

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

“The Mystery of The Messiah”



October 11, 2026

701 Wesley Avenue Ocean City, NJ 08226
609.399.1833 | www.firstpresocnj.net

Welcome and Announcements

Elder Kim Murphy

We Enter God's Presence

Organ Prelude

"God Leads Us Along"

(Young/Hegarty)

Responsive Call to Worship - Psalm 46:8-11

Leader: Come, behold the works of the Lord,

People: how he has brought desolations on the earth.

Leader: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

People: he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;

Leader: he burns the chariots with fire.

People: "Be still, and know that I am God.

Leader: I will be exalted among the nations,

People: I will be exalted in the earth!"

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

*Hymn

"God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength"

(NOEL)

46B in Trinity Psalter

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading - Exodus 16:1-8, 17:1-7

Rebekah Bert

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Dear gracious and compassionate Father, we thank you for your care for us.

We acknowledge our need for you and your faithful provision for us. And yet, we have often chosen grumbling over resting, testing over trusting, and work over faith. Forgive us. Give us the faith like children that rely on you for all that we need. Amen

Silent Prayer of Confession

In a word or phrase, you may share a confession to God quietly.

Assurance of God's Pardon - Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

People: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith - Heidelberg W. 39 Q 104

Tithes and Offerings

“God and God Alone”

(McHugh/Mauldin)

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

**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.**

Pastoral Prayer

*Songs of Worship

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

(Sibeliu/Haverlhon/Merker)

“Shepherd”

(Singh/Farren/Robinson/Thompson)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

(Chisholm/Runyan, arr. Coates)

(At this time, children may leave to attend Children's Church led by Gretchen Murphy)

Sermon

Pastor Luke Bert

Mark 8:1-21 | The Mystery of Leaven

*Hymn No. 495

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

(LANDAS)

We Leave to Serve in God's World

*Benediction

Postlude

“Toccata”

(Thygerson)

*Congregation will please rise

Note: Please take this bulletin home with you. Please do not leave it in the pew.

After worship service, there will be Church Elders available to pray for you and with you in the Narthex

HEIDELBERG W. 39 Q 104

Q&A 104

Q. What is God's will for you in the fifth commandment?

A. That I honor, love, and be loyal to my father and mother and all those in authority over me; that I submit myself with proper obedience to all their good teaching and discipline; and also that I be patient with their failings—for through them God chooses to rule us.

(Ex. 21:17; Prov. 1:8; 4:1; Rom. 13:1-2; Eph. 5:21-22; 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-4:1; Prov. 20:20; 23:22; 1 Pet. 2:18; Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-8; Eph. 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-21)

TITHES & OFFERINGS | “GOD AND GOD ALONE”

(McHugh/Mauldin)

God and God alone created all these things we call our own.

From the mighty to the small, the glory in them all is God's and God's alone.

God and God alone reveals the truth of all we call unknown.

And all the best and worst of man won't change the master's plan, it's God's and God's alone.

God and God alone is fit to take the universe's throne.

Let everything that lives reserve its truest praise for God and God alone.

God and God alone will be the joy of our eternal home.

He will be our one desire, our hearts will never tire of God and God alone.

God and God alone is fit to take the universe's throne.

Let everything that lives reserve its truest praise for God and God alone.

God and God alone is fit to take the universe's throne.

Let everything that lives reserve its truest praise for God alone.

Let everything that lives reserve its truest praise for God and God alone, alone!

SERMON | MARK 8:1-21

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

8 In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, ² “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³ And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” ⁴ And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” ⁵ And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” ⁶ And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷ And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. ⁸ And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ⁹ And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. ¹⁰ And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

The Pharisees Demand a Sign

¹¹ The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. ¹² And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” ¹³ And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Herod

¹⁴ Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵ And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” ¹⁶ And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. ¹⁷ And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” ²⁰ “And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven.” ²¹ And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Retreat at First Pres - October 17th - PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY!

Men from several churches in our presbytery will meet for a day-long time of worship and study. The retreat runs from 8 am to 8 pm at the church. The theme of the retreat is the will of God. Pastor Luke, along with other pastors, will consider how to discern God's will. An information flyer is available in the Narthex.

Wednesday Night Dinners - October 14th @ 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Meal: Pizza

Lesson: How to Share Jesus with Catholics
\$10/individual & \$20/Family

Membership Classes Begin TODAY October 11th at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall

Would you like to learn more about FPC's beliefs, practices, and stories? Whether you are new to First Pres, a regular attender, or already a member, you are welcome.

Daughters of the King Bible Study meets on Monday, October 12th, at 4:00 pm, in the meeting room off of the parking lot. Eileen will lead the next lesson of Esther. There will be no beverages available, so please bring your drink of choice.

Salem Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at 1:00 pm in the classroom off of the parking lot. We will study the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats - Matthew 25:31-46. All women are welcome.

Membership & Evangelism Committee Meeting Oct 19th at 6:30pm in the room off the parking lot door. All are welcome.

Celebrate the 130th Anniversary of First Pres! Join us October 25th after communion in Fellowship Hall for lunch and donuts!

True Woman 201 - Now through November 17th

Tuesdays from 10:00am - 11:30am in Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays from 4:30pm - 6:00pm in the classroom off of the parking lot

Next Week's Sermon: Mark 8:22-30 | The Son of Man Proclaimed

Did you know we have fresh coffee downstairs in fellowship hall?

Join us before and/or after service for a fresh cup of coffee and fellowship to connect with your Pastor, elders, new and old friends!

Prayer Group meets Tuesdays at 2:30pm in the classroom near the parking lot entrance. Join us as we pray for our church among other needs. All are welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Pres Digital Directory

Please send horizontal family picture, selfie, high quality photo to Bre -
hello@firstpresocnj.net

If you have not updated your contacts please do so!

Reformation Harvest Party October 30th

The harvest party is back from 5:00pm - 8:00pm.

This year, we will focus on First Pres fellowship. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors! If you would like to donate candy there is a drop off box in the narthex. If you would like to donate hot dogs, or supplies for s'mores, please let Kim Murphy know.

New for Youth! We now have fidget toys available downstairs by the kids table in the entrance. Kids can take one for service and put them in the used box below to be cleaned.

Children's Church (4 - 10 years old) is after Praise and Worship.

Please contact Connie Young for more details!

Childcare is provided during the 10:30am Sunday Church Service.

There is a fully stocked and staffed nursery downstairs for newborn - 3 years old.

In the nursery this week: Cherie Arias

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children and adults meets every Sunday at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall
Contact: Kevin Olandt | All are welcome and child care can be provided! Coffee also included!

Adult Sunday School

- New Member Class
 - Starting October 11th

Pre K - 12th Grade

- Fall Session
 - One Story

K - 2nd: Mrs. Laielli

3rd - 6th: Mrs. Olandt

7th+: Mrs. Young

Church App!

Have you downloaded our church app yet?

Scan the QR code off the poster board in the Narthex to download.

- Go to your Google or Apple App Store
- Search "First Presbyterian Church OCNJ"
- The image on the app is the PCA logo
- Download
- Create Account
- Here you will be able to watch sermons, make prayer requests, connect, read the bible and have access to online giving.



ONLINE GIVING
<< SCAN HERE

OR AVAILABLE ON CHURCH WEBSITE

WELCOME

Our vision is to see our Church and our communities delighting in God, passionately following Jesus, and loving all people.

Welcome Visitors!

Glad you could join us. Please fill out the CONNECT CARDS located in the pews. We want to connect with you, pray with you, and welcome you to church.

Please place them in the offering plate or in the basket in the Narthex. If you are visiting please ask one of the ushers for a first-time visitor's packet.

scan here to get connected >



First Pres Business Cards are in the Narthex, please take some and hand them out to invite family, friends and others to join us in fellowship here at First Pres!

Contact Us:

Senior Pastor: Pastor Luke Bert - PastorLuke@firstpresocnj.net

Director of Music and Family Ministry: Kim Murphy - Kim.Murphy@firstpresocnj.net

Secretary: Breanna Young - Hello@firstpresocnj.net

Tech Manager: Dan Ahmad - Tech@firstpresocnj.net

Organist and Choir Director: Renee Tobias

Custodian: Jack Shea

Greeters: Annette Bennett & Mary Wilson

Ushers: Frank Gillet, Shane Gillet, Bob Krayner, Jack Shea, Gregg Matis

Bulletin Announcements, Prayer Requests & Newsletter Please be sure to email all bulletin announcements, newsletter articles, and updates to Breanna at hello@firstpresocnj.net



First Presbyterian is a biblical, confessional, and Reformed congregation of the PCA, committed to the Good News of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible (the Word of God). We are called to glorify the Triune God and enjoy Him forever.