



All are welcome, because God is Welcome!

We hope you feel the warmth of God's presence and a genuine welcome here. If this is your first time with us, we are honored to have you and look forward to seeing you again soon!

Connect with First Church by scanning the QR code or visiting our website. There are wonderful things happening here, and we would love for you to find your place in our community of faith!

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Portions of worship services are recorded and available on Facebook and our church website.

*Indicates that the congregation may stand. **Words we all say are in bold print.**

We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions. **All are welcome at the table of our Lord.**

Offering plates are available in the Narthex (sanctuary entrance) before and after worship, or you can give online by scanning the QR code. Your support enables First Church to make a meaningful impact within our community and beyond. As we often say, we are truly **"blessed to be a blessing!"**

During this season of transition, as we seek both an interim and eventually a new called pastor, we will be blessed by a variety of guest preachers. We invite you to embrace this opportunity to hear God's Word proclaimed through many different voices.

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 (U.S.A.)

THE SESSION

The Rev. Mark Broadhead, Moderator, **Bob Plank**, Clerk of Session

Elected spiritual leaders of this congregation:
John Deegins ('25), **Ann Fyfe** ('26), **Jennifer Hodges** ('27),
Rich Kangas ('25), **Bob Plank** ('26), **Kathy Welsh** ('27)

CHURCH STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Bradley Thoreson
Music Director, Organist
bradfpclh@gmail.com

Terri Boardway
Administrative Assistant
firstpresbylh@gmail.com

For emergency pastoral care, contact Kathy Welsh:
(850) 866 -0019

Church Office:
810 Georgia Avenue
Lynn Haven, FL 32444

Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 PM
Other days/times by appointment.

Office: 850.265.2051
Email: firstpresbylh@gmail.com
www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

Prelude ‘Choral Prelude on O Waly, Waly’ Bernard Wayne Sanders

Chiming the Hour

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song (Hymn 743)
‘O God, You Are My God’ STEP BY STEP

Oh God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
Oh God, You are my God and, I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

***We Rejoice in God's Welcome**
In uncertain times, God welcomes us with steadfast love.
We rejoice, for God's promises never fail.
When fear tells us to cling to what we know, God opens new paths before us.
We rejoice, for God plants hope where we least expect it.
When we face endings and transitions, God is already creating new beginnings.
We rejoice in God's welcome, God's hope, and God's future.
Thanks be to God!

***Prayer of Intention**
Holy God of field-buyers and future-makers, we gather as people caught between what was and what might be, what we've known and what we're called toward.

You know our hearts this morning— the grief of letting go, the fear of stepping forward, the doubt that whispers we're not ready. Open our ears to hear your voice in the wilderness. Open our eyes to see the burning bushes we've been walking past. Open our hands to plant hope in ground that looks barren.

Speak to us of impossible investments and unlikely calls, of jars that hold promises for generations, of fields that bloom long after the siege ends.

Give us courage to put our names on what you're doing, even when we can't see how the story ends. In the name of Christ, who planted resurrection in a tomb, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn 307** ‘God of Grace and God of Glory’ CWM RHONDDA

Call to Confession

Responsive Prayer of Confession

God of the burning bush, we confess: when you have called, we have made excuses.
"Who am I?" we ask, as if you call only the qualified.
When you have shown us suffering at our very doorsteps, we have averted our eyes.
Like the rich man, we feast while Lazarus starves outside.
When you have asked us to invest in hope that makes no earthly sense, we have calculated risk instead of trusting you.
We want proof before we plant, guarantees before we give.
When you have called us to leadership in times of uncertainty, we have waited for someone else to step forward.
We have played dead while you write resurrection all around us.
Forgive us, God, for the fields we have not bought, the calls we have not answered, the hope we have not sealed in jars for future generations.
Make us people who invest in your kingdom even when we cannot see the return. Give us courage to put our lives where our prayers are.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear this good news: The God who called Moses from the burning bush calls you by name. The God who gave Jeremiah hope in prison plants seeds of possibility in your doubt. The God who raised Christ from the tomb makes resurrection out of your reluctant yes. You are forgiven. You are called. You are equipped with everything you need to buy the field anyway. In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come!
Thanks be to God!

***Joyful Response (Hymn 447)**
‘We Are Forgiven’ WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Old Testament Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 OT p. 634, hardback p. 969, softback

Piano Meditation ‘Be Thou My Vision’ SLANE, arr. Molly Ijames

Old Testament Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17 OT p. 44, hardback
p. 71, softback

Message ‘The Jar That Reminds Us To Buy the Field Anyway’
The Reverend Dr. Nicole Richardson

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

*Hymn 693 ‘Though I May Speak’ GIFT OF LOVE

*Declaration of Faith from The Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus Christ gives hope for the future. We believe that in Christ’s service we may find deep purpose in life, and through Christ’s presence we may find courage even in times of trial. The church, in its faith and mission, confesses that God’s hope is stronger than despair, that God’s future is stronger than our uncertainty, and that God’s love is at work in the world.

Prayers of the People & 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 853 ‘We Are Marching in the Light of God’ SIYAHAMBA

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

*Postlude ‘Festival Postlude on Cwm Rhondda’ Paul Manz

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GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship! In this season after Pentecost, we celebrate God’s love, Christ’s presence, and the Spirit who inspires hope and faithful living. As we begin the search for an interim pastor, we trust the Spirit to guide us into God’s future. **Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments and conversation** immediately following worship!

The Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson joins us today as guest preacher and worship leader. Nicole is pastor of Tide & Table, a new worshipping community serving the 30A corridor.

Today we receive the 2-Cents-a-Meal Offering to support food-insecurity ministries of First Church and Florida Presbytery. Thank you for helping provide meals and hope to those in need.

If you have a prayer request, please contact Kathy Welsh, Congregational Care Chair, at 850-866-0019. Your requests will be kept confidential and shared only in the manner you prefer.

Have an announcement for the bulletin or website? Please send it to Terri Boardway (firstpresbylh@gmail.com) by noon on Wednesdays so we can keep our church family informed and connected. Thank you!

Next Sunday we will joyfully celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We invite you to prepare your hearts to receive God’s abundant gifts. Everyone is welcome at the Lord’s table—come and share in this sacred feast!

The Session will meet next Sunday in the Church Office Parlor at 11:30 AM. Please keep our leaders and Moderator, Rev. Mark Broadhead, in your prayers as we navigate this season of transition.

We give thanks that the Interim Pastor Search Committee is already hard at work! After two initial meetings, the committee will gather next Sunday with our Presbytery Liaison, Rev. Mark Broadhead, to continue this important work!

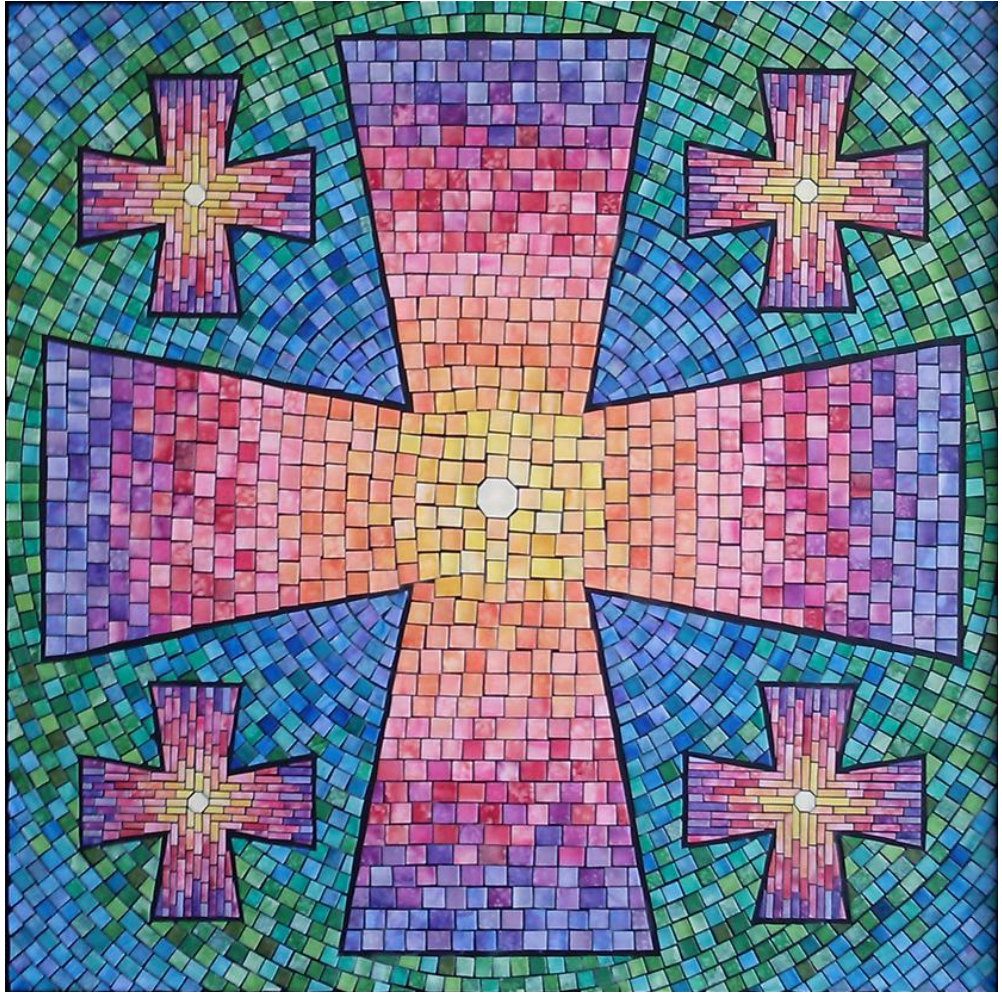


Stay connected! Sign up for This Week @ First Church, the Friday e-Alert, worship links, prayer updates, and more by scanning the QR code.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY
The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, Music Director, Organist
Marti Willis, Lay Leader
The Reverend Dr. Nicole Richardson, Guest Preacher

ASSISTING TODAY 9/28
Jan Raines and John Deegins, Greeters
Chris Stanley, Church Safety Volunteer

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 10/5
Deb and Bill Mease, Greeter
Lloyd Stanley, Church Safety Volunteer



16TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

MORNING WORSHIP
September 28, 2025
10 AM