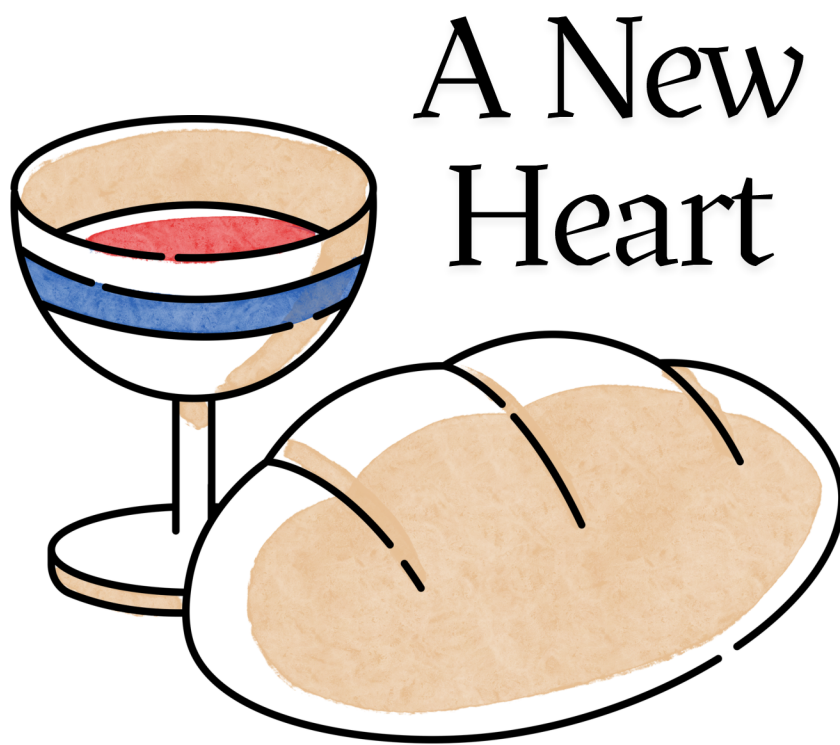


First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City



September 27, 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

"Communion in Christ"

(Kendall)

Responsive Call to Worship - Isaiah 6:3

Leader: And one called to another and said:

People: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

*Hymn

"Not what My Hands Have Done"

(Trinity Psalter)

*Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 29:13-21

Scott Ali

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord God, you are our savior. You sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. And yet, we often seek to justify ourselves by our own righteousness. Forgive us. Give us new hearts that trust in you alone for our salvation, so that our worship may be pleasing to you. 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.

Apostles Creed

Tithes and Offerings

“Be Not Afraid”

(Dufford/arr. Wagner)

*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

“Change My Heart, O God”

(eddie Espinosa)

“Open Our Eyes”

(Bob Cull)

“Jesus I Come”

(Indelible Grace)

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

Sermon

Pastor Luke Bert

Mark 7:1-23 | The Mystery of Corban

*Hymn

“The Church's One Foundation”

(Trinity Psalter)

(Follow lyrics on screen)

We Are Invited to the Lord’s Supper

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

*The Lord’s Prayer

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

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

TITHES & OFFERINGS | “BE NOT AFRAID”

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

You shall live. Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.

If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.

If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.

Be not afraid. I go before you always.

Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.

Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.

And if wicked men insult and hate you, all because of me, blessed, blessed, blessed are you!

Be not afraid. I go before you always.

Come follow me, and I will give you rest, I will give you rest.

SERMON | MARK 7:1-23

Traditions and Commandments

1 Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, 2 they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. 3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, 4 and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) 5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” 6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
7 in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

9 And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ 11 But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban”’ (that is, given to God)— 12 then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, 13 thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

What Defiles a Person

14 And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: 15 There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” 17 And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) 20 And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Daughters of the King Bible Study meets on the second Monday of every month at 4:00pm, in the meeting room by the parking lot doors. The next study session will be on Monday, October 12th. We will continue our study of the book of Esther, Week 4, Days 3, 4 and 5 (pages 79 through 89 in our study guide). We are still praying for someone to be the Moderator for this session as Joann is out of town for the month of October. For any questions, kindly call Joann at 609-289-9173, or send her an email at: jcioeta@gmail.com

Missions Committee meeting Monday September 28th 7 PM in the classroom near the parking lot door.

After Worship Refreshments are back! Join us TODAY 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.

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 Began TODAY at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall - But it's not too late!
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 7:24-37 | The Mystery of the Outsiders

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: 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.