



the Spire

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

April 2025

1295 Oak Tree Road
Iselin, NJ 08830
Tel: (732)283-1188

www.oaktree-iselinpres.org

E-mail:

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 or leave written articles in the mail box marked "*the Spire*".

Minds, hearts, hands, and voices in Christ.

✝ From the Pastor Nominating Committee

So far, we have received over 60 contacts. The committee tries to review at least 12 per week. It requires reading biographies and listening or reading sermons. There are a few that have showed interest, but we are still awaiting replies.

Meanwhile, our Worship and Music Chair, Sue Ramirez, has been working diligently to fill the pulpit with inspirational speakers during the absence of a called pastor.

From the Book of Order: W-2.0304

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (also called teaching elders and pastors) are called to proclaim the Word, preside at Sacraments, and equip the people for ministry in Jesus' name. Specifically, ministers of the word and Sacrament are responsible for: the selection of Scripture to be read, the preparation of the sermon, the prayers to be offered, the selection of music to be sung, printed worship aids or media presentations for a given service, and the use of drama, dance, and other art forms in a particular service of worship.

Breakfast at 9:30 am



Zapraszamy

Oak Tree- Iselin Presbyterian Church



**Join us
on Sunday morning
at 10:30 am
in the Sanctuary,
or on Facebook LIVE.**



Adult Bible Study
Will resume
shortly

Children's Sunday School

begins at 10:30 am in the
Sanctuary for morning
worship and is dismissed to
classes.

**PER CAPITA
APPORTIONMENT
FOR 2025
REMAINS AT
\$40**

PER MEMBER
YOU MAY USE THE BLUE
ENVELOPE IN YOUR GIVING
BOX OR A PEW ENVELOPE
MARKED WITH YOUR NAME
AND "PER CAPITA"

Welcome - Polish

Session actions of March 23, 2025

E-vote motion was approved to place Ron Stamboly back on the active membership list as of March 1st.

Motion was made and approved for the following baptismal requests for Sunday, May 25, 2025:

Joran Carter Meyer, child of Joseph Raymond Meyer and Nadia Angelina (Raghunandan) Meyer, and Liam Anil Doodnauth, child of Travis Anil Doodnauth and Lakshmi Amanda (Prashaud) Doodnauth.

Motion to approve a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing to be received on Ester Sunday.

Motion to hire Viking Pest Control for monthly services for the Oak Tree building.

Motion to approve the purchase of a John Deere Tractor in the amount of \$2,900 along with a bagger for \$500 for the total not to exceed \$3,500 for the purpose of lawn maintenance for the Iselin property.

Motion to approve the purchase, not to exceed 1,500 for 2 new aluminum and 2 new plastic signs to replace the signs on Oak Tree Road and Middlesex Ave and case signs around the property with the correct church name.



Holy Week Services

*Sunday, April 13th, Palm Sunday,
10:30 worship*

*Thursday, April 17th, Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm with communion*

*Friday, April 18th, Good Friday Service
at 3:00 pm*

Sunday, April 20th, Easter

Easter Sunday Breakfast at 9:30 am

Service of the Resurrection at 10:30 am

Liturgy for April



Sunday, April 6th Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 13th Palm Sunday

6th Sunday in Lent
Luke 19: 28-40
Psalm 118:1-2,19-29
Philippians 2: 5-11
Luke 22:14-23-56 or
Luke 23:1-49

Thursday, April 17th Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10)11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 18th Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Hebrews 10:16-25 or
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Sunday, April 20th Easter Day Resurrection of our Lord

Acts 10:34-43 or
Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-4
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, April 27th Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31



On Sunday, March 23rd,
We celebrated with
Kay Pintak
97 years
Of loving and serving
Our Lord.

Happy 97th Birthday, Katherine



LENTEN SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER AND BIBLE STUDY

Hosted by the Worship and Music Committee
Bible Study Led by Rev. Dr. Glory Thomas

Wednesday nights during Lent:
April 2nd and 9th
At 6:00 PM

**We need 3 pots of soup each week.
If you have a favorite family recipe you would
like to make, or would like to provide bread,
call Sue Ramirez at 732/306-7607 or
register on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.**

For more liturgy readings for Holy Week, visit www.pcusa.org.
Click on Worship With Us. In dropdown, click on Daily Lectionary,
then Printable Lectionary.

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. Simply bring cash or check and receive your card(s).

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



April Memory Verse

And when the hour had come, he sat down, and the apostles with him,
And he said to them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer;
Or I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it amongst yourselves;
For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God come.
And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Luke 22:14-20



Happy Birthday to You

Ruby Javed	4/03
Laura reeves	4/06
Sue Ramirez	4/06
Mark Hayase	4/09
Joe Ott	4/13
Dorothea Riedinger	4/15
Jeremy Doodnauth	4/18
Meline Doodnauth	4/29
Kelley Abel	4/30

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, soup, gravy

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pasta, Mac'n'Cheese, Instant potatoes, Stuffing mix, Rice, Cereal

**The next distribution will be on
April 14th**





Prayer Shawl Ministry



We are meeting in the cozy choir room every other week until the days get longer and the evenings are warmer.

Our meetings during the month of April will be on Thursdays, April 3rd and April 24th at 7:00 pm.

Beginning the first of May, we will meet weekly.

Come join us! All are welcome. If you can't knit or crochet, and want to learn, we can teach you.

Presbytery of the Coastlands



<https://coastlandspresbytery.org>

Pussy Willows – not Palms – in Poland



We typically think of palm branches on Palm Sunday. Yet, in many places around the world, palm branches haven't always been easy to gain access to. In their place other branches and even flowers have been substituted.

In Poland and other Slavic countries, the pussy willow, *salix caprea* (great willow), is part of today's celebration since palm trees are not indigenous to Poland.

According to Polish legend, Jesus visited a forest on Palm Sunday that was barren of leaves and flowers due to harsh winter conditions. Jesus instructed his angels to bring pussy willows into the woods, where they remain one of the first blooms of Spring.

Early during Lent, people today still bring pussy willow branches into their homes. They place them in water and wait for them to bloom so they can be used Palm Sunday.

On Easter Monday in Poland, pussy willows are used in Dyngus Day celebrations that mark the end of Lent. Pussy willows are a symbol for the resurrection and everlasting life.

Mission Focus - April



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the self-development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Our offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 20th. You may use the envelope included in your bulletin or a pew envelope marked with OGHofS and your name and giving number.

Many people will come to know God's love through your generosity.