the Spire

Newsletter of the Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church

JUNE 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***".

Minds, hearts, hands, and voices in Christ.

Thank You

Thank you to our Pastor Nominating Committee, Laura Reeves, Chair, Lilliam Gilzean, Heather Meyers, Sue Ramirez, and Audrey Rozger, for their many long hours of work to find our new pastor. 'Well done', good and faithful servants!

WELCOME

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriquez has accepted our call. She will begin her ministry here with us on July 1st.

Rev. Jeniffer Rodríguez Michel, originally from the Dominican Republic, is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Ossining. Prior to that call, she served as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, NJ. With a background in communications, she earned her Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. She has been involved in intercultural and cross-cultural ministries since the beginning of her career. At the national level, Pastor Jeniffer serves as a minister of diversity, equity, and inclusion with the Presbyterian Foundation. She is also a member of the special committee responsible for drafting a confession to be considered for inclusion in the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Her passion for social justice is an ongoing commitment and dedication in many areas, such as human rights and the environment. Pastor Jeniffer Rodríguez and her husband, Kyle Craig, are the parents of Emma Sophia and Eric Gabriel. She enjoys spending time with her family, as well as engaging in meaningful conversations over coffee or tea. She also enjoys creative expression through art, both in worship and in her personal life. Additionally, she serves as chaplain of the New York City–based Ecumenical Choir Cántico Nuevo (New Song), where she helps inspire hope and call others to action through music.

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.

Special Congregation Meeting, Sunday, May 17, 2026
Motion to accept the nomination of the PNC candidate, Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez, as our full-time permanent pastor, beginning July 1, 2026, and the terms of call as presented.

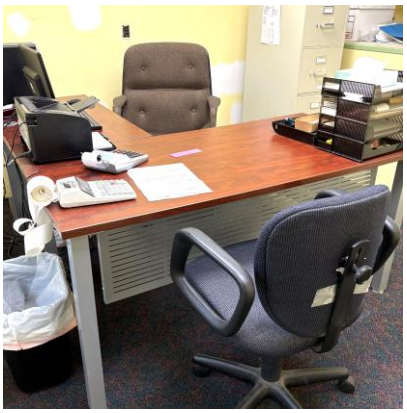
Motion to dissolve the Pastor Nominating Committee with gratitude.

Session actions of May 17th
Motion to elect Heather Meyers and Herb Williams as elder commissioners to the May 19thPrsbytery meeting.

Motion to sponsor Herb Williams so he can begin his studies to become a pastor under the direction of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery.

New Conference table and comfortable chairs for those long meetings.

Thanks to Meline Doodnauth and Levest Electrical, we now have new furniture in the Meeting room, Treasurer's office and Pastor's office.



Treasurer/counters room still needs paint to compliment the new desk.

A new desk is waiting for our new pastor.

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)

June Liturgy

Sunday, June 7th

Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:1-12 or
Hosea 5:15-6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13,18-26

Sunday, June 14th

Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7
Psalm 116:1-2, 12019 or
Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

Sunday, June 21st

Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10,16-17 or
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10(11-15)
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Sunday, June 28th

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13 or
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

Joan Katen is always grateful to receive friends from Oak Tree-Iselin Church. Pictured here is Joan (center), Barbara (L,her companion), and Betsy (R), after a visit to Carvel.

Sunday, June 1st

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 (and many cat food can) tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Mission effort of the Avenel Presbyterian Church VBS. The money is used to provide free lodging for families of seriously ill children while they are being treated in a hospital, often a long journey from home. 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!

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.

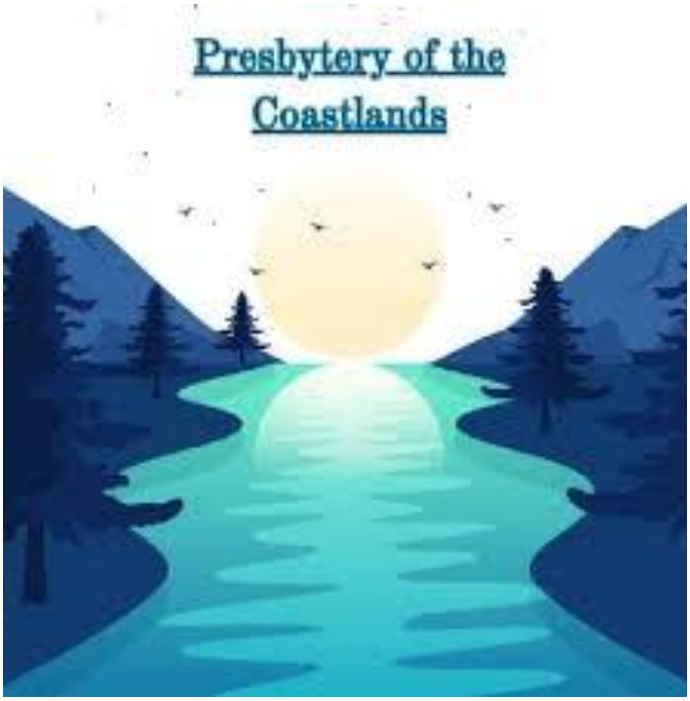
Ministry of Compassion

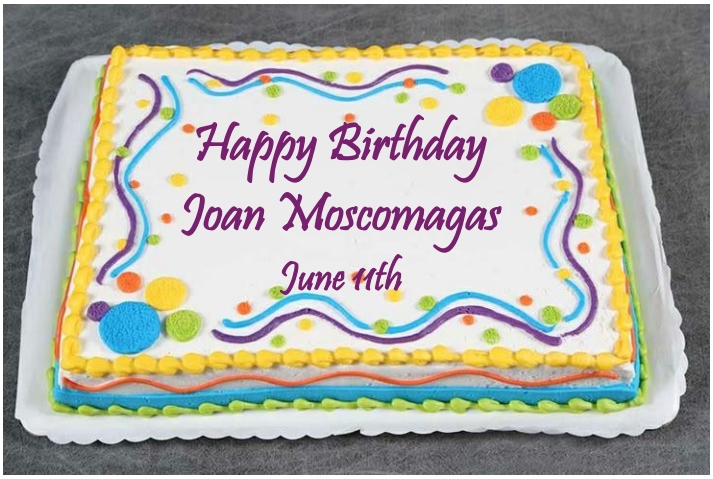
A receptacle has been placed in the foyer for donations to the food pantry. Items needed are:

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.

The next distribution is on Monday, June 8, 2026.





Presbyteryofthecoastlands.org

Heather Meyers elected to represent Coastlands Presbytery at the 227th General Assembly

I'm really excited to have been elected to serve as a ruling elder commissioner to the 227th General Assembly of the PC (USA). I have been assigned to the Committee on Constitutional Interpretation.

The General Assembly happens every two years. It brings together committees that make recommendations to the plenary (whole group) sessions. It also includes shared meals, learning opportunities, moments of public witness, and more.

As the highest council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the General Assembly includes commissioners from presbyteries, with teaching elders and ruling elders represented equally. Young Adult Advisory Delegates, Theological Student Advisory Delegates, and Partner Advisory Delegates are also part of the assembly. Together, they gather in committees and plenary sessions to help discern the future of the church and make decisions that shape the life of the PC(USA).

As a worshiping body, the General Assembly is also a time for people from across the PC(USA) and beyond to come together in all their diversity as one. In worship, the Assembly reflects on scripture, celebrates the sacraments, and proclaims God's work in the world.

This year's General Assembly is being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Committees will meet virtually the week of June 22. Commissioners travel to Milwaukee on June 26. On Saturday, June 27, we will have the opportunity to participate in a Walk to End Gun Violence. We

(con't next column)

will join local congregations for worship and lunch on Sunday. Plenary sessions are held from Monday, June 29 - Thursday, July 2.

Please keep the commissioners, delegates, and staff in your prayers during the coming month as we take part in this important work of the church.

Heather Meyers

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.

Commissioning our representatives to the 227th Meeting of the PC(USA) General Assembly

(From Left) Heather Meyers, Adebisi Shofu, Rev. Khayla Henry, Rev. Carmen Rosario, Moderator of the Presbytery Elder Kavin Gift (at podium) and Jean Woodman, Stated Clerk, as they are commissioned to the PC(USA) General Assembly that begins on June 22nd.

A Little Bit of History: Juneteenth

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of slavery. Although the Emancipation Proclamation legally freed enslaved people in rebelling states on January 1, 1863, freedom did not reach those in the deepest parts of the Confederacy until the Civil War concluded.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and read General Orders No. 3, which notified the state's 250,000 enslaved African Americans that they were completely free.

In 1866, formerly enslaved Texans held the first official jubilee, establishing a tradition of music, prayer, and barbecues. As Black Americans migrated across the country, the observance spread.

In 1979, Texas became the first state to designate Juneteenth as an official state holiday. Decades later, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, establishing it as a federal holiday.

You may never sing these hymns again without smiling…

Hymn # 268 The Dentist's Hymn –
Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymn # 32 The Contractor's Hymn
The Church's One Foundation

Hymn # 1 The Tailor's Hymn
Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn # 838 The Politician's Hymn
Standing On the Promises

Hymn #451 The Optometrist's Hymn
Open My Eyes That I May See

Dinesh Shenoy and Andrea Hickle, married here in August, 2000.

Dinesh Shenoy and Andrea Hickle, were married in the former First Presbyterian Church in August 2000. They now live in Minneapolis, Minn, but wanted to come in and relive the day they married. They recounted how they had the Indian service in the morning, then changed to have a Christian wedding. They had their own pastor marry them. Andrea said, and Dinesh agreed, that the sanctuary is just as beautiful as they remember it!