

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

“For it has been
granted to you.”



September 13, 2026

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

Welcome and Announcements

We Enter God's Presence

Elder Kim Murphy

Organ Prelude

"Prelude for Harpsichord"

(J.S. Bach/arr. Norris)

Responsive Call to Worship - Psalm 95:1-3

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;

People: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

People: let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Leader: For the Lord is a great God,

People: and a great King above all gods.

*Hymn

"O Come, Let Us Sing"

(HANNOVER)

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Deacon Bruce Bennett

Scripture Reading - Psalm 133

Elder Joe Laielli

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord God, Your Word calls us to love one another, just as You have loved us. But we confess: our love falls short. We chase our own desires. We overlook the pain in others. We forget to point people back to You as the only true source of love and forgiveness. Lord, have mercy. Forgive us. Renew our hearts. Teach us to love as You have loved us. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God's Pardon - John 15:9

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

People: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Faith - Heidelberg W. 37 Q 101-102

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

“Abide With Me”

(Smith)

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

(Papa/Boswell/Bleecker)

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

Sermon

Rev. Jonathan Hatt

Philippians 1:27-30 | Life Together

*Hymn No. 689

“The Church's One Foundation”

(AURELIA)

We Leave to Serve in God's World

*Benediction

Postlude

“A Celebration of Praise”

(Denton)

*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

CONFESSION OF FAITH | HEIDELBERG W. 37 Q 101-102

Q & A 101

Q. But may we swear an oath in God's name if we do it reverently?

A. Yes, when the government demands it, or when necessity requires it, in order to maintain and promote truth and trustworthiness for God's glory and our neighbor's good. Such oaths are grounded in God's Word and were rightly used by the people of God in the Old and New Testaments.

(Deut. 6:13; 10:20; Jer. 4:1-2; Heb. 6:16; Gen. 21:24; Josh. 9:15; 1 Kings 1:29-30; Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23)

Q & A 102

Q. May we also swear by saints or other creatures?

A. No. A legitimate oath means calling upon God as the only one who knows my heart to witness to my truthfulness and to punish me if I swear falsely. No creature is worthy of such honor.

(Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:23; Matt. 5:34-37; 23:16-22; James 5:12)

SERMON | PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daughters of the King Bible Study - September 14th at 6:00pm

We will begin the Fall / Winter Schedule in the meeting room by the parking lot doors. Our lesson will be on Esther Week 4, Days 1, 2 and 3. We will have light snacks and decaf coffee at 6 since this is around the dinner hour. If you would like a cold drink, could you please bring that. This is the only meeting that will be at this time. We will be discussing and approving the meeting start time for the rest of the year. We hope that you can join us.

Membership and Evangelism Committee - September 21st

M & E will meeting in the room by the parking lot door at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

True Woman 201 - Now through November 17th

Tuesdays from 10:00am - 11:30am in Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays from 4:30pm - 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Presbytery - September 19th

Pastor Luke will be attending the New Jersey Presbytery meeting in Lawrence Township on September 19th. Presbytery is the regional meeting of our denomination. If you would like more information about our church runs or to attend a meeting, talk to Pastor Luke.

Membership Classes Begin September 27th at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall

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.

Deacons Meeting - September 28th at 7:00pm

Men's Retreat at First Pres - October 17th

Men from several churches in our presbytery will meet for a day-long time of worship and study. The retreat runs from 8 am to 8 pm at the church. The theme of the retreat is the will of God. Pastor Luke, along with other pastors, will consider how to discern God's will. More information to come.

Wednesday Night Dinners - Fall Cooks Needed

Please contact Cherie Arias if you are interested in signing up to cook this fall.
Wednesday night dinners begin October 7th!

Next Week's Sermon: Mark 6:33-56 | The Mystery of Running on Empty

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

Camping Trip is October 2nd - 4th @ Belleplain State Forest
Church picnic is October 3rd @ Belleplain State Forest Pavilion

If you would like to join the campers, see Kim Murphy.
If you are planning to attend the picnic, please sign up downstairs.

Saturday, October 10th - Bike & Ferry Day

Cape May Ferry Bike Trip to Henlopen State Park, 6th Grade and under must have parent/guardian,
Adult (14-61) \$20, (6-13) \$5 & Under 6 is free, Seniors (62+) and Military \$16
Leaving church 8 AM (come early with bike), Pack your own lunch for a picnic together.
Bring spending \$ for Ferry or while waiting for Ferry.
There is also a camp store at Henlopen for drinks and desert.

Reformation Harvest Party October 30th

The harvest party is back. This year, we will focus on fellowship and invite our sister churches to join.
Please be on the lookout for more information!

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

- Esther
 - By Kevin Olandt

Pre K - 12th Grade

- Fall 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.



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!

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: Mary Wilson & Maria White

Ushers: Allan Matthews, Linda Matthews, Gregg Matis, 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, 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.