the Spire

Newsletter of the Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church

MAY 2026

Minds, hearts, hands, and voices in Christ.

Call for a Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, May 17, 2026, immediately following worship, for the purpose of approving the PNC's recommendation of a candidate for our new Pastor.

The new flag is up!

…and

Our new sign on the corner of Rte. 27 and Oak Tree Road is installed!

'Thank you' to Jeff Reeves and his crew for all the time, hard work and expertise needed to get the job done.

Now we need a team of volunteers to learn how to program it. If you are interested, let Jeff or Chris Madsen know so we can schedule a class.

SPECIAL DAY!!!

MAY 3RD

COME AND SEE WHY

(10:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY)

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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***".

Welcome

to
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.

Session actions of April 12th

Motion to approve CE Lessons from April 12th through May 31st.
Motion to hold Blanket Sunday on May 10th
Motion to approve building rental at Iselin on May 8th from 11am to 5pm.
Motion to approve building rental at Edison on May 8th and 16th from 1-4pm.
Motion to approve building rental at Edison for a music recital in June.
Motion to accept the Newton Montessori request to occupy the Edison Building starting in July.
Motion to approve a congregational meeting to be held on May 17th to accept PNC's recommendation of a new Pastor.

CWS Church World Service

BLANKET SUNDAY

May 10th

Not just about blankets anymore!

Your $10 donation can also provide Filled Cleaning Buckets, Hygiene Kits, Women's Period Kits, and School Supplies for the kids.

Blankets are available in two types:

Appropriate for warmer climates, these fleece blankets (60" x 80") are water repellant, durable, warm and soft. These blankets keep families covered without adding bulk.

These woolen blankets (62" x 80") are water-resistant and flame-retardant. They are extremely durable, warm and great for frigid temperatures or other extreme weather conditions.

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)

Liturgy for May

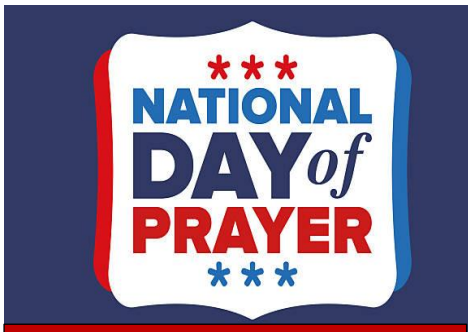
May 3rd Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 7:55-60 and
Psalm 31:1-5 or
Proverbs 4:10-18 and
Psalm 119:9-32
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 10th Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31 and
Psalm 66:8-20 or
Ezekial 34:1-7a and
Psalm 115
1Peter3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 17th Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14 and
Psalm68:1-10, 32-35 or
Isaiah 45:1-7 and
Psalm 21:1-7
1Peter4:12-14,5:6-11
John 17:1-11

May 24th Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or
Numbers 11:24-30 and
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or
Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7L37-39

May 31st Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
1 Corinthians13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20



May 2nd

Book of Order W-5.0202
God calls the church to pray without ceasing in Jesus' name. Services of daily prayer offer us a way of joining Christ's ceaseless intercession for the church and the world.

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

johnsonburg
Camp & Retreat Center

Friend's Day

Saturday, July 11, 2026
10:00 am- 4:00 pm - (Lunch included)

Registration required: Coastlandspresbytery.org

$25 Tier 1 $15 Tier 2

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.

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.

May distribution is on Monday, May 11. 2026

Coastlandspresbytery.org

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was established after the Civil War to honor fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers and flags. Proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, it was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery. It became a federal holiday in 1971, observed on the last Monday in May.

National Cemetery Administration (.gov)

Origins and "Decoration Day"

Civil War Roots: Following the immense casualties of the Civil War, local, informal tributes to the dead grew in popularity across the country.

First Official Observance: Gen. John A. Logan, leader of the Union veterans' organization Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), established the first official "Decoration Day" on May 30, 1868, to decorate the graves of soldiers who died in the war.

Why May 30th? The date was believed to be chosen because flowers would be in full bloom across the nation.

Confederate Traditions: Several Southern women's groups held tributes to fallen Confederate soldiers prior to 1868, with early local observances recorded as early as 1865.

Birthplace: While many cities claim to have started it, in 1966, the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of the holiday, as it held a formal, community-wide ceremony on May 5, 1866.

National Cemetery Administration (.gov)

Evolution of the Holiday

Expanding Scope: Originally focused on Civil War fatalities, the holiday evolved after World War I to honor American military personnel who died in all conflicts.

From May 30 to Monday: For decades, the holiday was observed on May 30, but in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

The act went into effect in 1971, officially declaring Memorial Day a federal holiday on the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend.

VA.gov Home | Veterans Affairs

Traditions and Meaning

Graveside Decoration: The traditional practice involves visiting cemeteries and decorating the graves of deceased service members with flowers, wreaths, and flags.

National Moment of Remembrance: Congress established that at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, Americans are encouraged to pause for one minute to honor those who have died in military service.

Symbol of the Poppy: The wearing of red poppies, inspired by the World War I poem "In Flanders Fields," is a tradition that began in the 1920s to honor fallen soldiers.

PBS

Memorial Day differs from Veterans Day (November 11), which honors all who have served in the military, while Memorial Day specifically honors those who died in service.

National Archives (.gov)

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.