



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
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Terri Boardway
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CHURCH OFFICE

810 Georgia Avenue
Lynn Haven, FL 32444
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www.firstchurchlh.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

God Welcomes Us in Love

Chiming the Trinity

Prelude *Variations on "Holy Manna"* Charles Callahan

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 543, verses 1 and 5)

God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me GREEN TYLER

God be the love to search and keep me
God be the prayer to move my voice
God be the strength to now uphold me
O Christ, surround me
O Christ, surround me

Christ in the eyes of all who see me
Christ in the ears who hear my voice
Christ in the hearts of all who know me
O Christ, surround me
O Christ, surround me

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

Come, let's praise God together!
For God is great, and worthy of our praise!
God, your majesty and glory surround us here.
Your faithfulness toward us is boundless!
We come together to celebrate your presence,
We come to rejoice in your mighty acts and goodness
throughout history and in our own lives.

***Hymn 81** *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* AUSTRIAN HYMN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. 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 Psalm 145:1-8 hardcover, p. 507
softcover OT, p. 772

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Piano Meditation *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* arr. Greg Howlett

Gospel Reading Matthew 20:1-16 hardcover, p. 795
softcover NT, p. 32

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message "The Scandal of Grace" Rev. Julie Thompson

God Moves Us to Respond

***Hymn 692** *Spirit, Open My Heart* WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Invitation to Discipleship and Community

Moment of Generosity

Next Sunday: Two Cents-a-Meal and Food Insecurity Ministries

***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** The Apostles' Creed, c. 2nd century CE

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will 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 the 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.

God Sends Us to Live
the Love of Christ

*Hymn 716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending BEACH SPRING

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Postlude Toccata in Seven John Rutter

God Calls Us into Community

Welcome to First Church! Today we encounter the surprising generosity of God—a grace that does not always follow our ideas of fairness or keep score of who deserves what. In Jesus’ parable of the workers in the vineyard, we discover a God whose mercy is abundant, whose welcome is wide, and whose goodness is freely given. Whoever you are and wherever you are on the journey, we’re glad you’re here!

Special thanks to Claire Thompson, Pastor Julie’s daughter, for sharing her musical gifts in worship today!

Fellowship Lunch – Today! Join us following worship in Mowat Hall for our monthly Fellowship Lunch! Enjoy good food, conversation, and time together with our church family. Everyone is welcome—there’s always room at the table!

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!

Committee Meetings | PNC meets Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Richard Holley Classroom; Finance and Personnel Committee meets Thursday at 4:30 PM in the Church Office Parlor.

This Week at First Church

September 20–27, 2026

Sunday, September 20

17th Sunday after Pentecost

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	September Fellowship Lunch	Mowat Hall

LEADING WORSHIP:

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

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Marcia Burden and Maxie Hooper
Church Safety Volunteer
David Cooley
Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

Monday, September 21 6:15 PM Panama City Pipes & Drums Church Grounds	Tuesday, September 22 6:15 PM Gulftones Barbershop Chorus Mowat Hall	Wednesday, September 23 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, September 24 10:00 AM PNC Meeting Richard Holley Classroom 4:30 PM Finance and Personnel Committee Church Office Parlor	Friday, September 25 6:00 PM AA (Women's Open Meeting) Mowat Hall	Saturday, September 26 7:00 PM AA (Open Meeting) Mowat Hall

Looking Ahead

Sunday, September 27
18th Sunday after Pentecost | Two Cents-a-Meal Offering

SCHEDULE:	VOLUNTEERS:
8:45 AM Coffee and the Word Richard Holley Classroom	Greeters Garrett Kivett and Charles Willis
9:30 AM Choir Warmup Mowat Hall	Church Safety Volunteer John Deegins
10:00 AM Morning Worship Sanctuary	Sound Volunteer Donna Yielding
11:00 AM Fellowship Time Mowat Hall	

All are welcome.

Next Sunday, September 27, we will receive our Two Cents-a-Meal Offering to support ministries addressing hunger and food insecurity. Half remains at First Church to support our Backpack Ministry and Blessing Box, while half is shared with the Presbytery of Florida for food insecurity ministries throughout our region. Every gift helps put food on tables as we live out our call to be blessed to be a blessing.

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FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



17th SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

- Grace Beyond Measure -

MORNING WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 20 | 10:00 AM

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