

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

Email: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org

Sunday, September 29, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Pastor Madelynne Lindsey, CRE

Liturgist: Elder Ron Stamboly

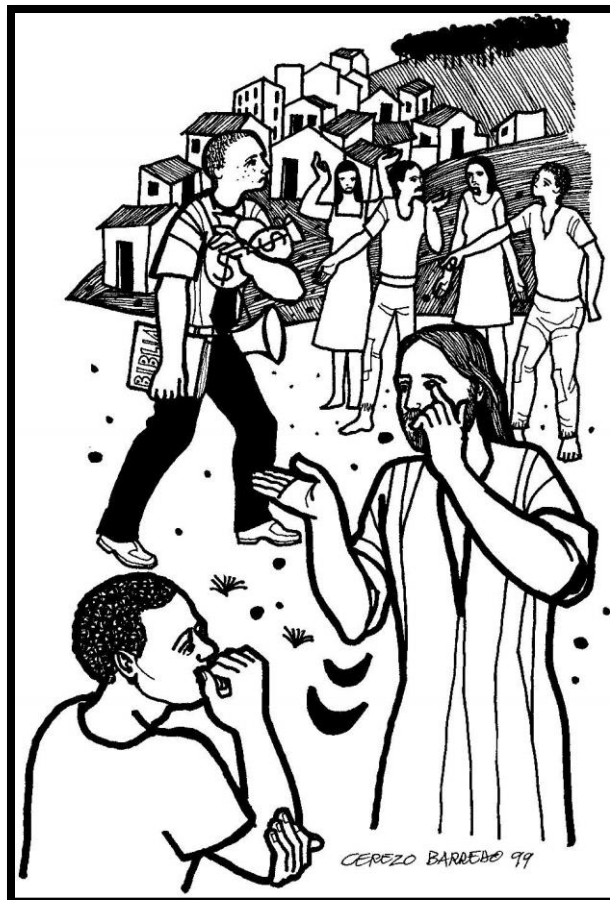
Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

*Please rise in body or spirit.

CENTERING THOUGHT

"We must be seasoned and sprinkled by God, so that we may be both acceptable sacrifices unto him, and also so that in our being knit together we may season one another." Geneva Notes.

Gathering for Worship



PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Stamboly

***CHORAL INTROIT As We Gather In This Place (2x)**

**As we gather in this place
We have come to seek your face.
May our lives reflect your grace
As we gather in this place.**

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

Ron Stamboly

**If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
we would have been swallowed up alive. But such is not the case!
Blessed be the Lord, who is our rock and our redeemer!
Blessed be the Lord, in whose name is our help!
Blessed be the Lord, who made heaven and earth!
Come, let us worship God!**

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

Ron Stamboly

Saving God, you are a God who has made it a habit to stick with us through thick and thin. Thank you for calling us your own even in moments when we haven't been the best investment. Help us, in our worship of you this day, to be turned in a direction that pleases you. Amen

***HYMN # 465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Ron Stamboly

We don't mean to, but all too often our words, our actions, our ignorance, become stumbling blocks for those around us, keeping them from being able to live as God intends for them. Let us confess how we have not been careful with our lives. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Ron Stamboly

God of Endless Mercy, we have often been swallowed up by our greed and selfishness, desiring that which we do not have, filling our lives with things that do not save us. We have often been swept away by the floods of our own making, polluting your creation, neglecting to be faithful stewards of the earth. We have often attacked one another and led lives of violence, sending missiles instead of accepting refugees, ignoring your commandments. Lord have mercy, for we have sinned and fallen short of your glory. Christ, have mercy, for we are broken and need your salvation. Lord have mercy upon us and hear us as we pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Ron Stamboly

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON


Pastor Madelynne Lindsey, CRE

Our confession of sins before one another opens us to receive the healing that God offers. God has promised that those who pray in faith will be raised up to new life and forgiven for all their sins. Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

*THE RESPONSE


582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B \flat F B \flat F B \flat F Gm F




1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B \flat E \flat B \flat Gm7 C7




and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

*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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey, CRE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ron Stamboly

Divine Spirit, surround us with the wisdom of your word that we might dance in your love and be messengers of your truth in this world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS (Old Testament)

Ron Stamboly

Psalm 124

¹If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say—

²if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,

³then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵then over us would have gone the raging waters.

⁶Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

⁷We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

SCRIPTURE READING (New Testament)

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey, CRE

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. ⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck, and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. ⁴⁹"For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE MESSAGE

Have Salt in Yourselves

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey, CRE

*HYMN # 804 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

The Thanksgiving

THE OFFERING

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #647 Give Thanks

647 Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the
 poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for
 us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

*** THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Like a master cook, you add these gifts we offer to the spices of grace, hope, joy, and peace to create new lives, new communities, new joy in those around us. Receive our gifts in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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.

We give thanks for your son, Jesus Christ. Who offered your healing and forgiveness to all and honored as allies all who took the side of life. Through him you sent your Spirit to fill us with love, mercy and an uncompromising passion for righteousness.

Sending Us into the World

***HYMN # 667 When Morning Gilds the Skies**

***BENEDICTION**

Go now and celebrate wherever God's name is honored. When suffering comes, pray in faith. In times of joy, sing songs of praise. Persevere in prayer and action to bring the fallen back to the truth. And may God save you from all that would harm you; May Christ Jesus heal you and raise you up; and may the Holy Spirit anoint you and give you peace with one another. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION As You Travel from This Place**
As you travel from this place our love is with you,
When you journey near at hand or far abroad.
All the life we've shared together will continue,
As you grow in the knowledge, learn of the wisdom, and live in the spirit of our God.

THE POSTLUDE

OFFERING: Whether you are just passing through town and wanted to stop in for church, this is your first visit of many future ones, or you are with us every week, we certainly appreciate your desire to give anonymously, but if you would like to receive a record of giving for tax purposes, please fill out a pew envelope, check 'I am visiting', and add your name and address. We appreciate every generous gift and want to make sure we have a proper record of it to say, Thank you!

Welcome!



Pastor Madelynne Lindsey, Commissioned Ruling Elder/Commissioned

Madelynne Lindsey, CRE/CP, became a member of Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, Edison, in 2007, where she was a Ruling Elder and Chairperson for the Fellowship Outreach Ministry; was a counselor for Jeremiah Journey and Vision Panel, conducted Bible studies for Jeremiah's Journey and the series called Bad Girls and Bad Boys of the Bible. She was a member of the choir, the Multi-cultural Initiative Committee, Worship Committee, and the Gathering group.

The year 2016 was filled with a multitude of accomplishments. Madelynne successfully attended and completed theological studies at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary and received a Certificate for Reformed Worship and Sacrament and Presbyterian Polity courses online at The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa. In addition, she was selected to be a commissioner to the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, Oregon and was selected to sit and participate on the Environmental Protection (Fossil Fuel) and Immigration Committee. And served as a Commissioned Ruling Elder serving as Pastor for the Siloam Hope Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth from Feb. 1, 2016, through Aug. 1, 2017, when it closed due to building safety issues.

She was Vice Moderator (Yr 2018) for the Elizabeth Presbytery and became the Moderator in September of 2018-2019. Madelynne served on the Committee of Ministry (COM) for the Elizabeth Presbytery for three years and was the Chair for COM. She served on the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey COM as Convener of the Transition Team, and served as the Commissioned Pastor for the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church since October 1, 2018, until January 31, 2021, and was instrumental in aiding the transition of WAPC with the Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras Church who was presently residing at United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. The transition was completed.

In March of 2021, she became part-time Interim Commissioned Pastor and Head of Staff for the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield and completed her two-year term in 2023.

In addition, she assisted the temporary Minister at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains, New Jersey for communion every first Sunday of the month along with moderating their session meeting after worship service on the first Sunday of the month.

Madelynne is happily retired from the Office of the Public Defenders as an Administrative Assistant after 34 years of employment and later worked part-time for a Chiropractor and a Bankruptcy Lawyer.

Friendly Reminders

Please note that checks made out to **First Presbyterian Church of Iselin** or **Oak Tree Presbyterian Church** are no longer accepted by the bank. Going forward, checks are to be made to: **Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church.**

Pastor Madelynne Lindsey, CRE	Sunday	Today & 10/6/24	Guest Speaker
Joint Elder / Deacon Session Meeting	Sunday	10/6/24	
Pet Blessing	Saturday	10/12/24	10 am; Rain or Shine
Linwood Bagby, CRE	Sunday	10/13/24	Guest Speaker
Pastor Madelynne Lindsey, CRE	Sunday to the end of the end of the year	10/20/24	Guest Speaker

Message from Margarita

The migration of congregant emails from my original email, margarito1@comcast.net to Gmail (from Office Manager) is complete. This means that as of Monday, August 12, 2024, all the emails from this office to you will come from:

info@oaktree-iselinpres.org.

To protect against potential scammers, the **subject line**, as usual, will begin with **OakTreeIselinPresNJ**

Formation of Mission Study Team!

On June 11, 2023, the Oak Tree Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Iselin became one entity: Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church. Although both churches had been through the process of forming a mission and vision under their own entities, with the resignation of Rev. Chris Houtz, aside from the search for an interim pastor, the newly formed church is required by Presbyterian Church (USA) to form a Mission Study Team. This is a golden opportunity

for you to share your ideas and suggestions, and to actively contribute towards a new beginning for your church. As part of this committee, your voice will be a valuable resource in determining the following 3 questions: Who are we? Who is God calling us to be? Where is God calling us to go? If you'd like to be a part of the Mission Study Team, contact Clerk of Session, Laura Reeves, at reeveslm38@hotmail.com, (732) 742-5417.

Scheduled Liturgists!

To all who answered the call to serve as liturgists, Thank you! We are covered through the end of November! If you'd like to be considered for future liturgist opportunities for December 2024 and January 2025, please email Margarita Estrada at info@oaktree-iselinpres.org or call her at (732) 283-1188.

September	
Today	Ron Stamboly

October	
10/06/24	Laura Reeves
10/13/24	Leonard Mesonas
10/20/24	Betsy Christensen
10/27/24	Ron Stamboly

November	
11/03/24	Lilliam Colon-Gilzean
11/10/24	Linda Sahayaraj
11/17/24	Betsy Christensen
11/24/24	Ron Stamboly

December	
12/01/24	
12/08/24	
12/15/24	
12/22/24	
12/24/24 (Christmas Eve)	
12/29/24	Ron Stamboly

January 2025	
01/05/25	
01/12/25	
01/19/25	
01/26/25	Ron Stamboly

Ongoing Initiatives

SHOP-RITE GIFT CARDS: Gift cards will be available every Sunday after worship. Simply bring your check or cash and purchase your cards.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES: We are collecting aluminum can tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick throughout the year. Please place your donation of aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick in the container in Fellowship Hall or give them to Heather Meyers. Tabs can come from a variety of cans (soda or other beverages, pet food, soup, etc.), but must be aluminum. How can you tell? Aluminum won't stick to a magnet.

Message from The Board of Deacons Ministry of Compassion

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, “I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” – Matthew 25:35-36

The Ministry of Compassion is requesting food donations for our monthly food baskets. A bin has been set up in the hallway of the church, by the literature bookcase so that you can have the opportunity to help. For more information, see Nancy Abel or Sara Schweitzer. Below are the food items needed:

Canned	Dry Goods
Vegetables	Pasta
Beans	Rice
Fruit	Instant Potatoes
Tuna fish	Mac and Cheese
Pasta sauce	Cereal
Soup	Peanut Butter & Jelly

Regular Activities

Church Office is open Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Men's Breakfast & CLEF Ladies Breakfast, 1 Saturday at 9 am

Sunday Bible Study - 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall

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

Choir practice: 1st and last Sunday of the Month at 9:30 am

Divine Worship: In the sanctuary and on Facebook Livestream,
Sundays at 10:30 am

Session

Laura Reeves, Clerk of Session

Betsy Christensen	Mission
Jim Durgana	Treasurer
Len Mesonas	Human Resources, Officer Nominating Committee
Len Mesonas	Finance Chair, President of Corporation
Heather Meyers	Christian Education
Sue Ramirez	Worship and Music
Jeff Reeves	Buildings and Grounds
Ron Stamboly	Financial Secretary

The Board of Deacons

Nancy Abel	Moderator/ Prayer Concern List/Board Secretary/Ministry of Compassion Chair
Roseanne (Cookie) Anthony	Hospitality Chair
Kate Scott	Session Board Liaison
Nikkie Hayase	Literature Chair
Joanne Mesonas	Flowers Co-Chairs
Susan O'Rourke-Sendelsky	Deacon Assistance Fund / Welfare Chair / Deacon Nominating Committee
Joan Moscomagas	Ministry of Compassion
Sara Schweitzer	Cards Chair / Hospitality Co-Chair
Pat Lillie	

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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