

NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

In this season of displacement and discernment, the church is beginning to dream about what our church building will become. This discernment process begins with reaffirming our core values: Welcome, Love, and Transformation. Each decision about our building begins with asking, “How will this allow us to better live into our core values?” As we seek answers to these questions, we are asking the congregation to send us their dreams for the building, and by extension the dreams for the mission and ministry of the church. To this end, we are asking people to answer these two questions:

1. What can we do to the building to allow you to do more faithful ministry?
2. What can we do to the building to better serve you and your faith?

These two questions are related. One asks how the building will make you a better minister, and one asks how the building will minister to you. How will the building help you give, and how will it help you receive? Christian discipleship requires living in the tension of giving and receiving God’s gifts. Our building is a gift, and in this season, we hope to increase the value of that gift as it serves our congregation and as we use it to serve the world.

You can answer these questions at this link: tinyurl.com/OPCDreams

The answers to these questions will allow us to form the necessary task forces to ensure the building best serves our ministry. We will begin organizing more conversations about the building and its needs. We will provide various ways to participate in dreaming about what is next, including small group conversations.

Thank you all for participating in this work. I can’t wait to see what comes next!

-Adam

Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson
Pastor

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

Sharon Parker
Parish Care Associate

Dr. Christopher Gage
Director of Music

Anthony M. Carrella
Director of Children and Family Ministry

Lisa Faso
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

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A Word of Thanksgiving

We have just been together for Holy Week with its many opportunities to worship, pray and celebrate together after these many weeks as a church “on the road”. Each week we see Adam, Sharon, Chris, Anthony, Marc, and the members of our Quartet providing leadership in worship. What we don’t see is the considerable work that Adam and Sharon have been involved in in finding locations for us to be able to worship together and maintain other aspects of our life. Those efforts were particularly notable in the first weeks and in preparing for Holy Week. Then there is the Overbrook staff we don’t see on Sundays. The efforts of Lisa, Carol and Leonard behind the scenes are also essential to our continuing our worship and life as a community. Please be sure they know you appreciate their efforts.

But all the best efforts of the Overbrook staff would not be sufficient for us to maintain our worship life without help. The many members and friends of this congregation contribute every week to our worship and community life. In worship they are ushers, liturgists, Communion servers and the Deacons greeting us as we enter the building. Other volunteers are members of the choir, the many hands who make the Fellowship time work, and volunteers in CFM allowing us to continue to support and educate our young people. Please be sure they know you appreciate their efforts and ask how you might join them. The need for your help is essential in our ministry.

Pat Dillon, Chair
Worship and Music Committee

Souls Shot Portrait Exhibit Opening Event

April 4, 7:00 PM. Temple Beth Am Israel, Penn Valley

The Souls Shot Portrait Project uses the transformative power of art to bring an end to gun violence. Artists working with families, create portraits to honor the souls shot. By exhibiting the resulting artwork to the public, they invite the community to recognize what has been lost and to take action to end gun violence.

For the second year, OPC is honored to co-sponsor this moving event with Beth Am Israel. Please join us for this gathering of families who have lost loved ones to gun violence, of artists and writers who have captured their stories, and of social justice and peace advocates from our two congregations.



To The Chief Musician Portrait of Darlen Owen Griffen by Elisa Abeloff

Parish Care and Spiritual Life

Tuesday Prayer Group: Each Tuesday at 7:30 AM

Opportunities for fellowship, spiritual support, and shared prayer are offered each Tuesday morning at 7:30 AM on Zoom. You are warmly invited to join a group of faithful participants for whom "Amen" is not an ending, but a hopeful beginning. Regardless of whether your schedule allows you to participate, please consider us to be your prayer partners. As we do each Sunday morning during worship, all who gather on Tuesday will pray with and for you. We encourage you to send us your requests and each will be faithfully and confidentially lifted in prayer. You are invited to share your prayer requests with Parish Care Associate, Sharon Parker, (sharon@overbrookpresb.org; H: 215-309-5388). To join the Tuesday Prayer Group on Zoom, please use the following link: tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer.

Skyspace: Quiet awareness...contemplative joy

Consider giving yourself and those you love, the gifts of peace and beauty. Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting invites the public to join them for the viewing of *Greet the Light*, the work of acclaimed artist James Turrell. *Greet the Light* is the theme of this permanent Skyspace installation, which is open the first Friday and Sunday at dawn and at dusk. The presentation is timed to coincide with the rising and setting of the sun. To learn more about this extraordinary experience, click on the following link (chestnuthillskyspace.org) or speak with Sharon Parker.

Retired Person's Ministry (RPM)

All are welcome to participate in RPM activities, regardless of age! RPM Plus Friday events are designed for smaller group fellowship, community service, and shared learning. The RPM Café is open for business the fourth Friday of each month. Come join us at the Café for a good-spirited fellowship, a fine meal, and a thought-provoking program. Please save the dates for the following activities:

Monday, April 8 at 1:30 PM: An Independent Adventure. Join the free (and safe) Solar Eclipse Viewing Party at the Franklin Institute. Public transit is available by regional rail to Suburban Station. Please check the following link for more information: fi.edu

Friday, April 12, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM: RPM Plus. *Continuing the Conversation; Called to Advocacy.* Light refreshments will be available. The Undercroft of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.

Friday, April 19 at 10:00 AM: RPM Takes a Field Trip! Join as we travel to Temple Beth Am Israel in nearby Penn Valley for a special viewing of the acclaimed Souls Shot Portrait Exhibit. Meet in the OPC parking lot at 10:00 AM. Carpooling will be available. More details will follow in the RPM Weekly Update and church bulletins.

Friday, April 26, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM: RPM Cafe. The Café will be open for business in Anderson Hall at The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. All are warmly welcome to join us! The program for the day will be *Building a Beloved Community: A Celebration of Mutual Ministry!*

RPM is a Parish Care Ministry; there is no charge to participate. For further information, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) or Pat Dillon (psdillon1@earthlink.net).

OPK Moves Home!

On March 21, the students and staff of Overbrook Preschool and Kindergarten began the move back home to OPC! The final day at Llanerch Presbyterian Preschool, their temporary home for over two months, was marked with gratitude and goodbyes. The children and staff in both programs wore their new friendship wristbands to commemorate the times they shared, and the bonds they formed. In the words of OPK Interim Director, Jennifer Ross, "It was a bittersweet day." The warm and loving welcome of the Llanerch Presbyterian Church and Preschool brought joy and comfort to the OPK community during an unsettling time.

During Spring Break, there will be no break in the restoration momentum at OPC. Workers will continue to prepare the OPK space to welcome students back to OPC on April 3. For the abundant care and kindness of Llanerch Presbyterian Church, for the flexibility and grace of the OPK staff and parents, for the efforts of all who serve the restoration efforts, and for the stamina and ceaseless joy of our children, we give thanks! Welcome home OPK.



Laura Toy Celebrates 103rd Birthday

Laura Beale Toy, devoted member of Overbrook, celebrated her 103rd birthday on March 22. A resident of Waverly Heights, Laura enjoyed a morning of Wii Bowling, scoring a coincidental 103! Throughout the day, Laura received greetings from friends, neighbors and her OPC family. Laura holds OPC in her heart and is grateful for our ongoing prayers and remembrances. Blessings to Laura!



Mission & Outreach



On **Saturday, April 13**, Overbrook will return to work at the **Habitat for Humanity Restore**, 2328 Washington Avenue. The ReStore welcomes volunteers to help pick up donations, organize inventory, and provide customer service.

Each volunteer must register using this [Overbrook Presbyterian Sign-Up Link](#). After registering using that sign-up link, each volunteer **who has not volunteered with Habitat** within the last calendar year is required to additionally complete the [Virtual Volunteer Waiver](#) prior to arrival.



On **Saturday, March 9**, Women's Dining Circle hosted one of its largest gatherings in history (44 people!) with a delicious brunch in support of the Opioid Crisis Action Network and OCAN Recovery Fund.

This nonprofit was founded by Larry and Heather Arata after the overdose death of their 23-year-old son, Brendan. Their organizations provide grants for those suffering financial crisis in recovery and need help with essentials, such as groceries and clothing stipends. They also lobby and advocate for best practices and transparency for recovery homes and changes in insurance regulations to provide better coverage.

Thank you to Ginny Leagans for bringing their good work to the attention of the Women's Dining Circle committee. (www.opioidcrisisactionnetwork.com) The total raised was \$2755 which will be \$5510 when matched by M&O!

Thank you to our incredibly gracious hostess, Stephanie Kindt, for opening her beautiful home to the event and maintaining her cool as our RSVP numbers kept rising!

The next Women's Dining Circle fundraiser will be held in late May/early June. Stay tuned for more details. If you have an organization that speaks to your heart, please bring it to the attention of one of the committee members: Janet Bowker, Katie Kuptas, Cindi Landmesser, Sharon Parker, Jane or Carol Rozmiarek and Karen Testa.



Last fall Mission and Outreach agreed to a sponsorship in Haiti through *Beyond Borders*. Just recently, we were introduced to Lovedana Suplice, our sponsored "family."

From an introductory letter: "Here are a few details about Lovedana and her family:



- Lovedana is 23 and she and her three-year-old daughter are homeless and living with her mother in a one-room dilapidated house.
- She has no source of income and relies on support from her mother to feed her child.
- The father of Lovedana's child abandoned her and provides no support.
- The family is living in extreme poverty, according to their caseworker, who added: *"The fire over which they cook food looks like it hasn't been lit for some time. The child appears to be malnourished and hungry."*

Overbrook Presbyterian Church's sponsorship will give Lovedana a path to a much brighter future, one that is filled with dignity, hope, opportunity, and self-reliance.

Your generosity will allow her to build her own home and to begin earning the money needed so that she can provide for her family long after your sponsorship ends."

Mission and Outreach Happenings in April

- Saturday, April 6 - Books Through Bars - jabowker1001@gmail.com
- Saturday, April 13 - Habitat Restore Work Day - jabowker1001@gmail.com
- Monday, April 15 - Norristown Hospitality Center - earl.r.lindgren@gmail.com
- Tuesday, April 30 - Life Center of Eastern Delaware County Meal - gilhoolfam@verizon.net

Walking with Spirit: A Celebration of Spring!

Adventurers of all ages are invited to join the growing group of OPC woodland walkers as they explore area trails. On two Saturday mornings in spring, area trails will come alive with OPC wanderers. It will be time for us to encounter the magnificence of the season and to watch for all creatures great and small. Open hearts, cameras, awe-inspired conversation, and adventurers of all ages are welcome. Inspired by the work of Christine Valters Paintner, *Eyes of the Heart: Photography as a Contemplative Christian Practice*, trail walks include an opportunity to capture the beauty of God's creation through both observation and photography. Walks begin at 10:00 AM on the following Saturday mornings, and generally conclude by 11:00 AM. The trails range from 1 to 1.5 miles in length. Please join us as we journey through the sanctuary of God's creation. Each trail is accessible; all trails are inspirational!

Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 AM. Haverford College Nature Trail, 370 Lancaster Avenue, Haverford (Walkers will meet in the visitor parking area.)

Saturday, May 4 at 10:00 AM. Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden, 1829 County Line Road, Villanova (Walkers will meet in the parking lot. Those who wish may bring their lunch and gather in the pavilion following the morning walk.)

For further information and for carpooling opportunities, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org).

Congregational Life Committee

During these past two months we have been able to continue our tradition of after worship refreshments, thanks to those who have volunteered to host. **We at CLC are so grateful for your assistance.** The next few months we will still need your help.

Just fill out the SignUp Genius. Here's the link: www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4aacae2da2fe3-fellowship

If you have any questions, please contact Artia Benjamin by email at clc@overbrookpresb.org.

You will receive a reminder email from the SignUp Genius website. Please provide your email and phone number when you sign up. We will send you the Fellowship Hour Tips and guidelines document. So, let's "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" 1 Peter 4:9 NIV

Available Fellowship Host Dates:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ● April 14, 2024 | ● May 26, 2024 | ● June 23, 2024 |
| ● April 28, 2024 | ● June 2, 2024 | ● June 30, 2024 |
| ● May 5, 2024 | ● June 9, 2024 | |
| ● May 19, 2024 | ● June 16, 2024 | |

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry warmly welcomes all who are interested in making blessed handwork for those facing illness or other difficulties, as well as those celebrating joys. These gifts go to OPC friends and members, and also to their family and friends. If you would like to request a prayer shawl gift for someone you know, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) or Mary Lou Ryce (**420-370-4211; marylou.ryce@gmail.com**).

Whether you are experienced in hand crafts or would like to learn, we invite you to join us at one or both of the two monthly meetings. The weekday meeting will be held this month on **Tuesday, April 9 at 11:00 AM** at the home of Bette Homer, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia. For those who work on weekdays, an alternate evening or Saturday meeting is agreed upon each month. A meeting will be held at **noon on Saturday, March 30** at the home of Mary Lou Ryce, 80 West Baltimore Ave., Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. If you're on our prayer shawl email list, we'll send you confirmation of our meeting dates each month. If you'd like to be added to our email list or want more information, please call or email Mary Lou.



Children & Family Ministry

April Calendar

The Sunday Morning Experience for Children and Families in April

- **The Prayerground, Biblical Storytelling, and Nursery** are offered every Sunday in April.
- **Children's Sunday School** will be held Sunday April 11th, 18th, and 25th.

Fellowship | **Vacation Bible School (VBS) Update:** Exciting news! This summer, VBS will be held off-site from **June 25-27**. Please save these dates in your calendars as the CFM anticipates offering a vibrant program filled with art, nature, contemplative practices, and delicious snacks. While we finalize our camp facility option, please stay tuned for signup details and release forms coming soon.

Administration | **Quarterly CFM Committee Meeting:** The full Children and Family Ministry Committee will convene a quarterly gathering on **Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:00 PM**. This meeting will take place via Zoom, ensuring accessibility for all. Please mark your calendars and join us as we debrief our recent ministry, discuss Summer and Fall programming, and celebrate our work.

Gratitude to Our Guides: Journey to the Heart Children's Sunday School

Children and adults have been led on a *Journey to the Heart* during their Lenten Sunday School sessions. As a contemplative prayer curriculum, *Journey to the Heart* invited learners to experience the Holy Spirit's presence and action within; a subtle movement we learn to discern over time. As an experiential learning curriculum, our *Journey* introduced a new prayer tool each week while rooting learners in a foundational practice, Centering Prayer. Over the course of our journey together, over **30 children** were exposed to Centering Prayer (six minutes, using a sacred word). Learners also encountered Viseo and Lectio Divina, Breath and Body Prayers, and various developmentally tailored spiritual tools to aid in *practicing the presence of God*.

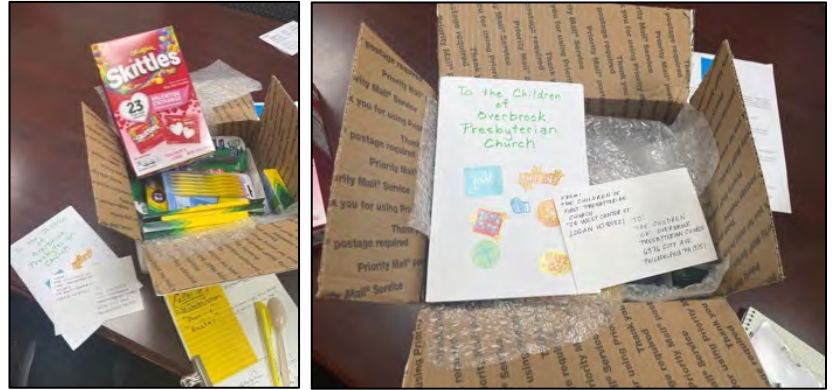


Our safe passage on this journey is the result of months of dreaming and intentional planning by dozens of individuals, as well as an incredible degree of connection fostered between children and adults over the past several years. First, the CFM wishes to extend gratitude to Virginia Jennings whose rich yoga and music session on March 10th got everyone's hearts and bodies moving! We also lift up the incredible Anne Montgomery Schmidt of *Encircled Grace* for her ministry of Labyrinth facilitation and teaching throughout our worship, education, and fellowship on March 17th. Next, a HUGE thanks to Sunday School Teachers Molly Burke, Emily Stewart, Davorka Sabljak, Donna Bell Koon, Carol Rozmiarek, and Anne Foote; these leaders lean into a brilliant critical pedagogy when performing their work and serve as valuable models to our children.

Finally, we ask the congregation to join us in celebrating the amazing, open, and Spirit-filled children of OPC! Our children's earnestness, curiosity, and enthusiastic responses to prayer inspires all of us to lead an increasingly holistic and experiential Christian Education environment for all ages at the crossroads.

Gratitude to Our Neighbors...in Logan, Utah!

Last week, the Children and Family Ministry was grateful to receive a generous (and heavy!) care package from children and leaders of First Presbyterian Church, Logan Utah. When Mr. Anthony opened the cardboard box and looked inside, he found dozens of art supplies, hundreds of Skittles candies, and a touching card signed by new FPC friends; Noah, Jai, Addie, Ms. Mary Ann, and Mr. Nate Wiley-Drake. Colorful word-stickers within the card express a profoundly beautiful and simple prayer that all ages can have on our lips this Easter: **"Amazing...God...Shine...Jesus...Faith...Love...Alleluia"**.



Amen, kids. Amen.

The Children and Family Ministry is truly warmed and encouraged these physical and spiritual gifts sent by our friends at First Presbyterian Church, Logan. Their care reminds us that God's vision for neighborly love is boundless! Our children and families look forward to working with the art supplies (and yummy candy!) during our Easter worship this year.

Youth Ministry

This is a busy season for our youth and their families. Confirmants are meeting with mentors, attending different worship services, and preparing their statement of faith. Juniors and seniors in high school are visiting colleges, trade schools, and making decisions about where to attend in the Fall. The youth started dreaming about what the youth room would look like when we return to OPC and are submitting their ideas. We still **need volunteer teachers** for Sunday School grades 6-12. The youth are still participating in the Kensington Project every other month. There are other opportunities for the youth to participate.

Below are some upcoming youth events. Please contact us at youth@overbrookpresb.org with any questions about these events or volunteer opportunities. Again, we are thankful for the support of their parents and the general congregation.

—*Artia and Suchita*

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Thursday, April 4, 2024. Interfaith Event: Souls Shot Portrait Project.** Reception 7:00 PM; Program 7:30 PM at Congregation Beth Am Israel located at 1302 Hagys Ford Road, Penn Valley, PA. soullshotportraitproject.org
- **Sunday, April 21, 2024.**
 - **Kensington Project.** Youth will meet at Penn Wynne Presbyterian to prepare meals for the Kensington Project.
 - Youth will also host Fellowship Hour for OPC and sell baked goods to raise funds for summer Mission Trip.
- **Sunday, May 12, 2024.** Confirmation Sunday. Pastor Adam.
- **June 20-23, 2024.** Confirmants Civil Rights Pilgrimage 2024 to Birmingham, Montgomery, & Selma, Alabama.
- **June 25-27, 2024.** Vacation Bible School is looking for youth volunteers. Pastor Adam and Anthony Carrella.
- **Sunday, June 30, 2024. Youth Sunday.** The youth will participate in all aspects of the worship service.
- **July 14 -20, 2024.** Youth Summer Mission Trip.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/4 Light Bryan
Wes Jennings
- 4/5 Jason Duckworth
- 4/7 Alan Sigler
Lucy Duckworth
- 4/8 Sarah Whalen
- 4/9 Vince Gilhool
Brian Taussig-Lux
- 4/10 Blake Hotek
- 4/13 Artia Benjamin
- 4/16 Sue Brastow
- 4/17 Anya Brown
Ginny Leagans
- 4/18 Michele Whipple
- 4/19 John Crampton
Cindy Landmesser
- 4/21 Corinna Bowser
- 4/23 Kadie Whalen
- 4/24 Angela Duckworth
Phil Paone
Leonard Robbins
- 4/25 Victor Fiorillo
- 4/30 Connie Moran

If the birthday for you or a family member is not listed and you wish to be included on the monthly birthday list, please email office@overbrookpresb.org.

**Prayer List**

- Prayers for comfort and consolation for Anne Foote and her daughters on the recent death of Grenville.
- Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for Doris McDaniel, mother of Jim McDaniel.
- Prayers for comfort and peace for Colleen Granata, mother of Brad Biedermann.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Gloria Newsome, sister of Marlin Newsome, as she recovers from recent surgery.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Rusty Marron, brother of Judy Williamson, following his recent surgery.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Jan Lovely, who is recovering from recent back surgery.
- Prayers for comfort and peace for Barbara Lappen, mother of Mary Bear Shannon.
- Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for Hannah Baukert's mother Mary, who is receiving hospice care.
- Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for John Shackelford, brother of Kate, as he receives medical treatment following brain surgery.
- Prayers for all who are facing health challenges, especially Scott Long, Caroline Skinner, Sonya Smith, Gwen Harden, Luis Wong, Ed Harvey, Aqueelah Folwell, Stephanie Stokes, Milton Stokes, Natalie DeShields, Bill Long, and Jean Long.
- Prayers for all who are facing the uncertainty of life challenges and transitions. May they find peace and comfort.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for the upcoming return of OPK students and staff to their Overbrook classrooms.
- Prayers of gratitude for all who have supported Overbrook during our time of relocation, especially Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church, Llanerch Presbyterian Church, Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, and St. Charles Seminary.

Please contact Bill Baker (wbaklava@aol.com) or Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) to add names to the prayer list.

Ongoing Weekly Events

Every Sunday

- Adult Forum [NOTE: Adult Forum is on break for the month of April.]
- Children's Sunday School (Grades PreK-5). Following Biblical Storytelling. Runs from the 2nd Sunday to last Sunday of the month.
- Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12). Following the Sermon. Runs from the 2nd Sunday to last Sunday of the month.

Every Tuesday

- Tuesday Morning Prayer Group. 7:30 AM. Online.
Join <https://bit.ly/3yxD2F4>-Meeting ID: 932 4865 5338

Every Wednesday

- Centering Prayer. 9:30 AM. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.
- Bible Study. 10:30 AM. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El and Online.
Join <https://tinyurl.com/46n54thm> - Meeting ID: 894 5497 9360



Every Friday

- RPM Plus. 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. St Thomas Church.
- RPM Café. 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. 4th Friday of the month. St. Thomas Church.

Committee Information

Committee Name	Monthly Meeting	Chair or Co-Chairs
Worship and Music worship@overbrookpresb.org	3 rd Monday 7:30 PM*	Pat Dillon
Deacons deacons@overbrookpresb.org	2 nd Monday 7:30 PM*	Bill Baker
Mission and Outreach mission@overbrookpresb.org	4 th Sunday 12:15 PM	Jeff Bowker
Finance finance@overbrookpresb.org	1 st Tuesday 7:00 PM*	Lainie Blodgett
Children and Family Ministry (CFM) cfm@overbrookpresb.org	Wednesday, 4/3/24 6:00 PM*	Molly Andrews Burke Emily Stewart
Personnel personnel@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Elizabeth Cosgriff
Property property@overbrookpresb.org	Last Wednesday 7:00 PM*	Jeff Bowker
Stewardship stewardship@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Keedra Carroll
Congregational Life clc@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Artia Benjamin
Welcoming welcoming@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Elizabeth Mendoza
Youth Ministry youth@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Artia Benjamin Suchita Fiorillo

An asterisk (*) indicates that the committee meets virtually.

