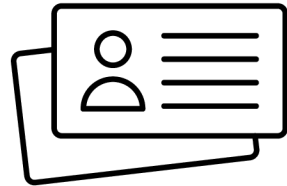
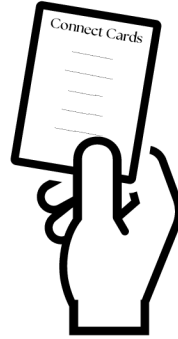


Church Family News

God plants us like trees beside streams of living water, provided by Jesus himself (Psalm 1:3)

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 for the first time, please ask one of the ushers for a **first-time visitor's packet**.



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!

Sunday School

Sunday School for children and adults meets every Sunday at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall

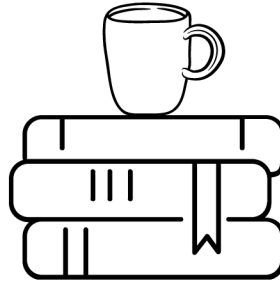
- Contact: Kevin Olandt
- All are welcome and child care is provided!

Adult Sunday School

- Verse by verse Bible Study

Pre K - 12th Grade

- Spring Session
 - The Gospel Project - The Son Has Come!



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

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

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

Please contact Connie Young for more details!

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

Luke B. Bert, Senior Pastor | Kim J. Murphy, Director of Music and Family Ministry
Renee Tobias, Organist and Choir Director | Dan Ahmad, Tech Manager
Jack Shea, Custodian | Breanna Young, Secretary

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City



April 12, 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

“To Thee, O Newly Risen Lord”

(Riggs)

Responsive Call to Worship - Psalm 50:12-15

Elder Kim Murphy

Leader: If I were hungry, I would not tell you,

People: for the world and its fullness are mine.

Leader: Do I eat the flesh of bulls

People: or drink the blood of goats?

Leader: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People: and perform your vows to the Most High,

Leader: and call upon me in the day of trouble;

People: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

*Hymn No. 62

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord’s Prayer

Elder Tom Martinson

Scripture Reading - Luke 15:11-32

Michelle Sorento

Unison Prayer of Confession

Elder Tom Martinson

Father God, you have loved us with an everlasting love. You have saved us by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. And yet, we still try to prove ourselves by our efforts. We define our worth by our work. Forgive us. Give us the peace to trust in your completed work. Help us to know that our salvation and our identity are fully in Jesus. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God’s Pardon - Isaiah 43:1

Elder Tom Martinson

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O

Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Tithes and Offerings

Confession of Faith - Heidelberg W. 21 Q 59-61

Elder Tom Martinson

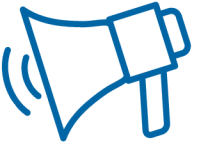
A NEW WAY TO STAY CONNECTED! CHECK OUT OUR NEW CHURCH APP AND WEBSITE!

We’re thrilled to share that a brand-new church website and app are here!
This exciting tool will make it easier than ever to:

- Find contact info for fellow members and church leadership
- View a full calendar of church events and gatherings
- Share and respond to prayer requests in real time

TO DOWNLOAD THE APP:

- 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.



THE WEBSITE:

www.firstpresocnj.net will continue to be our website!
It just has a new and improved look!

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.



Contact Us:

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

Secretary: Breanna Young - Hello@firstpresocnj.net

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

Tech Manager: Dan Ahmad - Tech@firstpresocnj.net

Greeters: Rosemary Lamkin & Carol Evans

Ushers: Carol Evans, Frank Gillet, Shane Gillet, Bob Krayner, Gregg Matis, Jane Shea

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

Children are a gift from God!

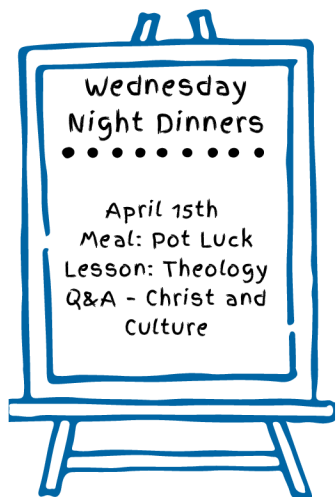
We celebrate the birth of Cleo Juliet Griffith-Kopec. Daughter of Sam and Marty Kopec, granddaughter of Gary and Sharon Griffith.

Membership & Evangelism Committee

Meeting on Mon, April 20th at 6:30pm off the parking lot door.
New members welcome.

Did you know we have fresh coffee downstairs in the welcome center off the parking lot entrance?

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!



Next Week's Sermon:

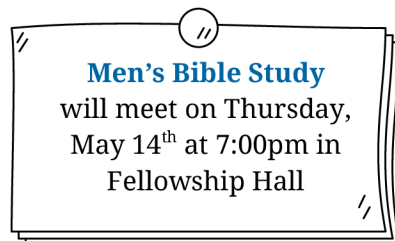
Micah 6:9-16
The Voice and the Staff

New for Youth!

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

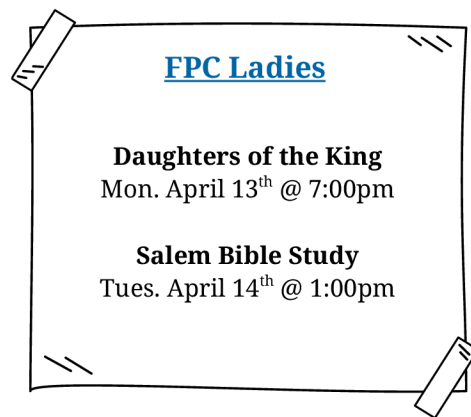
Small Groups Are Back!

Starting again April 12th - May 23rd. If you would like to join or change your small groups; contact your leader. If you would like to host a new small group, see Pastor Luke!



After Worship Refreshments are back!

Join us April 26th in fellowship hall for after worship refreshments.
Sign ups are on the app and downstairs on the bulletin board.



ONLINE GIVING
SCAN HERE >>
OR AVAILABLE ON CHURCH WEBSITE



*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Elder Tom Martinson

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

Pastor Luke Bert

*Songs of Worship

“Living Hope”

(Johnson/Wickham)

“You Have Broken the Chains”

(Owen-Collins)

“Christ Is Risen He Is Risen Indeed”

(Cash/Getty)

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

Sermon

Micah 6:1-8 - What Does God Require?

Pastor Luke Bert

Installation Ceremony (BCO 24-6)

TE Luke Bert

- Statement re: Installation
- Questions of Installation
- Question for the congregation
- Prayer
- Right Hand of Fellowship
- Pronouncement of Office
- Exhortation to new officer and congregation (RE Joe Laielli)
- Closing Prayer (RE Kevin Olandt)

*Hymn No. 571

“What Does the Lord Require?”

(MARION)

We Leave to Serve in God's World

*Benediction

Pastor Luke Bert

*Postlude

“Rejoice, The Lord Is King”

(Darwall/arr. Mansfield)

*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 Prayer Room (drum room) up front on the left side of the Sanctuary.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Connie Young or Kristen Ali. Thank you for prayerfully considering serving!

Confession of Faith: Heidelberg W. 21 Q 59-61

Q & A 59

Q. What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

A. In Christ I am righteous before God and heir to life everlasting.
(John 3:36; Rom. 1:17 (Hab. 2:4); Rom. 5:1-2)

Q & A 60

Q. How are you righteous before God?

A. Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments, of never having kept any of them, and of still being inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart.

(Rom. 3:21-28; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil 3:8-11; Rom. 3:9-10; Rom. 7:23; Tit. 3:4-5; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 4:3-5 (Gen. 15:6); 2 Cor. 5:17-19; 1 John 2:1-2; Rom. 4:24-25; 2 Cor. 5:21; John 3:18; Acts 16:30-31)

Q & A 61

Q. Why do you say that through faith alone you are righteous?

A. Not because I please God by the worthiness of my faith. It is because only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me righteous before God, and because I can accept this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than through faith.

(1 Cor. 1:30-31; Rom. 10:10; 1 John 5:10-12)

Installation of Deacon - David Newsome

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Vows of Office

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity? Do you accept the office of ruling elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
4. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
5. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

Congregational Vow

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive these brothers as a ruling elder and deacons, and do you promise to yield them all that honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which their office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles them?