

OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

www.oaktree-iselinpres.org

(732) 283-1188

Email: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org

Sunday, June 30, 2024

10:30 a.m.

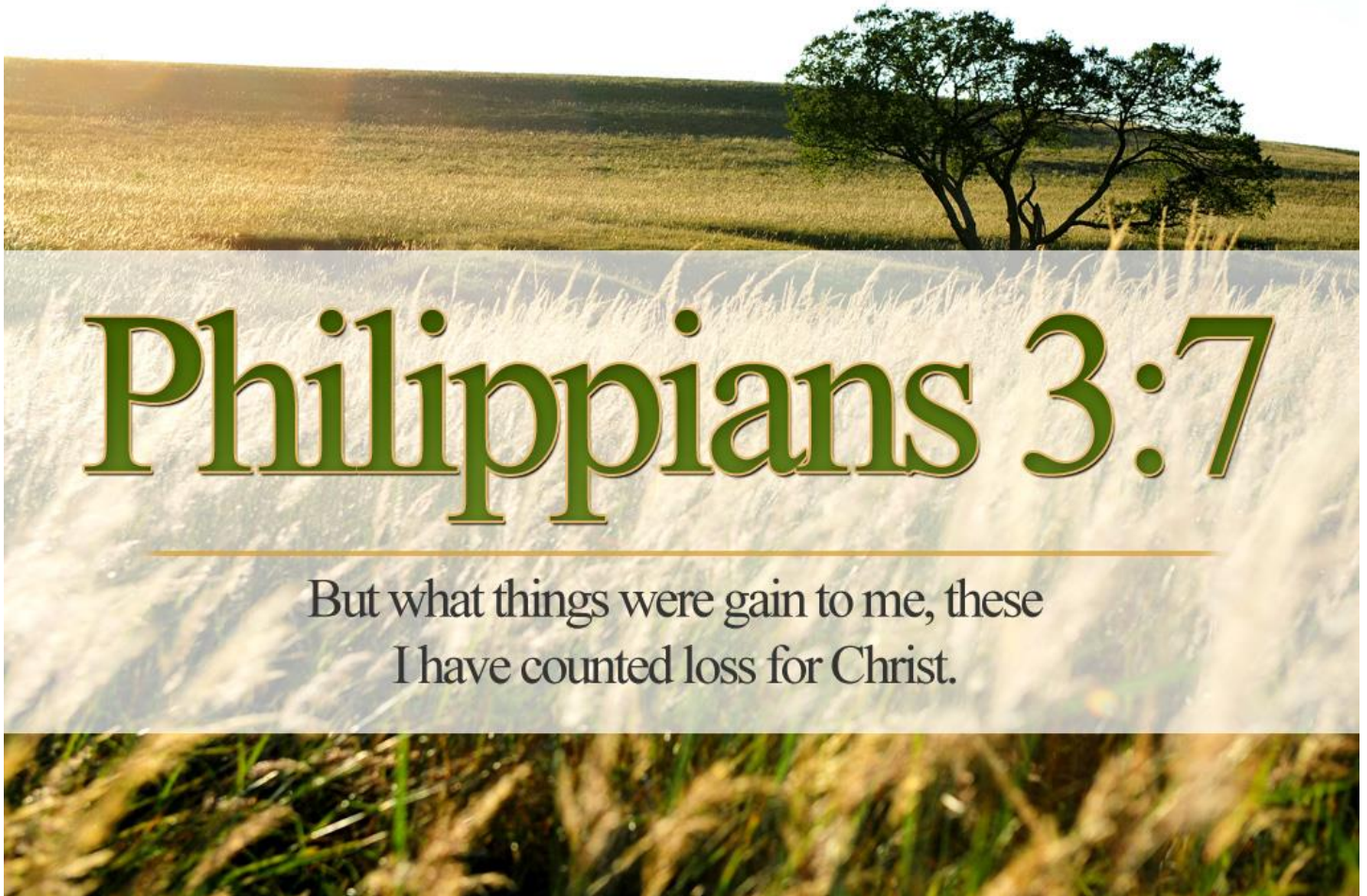
Service led by: Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

Liturgist: Elder Ron Stamboly

Director of Music: Alaine Bolton

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Gathering for Worship



Philippians 3:7

But what things were gain to me, these
I have counted loss for Christ.

Centering Thought

For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Stamboly

CHORAL INTROIT I Was Glad (1x)

I was glad when they said unto me,
“Let us go into the house of the Lord.”
I was glad when they said unto me,
“Let us go into the house of the Lord.—
And we’ll praise the creator of heaven and earth
Who came among us in humble birth.”
I was glad when they said unto me,
“Let us go into the house of the Lord.”
I was glad when they said unto me,
“Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

Ron Stamboly

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

People: Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!

Leader: The LORD’s right hand is lifted high; the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!

People: The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

ALL: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)**

Ron Stamboly

Faithful God, thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty we see all around us in the flowers, trees, birds of every kind. We are grateful for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time with our friends and family. Draw us closer to You this summer. Help us to always sense Your presence with us. Open our eyes to the truths found in Your Word this day and every day. As we rest and enjoy Your creation, create in us a pure heart, a hunger and thirst for your righteous ways. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

***HYMN #20 All Things Bright and Beautiful**

20 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all. *Fine*

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow - ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky:
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well. *to Refrain*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Ron Stamboly

If others were to imitate us, would the world be a better place? Before you gracious God, we bow down to confess our sins, faults, failures and weaknesses.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Ron Stamboly

We confess, O God, that we have not fulfilled the task for which you have chosen us. We have failed to share the joy of our faith. We have neglected to pray and study your Word. We have found idols to occupy the precious time you have given to us. Forgiving God, hear us again and help us again so that we might live lives worthy of your calling.

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

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Ron Stamboly

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

God meets us here in worship and listens to our every longing. In Christ, we are forgiven, and we are set free! Hallelujah!

***THE RESPONSE # 581**

Glory Be to the Father

581

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

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the' are written below the treble staff.

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

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics 'Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -' are written below the treble staff.

(Hymn continues next page)

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Ron Stamboly

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

Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ron Stamboly

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING (Old Testament)

Ron Stamboly

Psalms 130: 1-8

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

² Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord
 more than watchmen wait for the morning,
 more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
 for with the LORD is unfailing love
 and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
 from all their sins.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN # 23 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 23

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D) (G)
 E^b A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b A^b

1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan - ets, fill the seas and
 2 You have called us to be faith - ful in our life and
 3 God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)
 E^b B^b E^b Cm A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b

spread the plain, mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth
 min - is - try. We re - spond in grate-ful wor - ship joined in
 life made new. Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's

(G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)
 A^b E^b B^b E^b A^b E^b B^b

sun - shine, wind, and rain. We, cre - at - ed in your im - age,
 one com - mu - ni - ty. When we blur your gra - cious im - age,
 work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion.

(D) (Bm)(F#m) (G)(A) (D) (G)
 Eb Cm Gm Ab Bb Eb Ab

would a true re - flec - tion be of your jus - tice,
 fo - cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength - ened
 Pol - ish us with lov - ing care. Thus, new crea - tures

(D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A) (D)
 Eb Ab Bb Eb Ab Fm Eb Bb Eb

grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us free.
 as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.
 in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

SCRIPTURE READING (New Testament)

Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

Philippians 3:7-14

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

THE MESSAGE

I Feel Like Going On!

Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

***HYMN #829 My Faith Looks Up To Thee**

(Hymn begins on next page)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee 829

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way; nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

*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.

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.

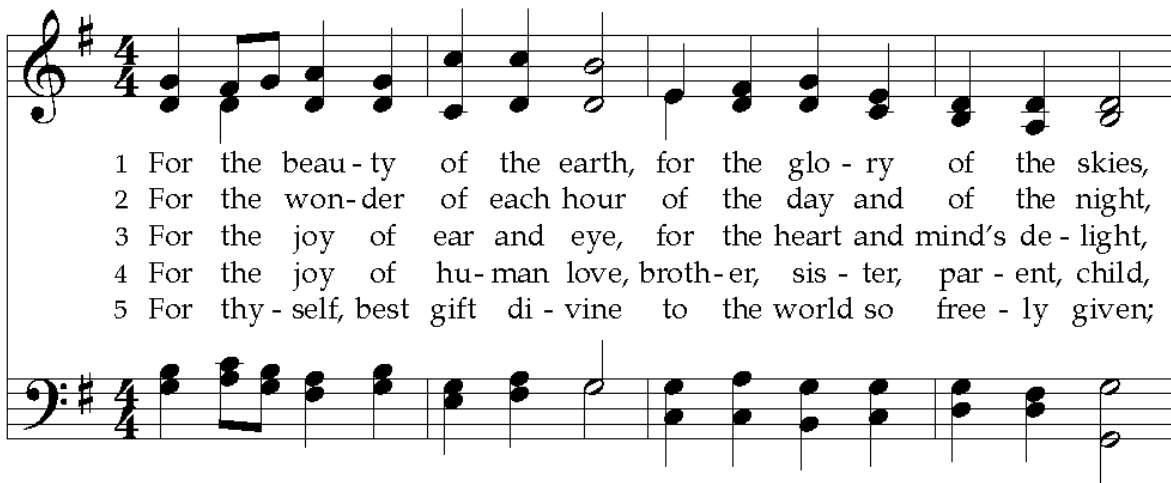
The Thanksgiving

THE OFFERING

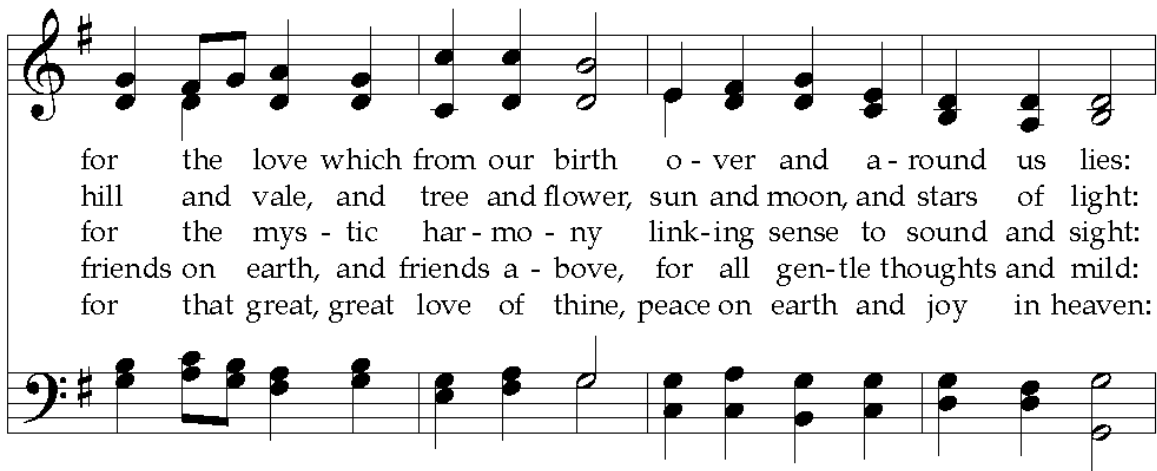
With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

*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;



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:

(Hymn continues next page)

Refrain

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

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Generous Lord, for your abounding grace, we give thanks. For your steadfast love, we pour out our gratitude. May our gifts bring healing and blessings to those who need it most. Amen.

Sending Us into the World

***HYMN # 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;
3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

The first system of musical notation is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. It includes three lines of lyrics corresponding to the three parts of the hymn.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.
stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. It includes three lines of lyrics.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit today, tomorrow, forever. Amen

CHORAL BENEDICTION # 745 (2x)

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 -

(Hymn continues next page)

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!

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 Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom to our pulpit.

Rev. Dr. Betty Jean Tom was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. Rev. Tom professed a saving hope in Jesus Christ and was baptized at the age of 12 while growing up in the New Liberty Baptist Church, where she grew up serving in the church in various capacities and believes that she was, "born to serve God". The benchmarks of Rev. Tom's ministry are her desire to advocate for those who have no voice, her love for prayer, praise and worship, and the study of God's Word. The scripture that best informs Rev. Tom's ministry is Colossians 3:17, "and whatever you do in word or deed do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Rev. Tom, formerly a teacher and school counselor in the Indianapolis Public School and Warren Township School districts for 22 years, holds a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, (2013); a Masters of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN (2003); a Master of Science degree in Education from Butler University, Indianapolis, IN (1986); and a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University, Muncie, IN (1978). She has served churches in Indianapolis, IN, Mt Vernon, New York and Newark, New Jersey. After 21 years of full-time ministry, Rev. Tom is honorably retired as of July 31, 2022.

Rev. Tom is a lifelong learner, social justice advocate and spiritual leader. She is an active member of the National Association of Presbyterian Clergy Women. She has served on the Advisory Board for the Presbyterian Hunger Program and currently serves as a board member for the Institute of Music for Children in Elizabeth NJ and the Jarvie Foundation and has written articles, essays and devotionals for the Indianapolis Star Newspaper, Presbyterian Today magazine, PHP Post. She has conducted several seminars and workshops on women in ministry with an emphasis on ministry as a second vocation. Rev. Tom is a philanthropist, an avid football and basketball fan who enjoys reading, writing, good jazz music, collecting books on prayer, water aerobics and swimming. Betty Tom is married to the Rev. Phil Tom and their blended family includes 6 children and three grandchildren.

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.**

Rev. Dr. Betty Tom	Today	06/30/24	
Independence Day	Thursday	07/04/24	Office Closed
Margarita Estrada	Friday	07/05/24	Vacation Day
Gayle Griffin, CRE	Sunday	07/07/24	
Margarita Estrada	Tuesday	07/09/24	Vacation Day
Gayle Griffin, CRE	Sunday	07/14/24	
Mid-Summer Patio Picnic	Friday	07/19/24	Oak Tree-Iselin Outreach Center at 6 pm
Fellowship After Worship Ends for Summer Break	Sunday	07/28/24	Deacon's Summer Break! Fellowship will return on 9/8/2024
Margarita Estrada	Tuesday	07/30/24	Vacation Day

Message from the Board of Deacons

Fellowship hour after worship will end on Sunday, July 28th because the Deacons are taking a well-deserved summer break for the month of August. Fellowship Hour preparation will resume on Sunday, September 8th, 2024. If everyone wants to continue Fellowship Hour for the month of August, you have the opportunity to host.

Scheduled Liturgists!

To all who answered the call to serve as liturgists, Thank you! We are covered through the end of July! Please email Margarita Estrada at margarito1@comcast.net, or call her at (732) 283-1188, if you'd like further opportunities to serve as liturgists.

June	
06/30/24	Ron Stamboly

July	
07/07/24 Communion	Steve Kitsko
07/14/24	Leonard Mesonas
07/21/24	Betsy Christensen
07/28/24	Ron Stamboly

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:

Canned	Dry Goods
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: 1st 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	
Joan Moscomagas	Deacon Assistance Fund / Welfare Chair / Deacon Nominating Committee
Sara Schweitzer	Ministry of Compassion
Pat Lillie	Cards Chair / Hospitality Co-Chair

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, 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

Cover photo: Jesus Calms the Storm by Anonymous