



# the Spire

**Newsletter of the  
Oak Tree-Iselin  
Presbyterian Church**

**NOVEMBER 2025**

1295 Oak Tree Road  
Iselin, NJ 08830  
Tel: (732)283-1188  
[www.oaktree-iselinpres.org](http://www.oaktree-iselinpres.org)  
E-mail:  
[info@oaktree-iselinpres.org](mailto:info@oaktree-iselinpres.org)



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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](mailto:Betson42@comcast.net) or leave written articles in the mail box marked "*the Spire*".

*Minds, hearts, hands, and voices in Christ.*

## From the Pastor Nominating Committee



Thank you to the PNC and those who fill our pulpit each week while we are waiting for someone to heed the call. Thank you for God's love for our congregation, for His faithfulness, for all the blessings He has bestowed, for the lessons we have learned. As we wait for a new pastor, keep us mindful of the coming of the newborn Christ as we focus on the Advent season in the weeks ahead.

## From the Book of Confessions The Second Helvetic Confession 5.090

*OF THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER.* That same preaching of the Gospel is also called by the apostle "the spirit" and "the ministry of the spirit" because by faith it becomes effectual and living in the ears, nay more, in the hearts of believers through the illumination of the Holy Spirit (II Cor. 3:6). For the letter, which is opposed to the spirit, signifies everything external, but especially the doctrine of the law which, without the spirit and faith, works wrath and provokes sin in the minds of those who do not have a living faith. For this reason the apostle calls it "the ministry of death". In this connection the saying of the apostle is pertinent: "The letter kills, but the spirit gives life." And false apostles preached a corrupted Gospel, having combined it with the law, as if Christ could not save without the law.



## Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon

*During Fellowship Hour*

Hosted by the

Worship and Music Committee

*Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>*

Bring a dish, Invite a friend.

**All are Welcome!**

As we celebrate God's bounty together as a church family, let us remember those who have no family, who are lonely, hungry, homeless, disenfranchised, suffering illness, and those without hope. Pray for them, that they may come to know God's love in spite of their suffering, and for ourselves, that we can learn to help relieve their suffering through the help of the loving Father and the strength of the Holy Spirit.

# WELKOMMEN

Oak Tree- Iselin  
Presbyterian Church



Children's Sunday School  
begins in the sanctuary at  
10:30 and is excused to their  
classroom after the  
Time with the Children

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

We can also be found on  
Facebook Live.

**PER CAPITA  
APPORTIONMENT  
FOR 2026  
HAS BEEN RAISED TO**

**\$42 PER MEMBER**

PC(USA) HAS BEEN DOING IT'S  
BEST TO KEEP COSTS DOWN,  
AND WE HAVE NOT HAD AN  
INCREASE IN SEVERAL YEARS.

*Welcome - Danish*

## Session actions of October 12th

Motion to remove Susan Sendelsky from the active rolls.

Motion to approve the Sunday School lessons from November 19<sup>th</sup> to December 21<sup>st</sup> as presented in the CE report

Motion to approve a November potluck luncheon on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion to approve a Baby Shower for Mary on December 7<sup>th</sup> with all proceeds and gifts to be donated to Moms Helping Moms.

Motion to approve the Evangelical Church of God to meet in the Iselin building for \$1,000 per month.

Motion to approve hiring SS Electric to install the CAD wire from the office to the LED sign including the excavation and inspection.

Motion to elect Heather Meyers for Elder Commissioner at the November 22<sup>nd</sup> Presbytery meeting.



**Greening  
of the Church**

**Saturday evening, November 29th  
at 5:00 PM**

Help to decorate the Christmas Tree and  
the Sanctuary

Share a Potluck Supper  
and Fellowship

# Liturgy for November

## Sunday, November 2

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4  
Psalm 119:137-144  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-1

## Sunday, November 9

Haggai 1:15b-2:9  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or  
Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17  
Luke 20: 27-38

## Sunday, November 16

Isaiah 65: 17-25  
Isaiah 12  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:5-15

## Sunday, November 23

Jermiah 23:1-6  
Luke 1:68-79  
Colossians 1:11-20  
Luke 23: 33-43

## THANKSGIVING

*Blessings*

## Sunday, November 30

*first Sunday in Advent*

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44



October Mission Focus...

# Miles with Moonie

in support of



Happy to be home! Moonie, Andrea and Jon together again.

“Thank you”, Oak Tree - Iselin Presbyterian Church! Altogether, we were able to raise about \$850 to help take care of God’s creatures. That is a **lot** of heartworm, flea and tick medication, spay and neutering, and care for sick dogs. Many people will be able to adopt a healthy pet because of your generosity.



“Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.”

W.T. Purkiser



Leonard Sendelsky	11-02
Kristina White	11-07
Elaine Bellock	11-10
Christian Madsen	11-18
Travis Doodnauth	11-20
Audrey Rozger	11-28



**A NEW AMERICAN FLAG, PURCHASED BY CLEF, WILL BE DEDICATED ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> DURING FELLOWSHIP HOUR IN HONOR OF ALL OUR VETERANS FOR VETERAN'S DAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>. IT WILL REPLACE THE TATTERED FLAG ON THE FLAG-POST ON THE HILL.**

## Ronald McDonald House



We are again collecting aluminum soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Mission effort of the Avenel Presbyterian Church. Together, let's make a difference! You will find a collection canister in Fellowship Hall.



## Shop-Rite Gift Cards

are available each week during Fellowship Hour in \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations.

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

*From the Deacons*

## 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**



**And for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets:**

**Instant potatoes, Stuffing mix, Gravy, Yams, Cranberry Sauce**

**Frozen Turkeys or Turkey breast, Frozen or canned Hams, Frozen Chickens**



**Also accepted: feminine products and personal hygiene products.**

**The Holiday distributions will be on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, and December 15<sup>th</sup>**

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Thursday Nights**

**at 7:00 PM**

**In the**

**Choir Room**



**Come and learn to knit or crochet (we'll supply yarn and needles) or just come for the conversation!**

[Coastlandspresbytery.org](http://Coastlandspresbytery.org)





The Original  
Pumpkin Pie

## The way the Pilgrims made it

In early American Colonial times, pumpkin shells were sometimes used as a baking vessel. Colonists would hollow out pumpkins, fill them with milk, spices, and honey, then bake them in hot ashes – creating a primitive pumpkin custard, the ancestor of the modern pumpkin pie.

*Save the Date...*

*You are all invited  
Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
during Fellowship Hour*



Donations of items to be taken to Moms Helping Moms.

See list of items needed.

**MOMS  
HELPING  
MOMS**

**New Logo!**



### **Serving Underserved Families in New Jersey**

Moms Helping Moms Foundation (MHM) is a baby supply, diaper and period supply bank dedicated to creating a future without childhood poverty by providing babies with the essentials to ensure a safe and healthy start.

We collect new and gently used baby items, diapers and period supplies and with the help of over 600 volunteers, distribute them through our community service partners to underserved families who reside all throughout the state of New Jersey.

### ***WE ACCEPT THESE NEW OR GENTLY USED ITEMS:***

- Diapers – All Sizes (open packs okay)
- Adult Incontinence Products (open packs okay)
- Clothing Sizes 0-5T
- Books for Ages 0-5
- Swaddle Blankets
- Diaper Bags
- Pack N Plays (less than 5 years old)
- High Chairs (less than 5 years old)
- Strollers (less than 5 years old – no jogging strollers)

### ***WE ACCEPT THESE ITEMS NEW ONLY:***

- Wipes (unopened)
- Baby Hygiene Items (unopened)
- Period Products
- Formula (unexpired and unopened)
- Breast Pumps
- Breast Pump Bottles & Storage Bags (unopened)
- Breast Pads
- Nursing Pillows (ie: Boppy pillows)
- Bottles
- Pacifiers
- Sippy Cups

**Please bring unwrapped items to display at the Baby Shower on December 7<sup>th</sup>. They will be delivered to Moms Helping Moms the following week.**

**Thank you.**

**The Mission Committee**