OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830
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Sunday, June 21, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Herb Williams

Liturgist: Elder Jim Durgana 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

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. - Galatians 3:28

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Jim Durgana**

CHORAL INTROIT # 404 What Is This Place *(all verses)*

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)** **Jim Durgana**

Come, let us worship the Lord who made the heavens and the earth.
We lift our eyes to the mountains—our help comes from the Lord.
The One who formed the seas and filled them with life calls us to rejoice.
We will sing to the Lord, for His works are wonderful and His love endures forever
This is the day the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it!
Come with thankful hearts and open hands.
We come to worship the Lord with gladness and sing His praise together. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (Responsive)** **Jim Durgana**

Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.
Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, giving strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

Almighty God, across the ages you have guided your people through the wilderness, assuring us of a home with you.

Throughout all time, you have been with your people in the seasons of life. You have given us the precious gift of time – time in your glorious creation, time with loved ones, time with your most holy Word, time to live, love, laugh, worship, and serve. How precious are these gifts, O God! We are grateful for your presence – as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – that you have shown us the way of life and faith.

Heavenly Father, you are the LORD, you alone.
You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. We exalt and glorify you, Lord, and proclaim your majesty, mercy and grace to all the world.
Amen

***HYMN # 263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Jim Durgana**
Before we hear the Word read and proclaimed, let us prepare our hearts through the confession of our individual and collective sins.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison) **Jim Durgana**
You send us, God of the Great Commission, but we hedge and hesitate. Forgive our fear and our excuses. We are witnesses of your grace and glory but allow others to silence our praise. We imprison ourselves with doubt and shame and fail to shine your light for all to see. Forgive our fears. Free our testimony. Help us be your faithful disciples. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION **Jim Durgana**
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**

Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. Hear the good news! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, we are forgiven, we are forgiven and freed. **Amen.**

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

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** **Jim Durgana**

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 AT HEART **Herb Williams**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Jim Durgana**

Almighty God, your Word is a lamp to our feet on this discipleship road. Jesus our Savior, walk with us and guide us with your wisdom and grace. Spirit of Truth, open us to discerning your will and your way. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Genesis 21:8-21** **Jim Durgana**
Pew Bible pg. 20
Large Print Bible: pg. 29-30
(L*iturgist, to create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)*

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Matthew 10:24-39** **Herb Williams**
Pew Bible pg. 991-992
Large Print Bible: pg. 1511-1512
(Guest Speaker, to create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)

THE MESSAGE **Stranger, Slave, Suffering Servant** **Herb Williams**

***HYMN # 343 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from the Westminster Confession)* **Herb Williams**

We believe man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

We believe God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, every where present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

We believe there is but one God only, the living and true God.

We believe there are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties.

We believe the Scriptures manifest that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father, ascribing unto them such names, attributes, works, and worship, as are proper to God only.

We believe the only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever.
We believe we are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

We believe justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

We believe at the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

We proclaim this is the true Word of the God of Israel, our Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Responsive)

God of courage, you send us into the world with a word of life, even when that word is difficult to speak and hard to receive.

You know the ties that bind us: families and friendships, congregations and communities, traditions handed down by those we love. Teach us to honor these gifts without making idols of them. Give us courage to follow Christ when his way unsettles what is familiar, challenges what we have inherited and calls us toward deeper truth. When we face resistance from those closest to us, steady our hearts. When we are tempted to keep a fragile peace by avoiding hard conversations, give us wisdom and grace. When we speak too quickly, humble us. When we stay silent out of fear, strengthen us.

God of compassion, help us bear witness with love, patience and conviction, trusting that your gospel is not ours to control, but ours to embody.

On this Father's Day, we give thanks for fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, mentors and all who have offered steady love, protection, guidance and blessing. We thank you for those who taught us courage, showed us tenderness, encouraged our questions and helped us grow into the people you created us to be. We pray also for those for whom this day is complicated: those grieving fathers they have lost, those longing to be fathers, those estranged from fathers or children, those wounded by a father's absence or harm. Hold each one in your compassion. Heal what is broken. Bless what has been life-giving. Help all who father and nurture others to reflect your justice, gentleness and steadfast love.

God of summer, this world is yours, and we live by your abundance.
The heat and humidity can be oppressive, God, except for those with access to swimming pools, air conditioning and cool places of rest. So we pray for those without access or excess. We pray for people without safe shelter or respite from the heat. We pray for those whose lives are threatened by rising temperatures. We pray for the poor and impoverished in this country and around the world. May we find ways to shelter, protect and nurture all your children. Hear our thanks and praise for the blessings of this season.

Hear, also, God of mercy, our prayers for those who are struggling.
Especially, we pray for: The people of warring countries; Those who groan with grief; Those who are isolated and alone; Those who are sick and their caregivers; Those who are overwhelmed and exhausted; Those whose families are strained, divided or hurting; Those who are seeking courage to tell the truth in love; Those who — for whatever reason — cannot enjoy the blessings of summer.

In your mercy, Beloved God, hear the prayers of your people. Now, as the Body of Christ, we pray as Christ 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.

We Give, in Appreciation for God's Gifts

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

***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 a prayer)

Empowered to Spread God's Love

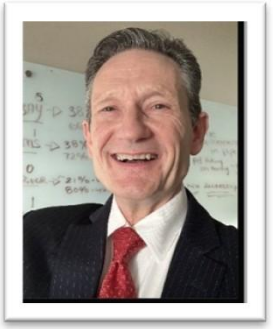
***HYMN # 203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love**

***BENEDICTION** *(Guest Speaker will share benediction)*

***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 745 Now Go in Joy** *(2x)*

THE POSTLUDE

Welcome!



This morning, 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 & remainder of June	Elder Herb Williams will lead worship	
07/05/2026	We welcome Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez as pastor.	

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

June 2026	
Today	Jim Durgana
06/28/26	Ron Stamboly

July 2026	
07/05/26	Betsy Christensen
07/12/26	Lilliam Colon-Gilzean
07/19/26	Herb Williams
07/26/26	Ron Stamboly

August 2026	
08/02/26	Heather Meyers
08/09/26	Len Mesonas
08/16/26	Joanne Mesonas
08/23/26	Herb Williams
08/30/26	Ron Stamboly

Looking forward to...

Our Nation's 250th Birthday!

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776

Our nation's 250th birthday will be celebrated on July 4, 2026. As this day comes closer, let's reflect on the beauty of the above statement with gratefulness and love, and continue to work hard to live up to its promise.

Welcoming our new pastor!

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez will begin her journey with the Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church starting Wednesday, July 1, 2026, and will deliver her first sermon on as pastor of this church Sunday, July 5, 2026.

Session

Laura Reeves, Clerk of Session

Jim Durgana	Treasurer
Grace Rozger	Human Resources
Leonard Mesonas	Finance Chair, President of Corporation; Officer Nomination Committee
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 & Nancy Abel, Co-Chairs
Literature	Nikkie Hayase & Nandai Sookho, Co-Chairs
Ministry of Compassion	Nancy Abel, Chair / Sara Schweitzer, Co-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, every other Thursday at 7 pm, Choir Room
(see Sue Ramirez for confirmation)

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,

Visit Scan QR code to website! Visit us on Facebook and Instagram, @oaktreeiselinpreschurchnj and YouTube @oaktreeiselinpresnj.
Email us at: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org
Cover Photo: "Clear Vision" and created by artist Lauren Wright Pittman.