

# OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

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Sunday, July 14, 2024

10:30 a.m.

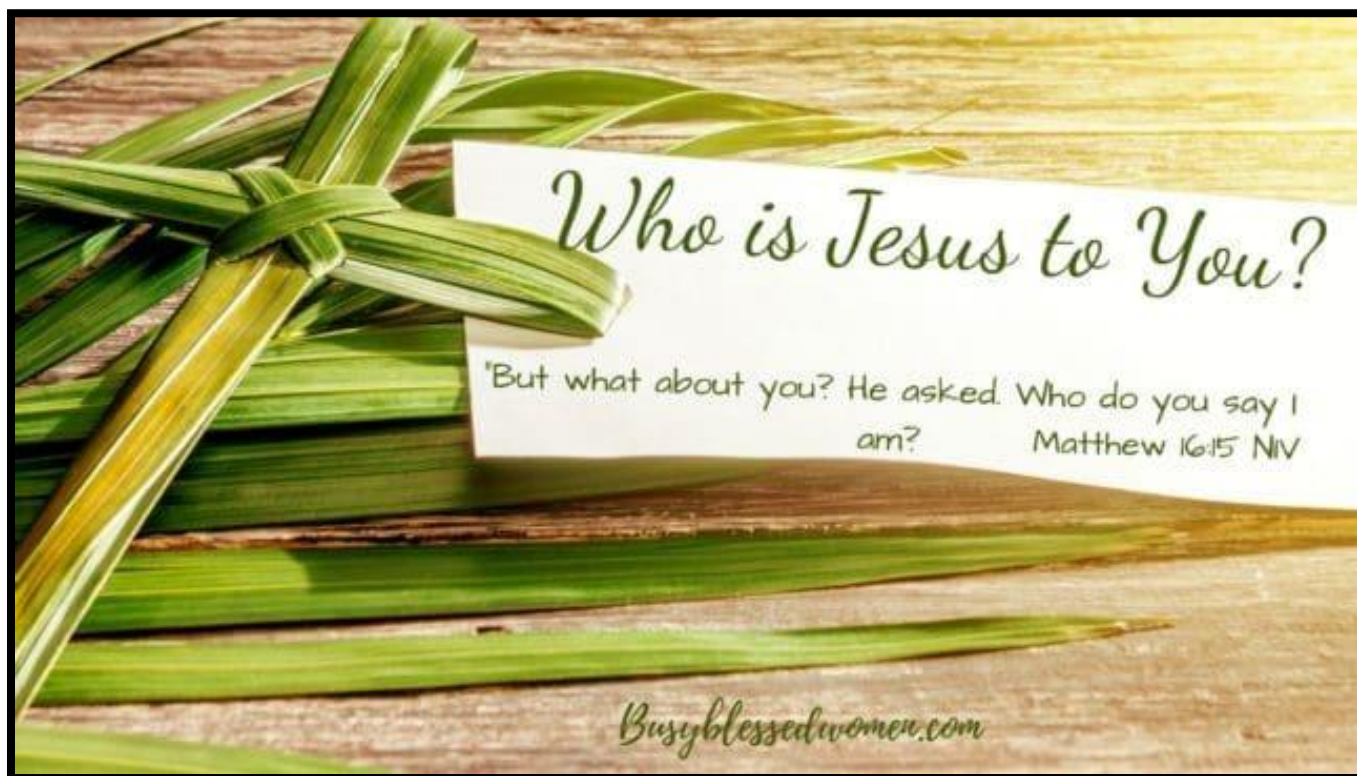
Service led by: Elder Gayle Griffin, CRE

Liturgist: Elder Leonard Mesonas

Director of Music: Alaine Bolton

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

## *Gathering for Worship*



PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leonard Mesonas





1 See, all the earth is God's, its peo - ple and na - tions;  
 2 Who can go up this moun - tain, who stand in prais - ing?  
 3 Come, lift your voic - es high; be lift - ed to glo - ry;  
 4 Who is this glo - rious one, for whom we are wait - ing?  
 5 Come, lift your heads with joy; come, lift up your tow - er;  
 6 Who is this King of glo - ry of whom we're sing - ing?



God built it on the deeps and laid its foun - da - tions.  
 Those who are pure, who come with clean hands up - rais - ing. (R)  
 the Lord our God ap - proach - es; come, shout the sto - ry.  
 We wait the might - y Lord, our God cel - e - brat - ing. (R)  
 the King of glo - ry comes in full might and pow - er.  
 Our God, the Lord of Hosts, the vic - tory is bring - ing. (R)

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leonard Mesonas

The truth is liberating. Let us honestly examine our hearts and confess our sins before God.

### PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Leonard Mesonas

**Holy God, we belittle ourselves in the face of overwhelming problems. We tell ourselves we are powerless to create positive change. We tell ourselves that peace is impossible as we invest billions in weapons of war. We refuse new ideas, new solutions, and new voices. We are stuck. Trapped. In our comfortable ways. Forgive our reluctance, God. Forgive our ignorance. Forgive our excuse-making and turn us to all that is possible through you. Amen.**

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

### PERSONAL CONFESSION

Leonard Mesonas

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Gayle Griffin, CRE

Christ has set us free! Claim your forgiveness! Rejoice in God's grace! Respond with bold, courageous love! **Amen.**

# Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of musical notation for the first line of the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the".

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -".

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,".

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth system of musical notation, which concludes the piece. The melody ends with a double bar line in the treble clef, and the accompaniment ends with a double bar line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "world with - out end. A - men, a - men.".

## \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leonard Mesonas

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Please pass the peace with friends and loved ones)*

# Hearing and Responding to the Word Proclaimed

CHILDREN'S TIME

Gayle Griffin, CRE

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leonard Mesonas

Prepare our hearts and minds for the hearing of your Word, Holy God. Open us to your truth. Humble us to your way. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READING (Old Testament)

Leonard Mesonas

### Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

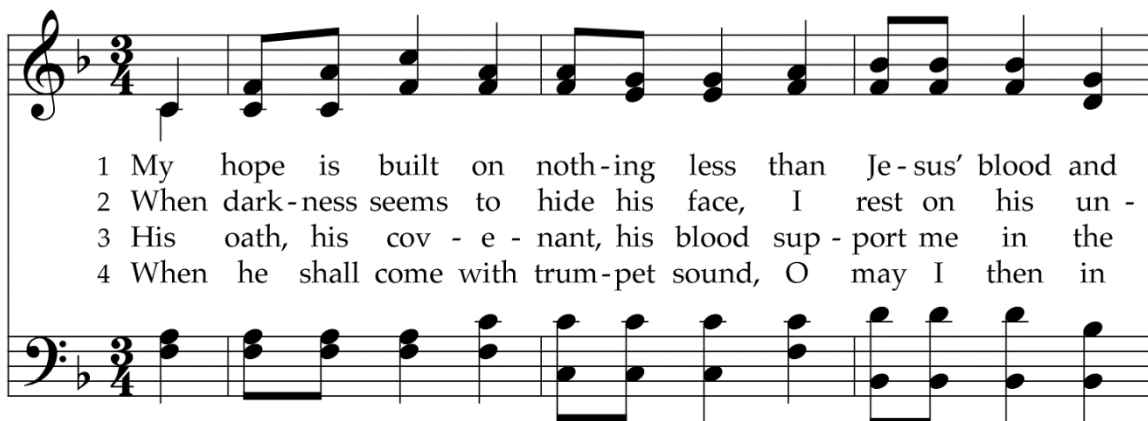
**4** Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

<sup>6</sup>Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." <sup>7</sup>What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Congregational Hymn #353 **My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less**

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and  
2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the  
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but  
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my  
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he  
 him be found, dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

*Refrain*

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all  
 then is all my hope and stay.  
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

**SCRIPTURE READING (New Testament)**

**Gayle Griffin, CRE**

**Matthew 16: 13- 20**

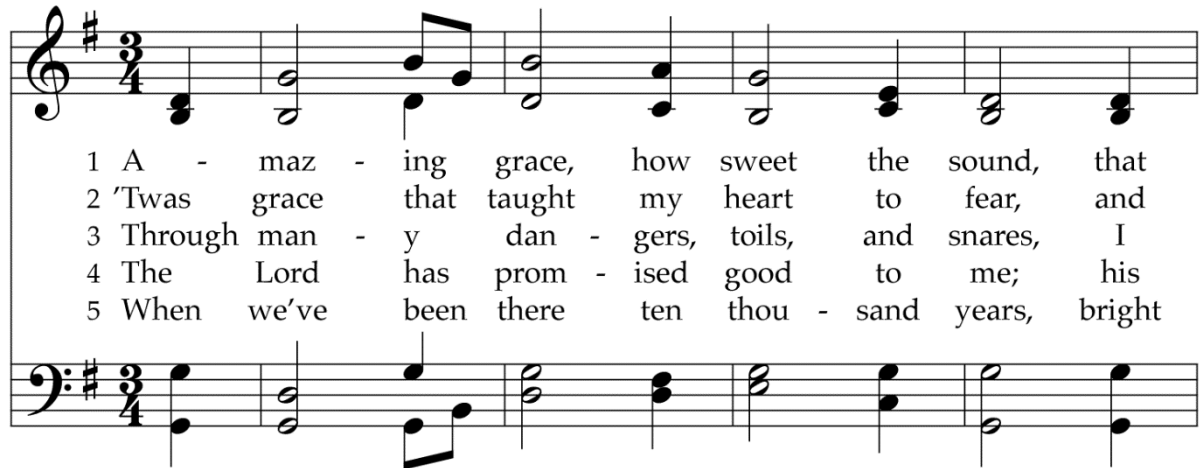
<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you that you are Peter,<sup>[a]</sup> and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades<sup>[b]</sup> will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be<sup>[c]</sup> bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be<sup>[d]</sup> loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**THE MESSAGE**

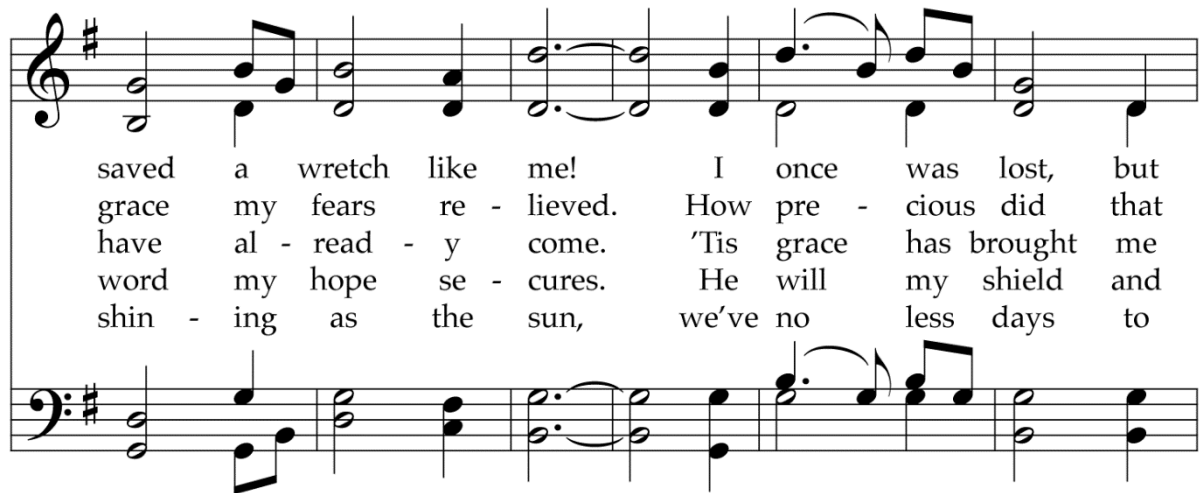
**Loosing and Binding**

**Gayle Griffin, CRE**

# 649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

*The Thanksgiving*

**THE OFFERING**

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

**\*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 14 (vs. 1)**

**For the Beauty of the Earth 14**

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the bass clef, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.



for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

*Refrain*

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

**\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Most generous God, you have blessed us with gifts to serve and share. May the offerings we present today be used to promote peace, justice, and the healing you desire for us and your world, Amen.

*Sending Us into the World*

**\*HYMN #35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

**35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-  
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly  
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a-

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

**BENEDICTION**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all, **Amen.**

# 745 Now Go in Joy

Now go in joy to spread the Word till all peo - ple have  
heard: God em - brac - es all! Fol - low, then, the dis -  
ci - ples' call: tend your neigh - bors with lov - ing care  
in dai - ly work and prayer. God's own  
grace em - pow - er your spir - it. A - men!

Chords: G, Am7, D, G, Am, D7, G, Am, D, G

## THE POSTLUDE

OFFERING: Whether you are just passing through town and wanted to stop in for church, this is your first visit of many future ones, or you are with us every week, we certainly appreciate your desire to give anonymously, but if you would like to receive a record of giving for tax purposes, please fill out a pew envelope, check 'I am visiting', and add your name and address. We appreciate every generous gift and want to make sure we have a proper record of it to say, Thank you!

## *Welcome!*

Today we welcome Gayle W. Griffin, Ph.D., CRE, to our pulpit.

Gayle W. Griffin, Ph.D., has been a member of Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark, New Jersey for more than 22 years, and also serves Elder there. Prior to moving to New Jersey, she was a member of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, for 19 years. There, she was a Deacon for 7 years, including 5 years as Moderator of the Deacon Board, and 10 years as an Elder. She worked in several ministries in Grace Church. She also served as secretary of the church's non-profit foundation, Schenley Heights Community Development Corporation. At Roseville, she teaches the adult women's Sunday School Class and chairs the Worship and Music Committee, is an Elder, and serves on the Roseville Church non-profit foundation, Roseville Outreach Community Corporation. She has served on numerous church and presbytery committees and is currently serving on the Vision Board for the newly organized Presbytery of North East NJ.

In her professional life, Dr. Griffin is retired from the Newark Public Schools and the East Orange School District as Assistant Superintendent. She served on the **Newark Public Library** Board of Trustees for 14 years. She has been an Executive School Performance Coach and served as Executive Director of the NJ Department of Education's Regional Achievement Center in Essex and Hudson County. She currently is a faculty member at Seton Hall University's Urban School Transformation, serving as an educational consultant in school districts in New Jersey.

Dr. Griffin is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who at the age of seventeen moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to attend college. She graduated from Chatham College where she received her B.A. degree and the University of Pittsburgh where she received her M.Ed. and Ph.D. In Pittsburgh, she was a teacher and principal. She met and married her husband who was a native of western Pennsylvania. She is a widow and the mother of one daughter, Dr. FloJaune Griffin-Cofer, an epidemiologist, who lives in Sacramento, CA.

More importantly, though, she is a born again Christian. Mrs. Griffin believes, "A woman makes her plans, but the Lord orders her steps." Through prayer, this proverb has guided her daily actions.

## Friendly Reminders

Please note that checks made out to **First Presbyterian Church of Iselin** or **Oak Tree Presbyterian Church** are no longer accepted by the bank. Going forward, checks are to be made to: **Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church.**

Gayle Griffin, CRE	<b>Today</b>	07/14/24	
Mid-Summer Patio Picnic	Friday	07/19/24	Oak Tree-Iselin Outreach Center at 6 pm
Diane Anderson-Butts, CRE	Sunday	07/21/24	
	Sunday	07/28/24	
Margarita Estrada	Tuesday	07/30/24	Vacation Day
Gayle Griffin, CRE	Sunday	08/04/24	`
Kristofer Stinson	Sunday	08/11/24	
	Sunday	08/18/24	
Theodore Longlois	Sunday	08/25/24	

*Happy Birthday, Sara!*



Join us in fellowship hall after worship to celebrate Deacon Sara Schweitzer's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday! We wish her health, love, and happiness on this birthday and always!

# *OakTreeSelinPresNJ members have an opportunity to host Fellowship Hour in August!*

There will be no refreshments served after worship during the month of August because the deacons are taking a well-deserved break; however, if anyone would like to host Fellowship during that month, you may do so. A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall. Fellowship Hour preparation will resume on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## *Scheduled Liturgists!*

To all who answered the call to serve as liturgists, Thank you! We are covered through the end of July! We are now looking to complete August and September. Please email Margarita Estrada at [margarit01@comcast.net](mailto:margarit01@comcast.net), or call her at (732) 283-1188, if you'd like further opportunities to serve as liturgists.

<b>July</b>	
<b>Today</b>	Leonard Mesonas
07/21/24	Betsy Christensen
07/28/24	Ron Stamboly

<b>August</b>	
8/04/24 Communion	Jim Durgana
08/11/24	
08/18/24	Betsy Christensen
08/25/24	Ron Stamboly

<b>September</b>	
09/01/24 Communion	
09/08/24	Leonard Mesonas
09/15/24	Linda Sahayaraj
09/22/24	Ron Stamboly
09/29/24	Lilliam Colon-Gilzean

## *Ongoing Initiatives*

**SHOP-RITE GIFT CARDS:** Gift cards will be available every Sunday after worship. Simply bring your check or cash and purchase your cards.

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES:** We are collecting aluminum can tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick throughout the year. Please place your donation of aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick in the container in Fellowship Hall or give them to Heather Meyers. Tabs can come from a variety of cans (soda or other beverages, pet food, soup, etc.), but must be aluminum. How can you tell? Aluminum won't stick to a magnet.

## *Message from The Board of Deacons*

### *Ministry of Compassion*

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, “I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” – Matthew 25:35-36

The Ministry of Compassion is requesting food donations for our monthly food baskets. A bin has been set up in the hallway of the church, by the literature bookcase so that you can have the opportunity to help. For more information, see Nancy Abel or Sara Schweitzer. Below are the food items needed:

<b>Canned</b>	<b>Dry Goods</b>
Vegetables	Pasta
Beans	Rice
Fruit	Instant Potatoes
Tuna fish	Mac and Cheese
Pasta sauce	Cereal
Soup	Peanut Butter & Jelly

### *Regular Activities*

Church Office is open Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Men’s Breakfast & CLEF Ladies Breakfast,  
Summer off, next meeting will be on September 7, 2024

Sunday Bible Study - 9:00 am

Session meetings are held monthly (dates will be posted in Friendly Reminders section).

Choir practice: 1<sup>st</sup> and last Sunday of the Month at 9:30 am

Divine Worship: In the sanctuary and on Facebook Livestream,  
Sundays at 10:30 am

# Session

Laura Reeves, Clerk of Session

Betsy Christensen	Mission
Jim Durgana	Treasurer
Len Mesonas	Human Resources, Officer Nominating Committee
Len Mesonas	Finance Chair, President of Corporation
Heather Meyers	Christian Education
Sue Ramirez	Worship and Music
Jeff Reeves	Buildings and Grounds
Ron Stamboly	Financial Secretary

## The Board of Deacons

Nancy Abel	Moderator/ Prayer Concern List/Board Secretary/Ministry of Compassion Chair
Roseanne (Cookie) Anthony	Hospitality Chair
Kate Scott	Session Board Liaison
Nikkie Hayase	Literature Chair
Joanne Mesonas	Flowers Co-Chairs
Susan O'Rourke-Sendelsky	Deacon Assistance Fund / Welfare Chair / Deacon Nominating Committee
Joan Moscomagas	Ministry of Compassion
Sara Schweitzer	Cards Chair / Hospitality Co-Chair
Pat Lillie	

## Our Mission Statement



We are a warm and welcoming community of faith, living the teachings of Jesus Christ and open to God's presence through the power of the Holy Spirit. We seek new pathways of ministry and service to fulfil God's purpose for our diverse community. -approved by the merger committee on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 and ratified by congregational vote, June 11, 2023.

*Dear Members and Guests, if you'd like to know more information about the latest news,*



Visit our website [www.oaktree-iselinpres.org](http://www.oaktree-iselinpres.org), using your mobile device, scan QR Code. To participate with us on social media, 'Like' our Facebook page, 'Follow' us on Instagram, or 'Like' and 'Subscribe' our YouTube channel! All the platforms use @oaktreeiselinpresnj as the identifier. Email us at: [info@oaktree-iselinpres.org](mailto:info@oaktree-iselinpres.org)