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 30, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

Liturgist: Elder Ron Stamboly 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

"Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil and hold on to what is good." (Romans 12:9)

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Ron Stamboly**

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

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)** **Ron Stamboly**

Leader: Let us praise God, who loves with sincerity.
People: Let us praise God, who works for the well-being of God's people.
Leader: Let us praise God, who fills us with joy and delights in the perseverance of God's people.
People: Let us praise God, for God grants us blessing.
Leader: God desires that we live in harmony. God desires that we do good to all people equally.
Unison: Let us not be overcome by evil. Let us praise God and do what is good.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)** **Ron Stamboly**

God, give us hearts filled with rejoicing, able to remember your works and worship you with joy. Fill our voices with praise and testimony to proclaim your continuing presence in the world. Help us tell the stories that reveal you as a God of liberation, restoration, and reconciliation. And fill your church with a prophetic word so that, with your guidance, your strength, and your love, we may continue building your family in this world. Amen.

***HYMN # 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Ron Stamboly**

There are times when we become so immersed in our own pursuits that we lose sight of the people and the world around us. Our world is in desperate need of love—not just any love, but authentic, Christ-centered love. Let us come before God with humble hearts and confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (Unison) **Ron Stamboly**

Paul reminds us that love must be sincere. Yet it is difficult for us to love as you love us: with an unconditional and eternal love that does not seek its own benefit or expect anything in return. Paul also reminds us that we must hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good; and yet our will is not governed by reason or grace, but is often led astray by appetite, impulse, and selfish desire. Only the strength of your Spirit, who dwells within us, can sustain us to serve you with fervor. Your Spirit guides our actions and gives us hope to persevere in prayer and to serve other people. Do not let evil overcome us. Grant us your forgiveness. Search us and test us. Purify our conscience and our hearts. Pour out your grace upon your people and free us through your mercy, so that, through your work in our lives, we may overcome evil with good. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION **Ron Stamboly**

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**

God loves us with sincerity and offers us unconditional forgiveness. Let us give thanks to God for God's love and mercy. In Jesus Christ, we receive the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of new life. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

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

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** **Ron Stamboly**

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 **Ron Stamboly**

Loving God, as we seek to become people who radiate your love, we come before you asking for the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Open our hearts and minds so that we may be fully present to hear your Word and faithfully embody it in our lives. There is so much you desire to teach us as we seek to live out the calling you have placed before us. Guide us, lead us, and help us to hear your voice and experience your loving presence in this time of worship. In your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Exodus 3:1-15** **Ron Stamboly**

Pew Bible pg. 59-60

Large Print Bible: pg. 90-91

(*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 12:9-21** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

Pew Bible pg. 1156-1157

Large Print Bible: pg. -1764

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

THE MESSAGE **What should I do? Who should I Be?** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

*** HYMN # 722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak**

***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 and Loving God, we present these offerings as an expression of our gratitude, our love, and our commitment to you. In a world longing to experience genuine love, may these gifts become instruments of your compassion, hope, and grace. Bless these offerings and use them according to your will, so that your love

may be shared among your people and throughout the world. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Empowered to Spread God's Love

*** HYMN # 539 We Will Go Out with Joy**

***BENEDICTION**
We are blessed: God, who in greatness and power has been inclined to show us love; who puts in our lips the melody that we sing; And Jesus Christ, the joy of our hearts, whose name is holy and worthy of all honor; and the Spirit, who has spoken to us through prophets, men and women of faith; lift us up and make their truth shine, conquering all deception and pain, showing their great and wonderful works, here and in every distant land. *Amen.*

To be a Blessing: May God bless you with a love that hates evil and clings to what is good. May God bless you with patience, perseverance, contagious joy, humility, true wisdom, and a justice grounded not in retribution, but in grace. May God always bless you with God's peace.

***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 worship
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 4 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.

Financial Secretary Voluntary Position Open!

Most of you have heard that Elder Ron Stamboly, our Financial Secretary, is moving to sunny Florida in October! Ron would like to start training the new person through the month of September. This is an opportunity for a church member to answer the call to serve our church. For further questions, please see Ron.

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	Ron Stamboly

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

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

November 2026	
11/07/26	
11/14/26	
11/21/26	
11/28/26	

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

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

Bible Study led by Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez, Wednesdays at 11 am.

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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