

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

“The Mystery of The Messiah”



July 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

“God's Love Surrounds Us”

(Simone)

Responsive Call to Worship - Psalm 92:1-4

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

People: to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

Leader: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

People: and your faithfulness by night,

Leader: to the music of the lute and the harp,

People: to the melody of the lyre.

Leader: For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;

People: at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

*Hymn No. 325

“It Is Good to Sing Your Praises”

(BLAENWERN)

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Luke Bert

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 58:1-14

Solomon Griffith

Unison Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, King of Heaven, you have told us what you desire. We should serve you with joy; that our every action would be done for your glory. Yet, we confess that we have far too often sought our own pleasure. We have not delighted in the good gifts you give. Forgive us. By your Spirit, turn us back to your word that we might delight in you. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God's Pardon - Ezekiel 36:25-26a

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. Amen.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith - Heidelberg W. 31 Q 83-85

Celebrating our Graduates

Olivia Cesari - Ocean City High School

Robert Cesari - Ocean City High School

Rowlee Murphy - Atlantic Christian School

Tithes and Offerings

“Let Our Work Be For Your Glory” (Hargreaves/Macleod/Hunter)
(Boundless)

*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

“A Christian's Daily Prayer”

(Merker/Kauflin/Fournier)

“Before You I Kneel”

(Getty/Taylor/Townend)

“All Glory Be To Christ”

(Kensrue)

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

Sermon

Pastor Luke Bert

Mark 2:18-3:6 | The Mystery of the Sabbath

*Hymn

“Let Our Work Be For Your Glory”

(Hargreaves/Macleod/Hunter)
(Boundless)

(see words on screens)

We Leave to Serve in God's World

*Benediction

Postlude

“Great God of Glory”

(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

HEIDELBERG W. 31 Q 83-85

Q & A 83

Q. What are the keys of the kingdom?

A. The preaching of the holy gospel and Christian discipline toward repentance. Both of them open the kingdom of heaven to believers and close it to unbelievers.

(Matt. 16:19; John 20:22-23)

Q & A 84

Q. How does preaching the holy gospel open and close the kingdom of heaven?

A. According to the command of Christ: The kingdom of heaven is opened by proclaiming and publicly declaring to all believers, each and every one, that, as often as they accept the gospel promise in true faith, God, because of Christ's merit, truly forgives all their sins. The kingdom of heaven is closed, however, by proclaiming and publicly declaring to unbelievers and hypocrites that, as long as they do not repent, the wrath of God and eternal condemnation rest on them. God's judgment, both in this life and in the life to come, is based on this gospel testimony.

(Matt. 16:19; John 3:31-36; 20:21-23)

Q & A 85

Q. How is the kingdom of heaven closed and opened by Christian discipline?

A. According to the command of Christ: Those who, though called Christians, profess unchristian teachings or live unchristian lives, and who after repeated personal and loving admonitions, refuse to abandon their errors and evil ways, and who after being reported to the church, that is, to those ordained by the church for that purpose, fail to respond also to the church's admonitions—such persons the church excludes from the Christian community by withholding the sacraments from them, and God also excludes them from the kingdom of Christ. Such persons, when promising and demonstrating genuine reform, are received again as members of Christ and of his church.

(Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:3-5, 11-13; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Luke 15:20-24; 2 Cor. 2:6-11)

SERMON | MARK 2:18-3:6

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. ²¹ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins." ²³ One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵ And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: ²⁶ how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷ And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

3 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. ² And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." ⁴ And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

True Woman 201 - Ladies of the Church,

If you are interested in starting True Woman 201 September, please let Breanna know by July 26th! This will give us time to order the materials.

True Woman 201 Interior Design is a 10 week study that covers ten elements of redeemed womanhood found in the book of Titus. It is filled with solid, Biblical truth, insightful content, and opportunities for personal reflection.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Breanna Young at Hello@firstpresocnj.net.

Deadline for registration is July 26th! Hope you will join us. - Kate Gillet

Coalition for Christian Outreach is here! Please welcome them warmly, they will be with us for three weeks! If anyone is able to host dinner (5:00pm - 6:30pm) either at your home or at church between now and July 25th for 8 students, please let Kim Murphy or Pastor Luke Bert know!

Summer Book Club: Please Join us on July 15th at 6pm to discuss Chapters 1-5 of "The Gospel Comes with a House Key". Bring your dinner while we eat and discuss in Fellowship Hall. No prior sign up needed. All are welcome. Come when you can.

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 August 23rd 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 Week's Sermon: Mark 3:7-19 The Mystery of the New Israel

Thank you to whoever found Pastor Luke's missing box of business cards!

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.

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 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.



Some positions still open and ready to be filled for this year's VBS!

- 3rd & 4th Grade teacher
- Pre K- Kindergarten Art teacher
- Assistants and Helpers

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.

In the nursery this week: Rebekah Bert

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: Meredith Neely & Pat Matis

Ushers: Carol Evans, Neil Jordan, Gregg Matis, Jack Shea, and 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



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.