

First Presbyterian
Church of Ocean City

“The Mystery of
The Messiah”



June 21, 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

"Love of the Father"

(Gibbons/arr. Paxton)

Responsive Call to Worship - Psalm 47:1-4

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples!

People: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Leader: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,

People: a great king over all the earth.

Leader: He subdued peoples under us,

People: and nations under our feet.

Leader: He chose our heritage for us,

People: the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

*Hymn No. 23

"Clap Your Hands"

(CLAP YOUR HANDS)

*Hymn No. 22

"Come, We That Love the Lord"

(ST. THOMAS)

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Deacon Neil Jordan

Scripture Reading - Daniel 7:1-14

Elder Joe Laielli

Unison Prayer of Confession

Mighty God, you are the Ancient of Days. You rule over all creation, and we praise you. We long for the day when every knee will bow before you. Yet we confess that there are places in our own lives where we still resist your rule. Lord, forgive us. By your Spirit, turn our hearts toward your kingdom. Let your kingdom grow in us and through us, as you build your church. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God's Pardon - Romans 8:3

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith - Heidelberg W. 30 Q 81-82

Minute for Missions

Nick Woodbury
Mesa Global

Tithes and Offerings

Special Music

*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

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery” (Boswell/Papa/Bleecker)

“His Mercy Is More” (Boswell/Papa)

“Hail to the Lord's Anointed” (Montgomery/McCracken)

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

Sermon

Pastor Luke Bert

Mark 2:1-17 | The Mystery of Forgiven Sins

*Hymn No. 448

“Arise My Soul Arise”

(Wesley/Twit)

(see words on screens)

We Leave to Serve in God's World

*Benediction

Postlude

“My Heart Rejoices”

(Paxton)

*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

SERMON

Mark 2:1-17

1 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— 11 “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” 12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 next Sunday, June 28th 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.

Next Sunday: Mr. Ryan Soldano will preach from Psalm 48 - "City of the King"

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.

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.

Singles of Hope Beach Day - Next Sunday!

Single adults from across our Presbytery will be coming to First Pres on Sunday, June 28th. After the service, they will go down to the beach for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Please see the flyer downstairs or contact Jessica Sauer for more information (201-779-0416)

Summer Book Club: Join the M&E Committee this summer in reading, "The Gospel Comes with a House Key." Sign up by June 21st on the bulletin board to receive a book.

The Martinson's New Address:

Phyllis and Tom Martinson
401 Sparrows Ridge
Glen Mills, PA 19342

FPC Ladies

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

Men's Bible Study

will start again in September

Our Missionary, Rich Ernst, invites everyone to join him for a 6:00 pm Hymn Sing at South Seaville Camp Meeting (188 Dennisville Road, South Seaville, NJ), on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. A service follows at 7pm.

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!

Vacation Bible School Art Nights: July 1 & 15 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm. All are welcome! Join us in Fellowship Hall. Drawing, painting, puppets and constructing! Wear your painting clothes!

Vacation Bible School Prep: July 28 - 30. 1:00pm - 4:00pm. All are welcome! Join us in Fellowship Hall. Bring board games for those times when there is nothing to do.



Did you know that our app has special prayer request groups?

Download the app today & join the youth group chat, the Young family prayer group, the church-wide prayer group, & more!

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.

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.

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 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!

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

- Verse by verse Bible Study
 - Ezra–Nehemiah

Pre K - 12th Grade

- Summer Session
 - One Story

K - 2nd: Mrs. Laielli
3rd - 6th: Mrs. Olandt
7th+: Mrs. Young

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: Carol Evans, 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, 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.