



Overbrook

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 9, 2025 | 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
Anne Conroy, Liturgist
Anthony Carrella, Director of Children and Family Ministry
Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music
The Overbrook Choir
Syrena Torres, mezzo-soprano

Today's chancel flowers are given by Artia Benjamin
in loving memory of Anna Mae Mobley, grandmother.

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 Artia Benjamin, Cheryl Davis, Keedra Carroll, Bob and Miriam
Harden, and Nathalie May celebrating Black History Month and the Eagles at
the Superbowl.

*Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare for worship,
and remember to silence all electronic devices before the service*

❖=Stand as you are able

GATHERING IN

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Praise the Lord, O my soul

G. T. Thalben-Ball
(1896-1987)

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Anne Conroy

from Psalm 67

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the people with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

People: **Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the people sing your name!**

Leader: The earth has yielded its abundance;
God, the God who loves us, shall bless us.

People: **Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples sing your name!**

Leader: For God is the Father of orphans and the advocate for the widows.

People: **Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples sing your name!**

Leader: For God brings the lonely back to their homes
and sets the captives free.

All: **Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples sing your name!**

❖HYMN (*on next page*)

AURELIA

Great God of Every Blessing

1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
 2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
 3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,

you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
 in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
 trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
 In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
 For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:

sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.

WELCOME

Adam Hearlson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND COURAGE (*unison*)

Anne Conroy

Eternal God, forgive us for being more led by fear than love. Forgive us for always thinking about our comfort before other's freedom. Have mercy when we ignore the cries of the needy. This day we pray that your forgiveness may give us courage. May we be vigilant in the face of violence. May we speak truth in a world of lies. May we never lose sight of the power of our hands, our voices, and our pocketbooks. Cover us in grace, so that we may change this community and change this world.

SILENT CONFESSION

EMBRACING GOD'S GRACE

❖ GLORIA PATRI

HYMN No. 581

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 138

Anne Conroy

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BIBLICAL STORYTELLING

Anthony Carrella

*(Following the storytelling learners in Pre-K through Grade 5
are encouraged to recess to Sunday School.)*

SOLO

John Musto
(b. 1954)

Litany
Syrena Torres, mezzo-soprano

Gather up
In the arms of your pity
The sick, the depraved,
The desperate, the tired,
All the scum
Of our weary city

Gather up
In the arms of your pity.
Gather up
In the arms of your love—
Those who expect
No love from above.

Langston Hughes, "Prayer"

NEW TESTAMENT
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Galatians 5:22-26

Adam Hearlson

SERMON

"The Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness"

Adam Hearlson

❖ HYMN (*below*)

GOODNESS IS STRONGER
Goodness is Stronger Than Evil

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death.

Vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is ours

Oh, vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is

through God who loves us. us.

ours through God who loves us. us.

Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Theological Declaration of Barmen

“I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.” —John 14:6

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved.” —John 10:1,9

Jesus Christ, as he is attested to us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God whom we have to hear, and whom we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

We reject the false doctrine that the Church could and should recognize as a source of its proclamation, beyond and besides this one Word of God, yet other events, powers, historic figures and truths as God’s revelation.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

LIFE AT THE CROSSROADS

Adam Hearlson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Christy Lang Hearlson

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

Spiritual, arr. Noble Cain

Ezekiel Saw De Wheel

(1896-1977)

The Overbrook Choir

Oh, Ezekiel saw the wheel
way up in de middle ob de air

De big wheel run by faith
and de little wheel run by de grace ob God
A wheel in a wheel
way up in de middle ob de air

Some folks go to church for to sing an' shout
before six months dey's done turned out
before six months dey's back again
now what de good church folks gonna do den

African-American Spiritual

❖ 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

Anne Conroy

God, may these gifts inspire us with a bold and beautiful vision. May they become food for our journey and grace in our times of need. May all who receive these gifts know the grace and power of your love. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

❖ HYMN (*on next page*)

LORD MAKE US MORE HOLY

Lord, Make Us More Holy

❖ BENEDICTION

Adam Hearlson

❖ CHORAL RESPONSE

Lead me, O Lord

Eleanor Daley
(b. 1955)

POSTLUDE

Please depart quietly for those who wish to listen to the postlude.

1 Lord, make us more ho - ly; Lord, make us more ho - ly;
 2 Lord, make us more lov - ing; Lord, make us more lov - ing;
 3 Lord, make us more pa - tient; Lord, make us more pa - tient;
 4 Lord, make us more faith - ful; Lord, make us more faith - ful;

Lord, make us more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain:
 Lord, make us more lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain:
 Lord, make us more pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain:
 Lord, make us more faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain:

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.
 lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain.
 pa - tient, pa - tient, pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain.
 faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain.

Like many African American spirituals, this one creates a framework for almost endless expansion beyond the four stanzas given here. This sung prayer is notable as an affirmation of God's active care for the once-gathered community while dispersed and of hope to be reunited.

Music Spotlight: Solo



A prolific poet, **Langston Hughes** was an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance, writing in the innovative style of “jazz poetry.” This poem, “Prayer,” asks God to embrace those who are typically cast out of society; it also calls us to love our neighbors as God loves us. Listen to how the piano accompaniment uses dissonant harmonies to illustrate the plight of the needy.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

“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.

Centering Prayer—Wednesday, February 12, 9:30 A.M. Centering Prayer takes 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, February 12, 10:30 AM. All are welcome to join us for Bible Study at **Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El**.

Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, February 16, after worship. The Session announces that the Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation of Overbrook Presbyterian Church will be held in person immediately after worship on **Sunday, February 16, 2025**. All business proper to a general meeting of our congregation will be addressed.

Honoring Sharon Parker—Sunday, February 16, 3:00 P.M. At the end of January, Sharon Parker retired from her position as Parish Care Associate at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. To honor her ministry, we will have a service on in the **Chapel of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church**. A reception will follow in the Education Wing of BMPC. Please join us then to celebrate Sharon!

Norristown Hospitality Center—Monday, February 17. Help provide breakfast for our neighbors in need in Norristown! Scan the QR code to the right to learn more.



Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed. 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).

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 contact **Corinna Bowser** (corinnabowser@gmail.com) with any questions.



CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Help Create Our Children’s “Cave Art” Mural! Our Children’s Sunday School program is exploring two contemplative practices this February—**Listening with Ears of the Heart** and **Seeing with Eyes of the Heart**—and will build a “cave art” mural featuring hundreds of plant and animal images. We invite the whole congregation to contribute by picking up magazines from the labeled table (in Fellowship Hall or just outside the Sanctuary) after worship, cutting out the **shapes** of nature pictures at home, and dropping them off in the designated boxes in the Penn Wynne lobby or Fellowship Hall. Magazines are available **today** and on **February 9**, and **all cutouts are due on February 16**. Mads C. and Davorka S. are leading this project; feel free to reach out to either of them with questions. Thank you for your expressions of care and delight!

Tuesday Evening Contemplative Caregiver Gatherings—Please RSVP. Join us monthly on the lower level of Overbrook for a shared meal and a time of sacred quiet. We’ll begin with a community-organized dinner at 5:30 P.M. community-organized dinner, followed by contemplative practice from 6:00 to 6:45 P.M. A collaborative cleanup will occur in the last fifteen minutes of the session. Childcare will be available during the practice, allowing caregivers a moment of rest for body, mind, and soul in God’s presence.

- **February Gathering:** Explore the Centering Prayer movement. So that we can schedule these gatherings, please give your availability, fill out an RSVP, and sign up for mealtime roles here: tinyurl.com/RSVP-Caregivers.

Please plan to arrive at 5:30 so we can start our practice smoothly at 6:00 and wrap up by 7:00. This revised schedule reflects the rhythms of young families and the availability of our caregivers. Bring your whole self—your hopes, your weariness, and your joy—as we share in this monthly space for holy listening. If you have any questions, you can get in touch with **Anthony** or **Molly** in person or by email: cfm@overbrookpresb.org.

Parents: Support the Fellowship Hour! To foster a safe, warm, and welcoming multigenerational atmosphere at Overbrook, we are strongly encouraging parents and caregivers to volunteer their time to support Fellowship Hour. We’re seeking parents to sign up for a brief 10-minute setup or cleanup shift for the children’s Fellowship Hour games. Volunteers commit to one month and share the role with a partner. If one of you cannot make it on a Sunday, the other will fill in. To read detailed instructions and add your name to the rotation, please visit tinyurl.com/CFM-Fellowship If you have any questions, you can reach **Anthony** or **Molly** in person or by email: cfm@overbrookpresb.org.

RETIRED PERSON'S MINISTRY

RPM Plus: "Love Your Neighbor"—Friday, February 14, 10:00 A.M. to noon. Please join us in the Undercroft (lower level) of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas for a Valentine's Day Brunch and an opportunity to share in good-spirited fellowship, and to learn about the work of migrant ministries in our area. The meal is provided free of charge; an accessible entrance is located through the rear parking lot. For those who wish to participate, a free-will offering basket will be available. The offering will be directed to The New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia, an interfaith ministry serving our area's immigrant community. Friends are warmly welcome to join us.

Prayer List

- Prayers for restoration of health for all who have been diagnosed with norovirus, COVID, and influenza, especially the most vulnerable members of our community, our children and our elders.
- Prayers for peace and comfort for Phil Sheau's cousin, Mark Der Bing, as he enters hospice care.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Gwen Anthony, as she remains under medical care.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Mary Lou Ryce, as she remains under cardiac care.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Peter Seidel following hip replacement surgery.
- Prayers for Janie Martin's cousin, Maureen Cook, who is undergoing medical care for pancreatic cancer.
- Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for Jim Mc Daniel's mother, Doris McDaniel, who is receiving hospice care.
- 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 and Natalie DeShields.
- Prayers for strength, guidance and peace for all who are facing life transitions and confronted with challenging decisions.
- Prayers for strength, guidance, and wisdom for parents facing the daily challenges of balancing precious time between the needs of their beloved children and diverse life and career demands.
- Prayers for strength, peace, and comfort for all who parent young families, while also caring for their aging loved ones.
- 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 strength, peace and hope for all people impacted by the changing national environment.

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 2025 | Class of 2026 | Class of 2027 |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Elizabeth Cosgriff** | Artia Benjamin | Brian Burke |
| Bob Harden, Jr.** | Joseph Blair | Karen Testa |
| Linda Huff-Paul** | Keedra Carroll** | Brian Taussig-Lux** |
| Corinna Bowser | Solomon Hunter** | Christoph Von Andreae** |
| Cheryl Davis | Nathalie May** | Mimi Winkler** |

OPC DEACONS:

Bill Baker, Moderator, Board of Deacons

Jason Sheau, Treasurer; Denise Stewart, Secretary

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

| Class of 2025 | Class of 2026 | Class of 2027 |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Dela Geraldo | Denise Stewart | Margene Biedermann |
| Sharon Elwell | Miriam Harden** | Mads Piatt Cosgriff |
| Bill Baker** | Hannah Lazo* | Rebecca Lazo |
| Bob Kaercher** | Leah Mayne** | Zee Ann Mason |
| Philip Brown | Jason Sheau** | Mike Rottinger** |

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6376 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

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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*

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.”
