

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

“The Mystery of The Messiah”



August 16, 2026

701 Wesley Avenue Ocean City, NJ 08226
609.399.1833 | www.firstpresocnj.net

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Luke Bert

We Enter God's Presence

Organ Prelude

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

(Gordon/arr. Smith)

Responsive Call to Worship - Psalm 107:29-32

Deacon David Laielli

Leader: He made the storm be still,

People: and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Leader: Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,

People: and he brought them to their desired haven.

Leader: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,

People: for his wondrous works to the children of man!

Leader: Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,

People: and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

*Hymn

"O Thank the LORD, for He Is Good"

(Goshen)

(Trinity Psalter - see words on screens)

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading - Jonah 4

Frank Gillet

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord God, you have called us to believe and trust in you. We should seek the lost and love the hurting. However, like Jonah, we fail to do this. We prefer to build our own little kingdoms rather than follow you into yours. Forgive us. Give us hearts of compassion. May we place our hope in the compassion of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God's Pardon - Psalm 103:8

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith - Heidelberg W. 34 Q 93-95

Minute for Missions

Paul Cruz
Chosen People

Tithes and Offerings

“Give Me Oil In My Lamp”

(arr. Martin)

*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

“I ask the Lord”

(Indelible Grace)

“Knowing You (All I Once Held Dear)”

(Graham Kendrick)

“Indescribable”

(Chris Tomlin)

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

Sermon

Pastor Luke Bert

Mark 4:35-5:20 | The Mystery of the Sea

*Hymn

“Abide With Me”
(see words on screens)

(arr. Littlepage)

We Leave to Serve in God’s World

*Benediction

Postlude

“Recessional In D”

(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 Narthex

HEIDELBERG W. 34 Q 93-95

Q & A 93

Q. How are these commandments divided?

A. Into two tables. The first has four commandments, teaching us how we ought to live in relation to God. The second has six commandments, teaching us what we owe our neighbor.

(Matt. 22:37-39)

Q & A 94

Q. What does the Lord require in the first commandment?

A. That I, not wanting to endanger my own salvation, avoid and shun all idolatry, sorcery, superstitious rites, and prayer to saints or to other creatures. That I rightly know the only true God, trust him alone, and look to God for every good thing humbly and patiently, and love, fear, and honor God with all my heart. In short, that I give up anything rather than go against God's will in any way.

(1 Cor. 6:9-10; 10:5-14; 1 John 5:21; Lev. 19:31; Deut. 18:9-12; Matt. 4:10; Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9; John 17:3; Jer. 17:5, 7; Ps. 104:27-28; James 1:17; 1 Pet. 5:5-6; Col. 1:11; Heb. 10:36; Matt. 22:37 (Deut. 6:5); Prov. 9:10; 1 Pet. 1:17; Matt. 4:10 (Deut. 6:13); Matt. 5:29-30; 10:37-39)

Q & A 95

Q. What is idolatry?

A. Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in the Word.

(1 Chron. 16:26; Gal. 4:8-9; Eph. 5:5; Phil. 3:19)

TITHES & OFFERINGS | "GIVE ME OIL IN MY LAMP"

Give me oil in my lamp, Give me oil in my lamp,

Give me oil in my lamp, Give me oil in my lamp,

Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.

(Give me praise and give thanks for your blessings.)

Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.

(I sing praise every day I live.)

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, keep me burning till the break of day.

(I sing praise and give thanks for your blessings, for the blessings you alone can give.)

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the king of Kings,

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King. I sing King.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing;

Give me joy in my heart each day. Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing;

keep me singing till the break of day.

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning. Give me oil in my lamp, I pray

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning, keep me burning till the break of day.

Sing hosanna to the King!

SERMON | MARK 4:35-5:20

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

⁵ They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” ⁸ For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” ⁹ And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea. ¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Children are a gift from God! We celebrate the birth of Davis Richard Newsome. Son of Jacob and Annie Newsome currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Grandson of David and Lisa Newsome. Born, August 12, 2026.

Children are a gift from God! We celebrate the birth of Stella Stacey Twiggs. Daughter of Colin and Georgette Twiggs. Granddaughter of Bruce and Char Twiggs. Born, August 7, 2026.

After Worship Refreshments are back! Join us **NEXT SUNDAY** 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.

Membership Classes

Would you like to learn more about FPC's beliefs, practices, and stories? Whether you are new to First Pres, a regular attender, or already a member, you are welcome. Please see Pastor Luke for details about the class time.

Looking for Small Group Leaders

Do you have a passion for connecting with people and fostering fellowship in the church? We are looking for several people who want to take a guiding role in discipleship. Small groups are intentional fellowship times where we read God's word and pray. If you would like to lead a small group, please see Pastor Luke. There will be a brainstorming luncheon at the manse on August 30th. Bring your ideas and vision for fellowship and discipleship.

Next Week's Sermon: Psalm 99 | The King Who Loves Justice

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!

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New for Youth!

We now have fidget toys available downstairs by the kids 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: Kristen Ali

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

- Special Lesson
 - By Joe Laielli

Pre K - 12th Grade

- Summer Session
 - One Story

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

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.



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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!

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: Frank Gillet, Shane Gillet, 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



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.