

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

“The Mystery of The Messiah”



August 2, 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

“Morning Meditation”

(Blake)

Responsive Call to Worship - Psalm 40:6-8

Leader: In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted,

People: but you have given me an open ear.

Leader: Burnt offering and sin offering

People: you have not required.

Leader: Then I said, “Behold, I have come;

People: in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

Leader: I delight to do your will, O my God;

People: your law is within my heart.”

*Hymn No. 103

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master”

(HANOVER)

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 6:1-13

Marie Cobb

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Woe is me. I am lost. I have unclean lips. Lord God, we confess with Isaiah that we have sinned. Our sin keeps us from your presence. Forgive us. Open our eyes to see you with the eyes of faith. Open our ears to hear your word with humility. And open our lips to proclaim your word faithfully. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God's Pardon - Isaiah 6:7

And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

People: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith - Heidelberg W. 33 Q 88-91

Tithes and Offerings

Special Music by: Rebecca and Hannah Mescavage

“Wonderful Merciful Savior”

(Selah)

*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

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

(Getty)

“Jesus Thank You”

(Sovereign Grace)

“Here I Am to Worship”

(Hillsong)

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

Sermon

Mark 4:1-20 | The Mystery of the Sower

Pastor Luke Bert

*Hymn

“A Sower's Seed Fell on a Path”

(MORNING SONG)

(see words on screens)

We Leave to Serve in God’s World

*Benediction

Postlude

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”

(Leavitt/arr. Birchwood)

*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. 33 Q 88-91

Q & A 88

Q. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

A. Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.

(Rom. 6:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5-10)

Q & A 89

Q. What is the dying-away of the old self?

A. To be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate and run away from it.

(Ps. 51:3-4, 17; Joel 2:12-13; Rom. 8:12-13; 2 Cor. 7:10)

Q & A 90

Q. What is the rising-to-life of the new self?

A. Wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a love and delight to live according to the will of God by doing every kind of good work.

(Ps. 51:8, 12; Isa. 57:15; Rom. 5:1; 14:17; Rom. 6:10-11; Gal. 2:20)

Q & A 91

Q. What are good works?

A. Only those which are done out of true faith, conform to God's law, and are done for God's glory; and not those based on our own opinion or human tradition.

(John 15:5; Heb. 11:6; Lev. 18:4; 1 Sam. 15:22; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 10:31; Deut. 12:32; Isa. 29:13; Ezek. 20:18-19; Matt. 15:7-9)

SERMON | MARK 4:1-20

The Parable of the Sower

1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. 2 And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 3 “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 8 And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” 9 And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Purpose of the Parables

10 And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, 12 so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,
and may indeed hear but not understand,
lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

13 And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.[a] 18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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: Mark 4:21-34 The Mystery of the Parables

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VBS begins tomorrow! There's still time to register!
Emerald Crossing: An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23

Monday through Friday August 3rd - 7th, 2026

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

Scan the QR code above to register!!!

**If you have any questions,
please contact Connie Young or Gretchen Murphy!**



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: Kristen Ali

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: 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.