



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 ‘Worship Medley: *I Love to Love You* and *Here I am*’
K. Bollinger/Horton

Chiming the Hour

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song (Hymn 458)
‘They Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet’
THY WORD

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
When I feel afraid, and I think I’ve lost my way,
Still you’re there right be side me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path.
Thy word is lamp unto my feed and light unto my path.

***We Rejoice in God’s Welcome**
Come, all who seek the Lord, and rejoice in God’s presence.
We come with hearts open to God’s Word and Spirit.
The Lord calls us to delight in the law, to treasure God’s guidance, and to walk in the light.
We rejoice in God’s instruction, which shapes our lives with love and hope.
God’s mercy is everlasting, and God’s faithfulness lights our path.
Thanks be to God! We rejoice in God’s welcome now and always.

***Hymn 463** ‘How Firm a Foundation’
FOUNDATION

***Prayer of Praise**
Loving God, we praise you for your Word that teaches and encourages, for your mercy that never fails, and for your light that guides our steps. We delight in your presence, we rejoice in your guidance, and we celebrate the hope you give. May our hearts always treasure your Word, and may our lives reflect your love to the world. Amen.

Call to Confession
God’s Word guides us and shows us the path, but we sometimes stumble or lose focus. Let us bring our hearts honestly before God.

Prayer of Confession
Gracious God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, yet we confess that we often lose our way. We rush

past your wisdom, choose our own comfort over your truth, and forget your call to patience, mercy, and love. Forgive us and turn our hearts again to you. Teach us to listen, to trust, and to walk in your light, through Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness
Friends, hear the good news:
God’s Word is not condemnation but grace; not judgment but mercy; not despair but hope.

In Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, God comes to teach us, forgive us, and renew us. When we turn back toward the light, God meets us with open arms.

So hear and believe the promise of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven—
guided, strengthened, and made new.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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.

Music Meditation ‘The Touch of the Master’s Hand’
Steven McPherson
Poem: Myra Brooks Welch
Music: Wayne Watson

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Epistle 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
p. 968, hardback
NT p. 289, softback

Message ‘Our Firm Foundation’
Julian Wells

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Hymn 450** ‘Be Thou My Vision’
SLANE

***Declaration of Faith**
adapted from *The Confession of 1967*
God’s Word is spoken in Scripture, attested by the Holy Spirit, and made known to us in Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are the Word of God written, witnessing to God’s faithfulness in every age. Through them, the Spirit speaks to us still, calling us to believe and obey.

In the reading and hearing of Scripture, the church bears witness that the living Christ is present among us—our teacher, our redeemer, and our Lord.
Thanks be to God for the Word that guides our way!

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 542** ‘God Be with You Till We Meet Again’
GOD BE WITH YOU

***Benediction and Three-fold Amen**

***Postlude** ‘We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations’ Nichols

Did You Know?
First Church is home to several local groups! Each week, we host three AA meetings, the Gulftones Barbershop Chorus, the Girl Scouts, and the Panama City Pipes and Drums. We also welcome an Autism Support Group a few times each month. What a blessing to be part of our community!

DURING THIS SEASON OF TRANSITION:

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.

If you are interested in church membership, please speak with Bob Plank, Clerk of Session. We are eager for you to find your place in the life of First Church!

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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 leads us with hope. As we walk through this time of transition, we trust in God’s future together.

Our own Julian Wells joins us as guest preacher and worship leader. A graduate of Georgia Tech, Julian served 25 years with the Federal Bureau of Prisons before retiring with his wife, Patty. They moved to Florida in 2020 and have been part of First Church for three years. Julian currently co-teaches *Coffee and the Word* on Sunday mornings.

Please stay after worship for our October Fellowship Lunch! There’s always plenty to share, so come and be our guest. Fellowship is at the heart of who we are as a congregation—let’s take this time to enjoy good food, warm conversation, and the joy of being together.

The Chancel Choir is actively preparing for Advent & Christmas! Join us Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

Join us for our third annual Memory Loss Workshop on Thursday, October 23, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Designed for both those experiencing memory loss and their caregivers, this free workshop is open to everyone in the community.

Next Sunday, we’ll receive the Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering, supporting ministries that address food insecurity both here at home and throughout the Presbytery of Florida. Thank you for your generous gifts that make a difference right in our community.

Fall Festival - Sunday, October 26, 3-5 p.m. Fall is in the air and so is First Church family fun! Join us in the Pole Barn for live music by John Cannon, games, and food. New this year—photo ops with a festive vintage red ’61 Chevy truck, perfect for your Christmas card! Bring a lawn chair and come enjoy the fun!



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 Katy Mackay, Guest Musician Steven McPherson, Special Music Donna Yielding and Lloyd Stanley, Sound Volunteers Ann Fyfe, Lay Leader Julian Wells, Guest Preacher
ASSISTING TODAY 10/19
Peggy and Rich Kangas, Greeters Rich Walker, Church Safety Volunteer
ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 10/26
Paula Pezdirtz and Rich Filippi, Greeters Charles Willis, Church Safety Volunteer



19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MORNING WORSHIP
October 19, 2025
10 AM

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