

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

“The Mystery of The Messiah”



September 20, 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

"Open My Eyes"

(Scott/arr. Taylor)

Responsive Call to Worship - Isaiah 43:1-2,11

Leader: But now thus says the Lord,

People: he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Leader: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

People: I have called you by name, you are mine.

Leader: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

People: and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

Leader: when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

People: and the flame shall not consume you.

Leader: I, I am the Lord,

People: and besides me there is no savior.

*Hymn No. 612

"How Firm a Foundation"

(FOUNDATION)

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Elder Joe Laielli

Scripture Reading - Psalm 23

Andy Halliday

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

All-powerful, limitless God, we are tired. We confess that in our weakness, we have not pursued righteousness. We have chosen the easy way rather than the way of justice. Forgive us. Renew us in the matchless strength of Jesus. In union with him, let us be renewed to put sin to death and live for Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of God's Pardon - Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

People: Thanks be to God.

Minute for Missions

John Buthy
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Tithes and Offerings

"Here I Am, Lord"

(Schutte/Schrader)

*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

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

(Bradbury)

"Wonderful Merciful Savior"

(Rodgers/Wyse)

"Shepherd"

(CitiAlight)

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

Sermon

Pastor Luke Bert

Mark 6:33-56 | The Mystery of Running on Empty

*Hymn

"Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me"

(Robinson/Thomas/Farren)

We Leave to Serve in God's World

*Benediction

Postlude

"Glory to God on High"

(Blake)

*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 | “HERE I AM, LORD”

I the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save

I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**Here I am Lord
Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go Lord if You lead me
I will hold your people in my heart**

I the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them my hand will save

Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send? Whom shall I send?

Chorus

SERMON | MARK 6:33-56

33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. 35 And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. 36 Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." 37 But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" 38 And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." 39 Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. 41 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. 42 And they all ate and were satisfied. 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44 And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Jesus Walks on the Water

45 Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. 47 And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. 48 And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, 49 but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, 50 for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." 51 And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, 52 for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret

53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. 54 And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him 55 and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joint Service Today

Join us back here today at 4:00pm for a Joint Worship Service with Hope Community Church and New City Fellowship. Sermon will be by Mr. Nathan Tunnell - Mark 10:46-52, "A Blind Man Sees"
Pot luck will be after service in Fellowship Hall downstairs!

Presbytery - September 19th

Pastor Luke and Kim attended the New Jersey Presbytery meeting in Lawrence Township yesterday. Presbytery is the regional meeting of our denomination.
If you want to learn more, there is a information sheet in the Narthex.

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

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.
An information flyer is available in the Narthex.

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 7:1-23 | The Mystery of Corban

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: Rebekah Bert

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: Annette Bennett & Kim Bennett

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.