



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

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!"**

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. Lisa Martin, Moderator, **Rosa Stanley**, 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

The Rev. Lisa Martin
Pastor, Head of Staff
revlwmartin@gmail.com

Bradley Thoreson
Music Director, Organist
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Terri Boardway
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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 'Pastorale on *Nettleton*' Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Phil Lehenbauer

Chiming the Hour

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song (Hymn 627)
'I Love You, Lord' I LOVE YOU, LORD
I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
to worship you: o my soul, rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what you hear;
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

***We Rejoice in God's Welcome** Hebrews 12
Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
We will lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
We will run with perseverance the race that is set before us.
Mindful of the gifts we receive and confident of the sustenance
the Lord provides, we will worship God with all our heart, soul,
and mind!

***Hymn 463** 'How Firm a Foundation' FOUNDATION

***Prayer of Praise**
God of faith, hope, and love, we praise you for the foundation
of the church, Jesus Christ. As we worship, help us lean on you
for strength as we remember that your grace is sufficient for
our every need. By the power of your Spirit, you are with us
always, working for good in our lives and longing for us to work
for good in the world. For this we give you thanks and praise.
Amen.

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's hope for us, let us come before God with
contrite hearts, confessing our sins and asking for reconciliation
and peace with God and with others.

Prayer of Confession

God of hope, we confess our disregard of your care, our doubt
of your providence, our blindness to signs of your love. We are
afraid to risk our comforts to find new life; we separate
ourselves from you and from others; and we foster divisions
between those you love. Help us to amend our lives and make
us your faithful people who bear the good fruit of your Word
in the world. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God hears our confession, rejoicing as we desire to amend our
lives. God lifts us from despondency to rejoice in the company of
the saints. Let us rejoice in the knowledge of our salvation!
Brothers and sisters, let us believe and celebrate the good news:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***Joyful Response** 'We Are Forgiven' Hal H. Hopson

Sheet music for the hymn "We Are Forgiven" by Hal H. Hopson. The music is in G major and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Anthem 'A Closer Walk' Text: Anonymous
Music: Dennis Allen

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Epistle Hebrews 11:29-12:2 NT p. 980, hardback

Message "Portraits of Faith" NT p. 307, softback
The Reverend Lisa Martin

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Hymn 661** 'His Eye Is on the Sparrow' SPARROW

***Declaration of Faith** The Apostles' Creed, 8th century
I Believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and
earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was
conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the
dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to
judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, 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 & 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 825** ‘Swing Low, Sweet Chariot’ SWING LOW
***Benediction and Three-fold Amen**
***Postlude** ‘Recessional on St. Denio’ Gordon Young
arr. Douglas Wagner



BACKPACK BRIGADE
A food ministry of
First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven

Join the Backpack Brigade!
School’s about to start, and our Backpack Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven needs **YOU** to help launch the 2025-2026 year with a bang! Here’s how you can make an impact:

- **Pack & Deliver Backpacks**
Volunteer to pack weekend bags and drop them off at Lynn Haven Elementary—about once every two months!
- **Shop ‘n’ Stock Up**
Head to Sam’s Club (with a shopping list in hand) about once a month to snag supplies that keep our backpacks full and students smiling.

Whether you’ve got two hours or two days to give, your time means the world to a child facing food insecurity. Let’s rally together and show our community what living Christ's love looks like!

Ready to hop on board? Contact Claire Calohan at (850) 774-1138 or Peggy Kangas at (850) 238-0141 today—and let’s fill those backpacks!

GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship on this Lord’s Day! We are in the season of Pentecost, a time to celebrate God’s faithful love, Christ’s saving presence, and the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live with hope, joy, and purpose.

Everyone is invited to stay for lunch immediately following worship! There is always enough, so please be our guest!

Today we bless the backpacks! Let us keep all students, teachers, and school employees in prayer during this new school year.

Everyone is invited to join Katy Mackay this Thursday, August 21 for Bible study. We will gather from 6:00-7:30 P.M. in the church office parlor to explore the scriptures together. This month we will discuss The Hero’s Journey. So, bring your Bible, invite a friend, and let's learn from one another! No need to sign up ahead of time; just come and be blessed!

HOT OFF THE PRESS! Our new First Church pictorial directory is ready to pick up and take home! At this point, please allow one per household. Also, please keep in mind that the directory is solely for use as a ministry tool for First Church purposes; it is not to be used for commercial gain.

We will soon be receiving new members into the life of First Church! If you’d like to explore church membership, please reach out to Pastor Lisa. The more the merrier!

Chancel Choir rehearsals have resumed for the fall season! We always welcome new singers to join us for fellowship, faith formation, and making a joyful noise unto the Lord. The choir meets Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

Know someone who could use a soft ‘bear hug’? Our blessing bears are waiting to be delivered! Please take them and share the blessing of Christ’s love with someone. The bears are on the front pew.



Let’s stay connected! Sign up for *This Week @ First Church*, worship links, prayer concerns, and important updates by scanning the QR code with your phone.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY
The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, Music Director, Organist
The Reverend Lisa W. Martin, Pastor

ASSISTING TODAY 8/17
Kelley and Atleigh Fiddler, Greeters
John Deegins, Church Safety Volunteer

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 8/24
Marcia Burden and Maxie Hooper, Greeters
Rich Filippi, Church Safety Volunteer

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COMMUNION OF SAINTS, IRA THOMAS

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MORNING WORSHIP
August 17, 2025
10 AM