

OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

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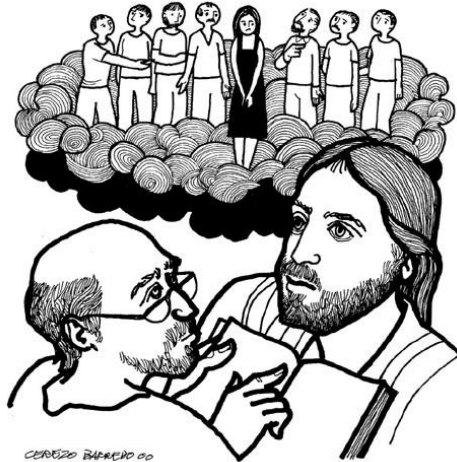
Sunday, November 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker

Liturgist: Elder Herb Williams

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.

Centering Thought

Loving God, we breathe in your goodness. In the quiet of this moment, we rest in your presence. As our bodies still, our hearts turn to you in gratitude. Every part of us, every one of us, every bit of who we are is precious to you, our Beloved Creator.

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton Director of Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Herb Williams

CHORAL INTROIT # 652 A Grateful Heart (all verses)

A Grateful Heart

652

(Psalm 111)

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 in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics for the first system are: '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'.

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 the treble and bass staves. The lyrics for the second system are: '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'.

(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 (Responsive)**

Herb Williams

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

We will break forth into joyous song, and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord;

Make a joyful noise with trumpet and the sound of the horn.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.

The floods clap their hands and the hills sing out together;

Let us join in the joyful song of creation.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Herb Williams

What a gift to bear witness to the fruits of your Spirit ripening around us: love between dear friends, the joy of laughter, peace being rebuilt where violence was once the norm. We give you thanks for these signs of your goodness and grace. We pray for your Church, that we may be one in spirit and in truth. May we see the face of Christ in the faces of our siblings, our friends, neighbors, fellow worshippers, cherishing the diversity and variety of gifts each one brings. Shape and refine us in this time of worship that we might walk together in your ways.

And all God's people said, **AMEN**

***HYMN # 370 This Is My Father's World**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Herb Williams

Though we are prone to wander, the spirit of God abides among us.
Trusting in God's persistent love and mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Herb Williams

Gracious God, we confess that we are too easily influenced by peddlers of despair and alarm, too quick to sink into numbness and apathy, too tired to imagine another way. Our hopes have crumbled, and our hearts are faint. Breathe new life into us, we pray. Help us to be mindful of your promises, your faithfulness, and your presence as we face the challenges of our lives. Restore our vision and give us courage to live in your truth.
Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Herb Williams

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 145)

Donald Pitches

God's ways are just, and God's kindness is constant. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Beloved, God draws near to us with compassion and forgives our sins. Thanks be to God, we are a forgiven people. **Amen.**

***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 the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The vocal line begins with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes G3, A3, B3, and C4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1.

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

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has quarter notes D4, E4, F4, and G4, followed by a half note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1.

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

The third system continues the melody. The vocal line has quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, followed by a half note C5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: E1, D1, C1, B0, A0, G0, F0, E0.

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

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note G5. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes: D0, C0, B0, A0, G0, F0, E0, D0. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Ron Stamboly

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

Choral Anthem

We Give You Thanks *(David Haas)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Herb Williams

God of wisdom, open your word to your people today, and open the hearts of your people to your Word. Let us receive the truth that your Spirit is speaking to the church, trusting that it will nourish and strengthen us.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Herb Williams

Haggai 1:14-15-2:9 (The Living Bible)

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ And the Lord gave them a desire to rebuild his Temple; so they all gathered in early September of the second year of King Darius's reign and volunteered their help.

² In early October of the same year, the Lord sent them this message through Haggai: ² "Ask this question of the governor and High Priest and everyone left in the land: ³ "Who among you can remember the Temple as it was before? How glorious it was! In comparison, it is nothing now, is it?"

⁴ But take courage, O Zerubbabel and Joshua and all the people; take courage and work, for I am with you, says the Lord Almighty. ⁵ For I promised when you left Egypt that my Spirit would remain among you; so don't be afraid.' ⁶ "For the Lord Almighty says, 'In just a little while I will begin to shake the heavens and earth—and the oceans, too, and the dry

land. ⁷ I will shake all nations, and the Desire of All Nations shall come to this Temple, and I will fill this place with my glory,' says the Lord Almighty. ⁸⁻⁹ 'The future splendor of this Temple will be greater than the splendor of the first one! For I have plenty of silver and gold to do it! And here I will give peace,' says the Lord."

SCRIPTURE READING

Donald Pitches

Luke 20:27-38 (*Easy English Bible*)

The Sadducees ask Jesus a question.

²⁷ Then some of the Sadducees came to see Jesus. The Sadducees do not believe that anyone becomes alive again after they die. ²⁸ They wanted to ask Jesus a question. 'Teacher,' they said to him, 'Moses wrote this in the Bible for us: "A man may die and leave a wife but no children. Then that man's brother must marry the woman. Then their children will be called the children of the brother who died."' ²⁹ But once there were seven brothers. The oldest brother married a woman. Then he died before they had any children. ³⁰ So the second brother married this woman. But he also died without children. ³¹ Then the third brother married the woman. The same thing happened to all seven brothers. They all died but they had no children. ³² After all this, the woman also died. ³³ You teach that one day dead people will become alive again. So, on that day, whose wife will the woman be? She had married all seven of those brothers.' ³⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Men and women who are alive on earth are the ones who get married. ³⁵ But God has chosen some people to live again with him. He will raise them up after they have died. Those people will not marry. They will not have husbands or wives, ³⁶ and they cannot die any more. This is because they will live as the angels live in heaven. They are children of God. He has made them alive again to live with him. ³⁷ It is true that God makes dead people become alive again. Moses showed us this in his report about the bush in the wilderness. He told us that our Lord God is the God of Abraham. He is the God of Isaac. And he is the God of Jacob. ³⁸ But God is not the God of people who are dead. He is the God of people who are alive. For God, all people continue to be alive.'

***HYMN # 363 Rejoice the Lord is King**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Donald Pitches

“I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.” (*John 14:6*)

Jesus Christ has been made wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption for us by God.” As Jesus Christ is God’s comforting pronouncement of the forgiveness of all our sins, so, with equal seriousness, he is also God’s vigorous announcement of his claim upon our whole life. Through him there comes to us joyful liberation from the godless ties of this world for free, grateful service to his creatures. We reject the false doctrine that there could be areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ but to other lords, areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

(Selections from the Barmen Declaration)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We acknowledge that our lives contains both joy and distress, pain and contentment, burden and ease. Your grace is wide enough to cover the fullness of our needs, our dreams, and our experiences, varied as they are, and for that we give you thanks. We lift up all of these prayers to you, O God, knowing that you listen with love and care. We join our voices together in praying the prayer you taught us, “Our Father...”

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 # 647 Give Thanks

647

Give Thanks

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics: "Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;". The second system also begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics: "give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give". The third system begins with a second ending bracket and contains the lyrics: "Son. And now let the weak say, 'We are strong'; let the".

(Hymn continues next page)

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.

O God, may the resources that are gathered here be a blessing to the world you so love. Guard our paths and do not let our feet slip; keep us as the apple of your eye. Give us wisdom and humility as we seek to be faithful stewards of all your good gifts. **Amen.**

Empowered to Spread God's Love

***HYMN # 838 Standing on the Promises**

***BENEDICTION**

God called you through our gospel so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, siblings in Christ, stand firm and hold fast to this

good news. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, together with the Holy Spirit and God our Father, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word. **Amen.**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 616 (2X)**

Our God Is an Awesome God 616

Awesome God

Our God is an awe-some God who reigns from heav-en a-bove
with wis - dom, power, and love; our God is an awe-some God!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef, 2/2 time signature, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, with chords C, G, D, and Em indicated above the notes. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics, with chords C, G, Am, Em, B7, and Em indicated above the notes.

THE POSTLUDE

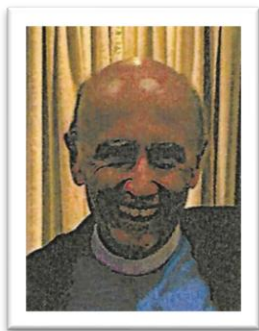
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OFFERING: Whether you are just passing through town and wanted to stop in for church, this is your first visit of many future ones, or you are with us every week, we certainly appreciate your desire to give anonymously, but if you would like to receive 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 First 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 11/09/2025	Session	After worship
Today 11/09/2025	Deacons	After worship
Friday 11/14 & 11/21	M Estrada Vacation Days	
Sunday 11/16/2025	Alaine & David's Wedding Reception	Fellowship Hall After worship
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 Communion	

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)

November 2025	
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

Year 2026

January 2026	
01/04/26	
01/11/26	
01/18/26	Betsy Christensen
01/25/26	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.

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, 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: Cerezo Barredo; istock.com; Flower line drawing by vector.com.