

OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

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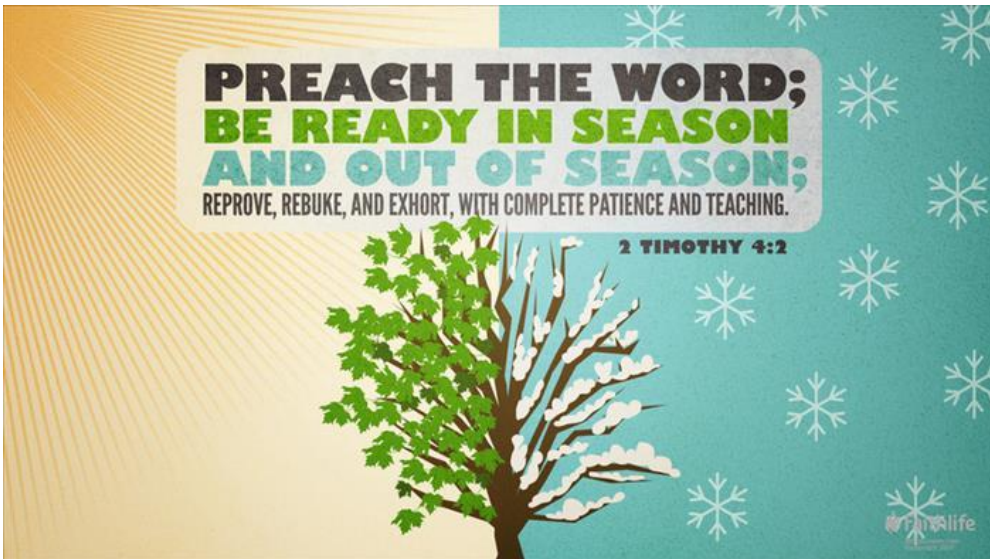
Sunday, October 19, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Herb Williams, Guest Speaker

Liturgist: Elder Betsy Christensen

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music



Gathering for Worship

We request that you silence all electronic devices before service begins.

*Please rise in body or spirit.



***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Betsy Christensen

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it.

Lord, empower us and guide us to build with care.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Let our work shine in the daylight and be proven by fire.

Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

Let us speak in truth and love to build God's people on earth and prepare them for His Kingdom in Heaven. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Betsy Christensen

Almighty God, in this sacred moment, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and reverence.

We acknowledge the profound truth of Your words: "For every house is built by some man; but he that built all things is God." We praise Your omnipotent hand in the creation and construction of all that exists, both seen and unseen.

Lord, just like a master architect meticulously designs a grand building, every detail, every corner, every element of this universe and our lives is fashioned by Your sovereign will. All of creation is Your masterpiece.

Wonderful Creator, we acknowledge that everything around us, from the vastness of the heavens to the intimacy of a gentle breeze, speaks of Your glory. We see how You have intricately woven nature's beauty, the delicate patterns in flowers, the rhythmic pulse of the ocean waves, and

the majestic mountains standing strong against the sky. Everything, Lord, is imbued with Your divine fingerprints. Each day we witness Your creation and are reminded of Your power and everlasting presence.

Father, as we walk through this life, help us remember that we are a part of this grand design. Our lives are like a house, built through the choices we make, the relationships we foster, and the endeavors we pursue.

We acknowledge You in every part of our day-to-day existence. May our lives reflect Your glory and the beauty of Your heart. Teach us, O Lord, to build our house with wisdom and integrity, uprightness and love, ensuring that the foundation is indeed rooted in You, our solid rock. Teach us to build Your house in the same way. Teach us to build Your people to prepare them for the house Jesus has gone to prepare for us in your Heavenly Kingdom. We offer our hearts, our homes, and our purpose to You, Lord. Let them all reflect Your love and glory.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

***HYMN #722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Betsy Christensen

Claiming the promises of God sealed in our baptism, we humbly confess the reality of sin in our personal and communal life. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God in confidence. Confident in God's grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Betsy Christensen

Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have

been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Betsy Christensen

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

(Silence is kept.)

In the strong name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Herb Williams

Hear the good news!

Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us,

Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

My Brothers and Sisters, I tell you truly, we are forgiven.

Amen.

*THE RESPONSE # 581

Glory Be to the Father

581

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Glory Be to the Father'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the'. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm.

(Hymn continues next page)

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Betsy Christensen

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please pass the peace with friends and loved ones)

Hearing and Responding to the Word Proclaimed

CHILDREN'S TIME

Herb Williams

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Betsy Christensen

Living God,

Help us to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do. God of mercy, amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives. Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and deeply understand them, that we may share correctly with your people the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. To Your glory, **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 31:27-34

Betsy Christensen

²⁷ “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals.
²⁸ Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,” declares the LORD. ²⁹ “In those days people will no longer say, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’
³⁰ Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge. ³¹ “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. ³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

NEW TESTAMENT READING 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5 Herb Williams

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

THE MESSAGE Rebuilt and Redeemed: The Day Is Coming Herb Williams

***HYMN #69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Herb Williams**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day

he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

The Thanksgiving



THE OFFERING

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise *him, all creatures

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is composed of quarter and eighth notes. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The treble staff continues with quarter and eighth notes, and the bass staff continues with chords and single notes. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The third system of musical notation concludes the doxology. The treble staff ends with a double bar line, and the bass staff also ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

***THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Guest speaker will share prayer)

Empowered to Spread God's Love

***HYMN #12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

***BENEDICTION**

(Guest Speaker will share the benediction)

***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 670**

From the Rising of the Sun 670

(Psalm 113)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'From the ris - ing of the sun to the go - ing down' and guitar chords G, D, G, C. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'of the same, the name of the Lord shall be' and guitar chords D, G, Am7, D. There are dashes under the lyrics 'shall be' indicating the hymn continues.

(Hymn continues next page)

praised. From the ris-ing of the sun to the

go-ing down of the same, the name of the Lord shall be

praised. So praise ye the Lord.

Praise ye the Lord. From the

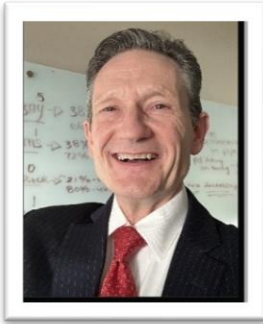
ris - ing of the sun to the go-ing down of the same,

the name of the Lord shall be praised.

THE POSTLUDE

OFFERING: Whether you are just passing through town and wanted to stop in for church, this is your first visit of many future ones, or you are with us every week, we certainly appreciate your desire to give anonymously, but if you would like to receive a record of giving for tax purposes, please fill out a pew envelope, check 'I am visiting', and add your name and address. Please make checks payable to: Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church. We appreciate every generous gift and want to make sure we have a proper record of it to say, Thank you!

Welcome!



Today we welcome Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church Elder Herb Williams, to our pulpit. Herb grew up in Iselin and retired after a career in the Woodbridge Police Department. He attended Sunday school at the lower level of this church (formerly The First Presbyterian Church of Iselin). His mother, Ann Marie, served as an elder in the former Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, Edison, NJ, where she was a beloved member. Herb has two sons, one daughter, and three grandchildren.

Friendly Reminders

Today	Herb Williams, Guest Speaker	
Thursday 10/23/2025	Prayer Shawl – Choir Room	7 pm
Sunday 10/24/2025	Deadline for Front Porch/Door Decorating Contest	Send entries to info@oaktree-iselinpres.org
Sunday 10/26 – 12/7	Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker	
Saturday 11/1/2025	Men's Breakfast & CLEF Ladies' Breakfast	Fellowship Hall 9 am
Saturday 11/1/2025	Daylight Savings Time Ends 11/2/2025	Move all time devices back an hour before bedtime.
Sunday 11/09/2025	Session	After worship
Sunday 11/16/2025	Alaine & David's Wedding Reception	Fellowship Hall After worship
Thursday 11/27 & 11/28	Thanksgiving Day and Day After	Office Closed

Scheduled Liturgists!

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) context, a liturgist sets the tone for worship. They welcome everyone, lead and guide both the congregation and guests through the various parts of worship and assists the pastor throughout the worship service to create an atmosphere of peace, cohesiveness and unity. (www.pcusa.org)

October 2025	
Today	Betsy Christensen
10/26/25	Ron Stamboly

November 2025	
11/02/25	Sue Ramirez
11/09/25	Herb Williams
11/16/25	Betsy Christensen
11/23/25	Len Mesonas
11/30/25 (1 st Day of Advent)	Ron Stamboly

December 2025	
12/07/25	Sue Ramirez
12/14/25	Herb Williams
12/21/25	Betsy Christensen
12/24/25	Len Mesonas
12/28/25	Ron Stamboly

To all who answered the call to serve as liturgists, Thank you!
Please email Margarita Estrada at info@oaktree-iselinpres.org or call her at (732) 283-1188, if you'd like further opportunities to serve as liturgists.

Per Capita

The per capita for 2025 is \$40.

Session

Laura Reeves, Clerk of Session

Betsy Christensen	Mission
Jim Durgana	Treasurer
Leonard Mesonas	Human Resources, Officer Nominating Committee
Leonard Mesonas	Finance Chair, President of Corporation
Heather Meyers	Christian Education
Sue Ramirez	Worship and Music
Jeff Reeves	Buildings and Grounds
Ron Stamboly	Financial Secretary
Herb Williams	Mission

The Board of Deacons

Rose Anne Anthony, Moderator

Nikkie Hayase, Board Secretary

Kate Scott, Session Liaison

Cards	Marion Feliks, Chair
Deacon's Assistance Fund	Joan Moscomagas, Chair
Deacon's Nominating Comm.	Joan Moscomagas, Chair
Flowers	Joanne Mesonas, Chair
Hospitality	Rose Anne Anthony, Chair
Literature	Nikkie Hayase, Chair
Ministry of Compassion	Nancy Abel / Sara Schweitzer (non-deacons)
Prayer Partners	Nikkie Hayase, Chair
Welfare	Joan Moscomagas, Chair
Nandai Sookhoo	TBD
Karen Wallner	TBD

Regular Activities

Church Office is open Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Men's Breakfast & CLEF Ladies Breakfast meet 1st Saturday in Fellowship Hall.

Session meetings are held monthly (dates will be posted in the Friendly Reminders section).

Prayer Shawl Ministry, every Thursday at 7 pm, Choir Room

Choir practice: Every Sunday at 9:30 am

Divine Worship: In the sanctuary
Sundays at 10:30 am

Our Mission Statement



We are a warm and welcoming community of faith, living the teachings of Jesus Christ and open to God's presence through the power of the Holy Spirit. We seek new pathways of ministry and service to fulfil God's purpose for our diverse community. - approved by the merger committee on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 and ratified by congregational vote, June 11, 2023.

Dear Members and Guests, if you'd like to know more information about the latest news,



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