

Minds, hearts, hands, and voices in Christ.



Newsletter of the
Oak Tree-Iselin
Presbyterian Church
July-August 2024

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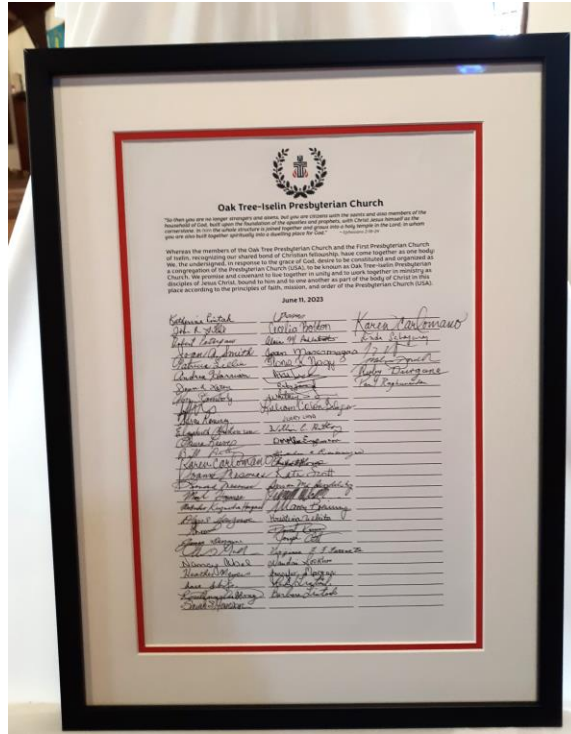


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the Spire is published for distribution electronically the first day of the month and sent by post the next business day. The deadline for submitted articles is the previous Wednesday. We welcome any news you would like to share with the congregation. 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*".

Charter Dedication

June 9, 2024



✝ Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church celebrated it's first year as a merged church on June 9th. CRE Linwood Bagby, our worship leader of the day, offered a prayer of blessing for this congregation and its continuing work together in the service of Jesus Christ.

Session Actions of June 10, 2024

Motion was made to approve the May 13th minutes as presented. Motion was second, Motion Approved.

Motion to hold a Midsummer Patio Party and Fellowship at the Oak Tree Outreach Center's backyard on Friday, July 19th at 6:00pm. Motion was second and approved.

Motion was made to pay Fred Blessman extra for non-routine and specialty work requests that need to be done at a rate of time and a half. Motion was second and approved.

Motion to print the Session motions in the next Spire. Motion second and approved.

WELCOME

**Oak Tree- Iselin
Presbyterian
Church**



**Join us
on Sunday morning
at 10:30 am
in the Sanctuary,
or on Facebook LIVE.**

**Sunday Morning
Bible Study**



**Will continue through
the Summer
at 9:00 am
in
Fellowship Hall**

**PER CAPITA
APPORTIONMENT
FOR 2024
\$40**

**YOU MAY USE THE BLUE
ENVELOPE IN YOUR GIVING
BOX OR A FEW ENVELOPE
MARKED WITH YOUR NAME
AND "PER CAPITA"**

The Mission Committee invites you to a



**Mid-Summer
Patio Picnic
and
Fellowship**

Friday, July 19th at 6:00 pm

at the

**Oak Tree-Iselin Outreach Center
Plainfield Road, Edison**

Suggested Donation - \$10
Bring a lawn chair and your
favorite beverage.

MENU
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
from the grill
Macaroni Salad
Kielbasa and Sauerkraut
Baked Beans - Dessert

Let us know you're coming.

Call or text Betsy at 732/407-2965 or e-mail at Betson42@comcast.com



Thank you

*to Durgana-Doodnauth Family
for hosting the
CLEF Ladies and Men's Breakfast
on June 1st.
The weather was perfect, the food was
delicious, and the welcoming was
wonderful!*

A NEW INITIATIVE

In Matthew 25 Jesus says to take care of each other.

Many of us who live alone do not carry information necessary for health officials to access in case of emergency. If you attend church regularly, we would like you to consider providing us with a contact number to be entered into your membership page on the office computer. If you experience a medical emergency and are unable to respond, we need to be able to call someone that has authority to speak for you. That person whom you choose should be asked permission before you give his/her phone number.

You may call Margarita in the church office at 732/283-1188, or Laura Reeves at 732/742-5417 to provide your private information.

Liturgy for July



July 7

2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6: 1-13

July 14th

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6: 14-29

July 21st

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28th

2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21



| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Pat Lillie | 7/06 |
| Andrew Abel | 7/07 |
| Jeffrey Reeves | 7/08 |
| Selvyn Thomas | 7/14 |
| Nadia Meyer | 7/14 |
| Sare Schweitzer | 7/14 |
| June Carroll | 7/15 |
| Joanne Mesonas | 7/19 |
| Maren Breining | 7/21 |
| John Dharmadurai | 7/21 |
| Joan Katen | 7/26 |
| Bob Pettipaw | 8/01 |
| Roseanne Anthony | 8/01 |
| Andrea Harrison | 8/01 |
| Joshua John | 8/01 |
| Joan Smith | 8/05 |
| Ilona Nagy | 8/13 |
| Davis Hayase | 8/13 |
| Marion Feliks | 8/14 |
| Anita John | 8/16 |
| Susan O'Rourke-Sendelsky | 8/17 |
| Sarah Hansen | 8/31 |

! SUMMERTIME CHALLENGE !

*What do you think the world
needs now...*

in just one word?



Liturgy for August

August 4th

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:4-35

August 11th

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6: 35, 41-51

August 18th

1 Kings, 2:10-12; 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 25th

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30,
41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6: 10-20
John 6:56-69





Thank You!



Tab collection for 2024 ends July 14th

Aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Not only did he open a restaurant, but he also opened the Ronald McDonald House that houses families of children with serious illnesses who are being treated at local hospitals, often far from home. Parents who are supporting an ill child are grateful for not having to worry about a clean bed and a hot meal, either free of charge or at minimal cost for as long as they need it.

One little tab might not seem like a lot, but many tabs together are sold by the pound and monies donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charity enables them to offer free lodging.

Your tab contribution helps sponsor this initiative through the Avenel Presbyterian Church VBS Program, which supports the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick.

Please continue to save tabs for July, 2025.

Shop-Rite gift cards are now 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.



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 | Pasta | Instant potatoes |
| Jelly | Stuffing | Mac'n'Cheese |
| Rice | Soup | Cranberry sauce |

**Summer distribution will be on
 Monday, July 8th
 and
 Monday, August 12th.**

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP HOUR


The Deacons Hospitality Committee will be taking a well-deserved rest during the month of August. Would you like to host Fellowship Hour on either August 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, or Sept. 1st?

You can host with another church member, as a family, with others on a committee or other church group.

Simple refreshments might include iced tea or punch, coffee (or Box o'Joe), cupcakes, cookies, or fruit.



A sign-up sheet will be posted shortly.



Memory Verse For July-August

I, therefore, a prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort o maintain the unity if the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Congratulations Pat and John



We celebrated
Pat and John Lillie's
**65th Wedding
Anniversary**
On
Sunday, June 9th.

**May God
Continue to Bless
their life together**



Bibles were presented to Lyra Naveen (r), and Lillian White, 3rd grade Sunday School students, on June 9th, by Heather Meyers, teacher and Chair of the Christian Education Committee.

Please pray for their continued journey in faith as they read, study, pray and come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.



Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church's Nancy Abel, Chair, Ministry of Compassion (r), Margarita Estrada, Office Manager, and Sara Schweitzer (not pictured), were invited to the Woodbridge Township Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, June 11th to receive a citation for the impactful work done by the church to address food insecurity of Woodbridge residents. The event was held at the Acacia Youth Center, Woodbridge, NJ. Thank you to all the organizers for hosting a beautiful luncheon, and to the speakers, Mayor John E. McCormac, Jennifer Apostol, Peter Barcelona and to so many others for providing valuable information on how New Jersey is leading the way towards curbing down food insecurity.



Alexa Broadwell, daughter of Jeff and Beth (Christensen) Broadwell, granddaughter of Betsy Christensen, was one of three young people to receive the rank of Eagle Scout on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the Court of Honor Ceremony at the Woodbridge Presbyterian Church. She made history as being the first female Eagle Scout in Woodbridge Township.



Sunday Morning Bible Study

²⁹The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to that carriage and stay close to it." ³⁰Philip ran over and heard him reading from the book of Isaiah. He asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹The official replied, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" and he invited Philip to climb up and sit in the carriage with him.

Acts 8:29 -31

After 7 years of good and faithful service leading the Sunday morning Bible Study, Ron would like to be a student. Can you hear the Spirit calling you to sit in the leader's or co-leader's chair? Ron will still be there to assist you and participate in the discussions.

Join us at
 **for**
Friends Day

July 13, 2024

Registration required at
www.campjburg.org



Blanket Sunday



Due to the generosity of our congregation, Church World Services was able to provide 27 blankets to those in need.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOAN



**ON JUNE 11TH,
 JOAN
 CELEBRATED
 90 YEARS
 AS A
 CHILD OF GOD.**

How to tell if a watermelon is ripe?

Here are a few tips for picking out a ripe melon for these watermelon recipes. There's really nothing worse than an unripe, flavorless version of this fruit. Of course, shopping when watermelon is in season is important! Here's how to get a ruby red, sweet melon:

Look for a lighter spot where the watermelon rested in the field. It's called a field spot. If the field spot is white, it's unripe; if the spot is yellow, it's ripe.

The melon should feel heavy. The watermelon should feel very heavy, which means there's a lot of juice inside. This is a little subjective, so the field spot is a little easier of an indicator.

Refreshing Watermelon Cucumber Salad

Ingredients

- 8 cups cubed ripe seedless watermelon (1 8-pound watermelon)
- 2 organic mini cucumbers or ½ English cucumber (1 cup sliced)
- 2 ounces feta cheese crumbles
- Zest of 1/2 lemon
- 4 basil leaves and Sea salt, for garnish

Instructions

Chop the watermelon into cubes. Slice the cucumbers (if using an English cucumber, slice it into half-moons). Chop the basil. Zest the lemon.

Arrange the watermelon and cucumbers on a platter. Sprinkle with feta crumbles, lemon zest, and sea salt. Taste and adjust flavors as desired. (If you'd like, you can add freshly ground black pepper or a drizzle of olive oil.) Serve immediately. If making ahead, refrigerate the cubed watermelon separately: it releases a lot of water after it is cut. Then assemble the salad directly before serving.

Sonia Overhiser From the internet



*Going Down the shore, baseball, picnics, county fairs, camping, working in the garden, watermelon, roses,
 We wish you a happy, restful, safe, and healthy Summer!
 Goin' fishing, lemonade, relaxing in a hammock, grilling burgers, watching the sun set, bonfires, hiking,
 Swimming, fireflies, jersey tomatoes and corn, reading a good book under a shady tree, ice cream cones*