# OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

*Pentecost Sunday!*

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830
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(732) 283-1188
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Sunday, June 7, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Linwood Bagby

Liturgist: Elder Heather Meyers 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**

"Transition is not an empty waiting room; it is the threshold of God's next movement. When our Church scenery shifts, God challenges us to change our strategy—to let go of yesterday and open our eyes to the fresh rivers of grace springing up right in front of us. Let us enter worship today ready to perceive the 'new thing' God is doing in our midst."

**PRELUDE** **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** **Heather Meyers**

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

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)** Based on Isaiah 43) **Heather Meyers**
I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.
**God makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters.**
Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
**Look! God is doing a new thing! Now it springs forth!**
Let us perceive it, let us rejoice, and let us worship God together.
**Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)** **Heather Meyers**
**God of our past and Lord of our future, we thank you for the beautiful ways you have sustained this congregation through every season. As we stand on the threshold of this new chapter, let us clear our vision so we may perceive the new things you are doing in our midst. Send your Holy Spirit to guide our steps, unite our hearts, and equip us to welcome Pastor Jennifer with joy. Help us to encourage one another, build each other up, and live out our faith boldly on the path you have prepared for us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

***HYMN # 305 Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION** **Heather Meyers**

As we prepare our hearts to receive God's Word, let us confess the ways we cling to our own comfort rather than trusting where the Holy Spirit leads. Let us pray together.

**PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)** **Heather Meyers**

**Holy and Righteous God, we confess that we are often blind to the new things you are doing in our midst. We anchor ourselves in the safety of the past and grow anxious about the wilderness of change. We fail to encourage one another, and we neglect to build each other up as one body. Forgive us for our lack of patience, our smallness of faith, and our failure to give thanks in all circumstances. Clear our vision, renew our hearts, and strengthen our hands to serve your kingdom side-by-side. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

**PERSONAL CONFESSION** **Heather Meyers**

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** **Linwood Bagby**

Hear the good news! God does not dwell on our past failures or hold us to our old ways. In Jesus Christ, the old has passed away and the new has come. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** **Heather Meyers**

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** **Linwood Bagby**

**ANTHEM** **We Praise You, O God** *(Gedenck-Clanck)*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** **Heather Meyers**
Holy Spirit, open our hearts to perceive your presence, open our minds to understand your truth, and open our wills to follow your way. May the scriptures read and the word proclaimed equip us to live out our faith with joy. **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** **Isaiah 43:15–19** **Heather Meyers**
**Pew Bible pg. 744-745**
**Large Print Bible: pg. 1127**
(*Liturgist, to create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)*

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** **1 Thessalonians 5:11–18** **Linwood Bagby**
**Pew Bible pg. 1204**
**Large Print Bible: pg. 1841**
*(Guest Speaker, to create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)*

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THE MESSAGE** **The Holy Interlude: New Scenery, New Strategy**
**Linwood Bagby**

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

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH– NICENE CREED** **Linwood Bagby**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

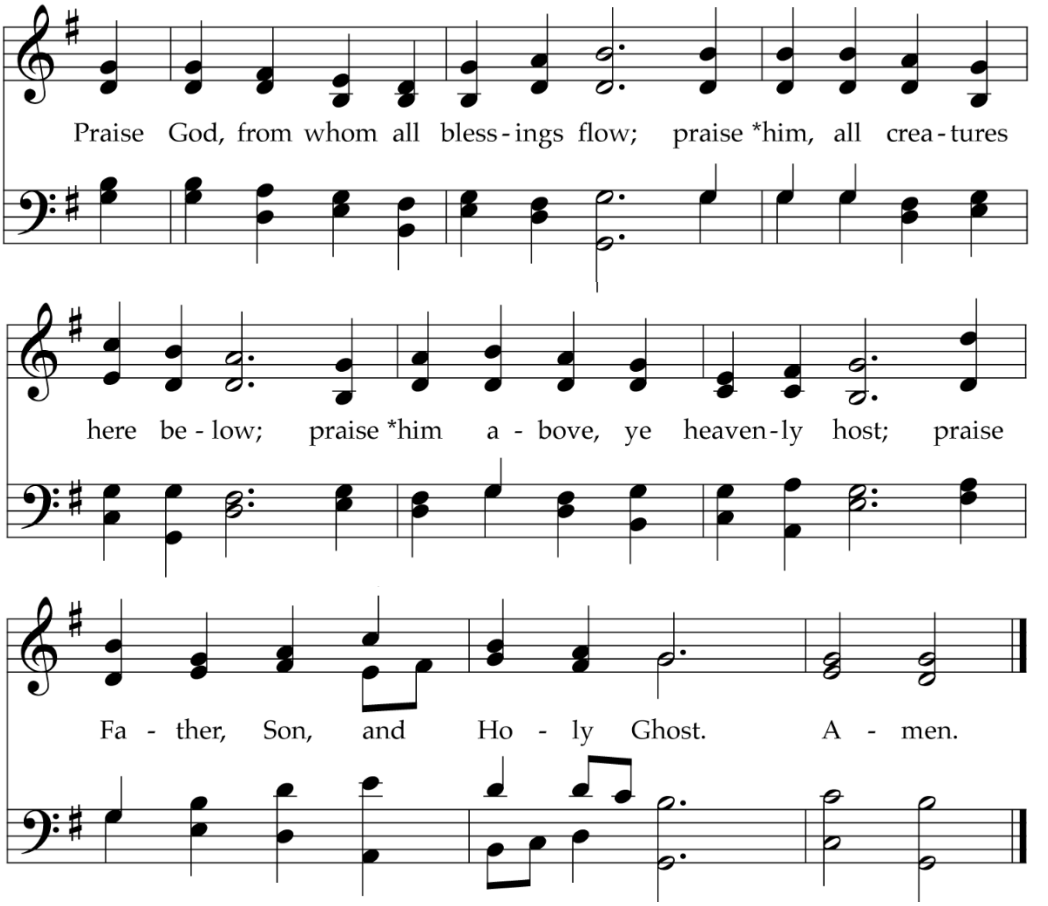
## *We Give, in Appreciation for God's Gifts*

**THE OFFERING**

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

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 606**

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

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

**Gracious God, take these gifts and use them for your glory. May they build up this community, encourage the weary, and help us live out our faith as we step boldly into the new season you have prepared for our church. Amen.**

# *The Eucharist*

***COMMUNION HYMN # 500 Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread**

**THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when the risen Lord was at the table with his friends, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

**THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our great joy… who forever sing to the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**
**Hosanna in the highest.**
**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.**
**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty… that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died,**
**Christ is risen,**
**Christ will come again.**
Gracious God…now and forever. **Amen**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:
**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**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**
We remember that on the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread, and having given thanks to You, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: *"Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*
In the same way, he took the cup, saying: *"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.* Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body; for it is one loaf of which we partake. When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.
**Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER AFTER SUPPER**
**Loving God, we thank You for having fed us at this table. You have turned our mourning into dancing and our isolation into community. Send us out now with burning hearts, to share the good news that Christ is risen and walks with us always. Amen.**

# Empowered to Spread God's Love

***HYMN # 339 Lift Every Voice and Sing**

*** CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION** (Based on 1 Thessalonians 5)
Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing. Respect those who labor among you and hold your new pastor, Reverend Jennifer Rodriguez, in the highest regard in love. Be at peace among yourselves. Be patient with everyone. See that no one repays evil for evil but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

*** BENEDICTION**
May you rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you always.
**People: Amen!**

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

**THE POSTLUDE**

## Welcome!

**Today, we welcome Elder Linwood Bagby, CRE to our pulpit.**
Linwood Bagby, a West Deptford, NJ native with degrees from The College of New Jersey and Kean University, is a retired Speech and Language Specialist from the Elizabeth Public Schools. He is a Ruling Elder and Lead Facilitator at Second Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, serves on the Northeast Presbytery of New Jersey, and is CEO of Restore Ministries, Inc.

# Friendly Reminders

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Today!** | Elder Linwood Bagby will lead worship | |
| 6/14 & remainder of June | Elder Herb Williams will lead worship | |
| 07/05/2026 | We welcome Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez as pastor. | |

# Scheduled Liturgists!

| **June 2026** | |
|---|---|
| **Today** | Heather Meyers |
| 06/14/26 | Len Mesonas |
| 06/21/26 | Jim Durgana |
| 06/28/26 | Ron Stamboly |

# Look forward to 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,*

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