



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
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Terri Boardway
Administrative Assistant
(850) 265-2051
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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 *“In Babilone” Meditation* Phil Lehenbauer

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 399) God Welcomes All THEMBA AMEN
God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

***Call Worship** Elder Tami Valdez
We bow with the rolling rocks.
God is our strength and our salvation.
We sing with the roaring rivers.
God is our justice and our joy.
We will never stop telling God's story.
God is the hope of our ancestors.
With all that we have and all that we are, we say:
God is so good!

***Hymn 65** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONNDA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
God our Judge, we admit we have double standards.
We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others.
We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others.
We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others.
Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.

Declaration of Forgiveness
People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us.
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 Genesis 50:15-21 hardcover, p. 42
softcover OT, p. 68

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Piano Meditation *O Love* Elaine Hagenberg

Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-35 hardcover, p. 795
softcover NT, p. 30

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message “The Math of Mercy” Rev. Julie Thompson

God Moves Us to Respond

***Hymn 822** *When We Are Living* SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

Invitation to Discipleship and Community

Moment of Generosity

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Affirmation of Faith** from the Book of Common Worship
We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together
for good for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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.

God Sends Us to Live
the Love of Christ

*Hymn 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Postlude *Prelude in Classic Style* Gordon Young

God Calls Us into Community

Welcome to First Church!

Today we hear stories of forgiveness, grace, and a mercy that refuses to keep score. From Joseph and his brothers to Jesus’ call to forgive again and again, we are reminded that God’s love is more generous than our calculations.

Whether you come as a member, a longtime friend or for the first time, God welcomes you in love—and so do we. Following worship, we invite you to join us in Mowat Hall for refreshments and conversation. We hope you’ll stay awhile!

Church Directory – Last Call!

Today is the last day to update your photo or contact information for our Church Directory. Kathy Welsh will be available following worship to take photos and collect updates. Be sure to stick around and help us keep this important church-family resource up to date!

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 voices!

Pastoral Transition

The Pastor Nominating Committee meets Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Glenn Porter Room.

Coffee and the Word

Start your Sunday with good conversation, a good cup of coffee, and time in God’s Word! Coffee and the Word meets Sundays at 8:45 AM in the Glenn Porter Room. Come as you are—everyone is welcome!

Fellowship Lunch – Next Sunday!

Join us following worship next Sunday, September 20, in Mowat Hall for our monthly Fellowship Lunch! Bring a favorite dish to share and come enjoy good food, conversation, and time together with our church family. Everyone is welcome—there’s always room at the table!

This Week at First Church
September 13–20, 2026

Sunday, September 13

16th Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

LEADING WORSHIP:

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

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Peggy and Rich Kangas
Church Safety Volunteer
David Cooley
Sound Volunteer
Lloyd Stanley

Monday, September 14 6:15 PM Panama City Pipes & Drums <i>Church Grounds</i>	Tuesday, September 15 6:15 PM Gulftones Barbershop Chorus <i>Mowat Hall</i>	Wednesday, September 16 10:15–12:15 PM Midweek Pause (For LHES teachers and staff) <i>Sanctuary</i> 6:00 PM Chancel Choir <i>Sanctuary</i> 7:00 PM AA (Closed Meeting) <i>Mowat Hall</i>
Thursday, September 17 10:00 AM PNC Meeting <i>Glenn Porter Room</i>	Friday, September 18 6:00 PM AA (Women’s Open Meeting) <i>Mowat Hall</i>	Saturday, September 19 7:00 PM AA (Open Meeting) <i>Mowat Hall</i>

Looking Ahead

SCHEDULE:

8:45 AM	Coffee and the Word	Glenn Porter Room
9:30 AM	Choir Warmup	Mowat Hall
10:00 AM	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 AM	September Fellowship Lunch	Mowat Hall

Sunday, September 20
17th Sunday after Pentecost | Fellowship Lunch

VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Marcia Burden and Maxie Hooper
Church Safety Volunteer John Deegins
Sound Volunteer Donna Yielding

All are welcome.

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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



16th SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

- Mercy Beyond Measure -

MORNING WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 13 | 10:00 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST