OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830
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(732) 283-1188
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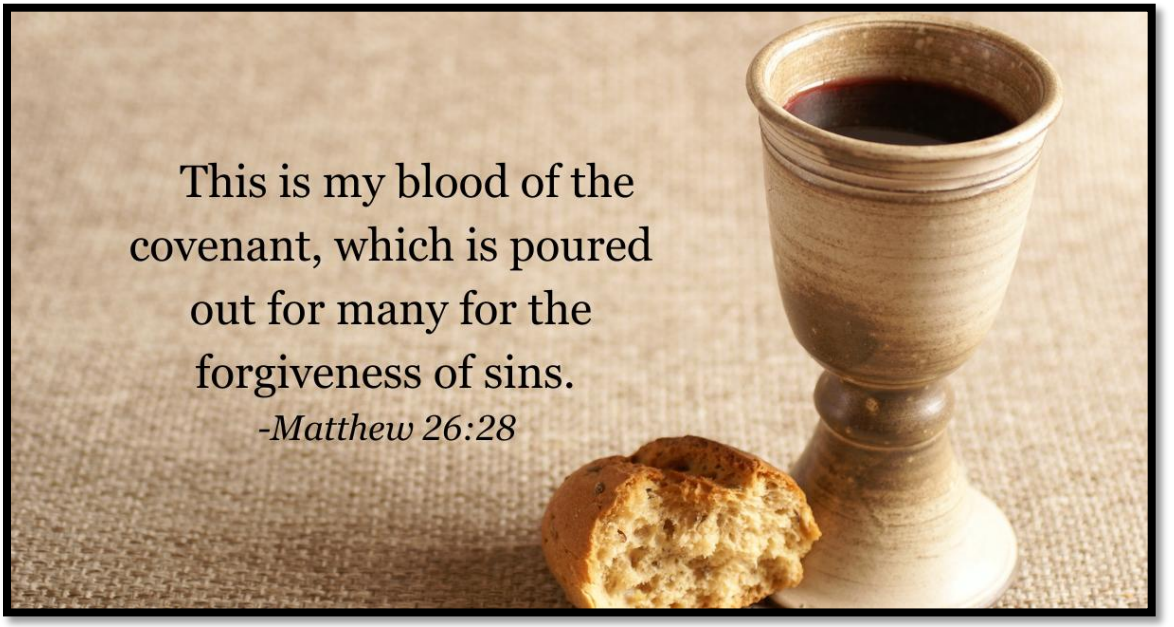
Sunday, July 5, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

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.

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Betsy Christensen**

CHORAL INTROIT # 276 Sing a New Song unto the Lord *(vs 1)*

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)** **Betsy Christensen**
(Adapted from "A Proposed New Confession for the PC(USA) 2026")

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Before us, beneath us, beyond us, ever creating,
God breathes life into all that is,
rejoicing in its abundant goodness.
All of creation sings praise to God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)** **Betsy Christensen**
God of all generations, strengthen our faith so that we may find our security and confidence in you alone. Help us to understand clearly why we believe in you and to remain steadfast in that faith. In a world filled with countless choices and competing voices, remind us that you are the one true God—the source of light, truth, and life. Continue to guide us, sustain us, and lead us in your everlasting love. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

***HYMN # 32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Betsy Christensen**
Friends, not out of dread and fear, but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer. Together, let us confess our faults and admit our frailty.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison) **Betsy Christensen**
(Adapted from "A Proposed New Confession for the PC(USA) 2026")

Across the ages, we have all forsaken the love of the triune God, following instead gods of our own making. We have honored and enthroned

particular races, religions, and nations as if they were God's favored ones, chosen for privilege while we have ignored, persecuted, and brutalized neighbors in need. We have desecrated the earth, which God created and called good, exploiting our home so that the abundance intended for all becomes the possession of a select few. Hurting one another and God's creation wounding the heart of God, obscuring God's holy glory, and resisting God's sovereign rule. We lament and confess our sin, crying out in repentance: "Forgive us, God, Holy One, Holy Three."

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 **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**
Friends, hear the good news: God is faithful still. Though we have turned away, again and again–from God, from creation, and from our neighbors–the Holy One has never turned away from us.
Hear now the words of Jesus: Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.
May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love. Amen.

***THE RESPONSE # 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

***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 AND THE YOUNG AT HEART Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Betsy Christensen

God of wisdom, as we come before you today, open our hearts and minds to hear your holy Word. May your message take root within us and become alive in our daily lives. Grant us the wisdom and discernment to understand what you are calling us to be and to do. Help us not to keep your truth to ourselves, but empower us to joyfully share the Good News in every corner of the world through our words, our actions, and our love. May our lives reflect your grace and bring glory to your name. In your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 145:8-14 Betsy Christensen
Pew Bible pg. 646-647v
Large Print Bible: pg. 979-980
(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 Romans 7:15-25 Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez
Pew Bible pg. 1151
Large Print Bible: pg. 1756
(To create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)

THE MESSAGE "I do not understand!.... Really?" Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

***HYMN # 286 Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Nicene Creed)* **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**
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 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

God of abundant life, you continue to bless us with your grace even when we are undeserving. With grateful hearts, we offer these gifts to you.

Accept them and use them to bring confidence and security to those who feel they have lost hope. Multiply these offerings so that your mission may continue to grow and flourish in every corner of the world. May they become instruments of your love, compassion, and justice, drawing all people closer to you. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

The Eucharist

***COMMUNION HYMN # 531 Seed, Scattered and Sown**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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
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
(Rev. Jeniffer will share a prayer)

Empowered to Spread God's Love

*** HYMN # 79 Light Dawns on a Weary World**

***BENEDICTION**
God is Good! **All the Time!** All the Time! **God is Good!**
May our Creator. The teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever. And all the People of God say: **Amen!**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 192 Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining** *(vs 1)*

THE POSTLUDE

Welcome!

This morning, we welcome our new pastor, Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez! Rev. Jeniffer, originally from the Dominican Republic, has been involved in intercultural and cross-cultural ministries since the beginning of her career. At the national level, Pastor Jeniffer serves as a minister of diversity, equity, and inclusion with the Presbyterian Foundation. She is also a member of the special committee responsible for drafting a confession to be considered for inclusion in the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Rev. Jeniffer and her husband, Kyle Craig, are the parents of Emma Sophia and Eric Gabriel.

Friendly Reminders

07/06/2026	Office Closed	Observance of Independence Day
07/12/2026	Session	

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.

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.

July 2026	
Today	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

September 2026	
09/06/26	
09/13/26	
09/20j/26	
09/27/26	Ron Stamboly

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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