



All are welcome, because God is Welcome! Whether you are visiting for the first time or worship with us regularly, we are grateful you are here and pray you experience the grace, hospitality, and love of Christ in this community.

Announcements, online giving, weekly events, today’s scripture readings, and opportunities for worship, fellowship, service, and spiritual growth are all available by scanning the QR code or visiting our website. Stay connected by signing up for *Faith Forward*, our *Weekly e-Alert*, online worship links, prayer updates, and more.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Worship services are recorded and available on Facebook and our church website.

*Indicates that the congregation may rise in body or spirit. Words we all say are in bold print.

We will celebrate Holy Communion today. 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 AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Julie Thompson
Transitional Pastor
(610) 570-3820
julie@firstchurchlh.org

Bradley Thoreson
Music Director, Organist
(850) 832-4745
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Terri Boardway
Administrative Assistant

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Hours:
MTH, 8 AM-12 pm,
or by appointment.

www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

Chiming the Trinity

Prelude *The Gift of Love* Setting by John Carter

Words of Welcome and Community News Elder Julian Wells

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

Gathering Song (Hymn 701) *Lord, Prepare Me* SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.

***Call to Worship** Marti Willis

Come, people of God. The Sower is at work among us.
God scatters the seeds of grace with generous love.
Christ calls us to lives that bear witness to the hope within us.
May our words and our actions prepare hearts to receive the Good News.
The Holy Spirit softens hardened places, deepens our faith, and nurtures abundant fruit.
We come to worship the God who plants, nurtures, and harvests.
Let us worship God!

***Hymn 307** *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONNDA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

You have planted the seeds of your kingdom within us, yet too often our hearts become hardened by fear, distracted by worry, or crowded with selfish desires. Our words and actions have not always reflected the hope and love of Christ. Forgive us, O God. Soften our hearts, deepen our faith, and help us bear the fruit of your Spirit. By your grace, make us faithful witnesses whose lives prepare others to receive the Good News of Jesus Christ. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News! The Sower never ceases to sow God's grace, and God's mercy is new every morning. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and planted again in the rich soil of God's love. By the Holy Spirit, we are strengthened to grow in faith, hope, and love, and sent into the world as faithful witnesses to Christ.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

***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 1 Peter 3:13-16 hardcover, p. 989
softcover NT, p. 318

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 hardcover, p. 788
softcover NT, p. 22

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message “Preparing the Soil” Julian Wells

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Hymn 722** *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak* CANONBURY

Invitation to Discipleship Elder Claire Calohan, Outreach Chair

Moment of Generosity *Real Outreach in our Community*

***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** adapted from the Confession of 1967

We believe that God has reconciled the world to himself through Jesus Christ and has entrusted the Church with the message of reconciliation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to live as faithful witnesses, bearing the hope of Christ through our words and our lives. 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 761 *Called as Partners in Christ’s Service* BEECHER

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Postlude *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Jason Payne

GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship at First Church! Today we gather to worship the God who plants seeds of hope and nurtures lives of faith. May our worship deepen our faith and equip us to bear witness to the hope we have in Christ. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad you are here!

We give thanks to Elder Julian Wells, Chair of the Christian Education Committee, for serving as guest preacher today. Pastor Julie returns to the office tomorrow.

Want to make a difference in our community? Our Back-to-School Classroom Supply Drive is underway! You'll find a shopping list insert in today's bulletin with the classroom supplies most needed by the teachers and staff of LHES. Our Backpack Ministry will also begin another year of serving local students facing food insecurity. If you're interested in helping with these and other ministries, join the **Outreach Committee** this Tuesday at 10:00 AM in the Church Office Parlor. Everyone is welcome!

The Finance and Personnel Committee will meet this Thursday at 4:30 PM in the Church Office Parlor.

Make plans to stay after worship next Sunday, July 19, for our July Fellowship Lunch and Congregational Conversation. Bring your summertime favorites to share. All are welcome to join!



THE TRANSITION TEAM

*Listening to your voices.
Hearing your hopes
for the future.*



REV. JULIE THOMPSON

Transitional Pastor

Walking with us.



REV. MARK BROADHEAD

Presbytery Liaison

Guiding our process.

*Your voice
MATTERS!*

Come, listen,
ask questions,
and share.



SUNDAY,
JULY 19



FOLLOWING OUR
JULY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Listening. Learning. Discerning together.

— This Week at a Glance —

July 12–July 19, 2026



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

11:00 AM
Fellowship Time
Mowat Hall

LEADING WORSHIP:

Chancel Choir

Bradley Thoreson,
Director of Music, Organist

Marti Willis, Lay Leader

Elder Julian Wells,
Guest Preacher

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS:

Greeters | Peggy and Rich Kangas

Church Safety Volunteer | Jim Fyfe

Sound Volunteer | Donna Yielding

MONDAY,
JULY 13

6:15 PM
Panama City
Pipes & Drums
Church Grounds

TUESDAY,
JULY 14

10:00 AM
Outreach Committee
Church Office Parlor

6:15 PM
Gulftones
Barbershop Chorus
Mowat Hall

WEDNESDAY,
JULY 15

7:00 PM
AA (Closed Meeting)
Mowat Hall

THURSDAY,
JULY 16

4:30 PM
Finance and
Personnel Committee
Church Office Parlor

FRIDAY,
JULY 17

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

SATURDAY,
JULY 18

7:00 PM
AA (Open Meeting)
Mowat Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, JULY 19

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
July Fellowship Lunch and
Pastoral Transition
Congregational Conversation
with the Transition Team,
Pastor Julie, and Rev. Mark
Broadhead, our Presbytery
Liaison
Mowat Hall

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeters | Maxie Hooper and Paula Pezdirtz

Church Safety Volunteer | Rich Filippi

Sound Volunteer | Donna Yielding



SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

MORNING WORSHIP
July 12, 2026
10 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST

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