

OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

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Sunday, November 16, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker

Liturgist: Elder Betsy Christensen

Nancy Nahm, Guest Organist



⁴⁹ 'Heaven is My throne, And the earth is the footstool for My feet; What kind of house will you build for Me?' says the Lord, 'Or what place is there for My rest?' ⁵⁰ 'Was it not My hand that made all these things?'

Gathering for Worship

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

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Centering Thought

We want to put our trust in you but find ourselves trying to control outcomes in the future. Like Jesus' disciples, we want to know the answers to when and how you will call us to follow and trust. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

PRELUDE

Nancy Nahm, Guest Organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Betsy Christensen

CHORAL INTROIT # 652 A Grateful Heart (all verses)

A Grateful Heart (Psalm 111)

652

1 A grate - ful heart is what I bring, a song of
2 Your name is known in all the lands. You feed the
3 With sav - ing love you set us free, and still you

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The bass staff has the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

praise, my of - fer - ing. A - mong the saints I
poor with gen - tle hands. Your word is true, your
dwell in mys - ter - y with wis - dom none can

The second system of musical notation continues with a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The bass staff has the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

(Hymn continues next page)

lift my voice: in you, O God, I will re-joice.
 works are just; in you, O God, the faith-ful trust.
 com-pre-hend. Your praise, O God, will nev-er end.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Betsy Christensen

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

And also with you.

Let us worship God!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)**

Betsy Christensen

God of our lives, in a world full of challenges, you call us to be doers of your Word, to love you with everything we have and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. May we always live lives worthy of our calling as your beloved children. When we despair, give us the comfort and courage that comes from your Holy Spirit. Let us never tire of doing good in the name of and with the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

***HYMN # 276 Sing A New Song**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

(Psalm 32:5)

Betsy Christensen

The psalmist wrote, “Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” Let us not hide our sins from God, but confess before God and one another, assured of God’s gracious forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Betsy Christensen

Gracious and loving God, we confess that we are troubled by the events of our lives and the state of this world. Headlines are full of wars, insurrections, suffering, earthquakes, famines, and death. These things are enough to shake our faith and undermine our confidence in your promise. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. Deliver us from speculation that distracts us from faithful living and loving service. Forgive us when we doubt your promises. Help us to endure that we may gain our souls, always bearing witness to your love and grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

(Psalm 103:11-12)

Rev. Donald Pitches

“For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God’s steadfast love toward those who fear him.” “As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.” Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

***THE RESPONSE # 581 Glory Be to the Father**

(Hymn begins next page)

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, while the bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble clef features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, and the bass line maintains a steady accompaniment.

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

The third system continues the musical progression. The treble clef has several quarter notes, and the bass line provides a consistent accompaniment.

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

The fourth system concludes the piece. The treble clef features a final melodic phrase with a fermata over the last note, and the bass line ends with a final chord. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

***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

TIME FOR CHILDREN OR THE YOUNG IN HEART

Rev. Donald Pitches

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Betsy Christensen

Almighty God, Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!” Open our hearts and minds to the reading and hearing of your holy Word today, that we may be doers of the Word, and not hearers only. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Word made flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Betsy Christensen

Exodus 25: 1-9 (Easy English Bible)

The Lord said to Moses: ² ‘Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. Every person who wants to give can make a gift to me. You must receive their gifts. ³ These are the gifts that you must receive from the people as an offering: gold, silver and bronze; ⁴ blue, purple and red material; good linen and goat's hair; ⁵ red leather from sheep's skins and other good leather; wood from acacia trees; ⁶ olive oil for the lamps; spices for the special oil and for incense with a nice smell; ⁷ onyx and other jewels to fix on the priest's ephod and his breastpiece. ⁸ You must tell the Israelites to make a special place to be my home. Then I will live among them. ⁹ I will show you how to make this tabernacle and everything that you will put inside it. But you must make everything in the way that I tell you.

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Donald Pitches

Acts 7:44-50 (Amplified Bible)

⁴⁴ “Our fathers had the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness, just as God directed Moses to make it according to the pattern which he had seen. ⁴⁵ Our fathers also brought it in with them into the land with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations whom God drove out before our fathers, and so it remained here until the time of David, ⁴⁶ who found favor, grace and spiritual blessing in the sight of God and asked that he might be allowed to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. ⁴⁸ However, the Most High, the One infinitely exalted above humanity does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet Isaiah says, ⁴⁹ ‘Heaven is My throne, And the earth is the footstool for My feet; What kind of house will you build for Me?’ says the Lord, ‘Or what place is there for My rest? ⁵⁰ ‘Was it not My hand that made all these things?’

THE MESSAGE

The Sanctuary Tells a Story

Rev. Donald Pitches

***HYMN # 738 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Rev. Donald Pitches

(from “A Brief Statement of Faith”)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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

The apostle Paul reminds us, "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." With gratitude for God's goodness and in response to God's indescribable gift of Jesus Christ, let us present our tithes and offerings.

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 647

647

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for us!"

And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

***THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great and giving God, we know every good and perfect gift comes from you. In return, we give these offerings and pray they will not only supply the needs of others but also overflow with many thanksgivings to you. Thank you for our many blessings. Lord, show us how to use what you have given us to be a blessing to others. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Indescribable gift. **Amen.**

Empowered to Spread God's Love

***HYMN # 666 O Splendor of God's Glory Bright**

***BENEDICTION** (Rev. Pitches will share the benediction)

*CHORAL BENEDICTION # 519

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak 519

You Are My All in All

Capo 5: (C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (C)

F C Dm7 Am F

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the trea- sure that I

(Dm7) (C) (G7) (C) (G7) (C) (G)

Gm7 F C7 F C7 F C

seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me

(Am7) (Em) (C) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)

Dm7 Am F Gm7 F C7 B^b F

up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G) (C) (G7)

F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C F C7

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)

F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C7 B^b F

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

The bottom of the page shows the bass line for the first two lines of the song, including a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The bass line consists of chords and single notes.

THE POSTLUDE

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Liturgy written by Philip K. Gladden and provided for free distribution.

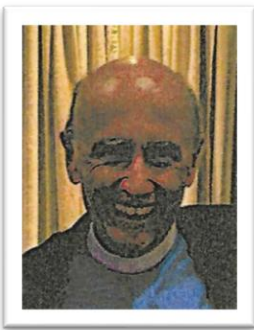
Adapted for the Oak Tree-Iselin Pres. Church by Rev. Donald Pitches

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!

Rev. Donald Pitches



I was ordained by the Hudson River Presbytery in 1976 in the Dayspring PC in Yonkers, NY. My first church was the Immanuel PC in Amsterdam, NY, and The First Presbyterian Church of West Galway, from 1976-1984. Moving to New Jersey in 1984 I became a member of the Presbytery of the Palisades. In September 1984, I was an occasional Pulpit Supply at the First PC of Carlstadt, NJ

In January 1985, I became the part-time Stated Supply Pastor for the Frist presbyterian Church of Carlstadt, while also serving as a hospice chaplain in Montclair and as NJ State Correctional Chaplain. From 1991-2019, I served the Carlstadt church full-time, retiring at the end of December 2019. During my Pastorate I was active in many Borough, civic and community organizations, including the Bergen County Council of Churches, serving as President for four years. I was a Child Assault Prevention Educator with NJ-CAP for twenty

years. I also participated in the Bergen County Brotherhood and Sisterhood Committee. I served the Carlstadt Fire Department as Chaplain from 1986 to 2019, and from 1998 until 2019 as a firefighter with Engine Company 1, rising to the rank of Captain.

Following retirement, my wife and I moved to Franklin Park, NJ to be near our daughter and her family in Kendall Park, NJ. Since then, my primary retirement occupation has been caring for two granddaughters, Beatrice, and Emily, before and after school. In addition, I served a term as session moderator and pulpit supply at Grace Presbyterian Church in Kendall Park, where I was privileged to work with the student minister, Rev. J. Warner. Since then, I have served as pulpit supply in numerous presbytery churches.

Friendly Reminders

Today through 12/7/2025	Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker	
Today 11/16/2025	Alaine & David's Wedding Reception	Fellowship Hall After worship
Friday 11/21	M Estrada Vacation Days	
Sunday 11/23/2025	Thanksgiving Potluck	After worship
Thursday 11/27 & 11/28	Thanksgiving Day and Day After	Office Closed
Saturday 11/29/2025	Greening of the Church	5 pm
Sunday 11/30/2025	1 st Sunday in Advent	
Sunday 12/07/2025	Communion Sunday	

Per Capita

The per capita for 2025 is \$40.

A Message from The Ministry of Compassion: Thanksgiving and Christmas is a difficult time for many families in our community. We are requesting donations for the following items so that we can include them in the distribution packages for November 17th and December 15th:

Instant Potatoes	Stuffing Mix	Gravy
Yams	Cranberry Sauce	Frozen Turkeys
Turkey Breasts	Frozen Yams	Canned Yams
Frozen Chickens		

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). Please email Margarita at info@oaktree-iselinprs.org if you'd like an opportunity to serve as a liturgist.

November 2025	
Today	Betsy Christensen
11/23/25	Len Mesonas
11/30/25 (1 st Sunday of Advent)	Ron Stamboly

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

Year 2026

January 2026	
01/04/26	
01/11/26	
01/18/26	Betsy Christensen
01/25/26	Ron Stamboly

Look Forward to:



*Alaine and David's Wedding Reception!
Today, after worship service!*



*Thanksgiving Potluck Covered Dish Luncheon
Sunday, November 23, 2025
After worship service!
Bring a dish!
Invite a friend!*

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 & Karen Wallner Co-Chairs
Hospitality	Rose Anne Anthony, Chair
Literature	Nikkie Hayase & Nandai Sookho, Co-Chairs
Ministry of Compassion	Nancy Abel / Sara Schweitzer (non-deacons)
Prayer Partners	Nikkie Hayase, Chair
Welfare	Joan Moscomagas, Chair

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, Thursdays at 7 pm, Choir Room. For dates, connect with Elder Sue Ramirez.

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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Cover Photo: Sara Schweitzer; Cake, Flower, Thanksgiving line drawing by vector.com.