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 *Jesus Shall Reign* *arr. Douglas E. Wagner*

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 240) *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

Refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth
He is the King of creation.
(repeat refrain)

***Call Worship** Elder Julian Wells

The gates of the Lord are open to all;
Come before God with thanks!
The courtyard of the Lord welcomes all the earth;
Bless God's holy name.
The pastures of the Lord are places for all to dwell!
Shout with praise, all the earth,
because God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever. God's faithfulness lasts from generation to generation.

***Hymn 363** *Rejoice, the Lord is King!* DARWALL'S 148TH

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

If we had known it was you, Lord,
we would have done something different.
If we had known it was you, Lord,
we would have given you food.
If we had known it was you, Lord, we would have taken you in.
If we had known it was you, Lord,
we would not have passed you by. But we did.
Too often we make excuses for not taking care of each other.
We have ignored your commandments to love and care.
We do not deserve forgiveness, but we ask for it anyway,
and ask you to help us change our ways. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God seeks the lost, brings back those who have strayed,
binds up the injured, and strengthens the weak.
We are forgiven and restored. Thanks be to God!

***Joyful Response (Hymn 582)**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

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 Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 hardcover, p. 693 softcover OT, p. 1060

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem *The Servant Song* *Richard Gillard, arr. Betty Pulingham*

Gospel Reading Matthew 25: 31-46 hardcover, p. 801 softcover NT, p. 42

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message "Rethinking Royalty" Rev. Julie Thompson

God Moves Us to Respond

***Hymn 802** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* ST. COLUMBA

Invitation to Discipleship and Community News

Moment of Generosity

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering & PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering

***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*, 9.54–55

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation.

Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the

kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

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 643** *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET

***Benediction and Three-fold Amen**

Postlude *Fantasie on "Now Thank We All Our God"* *Paul Fey*

God Calls Us into Community

Welcome to First Church on Reign of Christ Sunday! Today, we celebrate a kingdom where greatness is found in serving others and Christ is revealed in those in need. May our worship inspire us to share God's love through compassion and service. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, there is a place for you here!

Thanksgiving Luncheon Today! Please join us in Mowat Hall after worship for delicious food, warm fellowship, and special music! There's plenty to share, so whether or not you brought a dish, we hope you'll stay. There's always room for one more at the table!

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering: Today through next Sunday, we receive this special offering, established in 1888, which supports ministries serving people on the margins, especially women and children. Together, our gifts make a greater difference, sharing God's love "in deed and truth."

Help Make Christmas Brighter for ARC of the Bay! We're collecting gifts for adults in ARC's developmental training program through December 1. Find the suggested gift guide in the Narthex and place unwrapped donations in the Sanctuary collection bin. Thank you for sharing Christmas joy!

Men's Discipleship Group: All men are invited to grow in faith and fellowship, inspired by Proverbs 27:17: *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* Interested? Contact Elder Julian Wells at *jwells1030@bellsouth.net* or by text at *828-699-4025*.

Christian Education Survey: We'd love your input on future educational opportunities! Please complete the survey enclosed in today's bulletin and return it to the basket in the Narthex.

This Week at First Church

November 22 – 29, 2026

Sunday, November 22

Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

SUNDAY 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	Thanksgiving Luncheon *Mowat Hall*

LEADING WORSHIP:

The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, *Organist, Music Director*
Elder Julian Wells, *Lay Leader*
Rev. Julie Thompson, *Transitional Pastor*

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Jan Rains and John Deegins
Church Safety Volunteer
David Cooley
Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

6:15 PM
Panama City Pipes & Drums
Church Grounds

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

6:00 PM
Gulftones Barbershop Chorus
Mowat Hall

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

6:00 PM
NO CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00 PM
AA (Closed Meeting)
Mowat Hall

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Happy Thanksgiving!
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
6:00 PM
AA (Women's Open Meeting)
Mowat Hall

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

7:00 PM
AA (Open Meeting)
Mowat Hall

Looking Ahead

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday of Advent, Hanging of the Greens, Two Cents-a-Meal Offering

LOOKING AHEAD 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
Linda Wentworth and Rich Filippi
Church Safety Volunteer
John Deegins
Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Lynn Haven



CHRIST THE KING

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

- Rethinking Royalty -

MORNING WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 22 | 10:00 AM

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