyfe ('26)
- Jennifer Hodges ('27)
- Steven McPherson ('28)
- Julian Wells ('26)
- Kathy Welsh ('27)

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Julie Thompson
Transitional Pastor
(610) 570-3820
julie@firstchurchlh.org

Bradley Thoreson
Music Director, Organist
(850) 832-4745
brad@firstchurchlh.org

Terri Boardway
Administrative Assistant
(850) 265-2051
terri@firstchurchlh.org

CHURCH OFFICE

810 Georgia Avenue
Lynn Haven, FL 32444
(850) 265-2051
www.firstchurchlh.org

OFFICE HOURS

M-Th, 8 AM-12 PM,
or by appointment.

God Welcomes Us in Love

Chiming the Trinity

Prelude *Pastorale on "Nettleton"* Phil Lehenbauer

Words of Welcome Rev. Julie Thompson

This is the Day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Gathering Song (Hymn 626)
As the Deer AS THE DEER

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

***Call Worship** Bob Plank, Clerk of Session

Why do you come to this place?
We seek God's path of righteousness and truth.
Do you come ready to hear and follow God's Word?
We come with open hearts to learn and worship together.
Let us worship God.

***Hymn 475** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Eternal God, you know the truth of our hearts before we speak.
You know when our good intentions fall short of gospel living,
and when we embrace your grace without letting it transform our actions.
Forgive our failures and restore our faith.
Remind us that in your mercy,
there is always room to turn back and serve you. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness
Friends, believe this good news, in Christ we are new creations.
We are forgiven; we are set free; and we are made ready to live the living Word.

***Joyful Response (Hymn 582)**
Glory To God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

God Invites Us to Listen

First Reading Psalm 25:1-9 hardcover, p. 443
softcover OT, p. 677

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Piano Meditation
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Richard Kingsmore

Gospel Reading Matthew 21:23-32 hardcover, p. 797
softcover NT, p. 35

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message "Learning to Walk in God's Ways" Rev. Julie Thompson

God Moves Us to Respond

***Hymn 697** *Take My Life* HENDON

Invitation to Discipleship and Community News

Moment of Generosity

***Doxology (Hymn 606)** OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Affirmation of Faith** from The Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 21
Q. What is true faith?
A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

God Sends Us to Live
the Love of Christ

*Hymn 740 *Lead Me, Guide Me*

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Postlude *Festive Trumpet Tune*

David German

God Calls Us into Community

Welcome to First Church! Today we come seeking God’s ways and listening for the voice that calls us to faithful living. Through scripture, prayer, music, and worship, we are reminded that faith is more than good intentions—it is trusting God enough to follow where Christ leads. Wherever you are on your journey, there is a place for you here. God welcomes you in love—and so do we.

Today we receive our Two Cents-a-Meal Offering, supporting ministries that address hunger and food insecurity in our community and throughout our region. Half of your gifts remain at First Church to support our Backpack Ministry and Blessing Box, while half is shared with the Presbytery of Florida for hunger ministries across the presbytery. Together, we continue to live out our call to be blessed to be a blessing.

Join us following worship in Mowat Hall for Fellowship Time! Enjoy good food, conversation, and time together with our church family.

The Session will gather for its Stated Meeting today following Fellowship Time in the Church Office Parlor.

Committee Meetings | The Worship Committee meets Monday at 10:00 AM in the Church Office Parlor; Property Committee meets Monday at 6:00 PM in the Richard Holley Classeoom; PNC meets Thursday at 4:30 PM in the Richard Holley Classroom.

Come Sing with the Chancel Choir! The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary and gathers Sundays at 9:30 AM in Mowat Hall for warmup. New voices are always welcome—come sing with us! ***We are in particular need of soprano and alto voices!***

Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday! We will join Christians around the globe in gathering at the Lord’s Table, celebrating the unity we share in Christ across nations, cultures, and traditions.

Our worship will feature music from around the world as we remember that the church is larger and more beautifully diverse than any one congregation or community. Come celebrate the grace that gathers us together—one faith, one family, one table.

This Week at First Church

September 27 – October 4, 2026

Sunday, September 27

18th Sunday after Pentecost
Two Cents-a-Meal Offering

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 AM	Coffee and the Word	Richard Holley Classroom
9:30 AM	Choir Warmup	Mowat Hall
10:00 AM	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Fellowship Time	Mowat Hall
11:30 AM	Session Meeting	Church Office Parlor

LEADING WORSHIP:

The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, *Music Director, Organist*
Elder Bob Plank, *Clerk of Session*
Rev. Julie Thompson, *Transitional Pastor*

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Garrett Kivett and Charles Willis

Church Safety Volunteer
John Deegins

Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

Monday, September 28 10:00 AM Worship Committee Church Office Parlor 6:00 PM Property Committee Richard Holley Classroom 6:15 PM Panama City Pipes & Drums Church Grounds	Tuesday, September 29 6:00 PM Gulftones Barbershop Chorus Mowat Hall	Wednesday, September 30 10:15–12:15 PM Midweek Pause (For LHES teachers and staff) Sanctuary 6:00 PM Chancel Choir Sanctuary 7:00 PM AA (Closed Meeting) Mowat Hall
Thursday, October 1 4:30 PM PNC Richard Holley Classroom	Friday, October 2 6:00 PM AA (Women’s Open Meeting) Mowat Hall	Saturday, October 3 7:00 PM AA (Open Meeting) Mowat Hall

Looking Ahead

SCHEDULE:

8:45 AM	Coffee and the Word	Richard Holley Classroom
9:30 AM	Choir Warmup	Mowat Hall
10:00 AM	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Fellowship Time	Mowat Hall

Sunday, October 4
World Communion Sunday
Sacrament of Holy Communion

VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Jan Rains and John Deegins

Church Safety Volunteer Rich Filippi

Sound Volunteer Donna Yielding

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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



18th SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

- Learning God’s Ways -

MORNING WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 27 | 10:00 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | **PENTECOST**