OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830
www.oaktree-iselinpres.org
(732) 283-1188
Email: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org

Sunday, August 23, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

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

"We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us" (Romans 12:6)

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Herb Williams**

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

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)** **Herb Williams**

O Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity!

It is like the perfume we use in the mornings, like the water that freshens us up or like the good medicine that makes us feel better.

Is like the dew of the countryside that reminds us how the mercy of the Lord is new each morning.

For there the LORD commanded the blessing– life forever.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)** **Herb Williams**

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 93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Herb Williams**

In a world marked by division, in a society that often celebrates individualism, and in a humanity that can seem fragmented and scattered, you call us, O God, to be rooted in unity, community, and fellowship. Yet we confess that we have not always lived as one body in Christ. Trusting in your grace and mercy, let us come before God with humble hearts as we confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (Responsive) **Herb Williams**

There is nothing more beautiful or more pleasant than seeing people live together in unity and harmony. Yet human beings have insisted on separating people because of the color of their skin, their sexuality, the amount of money they have, and differences in their beliefs. Society seems to work in favor of wealth and power instead of ensuring that every human being has access to a dignified life and well-being. We confess that we are part of systems that divide and show favoritism. We confess that, at times, we do not raise our voice against the forces of division that foster violence and hatred. Forgive our silence. Forgive our tendency to reject those whom we consider different and help us live in the unity that God desires for all humanity. In the name of Jesus, who worked so that we might become one body, we pray. 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 **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

Romans reminds us that God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. At one time we were disobedient to God but now we have received mercy from God. These are the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

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

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** **Herb Williams**

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 **Herb Williams**

God of harmony and unity, open our hearts and minds to your presence. Surround us with your Holy Spirit, that we may experience the power of your gathering love and your steadfast, centering presence. As your Word is read and proclaimed, help us not only to hear your message but also to put it into practice in our daily lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Isaiah 51:1-6** **Herb Williams**

Pew Bible pg. 754

Large Print Bible: pg. 1141-1142

(*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 12: 1-8** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

Pew Bible pg. 1156

Large Print Bible: pg. 1763-1764

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

THE MESSAGE **How many fingers do we have?** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

*** HYMN # 69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**

***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.

Wonderful God, we come before you with these offerings, given as an expression of our love and gratitude. Receive them with joy. Bless them, transform them, and multiply them for the service of families, communities, and the world. May they become instruments of your grace, compassion, and hope wherever they are needed. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Empowered to Spread God's Love

*** HYMN # 727 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant**

***BENEDICTION**
God is Good: **All the Time!** All the Time: **God is Good!**
We are blessed: May God cause unity and harmony to flourish in our lives. May God's peace refresh our lives like rain upon the earth, and may God's love remain with us today and always. ***Amen.***

To be a blessing: People of God, it is a joy to be God's ambassadors. But in our walking, we learn that our views about faith, people and God are sometimes wrong or based on prejudices that we have repeated generationally. Realizing that we are wrong causes pain. We may even choose to be proud and haughty, denying our truth. That is why God calls us to be brave. Today God invites us to wash our eyes and refresh our way of looking at other people, at ourselves and at God, who with equity opens God's arms to receive the people who had not previously been invited to the banquet. ***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. 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	Session	After worshi
Sun. 9/13	Deacons cover Fellowship Hour!	
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.

Name Tags!

Rev. Jeniffer would like to learn everyone's name quickly. A way to help her is by wearing your name tag. Name tags are located in a basket on the credenza as you enter the sanctuary. Please keep it on both during worship and Fellowship Hour. If you need a new one, please call the church office: (732) 283-1188.

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.

August 2026	
Today	Herb Williams
08/30/26	Ron Stamboly

September 2026	
09/06/26	Sue Ramirez
09/13/26	Len Mesonas
09/20j/26	Lilliam Colon-Gilzean
09/27/26	Ron Stamboly

October 2026	
10/04/26	
10/11/26	
10/18/26	
10/25/26	

Calendars for Veterans

How many of you receive duplicate calendars as gifts from non-profits? What do you do with the extra ones? Bring them to church!

We are collecting them to brighten the rooms of local Veterans homes. Your donated calendars will help our heroes stay organized and connected to their community.

Here are the details:

- **What to bring:** New, unused 2027 wall or desk calendars from charities, organizations, or businesses.
- **Where to drop them:** The table located in the church foyer as you walk in.
- **Deadline:** Friday, October 30, 2026.
- **Where they go:** Local Veterans Homes

If you have any questions, please ask Elder Betsy Christensen.

Scammer Alert!

Please be aware of scam emails, phone calls, and text messages impersonating Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez and requesting the purchase of gift cards. Please know that Pastor Jeniffer will never randomly ask anyone to purchase or send gift cards. If you receive any such message, do not reply, click on any links, or respond in any way. If you have any questions or are unsure whether a message is legitimate, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Jeniffer directly.

Look forward to...

Rev. Jennifer Rodriguez' official installation as pastor of the Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church will take place on Sunday, September 27th at 4 pm!

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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