



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 *The Gift of Love* arr. Marianne Kim

Words of Welcome and Community News Rev. Julie Thompson

This is the Day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Gathering Song (Hymn 701) *Lord, Prepare Me* SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

***Call Worship** Elder Steven McPherson

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth, we gather together in your name.

We come as living sacrifices.

We come to offer you our worship and thanksgiving,

We come to offer you our praise and our prayers.

Come among us, living Lord, through the power of your Holy Spirit,

Transform our hearts and minds so that we may recognize your presence, hear your voice, know your will, and walk in your way. Amen.

***Hymn 394** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we often look for you in the wrong places. We are drawn to power, success, and recognition, while you meet us among the humble, the hurting, and the overlooked. We are quick to celebrate those who come out on top and too often fail to notice those who have been pushed aside. Forgive us when we seek to be served rather than to serve, when we value achievement more than compassion, and when we overlook the people you call us to love. By your grace, soften our hearts, open our eyes, and reshape our lives. Make us humble servants and faithful witnesses to your hope, joy, and peace, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Our hope does not rest in what we possess, what we accomplish, or how others see us. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ, who meets us with mercy and calls us into new life.

By the grace of God, our hearts, our lives, and our spirits are made new. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*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 Romans 12:1-8 hardcover, p. 918
softcover NT, p. 216

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Piano Meditation *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* arr. Dan Chadburn

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:13-20 hardcover, p. 792
softcover NT, p. 28

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message "One Body, Many Parts" Rev. Julie Thompson

God Moves Us to Respond

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

Invitation to Discipleship and Community

Reception of New Members

Heather Grim and London Grim

***Doxology (Hymn 240)** ALLELUIA No. 1

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

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.

Congregational Meeting

God Sends Us to Live
the Love of Christ

*Hymn 700 I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me I’M GONNA LIVE

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Postlude Darwall’s 148th (Rejoice, the Lord is King) Phil Lehenbauer

God Calls Us into Community

Welcome to First Church! Today we hear Paul’s reminder that we are one body with many members, each with gifts to share in God’s service. As we worship together, may God renew our minds, open our hearts, and shape us into a community where every person has a place and every gift matters. There is room for you here. We’re glad you’re here with us!

Today we’re also delighted to welcome Heather and London Grim into the membership of First Church. Following worship, join us in Mowat Hall for snacks and conversation—and be sure to introduce yourself and give Heather and London a warm First Church welcome! All are welcome!

The Session will meet for its August Stated Meeting at 11:30 AM today in the Church Office Parlor. Any member of First Church is welcome to attend Session meetings to learn more about the internal workings of the church.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for today at the close of worship, for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

The slate approved by the Nominating Committee for consideration are *Sandy Filippi, Fox Hodges, Rich Kangas, Don Mowat, Carla Plank, Patti Wells, and Kathy Welsh.*

All members are encouraged to participate in this important step in the life of First Church.

This Week at First Church

August 23–August 30, 2026

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Congregational Meeting

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

LEADING WORSHIP:

Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, *Music Director, Organist*
Elder Steven McPherson, *Lay Leader*
Rev. Julie Thompson, *Transitional Pastor*

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Deb and Bill Mease
Church Safety Volunteer
Lloyd Stanley
Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

6:15 PM
Panama City Pipes & Drums
Church Grounds

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

6:15 PM
Gulftones Barbershop Chorus
Mowat Hall

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

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, AUGUST 27

No Scheduled Events

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

6:00 PM
AA (Women’s
Open Meeting)
Mowat Hall

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

7:00 PM
AA (Open Meeting)
Mowat Hall

LOOKING AHEAD | Sunday, August 30 | 14th Sunday after Pentecost

SCHEDULE:

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

VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Linda Wentworth, Rich Filippi
Church Safety Volunteer
Rich Walker
Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



13th SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

- Many gifts. One body. One calling. -

MORNING WORSHIP

AUGUST 23, 2026 | 10:00 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST

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