



the Spire

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

MAY 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

^{21a}Paul and Barnabas preached the Good News in Derbe and won back many disciples. ²²They strengthened the believers and encouraged them to remain true in the faith. Acts 14:21a-22

Our PNC is still working hard to find that pastor who will strengthen and encourage us as a congregation to live in faith in the promises of Jesus Christ. Pray for the members of the PNC, for discernment in choosing the person whom God has already called, and patience to wait for that person to answer the call.

May Mission Focus



Did you know Blanket Sunday isn't just about blankets?

For many years, we have supported Church world Services with our annual Blanket Sunday event, but there is so much more they do! CWS also provides buckets of cleaning supplies, hygiene kits, period supplies, and backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies or items helpful to displaced persons.

Although a blanket still can be provided for only \$10, we need not limit our generosity. \$25 will provide a blanket and a hygiene kit, and \$60 will provide an entire family bundle of blankets and kits, bringing comfort and care to a whole household.

आपका स्वागत है

Aapka swagat hai

**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 - Hindi

Session actions of April 13, 2025

Motion to approve an offering for Blanket Sunday on Mother's Day to be donated to Church World Services. Motion was second and Approved.



Room 6 has now been designated as "The Meeting Room". THANK YOU to all who helped transform this room into a comfortable space to conduct our business and to host our guests.

From the Book of Order: W-3.0403 Responsibility for Baptism

Baptism shall be authorized by the session and administered by a minister of the Word and Sacrament. The session's responsibilities for baptism include: encouraging parents (or those exercising parental responsibility) to present their children for Baptism without undue haste or undue delay; encouraging new believers to be baptized; examining candidates for Baptism, or their parents, and instructing them in the significance of the sacrament; enrolling those who are baptized as members of the congregation; and providing for their ongoing nurture and formation of baptismal life in the world. The congregation as a whole, on behalf of the universal church, is responsible for nurturing baptized persons in Christian life. The session may designate certain members of the congregation as sponsors or mentors for those who are baptized or for their parents.

When a young child is presented for Baptism at least one parent (or person exercising parental responsibility) should be an active member of a Christian church, normally the congregation in which the baptism takes place.



Liturgy for MAY

Sunday, May 4th

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19



Sunday, May 11th

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30



Sunday, May 18th

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35



Sunday, May 25th

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14: 23-29 or John 5:1-9



Thursday, May 29th

Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53



Happy Birthday, Laura and Sue



Sue Ramirez and Laura Reeves celebrated their birthdays together and with their church family on Sunday, April 6th.

Happy Birthday Meline



On April 27th we celebrated with the Doodnauth/Durgana family on the occasion of a milestone birthday of Meline Doodnauth



On May 11th we celebrate mothers and all women who served the role of mother to those without. May God bless you.

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.

May Memory Verses

⁶When the apostles met together with Jesus, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time give the Kingdom back to Israel?"

⁷Jesus said to them, "The times and occasions are set by my Father's own authority, and it is not for you to know when they will be. ⁸But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹After saying this, he was taken up to heaven, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They still had their eyes fixed on the sky as he went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them ¹¹and said, "Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven."

The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again.

Charles Dickens

Happy May Birthdays



Belinda Durgana	5/15
Jennifer Morgan	5/22
Gerald Luna	5/24
Suzannah Hansen	5/24

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 May 12th.

Classic Peanuts By Charles Schultz



442 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
 4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
 con - flict, man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
 I be - lieve,
 thine a - lone,

Text by Charlotte Elliott, 1834

When illness limited her involvement in a bustling household, the author wrote this hymn that helped her both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ's self-giving. Its simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort to many.

As Ron closed his sermon on Sunday, he cited this poet as the organ played, but we did not sing it. It is one of the many hymns, poems and writings of Charlotte Elliott as she searched for faith during a lifetime of illness.

Presbytery of the Coastlands

<https://coastlandspresbytery.org>

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will meet May 14th and May 28th.
 Come join us! All are welcome. If you can't knit or crochet, and want to learn, we can teach you.

Remember and Honor

★ MEMORIAL DAY ★

May 26th

MAY 6TH - HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY