OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830
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Sunday, August 16, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

Liturgist: Deacon Joanne Mesonas 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

"Once you were disobedient to God, but now you have mercy because they were disobedient." (Romans 11:30)

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Joanne Mesonas**

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

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)** **Joanne Mesonas**

Turn us, O God,
away from the world's temptations and distractions.
Return us, O God,
to the quiet calm of your presence.
Restore us, O God,
to the path you call us to follow.
Orient us, O God,
to the hope of all that is possible through you.

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

God of goodness and mercy, your people are here praising your holy name, acknowledging our need for forgiveness, hungry to hear your Word, and thirsty to do your will. Our being sings to you! Our lips adore you! We give our life as an offering at your service! In the name of our teacher, Jesus, who taught us the importance of listening and learning. Amen.

***HYMN # 700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Joanne Mesonas**

Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (Responsive) **Joanne Mesonas**

God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy. You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless. But we, who benefit from your grace, do not emulate you and your ways. We are quick to condemn, exaggerate critique and act mercilessly. We

confess the ways we demean and dehumanize others. We pray for your forgiveness. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION **Joanne Mesonas**
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**
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** **Joanne Mesonas**
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 **Joanne Mesonas**
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Genesis 45:1-15** **Joanne Mesonas**

Pew Bible pg. 50

Large Print Bible: pg. 75-76

(*Liturgist, to create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Romans 11:1-2, 29-32** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

Pew Bible pg. 1155, 1156

Large Print Bible: pg. 1761, 1763

(To create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)

THE MESSAGE **When Rejection meets Grace** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

*** HYMN # 726 Will You Come and Follow Me**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

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 # 609 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

***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.

Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that you have given us. Take these offerings, we pray, and multiply them for your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate the desire to hoard, and spread the desire to share. Amen.

Empowered to Spread God's Love

***HYMN # 310 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord**

***BENEDICTION**
God is Good: **All the Time!** All the Time: **God is Good!**
We are the Body of Christ, his hands, his feet, his heart, his lungs; bearing witness in this world to God's mercy and love. May the nourishment of God's Word, the accountability of Christian community, and the guidance of God's Holy Spirit fortify us for faithfulness. **Amen**

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

THE POSTLUDE

About Our Pastor

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez, 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

Mon. 8/16 – Wed. 8/19	Margarita Vacation	
Mon. 9/7	Labor Day	Office Closed
Wed. 9/9 at 11 am	Bible Study	Led by Rev. Jeniffer
Sat. 9/12	Men's and CLEF Ladies Breakfasts	9 am in Fellowship Hall
Sun. 9/13	Sunday School Begins	During worship
Sun. 9/27	Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez' Installation	Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at 3 pm

Sunday School Begins September 13th!

We welcome children ages 3 (must be potty trained) to 9th grade. Classes will be held in the Meeting Room. Please note that on the 1st Sunday of the month (Communion Sunday), there is no Sunday School. We encourage you to bring your children to church and worship as a family. Registration Forms are located on top of the credenza as you walk into the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please email Heather at hellohmm@aol.com.

Session

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez, Moderator
Heather Meyers, 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 (except July and August)

Session meetings are held monthly (dates will be posted in the Friendly Reminders section).

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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info@oaktree-iselinpres.org
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