

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City



“The Gospel according to Micah”

May 17, 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

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

(Moore/Ritter)

Responsive Call to Worship - Psalm 98:4-6

Elder Kim Murphy

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

People: with the lyre and the sound of melody!

Leader: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

People: make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

*Hymn No. 31

“Make A Joyful Noise”

(JOYFUL NOISE)

*Hymn No. 22

“Come, We That Love the Lord”

(ST THOMAS)

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Elder Joe Laielli

Scripture Reading - Genesis 3:8-15, John 17:20-26

Shane Gillet

Unison Prayer of Confession

Elder Joe Laielli

God, our Creator, Judge, and Savior, we come before your throne of grace.

We come boldly because we trust in you, but also with humility because we

know our sin. We recognize that we have not obeyed your word in thought,

word, and deed. Like Eve, we follow our own desires over your word. We run

and hide rather than confess our sin. Forgive us. Soften our hearts to return

to you, confessing our sins, and receiving from you grace that makes us new.

Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God's Pardon - Matthew 1:21

Elder Joe Laielli

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Welcoming New Members - David & Michelle Seals	Pastor Luke Bert
Confession of Faith - Heidelberg W. 27 Q 72-74	Elder Joe Laielli
Minute for Missions	Paul Cruz Chosen People
Tithes and Offerings	“Be Thou My Vision” David Seals
*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication	Elder Joe Laielli
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 Cherie Arias)	
<u>Sermon</u>	Pastor Luke Bert
Micah 3:1-8, 6:6-8, 7:14-20 The Gospel According to Micah	
*Hymn No. 492	“I Will Sing of My Redeemer” (HYFRYDOL)
<u>We Leave to Serve in God’s World</u>	
*Benediction	Pastor Luke Bert
Postlude	“Rise, Go Joyously Into Life” (Smith)

*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. 27 Q 72-74

Q & A 72

Q. Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

A. No, only Jesus Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.

(Matt. 3:11; 1 Pet. 3:21; 1 John 1:7)

Q & A 73

Q. Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the water of rebirth and the washing away of sins?

A. God has good reason for these words. To begin with, God wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ take away our sins just as water removes dirt from the body. But more important, God wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that we are as truly washed of our sins spiritually as our bodies are washed with water physically.

(1 Cor. 6:11; Rev. 1:5; 7:14; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27)

Q & A 74

Q. Should infants also be baptized?

A. Yes. Infants as well as adults are included in God's covenant and people, and they, no less than adults, are promised deliverance from sin through Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit who produces faith. Therefore, by baptism, the sign of the covenant, they too should be incorporated into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers. This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision, which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.

(Gen. 17:7; Matt. 19:14; Isa. 44:1-3; Acts 2:38-39; 16:31; Acts 10:47; 1 Cor. 7:14; Gen. 17:9-14; Col. 2:11-13)

New Member Vows

David and Michelle Seals

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership and Evangelism Committee

Meeting Monday May 18th at 6:30pm in the room off the parking lot door. New members welcome!

FPC Ladies

Daughters of the King & Salem Bible Study will start again in September

Men's Bible Study

will start again in September

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!

After Worship Refreshments are back!

Join us every month after communion Sunday in Fellowship Hall for after worship refreshments. Sign ups are on the app and downstairs on the bulletin board.

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.

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!

Next Week's Sermon:

Psalm 98 | Rejoice in God's salvation

Next Sunday morning - The Lord's Supper

The session encourages all baptized believers to prepare their hearts to participate in the Lord's Table. Please read and meditate on 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. Examine yourself as to your relationship with the Lord and those in your life. If there is sin that needs to be confessed, forsaken, and restitution needed, then do so, so that the celebration of the table may be a blessing to the whole body of Christ. Two other verses to think about have to do with dealing with broken fellowship with God and others so God hears us and so we can participate in worship, see Psalm 66:18 and Matthew 5:23-24. Despite our failures, the table is a means of grace, so let us prepare to fellowship with God and one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Vacation Bible School

Emerald Crossing: An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23

Monday through Friday August 3rd - 7th, 2026

9:00am - 12:15pm | Ages 4 - 6th Grade

If you are interested in helping with VBS this year, please contact Connie Young or Gretchen Murphy!

Wednesday, May 27 - VBS Art Night

6:00pm - 8:00pm | All are welcome | Fellowship Hall

Drawing, painting, puppets and constructing!

Wear your painting clothes!



Volunteers Needed – Children’s Ministry

We’re looking for volunteers to serve in Sunday School, Children’s Church, and the Nursery. Whether you can help weekly, monthly, or as a substitute, your time can make a lasting difference in the lives of our children.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Connie Young or Kristen Ali.

Thank you for prayerfully considering serving!

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.

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!

Church App!

Have you downloaded our church app yet?

- 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 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 can be provided!

Adult Sunday School

- Verse by verse Bible Study
 - Ezra–Nehemiah

Pre K - 12th Grade

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

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: Rosemary Lamkin & Carol Evans

Ushers: Carol Evans, Bob Krayner, Gregg Matis, Jack Shea, Jane Shea

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

June / July / August Newsletter: Please have all articles and announcements to Breanna by 5/15



First Presbyterian is a biblical, confessional, 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.