OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

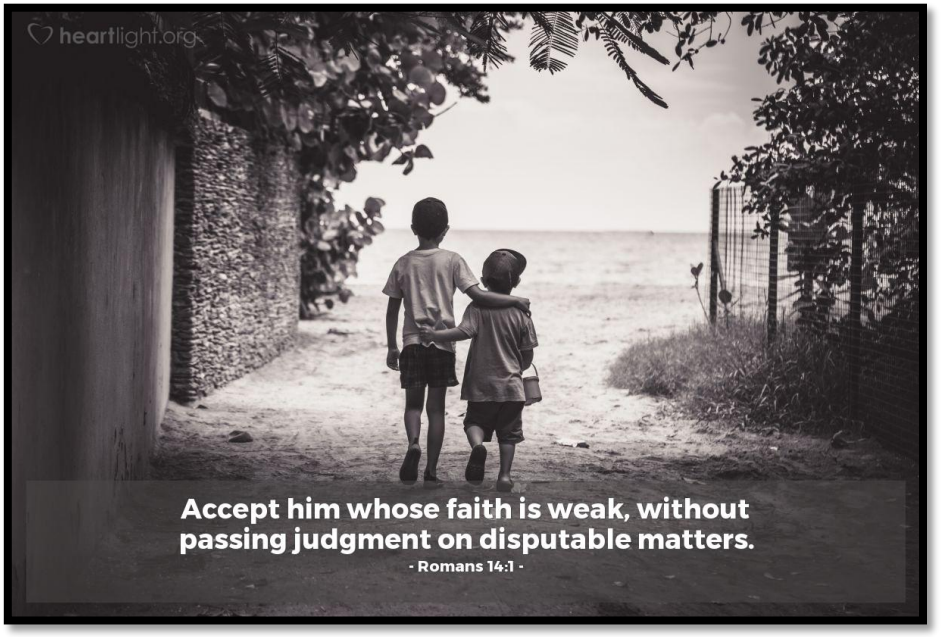
Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

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

Sunday, September 13, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

Liturgist: Elder Len 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

"Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion." (Romans 14:1)

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Len Mesonas**

CHORAL INTROIT # 399 God Welcomes All *(2x)*

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)** **Len Mesonas**
If we live, we live to honor the Lord; and if we die, we die to honor the Lord.
Therefore, whether in life or in death, we belong to God.
Christ died and rose again to be Lord of both life and death.
Before God we will bow our knees and proclaim God's name. Blessed be the Lord forever!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)** **Len Mesonas**
God, you are our strength and the source of every wonder. We gather as your people to give you thanks and praise, and to lift our voices in song, prayer, and testimony. Great are you because you love us. Great are you because you forgive us. Great are you because you sustain us. Great are you because all that is in you is grace. You are our strength and our song, and we praise your holy name. *Amen.*

***HYMN # 664 Morning Has Broken**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Len Mesonas**
God delivers us from paths of death and keeps our feet from stumbling. Let us confess all that keeps us from walking in the way of the Lord.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (Unison) **Len Mesonas**
Good and gracious God, your mercy reaches higher than the heavens. Therefore, with confidence, we come before you to confess those things that separate us from you. At times, we live by belittling others. We criticize them. We doubt their sincerity. We judge them. We treat them differently when their opinions do not match our own. We spend more time criticizing others than examining our

relationship with you and with our neighbors. Forgive us, you who are our great comfort. Help us to recognize each day that, if we live, we live for you, and if we die, we belong to you. Bend our knees and move our whole being to confess that you are our God. Restore us, so that when we are called to give an account before you, we may receive your approval. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION **Len 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**
I have good news for you: Christ died and rose again to be Lord of both life and death. Nothing can separate us from the love and mercy of God. In Jesus Christ, we receive forgiveness for our sins.
Thanks be to God! Amen!

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

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** **Len 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 **Len Mesonas**
God of mercy and hope, be with us this day. We have gathered here to learn more about your Word. Open our hearts and minds to hear your voice. Help us to listen,

to discern, and to focus our hearts and minds solely on you. Guide us through this time together and draw us closer to you. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Exodus 14:19-31** **Len Mesonas**
Pew Bible pg. 72
Large Print Bible: pg. 109-110
(*Liturgist, to create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.*)

Musical Interlude

He is There (*Mary Kay Bealle*), sung by the Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Romans 14:1-12** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**
Pew Bible pg. 1157-1158
Large Print Bible: pg. 1765-1766
(To create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)

THE MESSAGE **Welcoming is More Than Action** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

*** HYMN # 724 O Jesus, I Have Promised**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **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.

PRAYER CONCERNS *(including those kept in silence)*

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKFULNESS AND JOY

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 # 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.

Holy God, take these gifts and bless them for good use to your glory. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

Empowered to Spread God's Love

*** HYMN # 65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

***BENEDICTION**
Go into the world remembering that all people belong to God. Do not judge harshly or look down on those who are different. Welcome each person as Christ has welcomed you, and always seek peace and mutual upbuilding.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 658 God Is So Good**

THE POSTLUDE

Make sure to join us in Fellowship Hall for friendly conversation and light refreshments after worship!

Friendly Reminders

Today	Session	After worship
Today	Deacons cover Fellowship Hour!	
Today	Sunday School Begins	During worship
Wed. 9.16 & Every Wednesday	Bible Study led by Rev. Jeniffer	11:00 am in Fellowship Hall
Sun. 9/27	Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez' Installation	Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at 4 pm

Sunday School Begins Today!

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.

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.

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.

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.

A Special Invitation!

The Worship and Music Committee cordially invites everyone to attend Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez' installation taking place on Sunday, September 27th, 2026, at 4 pm.

Because more than 100 people are expected to attend the installation and celebration, we ask that you please sign the RSVP form in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

If you have any questions, please see Sue Ramirez,
Chair, Worship and Music

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.

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

October 2026	
10/04/26	Sue Ramirez
10/11/26	
10/18/26	Betsy Christensen
10/25/26	Herb Williams

November 2026	
11/01/26	
11/08/26	Sue Ramirez
11/15/26	
11/22 /26	Betsy Christensen
11/29/26 1st Sunday in Advent	Herb Williams

December 2026	
12/06/26 2nd Sunday in Advent	
12/13/26 3rd Sunday in Advent	
12/20/26 4th Sunday in Advent	Betsy Christensen
12/24/26 Christmas Eve	
12/27/26	
January 2027	
01/03/27	

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,

Visit Scan QR code to website! Visit us on Facebook and Instagram, @oaktreeiselinpreschurchnj and YouTube @oaktreeiselinpresnj. Email us at: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org ; Cover: Rodriguez, Juan Pablo. Photograph of two children walking. *Unsplash*, unsplash.com.