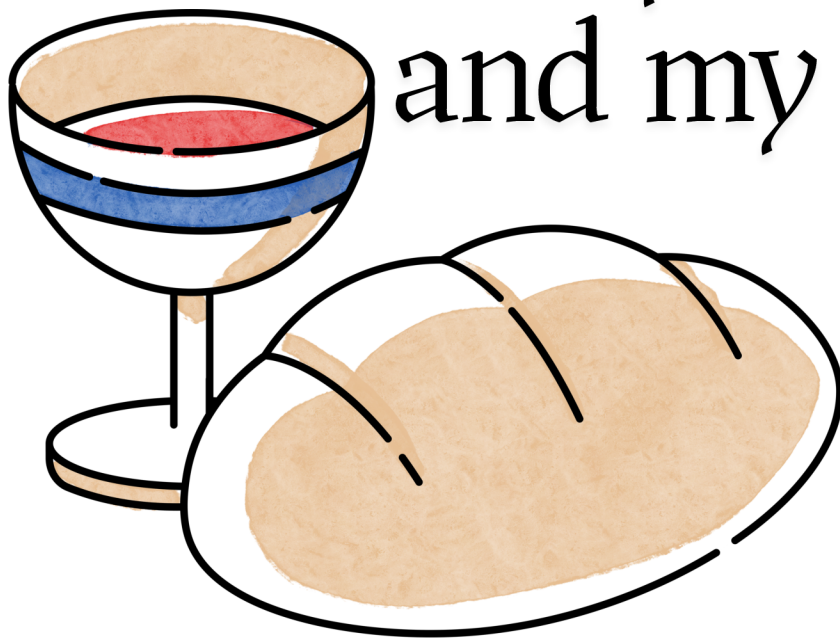


First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

These are my brothers
and my sisters.



July 26, 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

“O For a Closer Walk With God”

(Dykes/arr. Peterson)

Responsive Call to Worship - Isaiah 44:23

Leader: Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it;

People: shout, O depths of the earth;

Leader: break forth into singing, O mountains,

People: O forest, and every tree in it!

Leader: For the Lord has redeemed Jacob,

People: and will be glorified in Israel.

*Hymn No. 9

“Sing Praise to the Father”

(TO GOD BE THE GLORY)

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Elder Joe Laielli

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 49:13-26

Shane Gillet

Unison Prayer of Confession

Our God and Redeemer, you have remembered us in our distress and set us free from the bondage of sin. And yet, we have not embraced that freedom. We continue to go back to our sins. We prefer to do our own will rather than submit to your authority. Forgive us. Help us to remember that you are our savior. You have conquered sin and death. Give us the strength to trust in the might of your salvation. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God's Pardon - Isaiah 49:8

Thus says the Lord: “In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages,

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Tithes and Offerings

“Remember”

(arr. Fettke)

*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

Hymn 285 - “For Your Gift of God the Spirit”

(BLAENWERN)

(vs 1-4)

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

(LYONS)

(see words on screens)

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

Sermon

Pastor Luke Bert

Mark 3:20-35 | The Mystery of the New Family

*Hymn

“Your Will Be Done”

(Robinson/Thompson)

(see words on screens)

We Are Invited to the Lord’s Supper

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

*Hymn No. 708

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

(DENNIS)

We Leave to Serve in God’s World

*Benediction

Postlude

Solemn March”

(Mozart/arr. Troutman)

*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

TITHES & OFFERINGS | “REMEMBER”

I remember You and all Your pains And all Your love for me,
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice, who died upon a tree.
As we drink this cup, we worship You;
As we eat this bread, we honor You;
And we offer You our lives as You have offered Yours for us.
We remember all You’ve done for us.
We remember Your covenant with us.
We remember, and worship You, O Lord.
We remember all You’ve done for us,
We remember Your covenant with us,
We remember, and worhsip You, O Lord, O Lord.

SERMON | MARK 3:20-35

20 Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. 21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” 23 And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

28 “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— 30 for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

31 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” 33 And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34 And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children are a gift from God! We celebrate the birth of Crusoe John Levy. Son of Paul and Lexi Levi from the North Shore of Hawaii. He is Barbara Grill's 12th Great Grandchild.
Born, July 13, 2026.

True Woman 201 - Ladies of the Church,

If you are interested in starting True Woman 201 September, please let Breanna know by **TODAY!** 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 TODAY - July 26th! Hope you will join us. - Kate Gillet

Summer Book Club: Please Join us on August 12th at 6pm to discuss Chapters 6-10 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.

Next Week's Sermon: Mark 4:1-20 | The Mystery of the Sower

September / October / November Newsletter Deadline for articles, updates and more is Friday, August 14th. Please email anything you have to Breanna - hello@firstpresocnj.net

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.

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.



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

<<< Scan here to register!!! If you have any questions, please contact Connie Young or Gretchen Murphy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Vacation Bible School

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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 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!

- 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: Gretchen Murphy

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!

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, 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.