



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 *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy* Karen Marrolli

Words of Welcome and Community News Rev. Julie Thompson

This is the Day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Gathering Song (Hymn 301) *Let Us Build a House* TWO OAKS
Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

REFRAIN:

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.

REFRAIN

***Call Worship** Steven McPherson
With open arms God welcomes all.
No one stands outside the circle of God's mercy and love.
O God, we are held in Your grace.
We come to offer You our worship, to declare that You are our
God and we are Your people.
Open our minds to receive Your truth.
Open our mouths to speak and sing Your praise.
For You alone O God are worthy of our praise.
Amen.

***Hymn 619** *Praise My Soul, O God of Heaven* LAUDA ANIMA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Merciful God, You promise to bring all people joyfully together
in a house of prayer. We find ways to stay apart. You tasked us
to be good stewards of your creation and we have fallen short.
You challenged us to love God and love our neighbor, and we
have failed to show that love. Forgive us when we fall short.
Bring us together, O Lord. Empower us with a spirit of love for
you and love for all our neighbors. Help us live lives of service
to you so that all your children will know your peace. In Jesus'
name, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Apostle Paul writes: "I ask, then, has God rejected his
people? By no means! For the gifts and the calling of God are
irrevocable." God has shown us mercy and God will be merciful
to all. Hear and believe this good news: in Jesus Christ, we are
forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*Joyful Response (Hymn 582)

Glory To God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GLORY TO GOD
**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 Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 hardcover, p. 593
softcover OT, p. 905

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Piano Meditation *Spirit of the Living God* arr. Greg Howlett

Gospel Reading Matthew 15:10-28 hardcover, p. 791
softcover NT, p. 26

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message "Who Gets to Belong?" Rev. Julie Thompson

God Moves Us to Respond

***Hymn 317** *In Christ There is No East or West* MCKEE

Invitation to Discipleship and Community

Reception of New Members

Michelle Beshearse
Heather Grim
London Grim
Susan Balk Kradel
Charlie Patterson
Jimmy Vandervest

***Doxology (Hymn 240)** ALLELUIA No. 1
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Affirmation of Faith** from the Confession of 1967
God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love. 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 321** *The Church’s One Foundation* AURELIA

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Postlude *Postlude on “Hyfrydol”* arr. Dan Miller

God Calls Us into Community

Welcome to First Church! Today we celebrate the wideness of God’s mercy and the good news that there is room for all in God’s family. As we worship together, may our hearts be opened to God’s grace, our lives shaped by Christ’s love, and our welcome grow ever wider. We’re glad you’re here!

After worship, join us in Mowat Hall for our August Fellowship Lunch! Like the loaves and fishes, there’s always plenty to go around—and plenty of room at the table. Come hungry, pull up a chair, and help us give a special welcome to the new members who joined our First Church family today. All are welcome!

Worship Committee (10:00 AM) and Outreach Committee (2:30 PM) will meet this Tuesday, August 18, in the Church Office Parlor. Anyone interested in learning about the workings of worship and our outreach ministry are welcome to join us!

The Session will meet next Sunday for its August stated meeting at 11:30 AM in the Church Office Parlor.

This Week at First Church

August 16–August 23, 2026

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

12th Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 AM	Coffee and the Word	Sanctuary Classroom
9:30 AM	Choir Warmup	Mowat Hall
10:00 AM	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 AM	August Fellowship Lunch	Mowat Hall

LEADING WORSHIP:

Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, *Music Director, Organist*
Elder Steven McPherson, *Lay Leader*
Rev. Julie Thompson, *Transitional Pastor*

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters
Jan Rains and John Deegins
Church Safety Volunteer
Chris Stanley
Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

6:15 PM
Panama City Pipes & Drums
Church Grounds

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

10:00 AM
Worship Committee
Church Office Parlor
2:30 PM
Outreach Committee
Church Office Parlor
6:15 PM
Gulftones Barbershop Chorus
Mowat Hall

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

10:15–12:15 PM
Midweek Pause
(For LHES teachers and staff)
Sanctuary
6:00 PM
Chancel Choir
Sanctuary
7:00 PM
AA (Closed Meeting)
Mowat Hall

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

No Scheduled Events

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

6:00 PM
AA (Women’s Open Meeting)
Mowat Hall

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

7:00 PM
AA (Open Meeting)
Mowat Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, August 23 | 13th Sunday after Pentecost

LOOKING AHEAD SCHEDULE

8:45 AM	Coffee and the Word	Sanctuary Classroom
9:30 AM	Choir Warmup	Mowat Hall
10:00 AM	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Fellowship Time	Mowat Hall
11:30 AM	August Stated Session Meeting	Church Office Parlor

LOOKING AHEAD VOLUNTEERS

Greeters
Deb and Bill Mease
Church Safety Volunteer
Lloyd Stanley
Sound Volunteer
Donna Yielding

Around Our Community

The 2nd Annual St. Jude’s Charity Car & Motorcycle Show is Saturday, August 22, from 10 AM-3 PM at Dillard’s Panama City Mall. Admission is free, with food trucks throughout the day. Cars, trucks, and motorcycles of all kinds are welcome to show, with a suggested \$25 registration donation benefiting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Come see some great rides, grab a bite, and support a great cause—there may even be a few Halloween animatronics making an early appearance!

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



12th SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST
- The Wideness of Grace -

MORNING WORSHIP

AUGUST 16, 2026 | 10:00 AM

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