

Overbrook PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 17, 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
Rabbi Ethan Witkovsky, Guest Preacher
Sharon Parker, Parish Care Associate
Janie Martin, Liturgist
Anthony Carrella, Director of Children and Family Ministry
Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music
The Overbrook Choir
Toffer Mihalka, tenor

Today's chancel flowers are given by Sharon Elwell in honor of her brother, Chuck.

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 Keedra Carroll and the Stewardship Committee.

❖=Stand as you are able

GATHERING IN

PRELUDE

INTROIT Donald Cashmore

The Lord is our strength (1926-2013)

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, you summon the day to dawn;

you teach the morning to waken the earth.

People: Great is your name,

Great is your love.

Leader: For you the valleys will sing for joy,

the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

People: Great is your name,

Great is your love.

Leader: To you the monarchs of earth shall bow,

the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy:

People: Great is your name,

Great is your love.

Leader: Your love and justice shall last forever,

fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

All: Great is your name,

Great is your love.

❖HYMN (on next page)

MICHAEL

Jane Martin

All My Hope on God Is Founded



- 1. All my hope on God is found ed; he doth still my trust re new.
- 2. Hu man pride and earth ly glo ry, sword and crown be tray his trust;
- 3. God's great good-ness aye en dur eth, deep his wis-dom, pass-ing thought:
- 4. Dai- ly doth th'Al-migh-ty giv er boun-teous gifts on us be-stow;
- 5. Still from earth to God e ter nal sa cri fice and praise be done,



Me through change and chance he guid-eth, on - ly good and on - ly true. what with care and toil he build-eth, tower and tem - ple, fall to dust. light, and life at - tend him, beau-ty splen - dor, spring-eth out of naught. leads us where we de - sire our soul de-light-eth, plea-sure go. gift of Christ his high all prai - ses prais-ing for the Son. - bove



God un - known, he a - lone calls my heart be his own. But God's power, hour by hour, is my tem ple and tower. my Ev - er - more from his store new-born worlds rise dore. and Love doth stand his hand; joy doth wait on his com mand. Christ doth call all: ye who fol - low shall fall. one and not

WELCOME Adam Hearlson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND COURAGE (unison)

Janie Martin

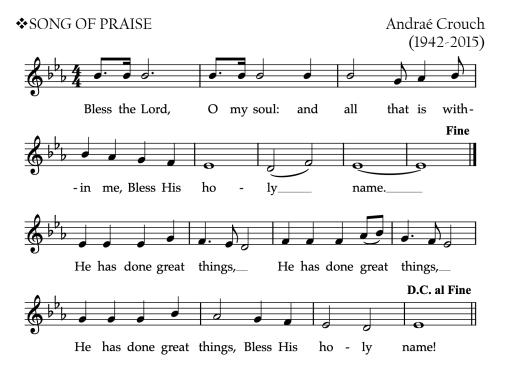
Forgive us when we forget to praise you, When we turn your love into legalism, Your freedom into bondage, Your promises and gifts into demands and duties.

Forgive us when we forget that we are your people and we make the church an exclusive club;

Forgive us when we forget that Jesus is our friend and we lock him up in rules and customs, words and structures. Forgive us, merciful God.

SILENT CONFESSION

EMBRACING GOD'S GRACE



HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Refrain

To be sung before the reading and where marked during the reading.



joy

is

in you

a

lone.

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

serve me, O God!

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.

My

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips. Refrain

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Refrain

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol or let your faithful one see the Pit.

(continued on next page)

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Refrain

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

BIBLICAL STORYTELLING

Sharon Parker

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

SOLO

Alfred V. Fedak How Can I Keep from Singing (b. 1953) Toffer Mihalka, tenor

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs to the night he giveth.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Robert Lowry

Genesis 23:1-7

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Ethan Witkovsky

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



♦STATEMENT OF FAITH

From the Barmen Declaration

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.

We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords—areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

LIFE AT THE CROSSROADS

Adam Hearlson

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

Robert Harden

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Janice Allen

Ken Brinkman

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

On this Pledge Sunday, we are reminded of the generosity of this community. If you have brought your 2025 estimate of giving to the church, you can add it to the offering plate. If you have pledged online but would like to signify your pledge this day, estimate of giving cards are available with the ushers.

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

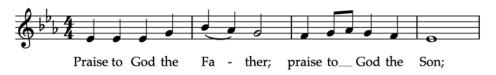
Carol Muehlig (b. 1947)

God Fashioned Love The Overbrook Choir

God fashioned love and gave it as a gift
For each to share and give again,
That through all generations love might sift
As wheat from chaff to make an increase of the best,
That time and wind might have the rest.

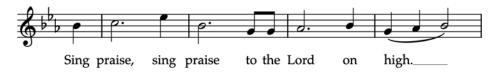
God fashioned love and gave from heaven's store
For each to share and give again,
That through all generations love might pour
As wine from water by a miracle can pass,
That every hand may take the glass.

God fashioned love and gave it human cast For each to share and give again, That through all generations love might last As Christ is born in every child God gives, So love, though yet all die, shall live. ♦DOXOLOGY HYMN No. 605





praise to God the Spir - it; praise to the Three-in - One.





Praise to God Al - might - y; praise to the Ho - ly one.

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Janie Martin

Merciful creator, all that we have is yours. All that we have received comes from your hand. Bless these gifts that in giving back, we spread wide your blessings to those in need. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

♦ HYMN (on next page)

HYFRYDOL.

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

♦BENEDICTION

Adam Hearlson

♦CHORAL RESPONSE

G. T. Thalben-Ball

The Lord is gracious and merciful (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: Opening Hymn



Herbert Howells (1892-1983) was an English organist and composer who made significant contributions to the English sacred repertoire. This hymn tune, "Michael," is named for the composer's son, who died from polio at the age of 9. In the wake of this tragedy, Howells channeled his grief into music, composing two hymn tunes, *Concerto for Strings*, a motet, and the large-scale choral work *Hymnus Paradisi*. In this hymn, listen for how the expansive, flowing tune often returns to the same notes or melodic ideas, perhaps reassuring us of God's steadfast love and presence.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

<u>Pledge Dedication Sunday—Today!</u> On this Pledge Sunday, we are reminded of the generosity of this community. If you have brought your 2025 estimate of giving to the church, you can add it to the offering plate at the bottom of the chancel steps. Estimate-of-giving cards are available to fill out please see an usher for a pledge card, or you can scan the following QR code with your phone:.



Electronic Pledge Card

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.



<u>Centering Prayer—Wednesday, November 20, 9:30 A.M.</u> 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—on hiatus until December. Due to scheduling conflicts, Adam's continuing education travel, and the Thanksgiving holiday, Bible Study will not meet until December 4. When we return, we will be studying beloved Advent

30th Annual Messiah Sing—Sunday, December 1, 3:00 P.M. Our wonderful Advent tradition continues this year! We are overjoyed to be able to hold this event at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (415 Athens Ave., Ardmore). The Overbrook Quartet will sing selected arias from Handel's Messiah, and the audience (that's you!) has the opportunity to sing some of the most famous choruses in the literature. No score? No problem—we'll lend you one. Don't want to sing? Come enjoy the music anyway! A free-will offering will be taken, with a reception to follow.

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, 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:

- Log onto Realm: https://onrealm.org/overbrookpresb/give/flowers
- Text "GIVEOPC FLOWERS \$60.00" to 73256 to give using your 2. 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.
- 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 Gratitude. Throughout November, all are encouraged to join RPM in a month-long celebration of gratitude. It is our fervent hope that this focused season of gratitude will continue far beyond the days of the month. All are welcome to attend our next November event:

• November 22: RPM Café, 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Please join us for our Thanksgiving Café, a time to gather with friends, share a fine meal, and look ahead to the coming season. A panel of OPC and St. Thomas speakers will present "The Power of Gratitude: Finding Hope in Challenging Times." All are welcome at all RPM events!

Adult Forum—November 19 and 26, 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. On the third and fourth Tuesdays of this month, enjoy shared discourse and learning in the comfort of community. Meeting on Zoom, Adult Forum combines peer-led discussions with presentations from guest speakers. Please join us this month for our discussion, "Tests of Faith, Acts of Courage: The Intersection of Christianity and Politics." Please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) for more information. Link to Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/OPCForumZoom

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Norristown Hospitality Center Donations—due today. The next date to provide breakfast items to the Norristown Hospitality Center is the 17th. According to their web site, "The Hospitality Center provides numerous services and supplies five days a week to alleviate the day-to-day stress of poverty and homelessness, including breakfast, showers, bathrooms, toiletries, and clothing." Meet the ever-young Ann Elise and Earl Lindgren, who graciously transport items to Norristown; then, give yourself a pat on the back!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Next Monthly Youth Group—Friday, December 1, 5:30 to 8:00 P.M. Our 6th 12th graders will gather over food, games, movies, and conversation in the basement of Overbrook Presbyterian Church. All those 18+ will require clearances. Contact Suchita Fiorillo (youth@overbrookpresb.org) if you have any questions.

<u>Volunteer Opportunity: Sunday School Teachers Needed!</u> 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

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.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

<u>Contemplative Caregiver Reflection Group—this month.</u> We will hold our first session and meal during the third week of November, on the 19th, 20th, or 21st, in the basement of Overbrook Presbyterian Church. About 10 participants have expressed interest and are sharing their preferred date with leadership by email. If you are interested in attending, please let **Anthony or Molly (<u>cfm@overbrookpresb.org)</u>** know your date preference. The gathering will take place from 6:15 to 7:30 P.M.

This monthly gathering invites parents, grandparents, and caregivers to explore the spiritual dimensions of caregiving. Connect with the Holy Spirit and others through spiritual reading, contemplative practices, and creative response, all while sharing a light meal. We'll create a safe and welcoming space to navigate the joys, challenges, and insights that come with caregiving. In 2024, we'll draw from *Bless This Mess* by Rev. Molly Baskette and Ellen O'Donnell, Ph.D., and, in 2025, we'll explore *The Spirituality of Caregiving* by Henri Nouwen. Childcare is available so that all can participate fully. If you are interested, reach out to Anthony or Molly (cfm@overbrookpresb.org). All are welcome!

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.

<u>Children's Sunday School in November—November 17 and 24.</u> Sunday School invites kids to explore their faith and spiritual life among their peers; this month's program is "Practicing the Presence: The Lives of Young Saints." Classes are offered for children in three age groups to cultivate developmentally conscious learning communities. To participate in our 3–5, 6–8, and 9–11 classes, please head to <u>tinyurl.com/RegisterKids-OPC</u>. Sessions will be held on the lower level of Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church.

Meet New Members





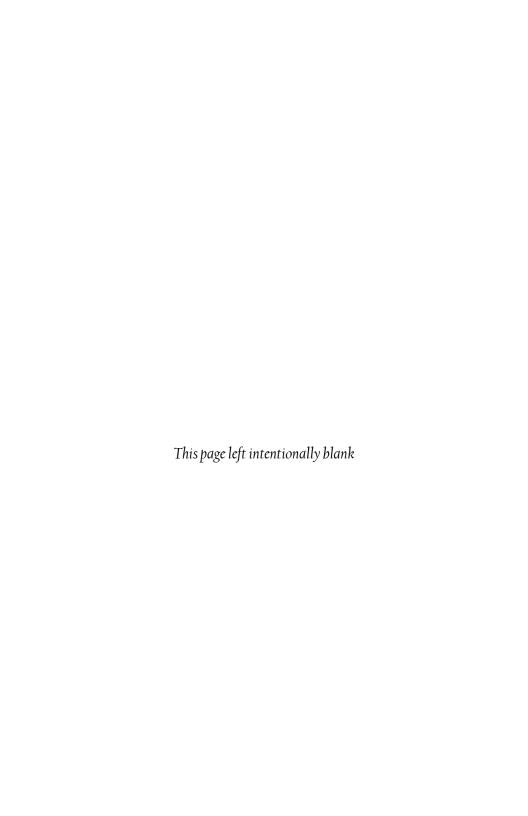
Kenneth Brinkman and Janice Allen moved from Minnesota to Waverly Heights in Gladwyne in 2021 after extensively researching the best retirement communities in the country. Originally from Minnesota, Kenneth is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and Princeton University. He worked as a manager overseeing software development for Central

Data Corporation and later for UNFI, where his duties included heading their Y2K project. Janice, originally from Richmond, VA, graduated from Macalester College and went to work for the Bureau of Labor, investigating labor law cases. She began attending law school in the evenings and upon graduation began a 30year career with the Family Law division for Anoka County. Kenneth and Janice married in 2000, second marriages for both. Ken has three daughters from his first marriage and Janice has a son and a daughter. Kenneth and Janice have enjoyed many hours of volunteer work. Kenneth volunteered as a tutor for elementary students in English and Math. He also volunteered on the night shift at a shelter for the unhoused. Janice organized meetings for a Restorative Justice program in Minnesota, bringing together offenders and community members for dialogue. Together Kenneth and Janice have also worked with Meals on Wheels in both Minnesota and Pennsylvania. Kenneth has served as both a deacon and an elder for his Presbyterian church in Minnesota, while Janice served as a deacon in her Congregational church. They were both attracted to Overbrook for its spirit, intellect, and diversity.

Prayer List

- Prayers of hope, healing, and comfort for Peggy Van Antwerp, mother of Jill Van Rawley.
- 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 as he undergoes 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 Carnahan.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Luis Wong as he undergoes medical treatment for post-transplant liver disease.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Nancy, Cindi Landmesser's aunt, who is facing in-going medical challenges.
- Prayers for comfort and healing mercies for Lionel Lombroso, a member of Anthony Carrella's extended family.
- Prayers for comfort and healing for Bill Long, father of Eric Long, as he undergoes medical treatment.
- 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 all who are facing health concerns, especially Jane Bevan, Bob Bevan, Scott Long, Gwen Harden, Ed Harvey, Stephanie Stokes, Milton Stokes, Valerie Craig, Joan Moylan, Jim Moylan, and Natalie DeShields.
- Prayers for strength and enduring spirit for family caregivers.
- 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* Bob Kaercher** Mary Lou Ryce** 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."