



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

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 406)
We Are Standing on Holy Ground HOLY GROUND
We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

*Call Worship Elder Claire Calohan
Come, let us worship the God whose love is genuine and true.
We come to love one another and seek what is good.
Christ calls us to follow him, even when the way leads to the cross.
We will seek peace, bless others, and overcome evil with good.
Take up your cross and follow Jesus.
We come to worship, to listen, and to walk in the way of love.
Amen.

*Hymn 49 The God of Abraham Praise LEONI

Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession
Merciful God, you call us to love sincerely, seek what is good, and live peaceably with one another. Yet we confess that we often choose comfort over courage, resentment over forgiveness, and self-interest over love.

We are quick to judge, slow to listen, and reluctant to follow when the way becomes difficult. We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take.

Forgive us, Lord. Reshape our hearts in the way of Christ, that we might overcome evil with good and carry our cross with faithful love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness
Hear the good news! Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still.
In Christ, we are made whole; in Christ, we are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.

*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 12:9-21 hardcover, p. 918
softcover NT, p. 216
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Special Music
Gospel Reading Matthew 16:21-28 hardcover, p. 792
softcover NT, p. 28
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message "Choose Love Anyway" Rev. Julie Thompson

God Moves Us to Respond

*Hymn 727 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant THE SERVANT SONG
Invitation to Discipleship and Community
Moment of Generosity Two Cents-a-Meal Offering
*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
The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.

His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice.

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God’s renewal of human life in society and of God’s victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

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 313 Lord, Make Us More Holy LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY
- *Benediction and Three-fold Amen
- *Postlude

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!

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will gather this afternoon at 3:30 PM in the Church Office Parlor to begin its preliminary work. Presbytery Liaison Rev. Mark Broadhead will be present to help guide the committee through these first steps as we enter the next phase of our pastoral transition journey. We give thanks for the faithful work ahead and ask the congregation to keep the PNC in your prayers.

Join us this Tuesday, September 1, at 6:00 PM at The Crafty Crab (Hwy 77) in Panama City for Fellowship Tuesdays! All are welcome to join us for good food, conversation, and fun. It’s a great opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new people, and enjoy some time together outside the church.

We will celebrate Holy Communion next Sunday, September 6. The elements will be served to us in our seats by our elders. As we continue to reflect on how we share this sacrament together, we welcome your feedback about the different methods we have used for distributing the elements. Please share your thoughts with a member of the Worship Committee—we’d love to hear from you!

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	TUESDAY, AUGUST 25	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
6:15 PM Panama City Pipes & Drums <i>Church Grounds</i>	6:15 PM Gulftones Barbershop Chorus <i>Mowat Hall</i>	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, AUGUST 27	FRIDAY, AUGUST 28	SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
<i>No Scheduled Events</i>	6:00 PM AA (Women’s Open Meeting) <i>Mowat Hall</i>	7:00 PM AA (Open Meeting) <i>Mowat Hall</i>

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

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FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



14th SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

- Choose Love Anyway -

MORNING WORSHIP

AUGUST 30, 2026 | 10:00 AM

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