Minds, hearts, hands, and voices in Christ.

the Spire

Newsletter of the Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER 2026

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the Spire is published for distribution electronically the first day of the month and sent by post the next business day. The deadline for submitted articles is the previous Wednesday.
We welcome any news you would like to share with the congregation. Please e-mail your WORD documents to:
Betsy Christensen, editor,
at Betson42@comcast.net or leave written articles in the mail box marked "***the Spire***".

A message from Our Pastor

Let's celebrate our Diversity!

"Then the Lord dispersed them from there over all of the earth, and they stopped building the city. Therefore, it is named Babel, because there the Lord mixed up the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord dispersed them over all the earth." (Genesis 11: 8-9)

Even though we have continents on planet Earth, there is no single, universally accepted number of continents. Different perspectives and traditions define them in different ways. Some sources identify seven continents: Africa, Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Antarctica, and Australia. Others identify six: Africa, Europe, Asia, America, Australia, and Antarctica.

Regardless of how we understand or divide the continents, we can agree that each one is made up of different countries. And, as we know, every country has its own culture, traditions, languages, history, and ways of life.

Countries may be next to one another, and they may share certain similarities, but each one is unique because of everything that makes it what it is. In the same way, people can live next to one another, share a community, worship together, and participate in the same activities, yet each person carries a unique story.

It amazes me how much we can learn about one another through what we might consider a simple conversation. In those conversations, we discover so much more than what we can see on the surface. We begin to hear the stories underneath the faces we see from time to time. We learn about the history behind our names, our families, the people we know, the places we have lived, and the experiences that have shaped us. We discover the stories of people who are new to us, as well as the stories of people we have known for years but may never have taken the time to truly know.

As we prepare to celebrate World Communion Sunday at Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church, let us be reminded that we are much more than the faces we see at worship, Bible study, coffee hour, or other church activities. We are more than what we think we know about one another.

There is always more to discover. here are stories to hear, experiences to share, and lives to understand. And it is worthy of our time to know one another more deeply—not simply as people who sit beside us in worship, but as sisters and brothers in Christ. On World Communion Sunday, we are reminded that the church is not limited by borders, languages, cultures, or traditions. We are part of something much greater: the body of Christ. We come from different places. We carry different stories. We speak different languages and have different traditions. Yet, in Christ, we are one body.

On this Communion Sunday, October 4, 2026, let us celebrate the richness of our cultures, traditions, languages, food, music, and all the things that make us who we are. Let us bring a little bit of who we are and share it with one another and with our beloved community. As we gather, may our diversity remind us that, despite our differences, we are one body, one community, and one family in Christ.

Rev. Jeniffer Rodríguez Michel
Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church

Welcome

to
Oak Tree- Iselin Presbyterian Church

Join us for Sunday morning worship at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary, and for Fellowship following the service.

Bible Study led by Pastor Jen on Wednesdays at 11:00 am

Sunday School begins in the sanctuary at 10:30 and children are excused to their classroom after the Time with the Children

We can also be found on Facebook Live.

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT FOR 2026 HAS BEEN RAISED TO

$42 PER MEMBER

YOUR FAIR SHARE IS DIVIDED PROPORTIONATELY BETWEEN THE PRESBYTERY OF THE COASTLANDS, THE NORTHEAST SYNOD, AND PC(USA)

Session Actions of September 13, 2026 –
Email Motion: August 18, 2026 Approval of the purchase of the Brother MFC-L8930 printer (Business Color Laser) having a total cost of $1,900. Motion passed.

Motion to install a new toilet for Iselin lady's restroom. It will cost about $800 for an ADA toilet. Motion passes.

Motion to install new lighting for Rev. Jennifer's office. It will cost about $3000 to install 2 overhead lighting fixtures, wiring, and a new breaker. Motion passes.

Happy Birthday!

Lin Ruiz	10-6
John Rozger	10-7
Ruby Durgana	10-17
Seychelle Gilzean	10-20
Nikki Hayase	10-25

On Sunday, July 5, 2026, our congregation welcomed Rev. Jeniffer Rodriquez to our pulpit with joy and gratitude to God for sending just the right person.
May we grow together as her ministry feeds us and be a blessing to each one of us. May we support her with love, prayer and enthusiasm for God's word.

OCTOBER LITURGY

OCTOBER 11TH
Isaiah 25: 1-9
Psalm 23
Philemon4:1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14

OCTOBER 18TH
Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96: 1-9 (10-13)
1Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

OCTOBER 25TH
Leviticus 19: 1-2,15-18
Psalm 1
1Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Sunday, October 4, 2026

On October 4th, as we celebrate communion with Christian Churches around the world, let us also celebrate our own diversity during Fellowship Hour.

Bring a favorite dessert from your country of origin, read a poem by your favorite native author, perhaps demonstrate a folk dance, or tell a story.

PET BLESSING

SATURDAY
OCT. 10, 2026

AT 10:00 AM
IN OUR SANCTUARY

PRAYERS BY
PASTOR JENIFFER
RODRIGUEZ

All 'good boys' and 'good girls' are welcome!

Ronald McDonald House

We are again collecting aluminum soda can (and many cat food can) tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Mission effort of the Avenel Presbyterian Church VBS. If the tabs are not attracted by a magnet, they are acceptable for collection. Heather Meyers will collect your donations in July to deliver to Avenel. Together, let's make a difference!

Ronald McDonald House, located at 145 Somerset Street in New Brunswick, provides supportive, temporary," home-away-from-home" for families of critically ill or injured children receiving medical treatment at nearby healthcare centers such as RWJ and St. Peters Hospitals.

In addition to saving tabs, you can make a direct donation at ronaldmcdonaldhousecnj/newbrunswick-house/ or by calling 732/222/8755

Shop-Rite Gift Cards

Gift cards are available each week during Fellowship Hour in $25, $50, and $100 denominations. Simply bring cash or check and receive your card(s).

Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church receives 5% back on each card sold.

Ministry of Compassion

A receptacle has been placed in the foyer for donations to the food pantry. Items needed are:

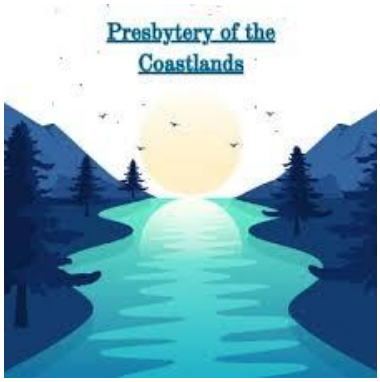
Canned: vegetables, beans, fruit, tuna fish, pasta sauce, soups and broth. Mac'n'Cheese, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pasta, Rice

Also accepted: feminine products and personal hygiene products.

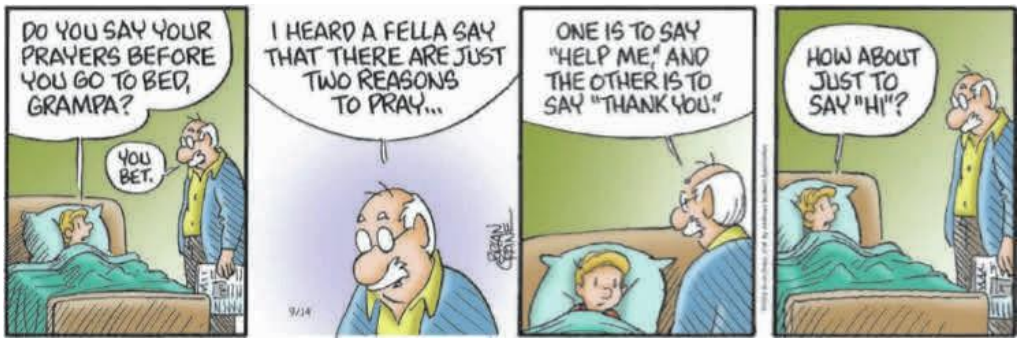
Distribution is on Monday, October 12th

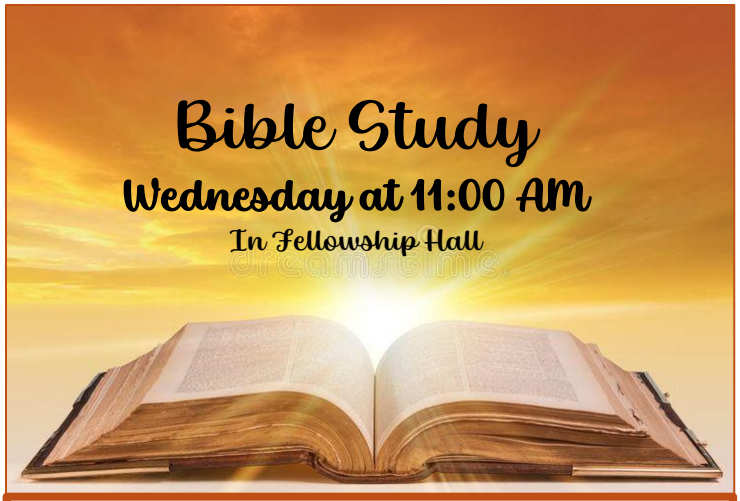
October 16th – World Food Day

Presbyteryofthecoastlands.org



PICKLES 9-14-2026





The Book of Revelation

Led by Pastor Jen

Don't miss this opportunity to seek and explore, share, question, and increase your understanding of God's Word.

All ARE WELCOME!
You don't need to "know" to Bible to participate.

Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center

Women's Fall Retreat

Soul Feast: Spiritual Practices For a Practical People!

October 23-25, 2026

Led by
Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Pastor at
Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church, Stewartsville NJ

Registration is open now!
https://www.campjburg.org/events/womens-fall-retreat/.

Or call: 908/852-2349

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 2026

We celebrate the beginning of the protestant movement in the Christian Church.

For Each, a Book of Their Own

A box has been placed in the front hall to receive donations of children's and young adult's books to be distributed among the kids of women seeking shelter and help getting back on their feet. Many families are uprooted from their homes and brought to the shelter with no personal belongings.

A gift of a book for each child that comes into the system gives them something to call their own and is a way to share God's love through caring.

WIN
WOMEN IN NEED

WIN provides safe housing and critical services to help homeless women and their children rebuild their lives and break the cycle of homelessness.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it". ***Proverbs 22:6***

Shay Raghunandan, Tori Rghunandan, and Emma Rodriquez received their 3rd Grade Bibles on Sunday, September 13th during Church service.

Pray that the Bibles will be a blessing to these young people that they will grow in Spirit and grace, knowing the love of God

Pictured from L to R: Shay Raghunandan, Tory Raghunandan, Heather Meyers, chair of CE, Pastor Jen Rodriguez, and Emma Rodriquez.

Provide a copy for each person in your family. Sit together at the table and play game.

Make some ghoulie snax.

Carve or paint a pumpkin.

Bake Halloween cookies.

Create a mask.

Have FUN.

And above all, be safe!

The invitation is sent…

The tables are readied…

The food is prepared…

The commission has done its work…

The ceremony is accomplished…

And the celebration begins!