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 *Prelude and Harm. on "Veni, Veni, Emmanuel"* *Paul Fey*

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 123) CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

***Call Worship** Elder Jennifer Hodges

Come, listen.
A thrill of hope is calling.
Come, rejoice.
A weary world is healing.
Come, watch.
A bright star is shining.
Come, worship.
The Messiah is coming. O, that you would tear open the heavens and come down!

***Hymn 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

Lighting the Advent Candle: Hope Bob & Carla Plank, Linda Wentworth

after the first purple candle is lit:

We wait with hope, trusting that God is already near.

God of hope, awaken our hearts, strengthen our faith, and help us stay alert to the signs of your presence among us. As we let go of the powers that harm and welcome the coming of Christ, may the hope of God-with-us inspire us, sustain us, and shine through us. Amen.

Advent Response (Hymn 92) WAITING (Cason)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We confess our love for power and control that separates us from one another and from you, O God. We cling tightly to wealth because we fear vulnerability. We insist on our own way because we fear change. We reject love and salvation when they come to us from outside our comfort zone. We follow our own paths instead of your own faithful leading. Forgive us through your endless grace and guide us into your truth. Lead us by the mercy of Jesus, who is our way and our life. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God seeks the lost, brings back those who have strayed, binds up the injured, and strengthens the weak.
We are forgiven and restored. Thanks be to God!

***Joyful Response (Hymn 583)** GLORIA (Taizé)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

God Invites Us to Listen

First Reading Isaiah 64:1–9 hardcover, p. 480 softcover OT, p. 732

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Keep Your Lamps!* *André Thomas*

Gospel Reading Mark 13:24–37 hardcover, p. 801 softcover NT, p. 41

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message "Keep Awake!" Rev. Julie Thompson

God Moves Us to Respond

***Hymn 105** *People, Look East* BESANÇON

Decorating the Chrismon Tree

In your seats, you will find Chrismons, "Christ-Monograms"
You will be invited to come forward with a Chrismon
or pick a bulb from the basket to decorate the tree.

Invitation to Discipleship and Community News

Moment of Generosity

Two Cents-a-Meal Offering and PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering

***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**

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 in the Hope of Christ

***Hymn 321** *The Church's One Foundation* AURELIA

***Benediction and Three-fold Amen**

Postlude *"Joy to the World" Jig* *Phil Lehenbauer*

God Calls Us into Community

Welcome to First Church on this First Sunday of Advent! Today we begin our journey of hope and preparation with the Hanging of the Greens. As we light the first candle of our Advent wreath and decorate our tree with Chrismons–symbols of Christ and our faith–we celebrate God's everlasting faithfulness. Each Sunday, new decorations will grace our sanctuary as we journey closer to the joy of Bethlehem. In worship today, we hear Jesus' call to "keep awake," trusting that God is with us, even in our waiting. Whoever you are and wherever you are on the journey, there is a place for you here. Welcome to worship!

Fellowship Time! Before heading home, stop by Mowat Hall immediately following worship for a little something to eat and some good company! Enjoy refreshments, share a story or two, and spend time getting to know one another. Whether you're a longtime member or visiting for the first time, we'd love for you to join us!

Today we receive our monthly Two Cents-a-Meal Offering, supporting ministries that address hunger. Half of this offering remains at First Church to support our backpack program and blessing box, while the other half supports hunger ministries through the Presbytery of Florida.

You will also find an envelope in your bulletin for the 2026 PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering, which helps current and retired church workers in times of need and supports educational opportunities for students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Thank you for your generosity as we share God's love through these special offerings.

The Session will meet today at 11:30 AM in the Church Office Parlor for its stated meeting.

Just a few days remain to donate gifts for adults in ARC of the Bay's developmental training program. Find the gift guide in the Narthex and bring unwrapped gifts to the church office by **Tuesday, December 1.** Thank you for sharing Christmas joy!

All women are invited this Saturday, December 5, from 11 AM to 1 PM in Mowat Hall for festive brunch, fun, and sistership! Feel free to bring a favorite dish to share, if you'd like. For our holiday gift exchange, bring a pair of Christmas socks filled with a small gift ($15 limit). Come celebrate the season, and bring a friend!

Next Sunday, we will gather around the Lord's Table to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As we prepare our hearts to receive the gifts of God for the people of God, we remember that this is Christ's table, where all are welcome. Come and share in this sacred meal of grace, hope, and love.

This Week at First Church

November 29 – December 6, 2026

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens
Two Cents-a-Meal Offering
PCUSA Christmas Joy 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, *Organist, Music Director*
Elder Jennifer Hodges, *Lay Leader*
Rev. Julie Thompson, *Transitional Pastor*

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Linda Wentworth and Rich Filippi

Church Safety Volunteer
John Deegins

Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

6:15 PM
Panama City Pipes & Drums
Church Grounds

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

6:00 PM
Gulftones Barbershop Chorus
Mowat Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:00 PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Sanctuary
7:00 PM
AA (Closed Meeting)
Mowat Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

No planned activities.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

11:00 AM
PW Christmas Brunch
Mowat Hall
7:00 PM
AA (Open Meeting)
Mowat Hall

Looking Ahead
Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

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*

LOOKING AHEAD VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Deb and Bill Mease

Church Safety Volunteer
Rich Filippi

Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Lynn Haven

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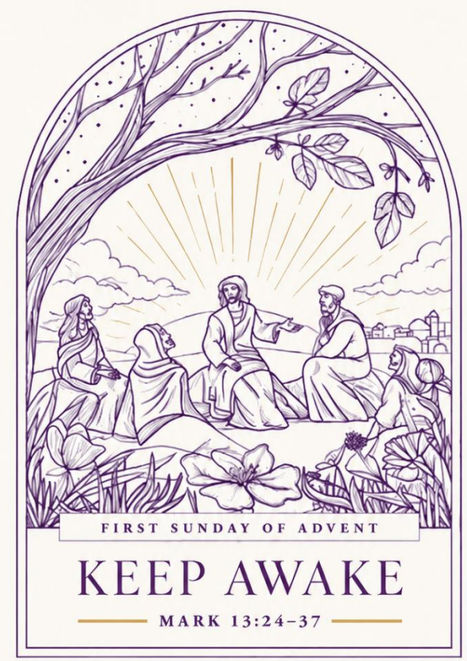
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOPE

How do we recognize God's saving work?



Jesus teaches the disciples

NOVEMBER 29, 2026 | 10:00 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST