



Overbrook

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 8, 2024 | 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to Overbrook Presbyterian Church
(on the Road)

We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning!

Notes on Today's Service

Leadership:

The Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson, Pastor

Sharon Parker, Parish Care Associate

Bob Harden, Jr., Liturgist

Anthony Carrella, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music

The Overbrook Choir

Iris Fairfax, soprano

Today's chancel flowers are given by Trudy Sheau to 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

❖=Stand as you are able

GATHERING IN

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Lift Up Your Heads

John Yarrington
(b. 1943)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Eastling Family

One: We kindle this candle of Peace. In a world full of division and strife, show us the true meaning of peace. May this candle light the path to a just world where can rest under their own vine and fig tree and none are made afraid.

The congregation sings the following response.

Group 1—lectern side, front

Group 2—pulpit side, front

Group 3—lectern side, back

Group 4—pulpit side, back

When you see your group number, start singing from the beginning.

This response will be sung twice.



Pre- pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord,



and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

All: Fill us with an unshakeable peace. May the peace of hearts be used to create peace in the world. Fill us with so much peace that reconciliation follows us wherever we go.

❖HYMN (*on next page*)

WINCHESTER NEW
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

WELCOME

Adam Hearlson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND COURAGE (*unison*)

Bob Harden, Jr.

From the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Merciful God, always with us, always coming,
we confess that we do not know
how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.
Forgive us, God.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.
Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

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.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first phrase: "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -". The second staff contains the melody for the second phrase: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

SILENT CONFESSION

EMBRACING GOD'S GRACE

SONG OF PRAISE (*scated*)

AMEN (Pavlechko)



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

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of a single staff. The melody for "Amen" is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The word "Amen" is repeated three times.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Luke 3:1-6

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

James H. Rogers

Great peace have they which love thy law (1857-1940)

Iris Fairfax, soprano

Great peace have they which love thy law,
and nothing shall offend them.

I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord,
and Thy law is my light.

Let my soul live, and it shall praise Thee,
and let Thy judgments help me.

I have gone astray like a lost sheep.
Seek Thy servant, for I do not forget Thy commandments.

SECOND READING

Malachi 3:1-4

Adam Hearlson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“So Refined”

Adam Hearlson

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

❖ HYMN *(on next page)*

GENEVAN 42

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing,
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1–5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Larger Catechism, 7.166

Leader:

How is Christ to be exalted
in his coming again to judge the world?

Congregation:

Christ is to be exalted
in his coming again to judge the world,
in that he, who was unjustly judged
and condemned by wicked persons,
shall come again at the last day in great power,
and in the full manifestation of his own glory,
and of his Father's,
with all his holy angels,
with a shout,
with the voice of the archangel,
and with the trumpet of God,
to judge the world in righteousness.

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

Christian Cosas
(b. 1975)

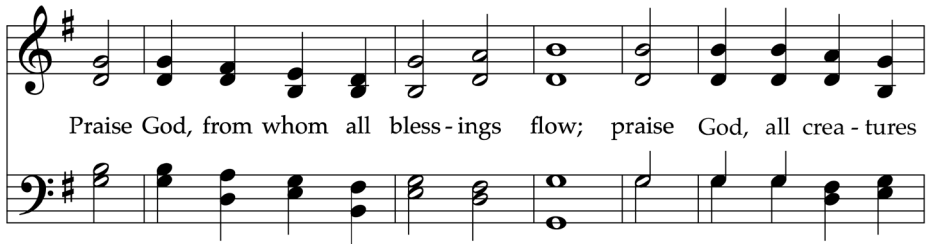
O Oriens
The Overbrook Choir

O Oriens, Morning Star,
O Radiant Dawn, O light eternal,
O come!
Illumine us, come and shine on all
who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

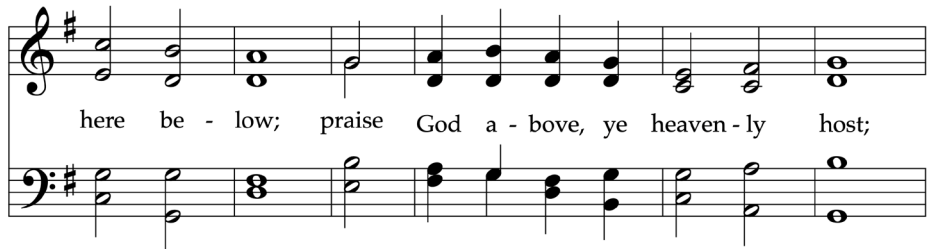
Based on the "O" Antiphons

❖ DOXOLOGY

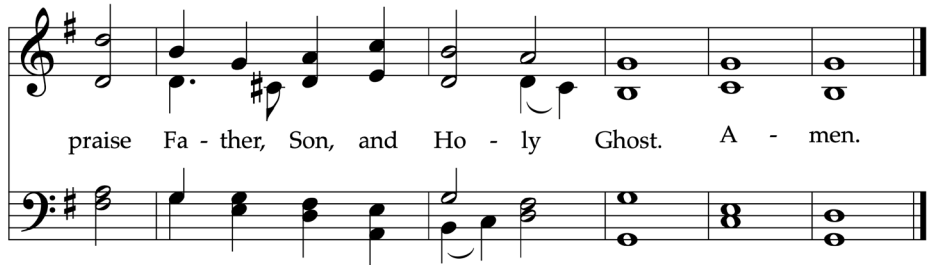
HYMN No. 607



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 (*on next page*)

SOON AND VERY SOON

Soon and Very Soon

❖ BENEDICTION

Adam Hearlson

❖ CHORAL RESPONSE

G. T. Thalben-Ball

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (1896-1987)

POSTLUDE

*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



Christian Cosas is a keyboardist and conductor, well versed in many different musical styles, including gospel, chant, and folk music. This piece uses one of the “O” antiphons of Advent and gradually builds harmonies, voice by voice, as if to show our prayers ascending to God. Listen especially for the difference between the beginning of the piece, which is an extended address to God with few words (“O Oriens”), and the middle of the piece, which elaborates on our supplication.

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Congregational Meeting—Sunday, December 15, 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.



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 11, 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 11, 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.

Gingerbread House Decorating—sign up today! 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).

PARISH CARE

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 13, 10:00 A.M. to noon: RPM Plus, “Crafting for Christmas.”** We will gather in the **undercroft at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas** for a morning of good-spirited fellowship, making greeting cards and preparing holiday gifts for the elder members of our community. Coffee and creativity will be in abundant supply!
- **December 20, 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.: RPM Café.** All are welcome at the RPM Christmas Café, with a location to be announced later this month. 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.

Advent 2024...Look up and be amazed! -Friday December 13 – OPC Lawn In celebration of the season, all are invited to participate in our special outdoor Advent event on *December 13, Sky Watch: Meteor Shower in the Advent Sky*. On that date, the Geminid Meteor Shower will be visible in Southeastern Pennsylvania. We'll gather around the firepit on the OPC lawn at 7:00 PM, roast marshmallows, sip hot chocolate, sing carols, and stargaze. BYO lawn chairs. Friends and neighbors of all ages are welcome! *Please contact Sharon Parker if you are available to help with this special event.*

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>.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Kensington Project: Sunday, December 15. The youth of OPC are invited to return to our outreach work in Kensington. As we've done in the past, we will prepare bagged lunches before worship, attend church, and have a quick lunch ourselves before traveling to Kensington to serve our neighbors there. Please consider supporting the Kensington Project by purchasing items from their Wishlist by scanning the QR code. If you have any questions, please call or text Becky Lazo at 443-745-3178.



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

Friday, December 13, 7:00 P.M. (OPC Parking Lot)

“Sky Watch: Meteor Shower in the Advent Sky”

On that date, the Geminid Meteor Shower will be visible in Southeastern Pennsylvania. We'll gather around the firepit on the OPC lawn at 7:00 PM, roast marshmallows, sip hot chocolate, sing carols, and stargaze. BYO lawn chairs. Friends and neighbors of all ages are welcome! *Please contact Sharon Parker if you are available to help with this special event.*

Sunday, December 15, 11:00 A.M. (Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church)

Jazz Service for Advent 3

Our annual jazz service is back! We will observe the third Sunday in Advent with special music by talented local performers.

Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 P.M. (PWPC)

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”).

Prayer List

- Prayers for restoration of health for Gwen Anthony, following surgery to treat lung cancer on Wednesday.
- Prayers for restoration of health and strength for Edelene 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 challenge
- 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.
- 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.

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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

6376 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

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.”
