



We welcome ALL because GOD *is* WELCOME!

It is our hope that you feel the warmth of God's presence and welcome here. If this is your first time joining us, we are honored by your presence and hope to see you again soon!

To stay informed, scan the QR code or visit www.firstchurchlh.org and subscribe to our weekly email. There's a lot going on here, and we want you to be a part of it!

- About the Service -

Portions of each Worship service are filmed for later access on Facebook and our church website.

The People's words are in **bold text**. *Indicates that the congregation may stand.

Offering plates are in the Narthex (sanctuary entrance) before and after worship. Because of your generosity, First Church makes a difference in our neighborhood and world. As we like to say, we are **"blessed to be a blessing!"**



THE SESSION

(elected spiritual leaders of this congregation)

Moderator: **The Rev. Lisa W. Martin**

Clerk of Session: **Rosa Stanley**

Class Of 2024: **Don Mowat, Kathy Welsh**

Class Of 2025: **John Deegins, Rich Kangas**

Class Of 2026: **Ann Fyfe, Pam Leonard**

A CONGREGATION IN CONNECTION WITH

The Presbytery of Florida,
The Synod of South Atlantic, and
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

- Church Staff and Contact Information -

THE REV. LISA W. MARTIN

Pastor, Head of Staff
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BRAD THORESON

Music Director, Organist
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TERRI BOARDWAY

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CHURCH OFFICE:

810 Georgia Avenue
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HOURS: M (9-2) and Friday (9-noon)

Other days by appointment.

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WEBSITE:

www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US

PRELUDE

"Down to the River to Pray"

Bradley Thoreson

THE GOOD OLD WAY, Mark Hayes
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

CHIMING THE HOUR

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Lisa Martin

GATHERING SONG 626

"As the Deer"

AS THE DEER

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield;

To you alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

*WE REJOICE IN GOD'S WELCOME

Upon this gathering of your people,
pour out your Spirit, O Lord.

Numbers 11

Be near to us and speak to us,

and we will proclaim your glory!

*HYMN 475

organ introduction, arr. Brian Richey

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

Generous God, you make our lives overflow with your blessings of grace, peace, mercy, and love. Help us to worship you in joy and confidence, being assured of the presence of the risen Christ with us even now. By your Spirit, bind us together in faith as we live out our calling to be your praying people. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

In faithful prayer there is great power to forgive and to heal. Let us boldly confess our sins and pray for one another so that we may be healed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our strength and savior, you know our many transgressions, our hidden faults, our secret sins. With our hands we grasp at power; with our feet we stumble into evil; with our eyes we look out for ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and lead us in your holy way of life and love and peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Though we wander from the truth, God brings us back in saving love.

Brothers and sisters, let us believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

PIANO MEDITATION

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

Traditional spiritual
arr. Marianne Kim

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

EPISTLE LESSON

James 5:13-20

NT, p. 314, softback

NT, p. 985, hardback

MESSAGE

"A Praying Church"

Rev. Lisa Martin

GOD CALLS US TO ACT

*HYMN 465

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

CONVERSE

*DECLARATION OF FAITH

from A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA

We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us. It is also God's demand upon every one of us, though never perfectly fulfilled by any of us. Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

HYMN 466

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Alleluia!

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 SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

*HYMN 300

“We Are One in the Spirit” THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

*BENEDICTION & THREEFOLD AMEN DANISH

POSTLUDE

“It’s Me, O Lord!” Traditional spiritual
arr. B. Thoreson

Mark your Calendars and sign up in the Fellowship Hall!

Fellowship
TUESDAYS

Join us on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 pm
for a time of friendship, faith, and fun!

Join us at
Olive Garden
on Tuesday,
October 1 at
6 pm; rsvp to
Tami Valdez,
850-625-8882

Join us
Sunday
mornings
beginning
October 6
8:45-9:30 am;
Bob Plank,
850-206-4617;
Rosa Stanley,
850-832-0562



ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 29, 2024

Welcome to Worship! We are now in the season after Pentecost, that time when we remember and celebrate the work of Christ in establishing the mission and ministry of the church.

Join us following worship today for refreshments! This is a great way to get to know each other and enjoy delicious treats!

Today we receive the 2-cents-a-meal offering, which supports food insecurity ministries of First Church and the Presbytery of Florida. Thank you for giving generously!

This Tuesday we kick off **“Fellowship Tuesdays”**, an opportunity on every first Tuesday to gather with no agenda other than to build relationships within the congregation. We’ll meet at Olive Garden at 6 pm. To reserve your space, please contact Tami Valdez.

Coffee and the Word begins **next Sunday morning**, 8:45-9:30 am. This adult Bible study will meet every Sunday in the sanctuary classroom. Books are provided, but please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. As the name implies, the coffee will be ready! For more information, contact Bob Plank or Rosa Stanley.

Next Sunday we celebrate the sacrament of **holy communion**. We will also celebrate the life of Patricia Murfee during morning worship.

Next Sunday afternoon we hold our **Blessing of the Animals** service at 4 pm in the pole barn! Let’s celebrate together the goodness of God in blessing us with our loving critters!

Looking Ahead:

- **Life Line Screening** in the Fellowship Hall, 10/11 Get screened for stroke and cardiovascular disease risks. Call 888-814-0466 or go to LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA to schedule your appointment!
- **Memory Loss Workshop** in the Fellowship Hall, 10/23

Curious about membership at First Church? Scan the QR code in the bulletin or on the card in the pew rack with your phone’s camera. For additional information, feel free to chat with Pastor Lisa.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

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

ASSISTING TODAY

Greeter: Rich Filippi
Church Safety Volunteer: Jim Fyfe

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Greeters: Rich and Peggy Kangas
Church Safety Volunteer: Bruce Mackay



MORNING WORSHIP



'Pray' by Bachmors

19th SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024
10:00 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST

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