



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
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Terri Boardway
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Church Office:
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Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 PM
Other days/times by appointment.

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www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

Prelude 'I Want to Be a Christian' arr. Mary McDonald

Chiming the Hour

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song (Hymn 701)
'Lord, Prepare Me' SANCTUARY
Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

***We Rejoice in God's Welcome**
Come, people of God, to seek what is good and right.
We come to listen for God's word and learn God's ways.
The Lord has shown us what is good—
to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.
We long to live by that goodness in all we do.
Come, let us worship the God of mercy and grace.
God welcomes our hearts, our lives, and our praise.

***Hymn 12** 'Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise' ST. DENIO

***Prayer of Praise**
Holy and gracious God,
You alone are good, and all goodness flows from You.
When we grow weary of doing what is right,
renew our spirits.
When we are tempted to settle for "good enough,"
remind us of Your call to love as Christ loves.
Meet us here, O Lord—
transform our hearts, shape our lives,
and make us instruments of Your justice and peace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession
God's goodness is steadfast; God's mercy is sure.
Trusting in that mercy, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession
Merciful God,
You have shown us what is good,
but we confess that we often look the other way.
We chase what is comfortable instead of what is right.
We measure goodness by our own standards,
rather than by Your love.
Forgive us, Lord.

Free us from pride and fear,
that we may walk humbly with You,
love kindness,
and do justice for the sake of Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness
Hear the good news:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven—
freed to live by grace and to walk in goodness.
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.

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Old Testament Micah 3; 6:8 p. 747, hardback
OT p. 1141, softback

Epistle Romans 7:19-25 p. 914, hardback
NT p. 210, softback

Anthem 'Jesus Lifted Me' arr. Camp Kirkland
Incorporating HE LIFTED ME (C. Gabriel) and I'M SO GLAD (traditional)

Gospel Luke 18:18-19 p. 848, hardback
NT p. 111, softback

Message 'For Goodness' Sake' The Reverend Dr. Harvey Jenkins

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Hymn 740** 'Lead Me, Guide Me' LEAD ME, GUIDE ME
***Declaration of Faith** from the Nicene Creed, the 3rd section
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 700 ‘I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me’ I’M GONNA LIVE

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

*Postlude ‘Improvisation on I’m Gonna Live’

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. **Please stay after worship** for refreshments and fellowship!

We are delighted to welcome the Rev. Dr. W. Harvey Jenkins, Jr., a friend to First Church, as our guest preacher and worship leader. A graduate of Rhodes College and Princeton Theological Seminary, he served 23 years in pastoral ministry and 17 years in presbytery leadership, including 11 years as General Presbyter of Florida Presbytery. We give thanks for his presence with us and for sharing his gifts of preaching and leadership.

The Presbyterian Men will gather this Tuesday, October 14, at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship and friendship. All men are invited to join us for prayer, a meal, and a discussion of occupation scenarios and maritime law by the Captains connected with our church.

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

Third Thursday Lessons: Please join us this Thursday evening, **October 16th,** for this month's Third Thursday Lesson. We will gather in the church office parlor from **6:00-7:30 p.m.** to explore the scriptures together.

It's Fall Y'all! Next Sunday is our October Fellowship Potluck Lunch! Please plan to stay after worship for the 3 F's: fellowship, friendship, and most importantly, amazing food! Bring your favorite Fall inspired delicacies to share with each other! Bring on that pumpkin spice – it’s your call!

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.



Stay connected! Sign up for This Week @ First Church, the Friday e-Alert, worship links, prayer updates, and more by scanning the QR code.



18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MORNING WORSHIP
October 12, 2025
10 AM

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY
The Chancel Choir Bradley Thoreson, Music Director, Organist Ann Fyfe, Lay Leader The Reverend Dr. W. Harvey Jenkins, Jr., Guest Preacher
ASSISTING TODAY 10/12
Ann and Jim Fyfe, Greeters Julian Wells, Church Safety Volunteer
ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 10/19
Peggy and Rich Kangas, Greeters Rich Walker, Church Safety Volunteer