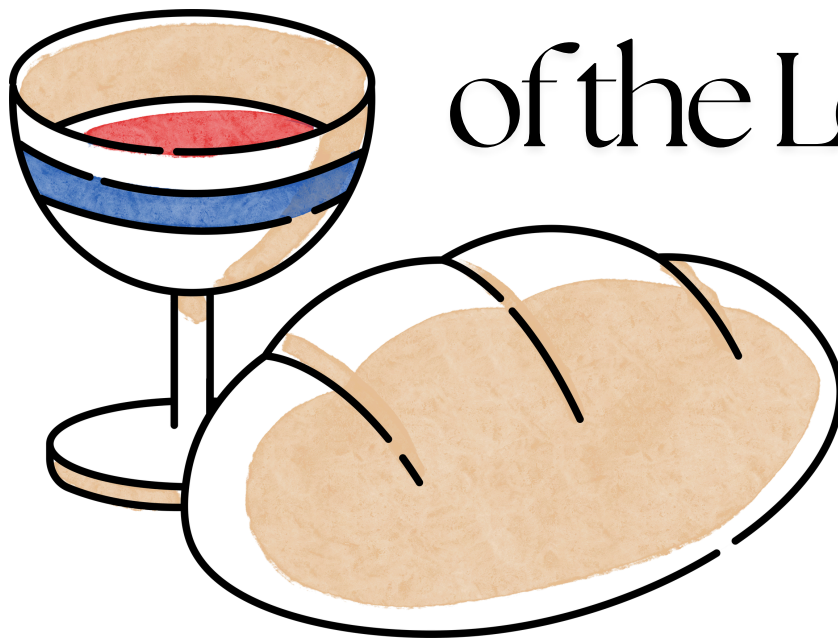


First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

They shall see the glory
of the Lord.



October 4, 2026

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

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Luke Bert

We Enter God's Presence

Organ Prelude

"Communion in Christ"

(Kendall)

Responsive Call to Worship - Psalm 98:1-2

Leader: Oh sing to the Lord a new song,

People: for he has done marvelous things!

Leader: His right hand and his holy arm

People: have worked salvation for him.

Leader: The Lord has made known his salvation;

People: he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

*Hymn

"Sing a New Song to Jehovah"

(Austrian Hymn)

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Deacon Neil Jordan

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 35

Scott Ali

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord God, you have established us as your kingdom to be a light to nations.

You save the sinner and rescue the afflicted. We confess that we have not strengthened the weak, encouraged the anxious, or helped the hurting.

Forgive us. Give us hearts of compassion to love those on the outside and shine the light of your Gospel to the world. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God's Pardon - Isaiah 49:13

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

People: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith - Heidelberg W. 38 Q 103

Tithes and Offerings

“Autumn Carol”

(Schulz-Widmar)

*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

*Hymn No. 697

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

(St. Peter)

(At this time, children may leave to attend Children’s Church led by Robin Donlevy)

Sermon

Pastor Luke Bert

Mark 7:24-37 | The Mystery of the Outsiders

*Hymn No. 740

“How Shall They Hear?”

(AUCH JETZT MACHT GOTT)

We Are Invited to the Lord’s Supper

Please hold the elements until instructed to partake, all communion bread is gluten-free.

We Leave to Serve in God’s World

*Benediction

Postlude

“Glory to God on High”

(Blake)

*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. 38 Q 103

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

A. First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I diligently attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor. Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin in this life the eternal Sabbath.

(Deut. 6:4-9, 20-25; 1 Cor. 9:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:13-17; Titus 1:5; Deut. 12:5-12; Ps. 40:9-10; 68:26; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; Rom. 10:14-17; 1 Cor. 14:31-32; 1 Tim. 4:13; 1 Cor. 11:23-25; Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:1; Ps. 50:14; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8-9; Isa. 66:23; Heb. 4:9-11)

TITHES & OFFERINGS | "AUTUMN CAROL"

By Russell Schulz-Widmar

Sing to the Lord of the harvest sing songs of love and praise
With joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise

In God the rolling seasons in steadfast order move
Sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love

The clouds break forth with raining the deserts bloom and spring
The hills leap up in gladness the valleys laugh and sing

God fills them with abundance and nature's gifts increase
The year is crowned with goodness with plenty and with peace

Bring to this sacred altar the gifts God's goodness gave
The golden sheaves of harvest the souls Christ died to save

Your hearts lay down in offering as at His feet you fall
With holy lives adore Him who gave His life for all

SERMON | MARK 7:24-37

The Syrophoenician Woman's Faith

24 And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. 25 But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophoenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 28 But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." 30 And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32 And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33 And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. 34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." 35 And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36 And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missions Committee meeting is now Monday October 5th at 7pm in the classroom off the parking lot door.

Wednesday Night Dinners - October 7th @ 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Meal: Sloppy Joes
Lesson: Evangelism 101

Membership Classes Begin 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.

The Daughters of the King Bible Study meets on the second Monday of every month at 4:00pm, in the meeting room by the parking lot doors. The next study session will be on Monday, October 12th. We will continue our study of the book of Esther, Week 4, Days 3, 4 and 5 (pages 79 through 89 in our study guide). We are still praying for someone to be the Moderator for this session as Joann is out of town for the month of October. For any questions, kindly call Joann at 609-289-9173, or send her an email at: jcioeta@gmail.com

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.

Men's Retreat at First Pres - October 17th

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.

After Worship Refreshments are back! Join us October 25th after communion in Fellowship Hall for AWR. Sign up to bring something or help clean up on the First Pres app or contact Rebekah Bert.

True Woman 201 - Now through November 17th

Tuesdays from 10:00am - 11:30am in Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays from 4:30pm - 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Next Week's Sermon: Mark 8:1-21 | The Mystery of Leaven

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

Saturday, October 10th - Bike & Ferry Day

Cape May Ferry Bike Trip to Henlopen State Park, 6th Grade and under must have parent/guardian, Adult (14-61) \$20, (6-13) \$5 & Under 6 is free, Seniors (62+) and Military \$16
Leaving church 8 AM (come early with bike), Pack your own lunch for a picnic together.
Bring spending \$ for Ferry or while waiting for Ferry.
There is also a camp store at Henlopen for drinks and desert.

Reformation Harvest Party October 30th

The harvest party is back. This year, we will focus on fellowship and invite our sister churches to join.
Please be on the lookout for more information!

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: Kristen Ali

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

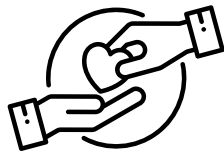
7th+: Mrs. Young

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 & Kim Bennett

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

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.