



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 *I Am Thine, O Lord* arr. William J. Hughes

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 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 Kathy Welsh

In this place,
friends and strangers meet,
the broken are mended,
and the weary welcomed.

In this moment,
the ordinary becomes miraculous,
and life is on pause.
This is God's time.

In this sanctuary,
God's goodness is revealed.
Our doors open with kindness.
Our lives join together.

***Hymn 35** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
God of justice and truth, you ask us to give to you the things that are yours.
If we are honest, we know we hold so much back.
We have promised you our obedience,
but we often fulfill our own desires first.
We have promised you our worship,
but we give our attention to idols instead.
We have promised to do your work in the world,
but we put it last on the list of priorities.
Have mercy on us and forgive us.
Increase our generosity that we might give freely,
grateful for all of the gifts you have given us. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The good news remains true:
God has chosen us, forgives us, and walks beside us,
helping us become imitators of Christ.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Alleluia!

***Joyful Response (Hymn 581)**
Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

God Invites Us to Listen

First Reading Psalm 96:1-9 hardcover, p. 482
softcover OT, p. 736

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Music Meditation
This Is My Father's World Steven McPherson

Gospel Reading Matthew 22:15-22 hardcover, p. 798
softcover NT, p. 36

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message "Whose Image Do We Bear?" Rev. Julie Thompson

God Moves Us to Respond

***Hymn 708** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* SCHUMANN

Invitation to Discipleship and Community News

***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** *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32-33*
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 611** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee HYMN TO JOY
***Benediction and Three-fold Amen**
Postlude This Is the Day Les Garrett

God Calls Us into Community

Welcome to First Church! Today we gather to worship our holy and faithful God. As we hear God's Word, may our faith be renewed and our hearts strengthened to live as God's people in the world. Whoever you are and wherever you are on the journey, there is a place for you here!
October Fellowship Lunch – Today! Join us in Mowat Hall immediately following worship for our October Fellowship Lunch! Bring a favorite fall dish to share, or simply bring yourself. There's always plenty of food and room at the table. Come enjoy good food and fellowship with your First Church family!
Reformation Sunday – October 25 – Join us next Sunday at 10:00 AM as we celebrate our Reformed heritage and the Christian unity we share in Christ. We welcome the Rev. Mario Bolivar, Equipping Presbyterian and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida, as our guest preacher. Come celebrate the Church, always reformed and being reformed by God's Word!

This Week at First Church

October 18 – October 25, 2026

Sunday, October 18

21st Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 AM	Coffee and the Word	Richard Holley Classroom
9:30 AM	Called Session Meeting	Richard Holley Classroom
9:30 AM	Choir Warmup	Mowat Hall
10:00 AM	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 AM	October Fellowship Lunch	Mowat Hall

LEADING WORSHIP:

The Chancel Choir
Claire Calohan, Guest Musician
Elder Kathy Welsh, Lay Leader
Rev. Julie Thompson, Transitional Pastor

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Deb and Bill Mease
Church Safety Volunteer
Bruce MacKay
Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

Monday, October 19	Tuesday, October 20	Wednesday, October 21
6:15 PM Panama City Pipes & Drums Church Grounds	6:00 PM Gulftones Barbershop Chorus Mowat Hall	6:00 PM Chancel Choir Sanctuary 7:00 PM AA (Closed Meeting) Mowat Hall
Thursday, October 22	Friday, October 23	Saturday, October 24
	6:00 PM AA (Women’s Open Meeting) Mowat Hall	7:00 PM AA (Open Meeting) Mowat Hall

Looking Ahead

Sunday, October 25

Reformation Sunday
with Rev. Mario Bolivar, Equipping Presbyterian and Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Florida

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
Carol Oakley and Larry Hammond
Church Safety Volunteer
Bill Mease
Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

Thank You, First Church Volunteers!
A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who rolled up their sleeves for Saturday’s All Church Workday! Thanks to your efforts, our church campus received some much-needed TLC, both inside and out.
Special thanks to the Property Committee for organizing the day. Your hard work helps keep First Church a beautiful and welcoming place for all.
Many hands make light work!

Music used with permission by CCLI # 1235603. Scripture quotations are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide



FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



21st SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

- ? -

MORNING WORSHIP

OCTOBER 18 | 10:00 AM

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