



Overbrook

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 15, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to Overbrook Presbyterian Church
(on the Road)

We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning!

Notes on Today's Service

Leadership:

The Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson, Pastor
Sharon Parker, Parish Care Associate
Mary Bear Shannon, Liturgist
Anthony Carrella, Director of Children and Family Ministry
Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music
The Overbrook Choir
Toffer Mihalka, tenor

Jazz Quartet:

Gunnar Mossblad, saxophone
Sam Nobles, bass
Tom Palmer, piano
Jonathan Whitney, drums
All jazz selections today were arranged by Tom Palmer.

Today's chancel flowers are given by the Glory of God.

Childcare is available during the worship service.
Worship is for all ages, but should your infant or preschooler become restless, excellent childcare is provided in the nursery.

Large Print Bulletins and Hymns are Available.
Please speak to one of the ushers if you have special needs.

Following worship today, all are welcome to join us for Fellowship Hour
hosted by the Kuriyan Family.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
 MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTTGART
 8.7.8.7
 (alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 82)

WELCOME

Adam Hearlson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND COURAGE (*unison*)

Mary Bear Shannon

Lord, we have not kept watch for you.

We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.

We have not waited to find your will for us.

We have not noticed the needs of people around us.

We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

(continued on next page)

Forgive us our lack of watchfulness.

Help us to wait to know your will.

Help us to look out for the needs of others.

Help us to work and watch for your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

KYRIE ELEISON

Healey Willan
(1880-1968)



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up-on us.

SILENT CONFESSION

EMBRACING GOD'S GRACE

SONG OF PRAISE (*seated*)

AMEN (Pavlechko)



A - men, a - men, a - men.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Bob Harden, Jr.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BIBLICAL STORYTELLING

Anthony Carrella

(Following the Biblical Storytelling, learners in Pre-K through Grade 5
are encouraged to recess to Sunday School.)

SOLO

The Lamb

Lee Hoiby
(1926-2011)

Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek and he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name:
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

William Blake (1757-1827)

SECOND READING
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Adam Hearlson

TESTIMONY

“Joy!”

Aria Fiorillo

MUSIC

Angels We Have Heard on High

French carol

THIRD READING
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:46b-55

Sharon Parker

TESTIMONY

“Abundant Joy!”

Lois Davis

MUSIC

English folk song

What Child Is This

FOURTH READING
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Micah 5:2-5a

Adam Hearlson

TESTIMONY

“Everlasting Joy!”

*(Following this testimony, learners in Grades 6-12
are encouraged to recess to Sunday School.)*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

LIFE AT THE CROSSROADS

Adam Hearlson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharon Parker

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.

SHARING OF PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Lift Up Your Heads

(1875-1912)

The Overbrook Choir

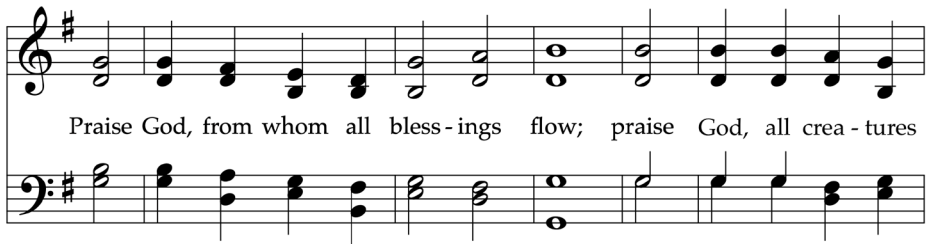
Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?
It is the Lord strong and mighty,
even the Lord mighty in battle.

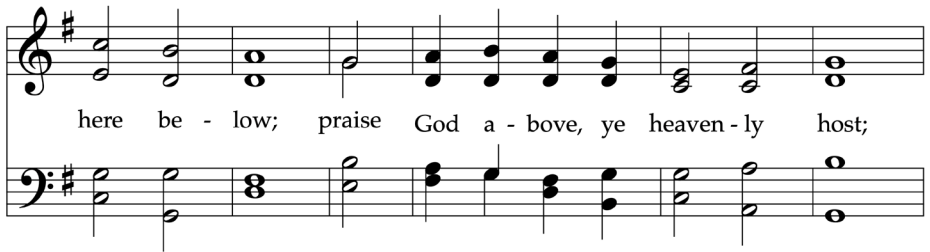
Psalm 24:7-8

❖ DOXOLOGY

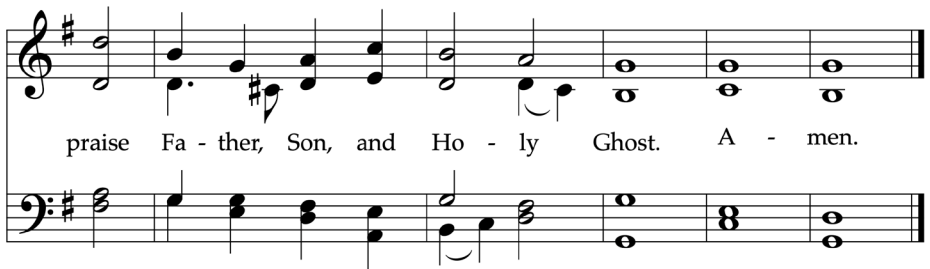
HYMN No. 607



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures



here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host;



praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bob Harden, Jr.

We give thanks and praise, O God, that in you we have hope. We give thanks that in you, there is everlasting peace. We give thanks that in you, our joy is unquenchable. We give thanks that in you, our love is unshakeable. Take these gifts and bless them so that they might be the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love that someone needs. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

❖ HYMN (*below*)

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the Way, O Zion



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

❖BENEDICTION

Adam Hearlson

❖CHORAL RESPONSE

So may we praise thee

John Yarrington
(b. 1943)

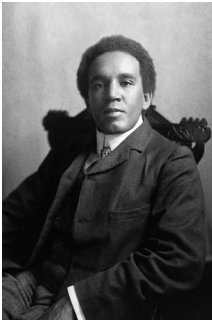
POSTLUDE

Mary's Boy Child

Jester Hairston
(1901-2000)

*Please depart quietly for those who wish to listen to the postlude.
Before attending Fellowship Hour, caregivers are asked to pick up their children
(aged 11 and under) from the Sunday School classrooms
located on the lower level of Penn Wynne.*

Music Spotlight: Anthem at the Offering



The composer of today's anthem, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, was an English composer of mixed race, born to an English woman and a Sierra Leone Creole father. He was very highly regarded by his nineteenth-century contemporaries, likened to Gustav Mahler. "Lift Up Your Heads" is a setting of the popular text from Psalm 24, used to help us prepare for Christ's coming. Listen to how the opening melody ascends, its "lifting" mirroring that of the gates; then, different groups in the choir work in dialogue to complete the text.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Congregational Meeting—Immediately after worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the report of the Nominating Committee posting their slate of nominees for Elder, Deacon, and At-Large Members of the 2025 Nominating Committee. Since this is a Special Congregational Meeting, no other business may be conducted except the business at hand.

Advent Devotional Resources. Throughout Christianity, the season of Advent is a time of preparation, of watching and waiting for the birth of our Savior. It is also a time of holy awe and an opportunity for spiritual discovery. Each OPC household will receive a special gift for the new year: *Starry Nights An Advent Devotional Full of Light and Wonder*. This devotional is accessible online by scanning the QR code or in a print version for those who so prefer. Together, may we prayerfully celebrate the Season of Advent.



“Look Here!”: Stained-Glass Pictures Wanted. The Stained Glass Committee is looking to gather any pictures you may have of the windows that were in the Sanctuary. We know that some of you may have taken them in moments of awe or distraction; they will be of great use to us and our partners at Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studios. Please send them to stainedglass@overbrookpresb.org.

2025 Pledge. If you have not yet submitted your pledge card for 2025, you may still do so. Pledge cards can be added to the offering plate during offertory or made online. Anyone that still would like to pledge can do so electronically by following this link: <https://onrealm.org/overbrookpresb/AddPledge/2025pledge>

Offset your Apportionment. Each year, our church makes a significant financial contribution to the Presbytery and the PC(USA), helping to support their vital work and mission. We contribute \$32 per member, totaling nearly \$12,000 annually. We are inviting members of our congregation to consider offsetting their share with a \$32 donation. Your contribution will not only sustain the important mission of the Presbytery but also help reduce the financial burden on our church. To contribute, please scan the QR code.



Centering Prayer—Wednesday, December 18, 9:30 A.M. Centering Prayer continues every Wednesday morning at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El. This practice offers the opportunity for both spoken and contemplative prayer. All are warmly welcome.

Bible Study—Wednesday December 18, 10:30 AM. All are welcome to join us for Bible Study at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.

Inquirer Class—January 12 and 19, 9:30 A.M. The Welcoming Committee and Adam would like to announce that our next set of **Inquirer Classes** will be held next month. Childcare will be available on request. Contact Elizabeth Mendoza (welcoming@overbrookpresb.org) for more information.

Last day to Sign up for Gingerbread House Decorating! We won't be able to have our in-person decorating this year, but we still want to see how creative you are! We are giving pre-built gingerbread houses out to the first 20 families that sign up. If you'd like one of these houses, please scan the QR code by **December 15**. The pickup date will be **December 22** during Fellowship Hour (one house per family). Once you decorate your masterpiece, please share a photo on our [OPC Community Facebook page](#) so we can all enjoy your creation!



Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed for December. If you would like to host but think you need a hand, if you are able to help set up and clean up but need assistance with food, or if you need supplies, CLC can help! (Note that the coffee service is a separate ministry.) Please scan the QR code to sign up. If you would like more information or have any questions about this ministry, feel free to reach out to clc@overbrookpresb.org.



Chancel Flowers—Donations needed. Please consider donating the Sunday morning chancel flowers in honor/memory of a loved or simply in a celebration of or thanksgiving for the many blessings we receive every day. The cost of the flowers is **\$60.00**, but you may contribute what you wish. To sign up, follow the link to the sign-up genius: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ecsur>. There are three ways to pay for the flowers:

1. Log onto Realm: <https://onrealm.org/overbrookpresb/give/flowers>
2. Text “GIVEOPC FLOWERS \$60.00” to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.
3. Mail a check to the church office, Attn: Carol. Please indicate “Chancel Flowers” in the memo of the check.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa (manager@overbrookpresb.org) or Carol (carol@overbrookpresb.org).

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Multigenerational Christmas Pageant: Technical Leaders Needed in December. We can't wait for this year's Christmas Pageant, and many participation opportunities are forthcoming for children and youth of all ages. For now, The Children and Family Ministry is seeking adult volunteers (18+) for setup, ushering, logistical support, and cleanup on Tuesday, December 24, at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church. These volunteers will serve as part of the technical leadership team rather than acting in the pageant. To sign up, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/CFM-Pageant-24>.

PARISH CARE

Adult Forum- Tuesday, December 17 -7:00 P.M.-Online-Adult Forum offers opportunities for shared discourse and learning in the comfort of community. Meeting on zoom from 7:00-8:00 PM , Adult Forum combines peer-led discussions with presentations from guest speakers. Please join us at 7:00 PM on December 17, for our discussion *Welcoming the Stranger*. OPC member, Rodney Atienza, will introduce us to the social justice ministry of The New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia

Zoom Link for Adult Forum: <https://tinyurl.com/OPCForumZoom>

OPC's Retired Person's Ministry: A Season of Sharing. Throughout the month, friends of all ages are encouraged to join RPM in sharing with others. It is our fervent hope that this focused season of sharing will continue far beyond the days of the month. All are welcome to join us for our December events, featured on the next page.

- **December 20, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.: RPM Café.**
All are welcome at the RPM Christmas Café. This event will be a time to gather with friends, share a fine meal, and celebrate the joys of the season. Carol singing, toe tapping, and several “special guests” are promised!

Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) and Pat Dillon (psdillon1@earthlink.net)
welcome your questions and invite your responses to these special programs.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Volunteer Opportunity: Sunday School Teachers Needed! Do you have a passion for guiding and inspiring the next generation? We are looking for dedicated and compassionate volunteers to teach Sunday School for our middle- and high-school students. This is an exciting opportunity to make a lasting impact on young lives by helping them grow in their faith and navigate life's challenges. Please note that all volunteers must have their clearances completed. Details on how to complete clearances are on the sign-up genius. If you're ready to invest in the spiritual development of our students, scan the QR code to the right. Feel free to reach out to Corinna Bowser (corinnabowser@gmail.com) with any questions.



MISSION & OUTREACH

Norristown Hospitality Center Donations—Sunday, December 15. The next date to provide breakfast items to the Norristown Hospitality Center is next week. If you are able to help, please follow the link to the signup genius (<https://tinyurl.com/37zj5cpu>), and bring your items to church that morning.

Christmas Angel Donations—Due Sunday December 15! Just a reminder if you selected a name (or two) of a Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC) child to be their Christmas Angel all gifts need to be returned to church by **December 15**. Items can be wrapped or unwrapped, but they should be brought together in a bag which hides its contents. Gifts may be brought to Penn Wynne's parking lot each Sunday after worship until **December 15**. If that time is not convenient, please contact one of us (**Ann Elise Lindgren [203-723-1445]**, **Joanne Roman [314-920-5197]**, or **Janet Bowker [215-913-8766]**) to make alternate arrangements. We thank you in advance for your generosity!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT OVERBROOK

**Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 P.M. (Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church)
Service of the Longest Night**

We will observe a time of quiet prayer and comfort for those who are experiencing loss and sadness at this time of year.

**Sunday, December 22, 11:00 AM. (PWPC)
Worship for Advent 4**

We are excited to present handbell music one more time this calendar year; this unique blend of percussion and pitch is sure to add meaning and joy to our worship.

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church

4:00 P.M.—Family Service and Annual Christmas Pageant. We will follow Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child in word, drama, and song. If you would like to participate in this special time of worship, contact Anthony (anthony@overbrookpresb.org).

6:00 P.M.—Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols. Our traditional service celebrates the birth of Christ with readings, choral anthems, and congregational singing. The liturgy is based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols observed at King's College, Cambridge.

**Sunday, January 5, 2025, 1:30 P.M. (Philadelphia Museum of Art)
“The Art of Advent: Seven Centuries of Great Sacred Art”**

Come join Peter Seidel, art teacher and Overbrook member, to explore the happenings of Advent in art. We will gather on the third-floor balcony of the Great Stair Hall in the museum (admission is “pay-what-you-wish”).

MEET YOUR NOMINEES

Your OPC Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of nominees for Elder, Deacon, and the 2025 Nominating Committee. Members will vote both in person at the called congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 15**, immediately following the service.

After prayerful consideration of the many names submitted to the committee, we are confident we have chosen nine members who reflect the diversity of our membership and who are persons of strong faith and dedicated discipleship who demonstrate in their lives a love of Jesus Christ as Savior.

Nominees for Elder—Three-Year Term

Brian Burke resides in Narberth with his wife Molly and children Marshall (22), Mary (19), and Bo (6). He has been a member of Overbrook Presbyterian since February 2022. He works at Fox Chase Cancer Center - Temple Health, where he is the Practice Administrator for the Department of Surgical Oncology

Karen Testa joined OPC in 2012 shortly after moving from Massachusetts with her family. She felt drawn to OPC after church shopping for a faith community that was diverse, was welcoming, and offered opportunities for her school-aged children. She has served two prior terms on Session and helped to start a Communications Task Force to better understand the communications needs of the congregation and offer recommendations to keep everyone informed and engaged. Karen loves to host Fellowship Hour and serves on the Congregational Life and Women's Dining Circle Committees. She is also past co-chair of Stewardship and recently served on the committee considering a capital fundraising campaign to support the church. Outside of church, Karen is a lifelong communications professional, working as a journalist for The Associated Press for 25 years before moving to consulting in 2019. She serves on the board of Teachers' Teammates and loves her weekly running group and spin classes. She is also missing her two kids, who live in the Pacific Northwest: Zack, 22, a senior at the University of Oregon and a former OPC deacon, and Amber, 19, a sophomore at Washington State University and proud OPC pasta cook on Christmas Eve.

Nominees for Elder—Second Consecutive Three-Year Term

Christoph Von Andreae was born and raised on an organic farm in Aachen, Germany; his journey has always been rooted in care and connection. After earning his medical degree in Berlin, Christoph relocated to Philadelphia in 2003 to complete his psychiatric training at Drexel University and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Now a dedicated psychiatrist, Christoph works with children, adolescents, and adults in both West Philadelphia and Fort Washington. He lives in Wynnewood with his wife Tara, two children, and their dog Otto. Beyond his professional calling, Christoph harbors a deep commitment to sustainability and is an enthusiastic advocate for composting—even offering advice on how to keep compost worms thriving in a basement. Christoph joined Overbrook Presbyterian Church in 2010 after an exploration of several congregations in the Philadelphia area. He was drawn to OPC’s rich Protestant traditions, emphasizing scripture, sermon, music, and fellowship. The welcoming community at OPC, which celebrates the unique gifts of each member, provided a spiritual home for Christoph and his family. Both of his children were baptized within the OPC community. Since 2022, Christoph has served as an elder on Session. His leadership includes serving as the Session liaison to the Child & Family Ministry for the past three years and co-chairing the Sanctuary Revitalization Task Force. Christoph seeks to continue his service to the OPC community for a second three-year term, further contributing to the vibrant life and mission of the church

Mimi Winkler’s family came to Overbrook in the mid-‘90s through the preschool, where both her children, Harry and Becca, started their education. They are now grown and currently living in Philadelphia. Harry is a computer coder, and Becca is a third-year Ph.D. student in anthropology at Penn. Mimi grew up in Rosemont and lives in Bala Cynwyd. When not working, she can be found gardening or sketching with the Urban Sketchers or her centenarian stepmother. She is an architect by profession and operates a small firm that designs a range of public and private projects, most recently completing the renovation of the 5th Street/Independence Mall subway station. She and her husband, Jim, founded the firm together in 2001; sadly, he died of cancer in 2014. Jim was passionate about the history of the church and its ongoing maintenance, and Mimi hopes to channel that passion in her service to Overbrook.

Nominees for Elder—Second Consecutive Three-Year Term
(continued)

Brian Taussig-Lux lives with his wife, Karen, in Media. He is the father of two grown children. Brian managed a small, socially responsible European tour business (UnTours) for 27 years. After retiring from UnTours in 2023, he started his own travel company. Brian has an MBA with a concentration in Environmental Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He and Karen enjoy spending time in the Adirondack Mountains where they hike, paddle, and cross-country ski. They started attending OPC in the late 1990s, having been attracted by the vibrant community, the excellent music, and David McMillan's inspired preaching

Nominees for Deacon—Three-Year Term

Becky Lazo is the mother of Hannah and Nathan Lazo and a friend to many at Overbrook. She has been attending Overbrook since about 2008 and joined the church in 2010. This church community brings her so much joy, and she is happy to have served previously as an Elder, a Sunday School teacher, and an occasional member of the Mission & Outreach Committee. What keeps her coming to Overbrook is the love and grace we show to each other and to the rest of God's children. She is honored to have been nominated to serve our community as a Deacon.

Mads Cosgriff-Piatt (he/him or they/them) began attending OPC with their family in the Summer of 2000, regularly participating in church programming until graduating from Lower Merion High School in 2013. He studied art and math at Carleton College, then spent the next five years up Providence, Rhode Island, working in clinical medical research. After a decade away, Mads returned home to OPC and was profoundly moved to witness the good works and renewal. Mads immediately felt called to serve this Christian community and embark upon a faith journey, which drew them back the very next morning for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service in 2024. Mads spent much of this tumultuous year in independent study while discerning a call to ministry. He treasures the fellowship and guidance graciously offered by Overbrook saints and feels blessed by the opportunity to provide care for our congregation.

Nominees for Deacon—Three-Year Term
(continued)

Zee Ann Mason and her husband Max attending OPC when their daughters were 2 and 6 (they are now 35 and 39)! Being a part of the OPC church family for so many years has been a great blessing. She has had the great privilege of singing in the choir and has served on Session and various committees over the years. Zee Ann is grateful for the inspiration and grounding she has received during the worship service each Sunday. She is recently retired from her long career at the Museum of the American Revolution. She is enjoying her unscheduled life—reading, cooking, playing the piano—and is looking forward to serving as a deacon.

Margene Biedermann moved to Philadelphia in 1989 to pursue a master's degree in music therapy at Temple University and met her husband Brad there. They joined Overbrook Church in 1996. They were attracted by Overbrook's excellent music program and its focus on diversity. After attending the Taste of Overbrook that autumn, Margene and Brad knew they were Overbrook lifers! Soon after joining, Margene became a deacon and later served as the Deacon Moderator for five years. Over decades, she has witnessed the valuable service that the deacons provide. This includes during our family's celebrations and struggles—from the time we adopted our children Dan and Emma, to more recent losses of family members. The deacons take care of Overbrook's members in good times and bad. Overbrook has provided opportunities for her to serve and use her gifts. She was a member of the last Pastoral Nominating Committee that selected Adam Hearlson as a candidate for Overbrook's Designated Pastor Position. She has enjoyed singing in the Overbrook choir. Margene was also the Junior Choir Director from 2003 - 2016. It was a pleasure to see the musical and spiritual development of Overbrook children in the junior choir—including both of her children. Currently, she is a member of the organ task force. Other valuable experiences included being on a "Green Team" which promoted environmental education and programs, serving on the Mission and Outreach's committee, volunteering to deliver food during the pandemic, and attending the Thursday vigils on the corner of City Ave and Lancaster. Each of these opportunities has strengthened a belief that God is present at Overbrook, helping us work together to shape its future and to continue being a positive and loving force for our neighbors

Nominees for Deacon—Second Consecutive Three Year Term

Mike Rottinger lives with wife Deborah in Wynnewood PA. He is an embedded firmware engineer, working for Ellenby Technologies, Inc in Woodbury Heights NJ for over 20 years. Mike hopes to retire in the very near future. Mike has been a member of Overbrook Church for over 25 years. He has served Overbrook as an elder and as a deacon and has been active in Mission and Outreach. He chaired the Pastor Nominating Committee which called pastor Wallace Bubar to OPC. Mike has always felt that he receives so much more from this community than he could ever give.

Nominees for 2025 Nominating Committee

Cherriel Gentles has been a member of OPC for over 20 years and has served as an Elder and a member of Mission and Outreach committee. Cherriel was born and raised in Jamaica and moved to Philadelphia at age 17 to pursue higher education at Temple University, earning her bachelor's degree in Broadcast Communications and then her Juris Doctor from Widener Law School in Wilmington, DE. Cherriel has varied legal experience in family law and consumer protection matters and currently works as a senior attorney for consumer protection in the City Law Department's Special Litigation Unit. Cherriel currently resides in the Overbrook Park section of Philadelphia with her 13-year-old son Raegan. Cherriel enjoys the simple pleasures of life such as reading suspenseful thrillers, listening to various forms of music and making a good home-cooked meal

Marlin Newsome has been a member of Overbrook Presbyterian for over 10 years. He is a husband, father of two grown children and five grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys watching Nascar racing and Formula one racing. He also loves listening to jazz, classical and blues music and attending theatre, opera and musicals. OPC has been a Blessing in his life. OPC is the most Welcoming Church he has ever attended from the church officials, choir, office manager, custodian, minister of music, director of CFM, parish care associate and last but not least Pastor Adam and Christy Lang Hearlson

Nominees for 2025 Nominating Committee

(continued)

Pat Dillon When Ted and Pat moved into the area in 1975 we made our way to Overbrook Presbyterian Church. We were drawn to OPC because of the pastoral leadership and thoughtful sermons. The fellowship and welcoming attitude were also important and finally we were looking for a good music program and a choir we could actively participate in. Over the many years of membership in OPC she has served on the Session, The Board of Deacons, and numerous committees, including the Pastoral Nominating Committee that brought David McMillan to Overbrook. Pat has taught Sunday School, participated in Clown Ministry and cooked for youth groups, weekends at Camp Kirkwood and Christmas Eve dinners. In 1994 they left the area and joined a church near their new home in upstate PA. But their relationship was deep at OPC and they stayed in touch with what was happening in the life of OPC's congregation. They came back to this area in 2004 and found themselves back at Overbrook. There were new faces, and programs but the thoughtful sermons, the care for not only members of the congregation but the community at large were still as strong. And they were drawn back into the choir. In recent years much of her focus at OPC has been using her social work skills in the work of the Care of the Parish and supporting the Retired Persons Ministry (RPM). You'll still see Pat in the soprano section. What she sees as she looks out from that spot are old friends, new friends and new faces of folks that she has yet to know. As a member of the Nominating Committee, she looks forward to asking folks to serve in leadership in the life of this congregation

Aimerie Scherluebbe became a member of OPC in 2013. She has served the church in a variety of roles including Mission & Outreach Chairperson, President & Elder of Session, and member of the Pastor Nominating Committee. Aimerie grew up in New York and enjoys traveling. She has lived in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Kansas, Georgia (where her daughter was born), Switzerland, Germany (where she met her husband), and Italy (where her son was born). Aimerie's recent travels included the El Camino de Santiago de Compostela, a 500 mile pilgrimage across the north of Spain.

Alternate Member-at-Large—serving one year

Sunanda Charles Brown is the Executive Director of the Norristown Hospitality Center. She is a strategic thinker, fundraiser and visionary with grassroots organizing orientation and drive to scale an organization. Sunanda has successfully built capacity at the Norristown Hospitality Center over the last 10 years, improving it's infrastructure and growing it's programs and impact. Deeply committed to issues of Equity and Justice Sunanda invests in the social sector through her work at the Hospitality Center, her involvement in the Rotary Club and other Boards. She lives in Bryn Mawr with her husband and two children. She loves cooking and tries her hand at different cuisines, and she enjoys road trips with her family.

Prayer List

- Prayers for healing mercies for James Robbins, brother of Leonard Robbins, who is hospitalized following an accident.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Gwen Anthony, following surgery to treat lung cancer.
- Prayers for restoration of health and strength for Edlene Carroll as she continues to receive medical care.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Joe Blair following cardiac by-pass surgery.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Mary Lou Ryce, as she remains under cardiac care.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Lillian Carnahan, mother of Rachel, and she transitions to assisted living at Simpson House.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Nancy, Cindi Landmesser's aunt, who is facing in-going medical challenges.
- Prayers for Janie Martin's cousin, Maureen Cook, who is undergoing medical care for pancreatic cancer.
- Prayers for comfort and peace for Mary Scott as she receives home hospice care.
Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for Jim Mc Daniel's mother, Doris McDaniel, who is receiving hospice care.
- Prayers for healing and comfort for Holly, Christine, and Connie, friends of Margaret Young.
- Prayers for all who are facing health concerns, especially Jane Bevan, Bob Bevan, Scott Long, Gwen Harden, Ed Harvey, Milton Stokes, Valerie Craig, Joan Moylan, Jim Moylan, Dela Geraldo, Susan Leach, and Natalie DeShields.
- Prayers of gratitude for the faith communities that continue to sustain Overbrook during our time of relocation.
- Prayers for vision, wisdom, and stamina for all who are leading and supporting the revitalization and restoration efforts of Overbrook.

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

OPC SESSION MEMBERS:

Adam Hearlson, Moderator

Raelyn Harman, Clerk of Session; Stephanie Morris, Treasurer

** indicates second consecutive term

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Herb Brabham**	Elizabeth Cosgriff**	Artia Benjamin
Elizabeth Mendoza**	Bob Harden, Jr.**	Joseph Blair
Brian Taussig-Lux	Linda Huff-Paul**	Keedra Carroll**
Christoph Von Andreae	Corinna Bowser	Solomon Hunter**
Mimi Winkler	Cheryl Davis	Nathalie May**

OPC DEACONS:

Bill Baker, Moderator, Board of Deacons

Jason Sheau, Treasurer; Mary Lou Ryce, Secretary

* indicates one-year term; ** indicates second consecutive term

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Gloria Brabham	Dela Geraldo	Denise Stewart
Nancy Gilhool**	Sharon Elwell	Miriam Harden**
Mike Rottinger	Bill Baker**	Hannah Lazo*
Mary Lou Ryce**	Bob Kaercher**	Leah Mayne**
Sabrina Johnson	Philip Brown	Jason Sheau**

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Phone: 215-877-2744 Email: office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

The Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson - Pastor

The Rev. David McMillan - Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Christopher Gage - Director of Music

Anthony M. Carrella - Director of Children and Family Ministry

Sharon Parker - Parish Care Associate

Lisa Faso - Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek - Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins - Church Custodian

The Overbrook Quartet:

Iris Fairfax, soprano; Syrena Torres, alto;

Toffer Mihalka, tenor; Matthew Lulofs, bass

“Overbrook Presbyterian Church actively seeks to worship God, serving each other and the world through a welcoming, loving, and inclusive ministry.”
