



Overbrook

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 20, 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

Mary Bear Shannon, Liturgist

Anthony Carrella, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music

The Overbrook Choir

Matthew Lulofs, baritone

Today's chancel flowers are given by Emma Kelly
in loving memory of Donald (Bampa) Vaber

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 "Trunk or Treat," hosted by the Lower Merion Public Library, in the Penn Wynne parking lot.

❖ *Stand as you are able*

GATHERING IN

PRELUDE

INTROIT

O send out thy light

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

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Bear Shannon

Leader: We invite the mountains to worship with us:

People: mighty boulders and deep forests, sliding glaciers and swirling snow.

Leader: We invite the wild to join us in wonder:

People: gliding eagles and mountain lions, mysterious moths and magic mushrooms.

Leader: We join with mountain creatures in praising God:

People: leaping trout and crawling creatures, exotic orchids and honeybees.

Leader: We call the depths of the mountains to celebrate;

People: precious gems and sparkling stones, volcanic lava and rich red ore.

Leader: We enter the mountain of God today;

People: and we worship in God's presence, a sacred place on our planet.

Leader: We celebrate the song of the mountain!

All: God, we give thanks for our mountains and celebrate their witness! May we join the mountains in their praise of you!

❖ HYMN (*on next page*)

LEONI

The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!



WELCOME

Adam Hearlson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND COURAGE (*unison*) Mary Bear Shannon
From the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

EMBRACING GOD'S GRACE

❖ SONG OF PRAISE

Andraé Crouch
(1942-2015)



Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is with-
Fine



-in me, Bless His ho - ly name.



He has done great things, He has done great things,

D.C. al Fine



He has done great things, Bless His ho - ly name!

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 121

Calvin Marshall

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

Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Call

(1872-1958)

Matthew Lulofs, baritone

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

SECOND READING

Exodus 3:1-12

Adam Hearlson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Mountain of God”

Adam Hearlson

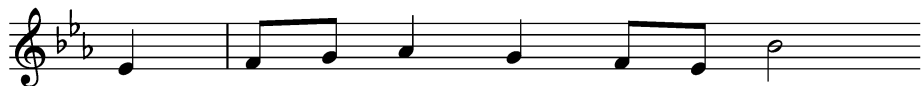
❖HYMN (*on next page*)

SUNSET

Come, Living God, When Least Expected



1. Come, liv - ing God, when least ex - spect - ed,
2. Break from the tomb in which we hide you
3. Come now, as once you came to Mo - ses
4. So, let our minds be sharp to read you
5. Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us
6. Then we will share his ra - diant bright - ness,



when minds are dull and hearts are cold,
to speak a - gain in start - ling ways;
with - in the bush a - live with flame;
in sight or sound or print - ed page,
as vi - vid truth and liv - ing Lord,
and, blaz - ing through the dread of night,



through sharp - ening word and warm af - fec - tion
break through the words in which we bind you
or to E - li - jah on the moun - tain,
and let us greet you in our neigh - bours,
ex - plo - ding doubt and dis - il - lu - sion
il - lu - mi - nate by love and rea - son,



re - veal - ing truths as yet un - told.
to re - sur - rect our life - less praise.
by si - lence press - ing home your claim.
in ar - dent youth or mel - low age.
to scat - ter hope and joy a - broad.
for those in dark - ness, faith's de - light.

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the New Zealand Prayer Book

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
God made flesh,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.

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

Spiritual, arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

Climbin' Up the Mountain

(b. 1962)

The Overbrook Choir

Climbin' up the mountain, children,
didn' come here for to stay
an' if I nevu'more see you again,
gonna meet you at the Judgemen' Day.

Moses went down into Egypt Lan',
an' he tol' ol' Pharaoh, he said
"that the good Lord sittin' on de heavenly throne
said let my people go."

Children in de fiery furnace,
when dey begin to pray,
de angel of de Lord put de fire out.
Dat sho' was a migh'y good day.

African-American Spiritual

❖ DOXOLOGY

HYMN No. 605



Praise to God the Fa - ther; praise to God the Son;



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



Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high. _____



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

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mary Bear Shannon

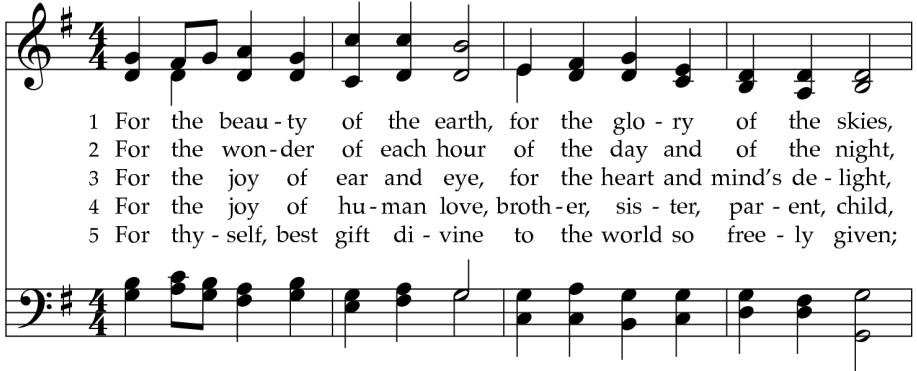
Holy God, may these gifts grow from small mounds to great mountains. May all they touch become secure—mind, body, and soul. May these gifts be a sign of our faith that you can move the mountains of this world. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

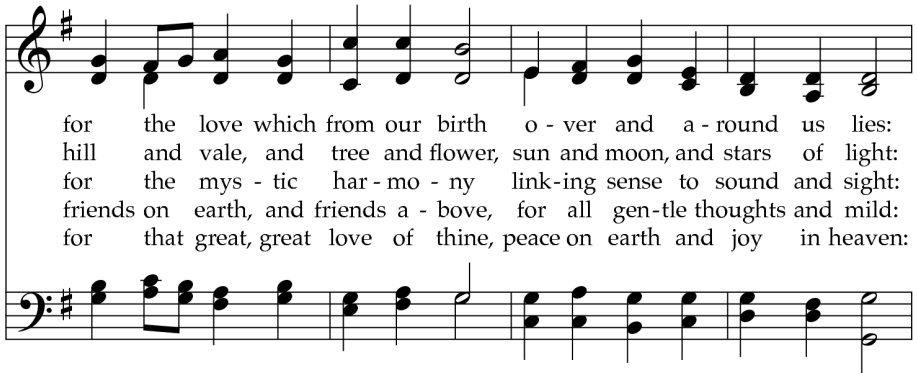
❖ HYMN (*below*)

DIX

For the Beauty of the Earth

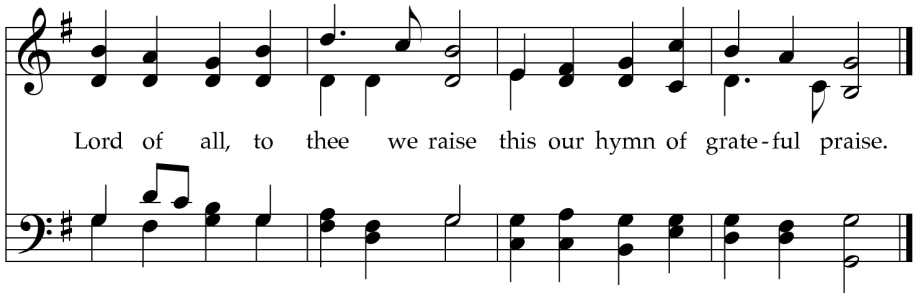


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

❖BENEDICTION

Adam Hearlson

❖CHORAL RESPONSE

Help, save, and strengthen us

Eleanor Daley
(b. 1955)

POSTLUDE

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

Music Spotlight: Anthem at the Offering



Stacey V. Gibbs is an internationally recognized composer and conductor. Best known for his settings of African-American spirituals, he has written several arrangements for the King's Singers, and his music was featured at the 57th Inaugural Service for Barack Obama in 2013. This piece, "Climbin' Up the Mountain," highlights the importance of determination and persistence, from Moses's "Let my people go" to the fervent prayers of "children of the fiery pillar."

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Trunk or Treat—Today after worship. All families are invited to attend this event, held in the parking lot at Penn Wynne by the Lower Merion Public Library.

Kensington Project—Today. Our youth will be headed to Kensington following worship. Thank you to everyone who donated items to help the people of Kensington!

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 provided.



Norristown Hospitality Center Donations—Due today or Monday, October 21. Today or tomorrow is the next opportunity to provide breakfast items for the Norristown Hospitality Center. This month's menu is turkey sausage, oatmeal, fruit, and water. If you forgot your donation today, please meet Earl Lindgren in the OPC parking lot at 9:00 A.M. tomorrow.

Centering Prayer—Wednesday, October 23, 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, October 23, 10:30 A.M. Our weekly bible study will be held at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.

Celebrating 135 Years of Faith and Community!— Sunday, October 27. Join us next Sunday as we celebrate the 135th anniversary of our church! This special milestone marks over a century of worship, fellowship, and service together as a congregation. We will gather for a joyful service to reflect on our rich history and look forward to the future of our faith community. Following the service, a light lunch will be provided. We kindly ask that you bring a side dish to share as we continue the celebration with food and fellowship. Scan the QR code to sign up. Let's come together to honor our past and share in the hope and promise of what lies ahead!



From the Stained-Glass Committee: Your input is requested. The committee has begun to imagine a new window exploring the diversity of God's kingdom. What might the idea of diversity look like in a stained-glass window? Can you think of a favorite Bible story or passage from scripture that would offer a talented glass artist the opportunity to express diversity in a window? Help us imagine it! Contact Peter Seidel (stainedglass@overbrookpresb.org or 610-896-3677) to share your thoughts, or find him at Fellowship Hour to talk in person.

Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed. We are looking for hosts this fall! 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 are **\$60.00**, but you way 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

Adult Forum: “Faith without Borders”—Tuesday, October 22 and 29, 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. Please join us as we read, hear, and respond to firsthand accounts of migration at the southern border of the United States. Most especially, be part of the discernment and deliberation: What can we do to ease the suffering, to welcome the stranger? Jim McDaniel and Sharon Parker will serve as facilitators. A resource file will be accessible to all on October 15. Link to Adult Forum Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/OPCForumZoom>

The RPM Café—Friday, October 25. 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The great chefs of OPC are planning the menu of the day which will feature a soup and salad buffet, fresh fruit, desserts, and a choice of beverages. All are welcome to enjoy the meal and our special program in **Anderson Hall** at the **African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas**. Our presenter will be Dan Milloy, Outreach and Engagement Manager for the Senior Medicare Patrol of the Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly. Dan will help us to be aware of the escalating trends in scamming that often target elder members of the community. The RPM Café is a Parish Care Ministry; there is no cost to participate. Responses are appreciated; please RSVP to Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) by October 23. All are welcome!

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Life Center of Eastern Delaware County Meal—Tuesday, October 29. OPC, under the guidance of Nancy Gilhool, will prepare dinner for the residents of the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County. If you can shop, chop, stir, open a can, or perform any other culinary activity, you are needed! Stay tuned for where and when; please contact Nancy Gilhool (gilhoolfam@verizon.net) to let her know of your interest.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Monthly Youth Group—Beginning Friday, November 1, 5:30 P.M. Calling all youth in 6th through 12th grades... Join us on the first Friday of every month for a night of fellowship and fun at our beloved **Overbrook Presbyterian Church!** Please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share and your favorite game.

Informational Session for Parents—Friday, November 1, 5:30 P.M. While the youth enjoy their night of fellowship, parents are invited to join us and hear about highlights from the past, upcoming plans, and how to get involved!

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.



CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Children's Sunday School—October 20, and 27. Join us to explore biblical stories, creative responses, contemplative practices, and a service project centered on God's invitation to **Care for Creation.**" Together, we will:

- **Appreciate God's Abundance.** Kids will learn ways to notice and recognize the presence of God throughout God's rich and diverse Creation.
- **Provide Stewardship.** Kids will explore their roles as individuals and community members in tending to and keeping the earth (Genesis 2:15).
- **Share and Restore.** These classes will discover ways in which kids are sharing the planet responsibly around the world and partnering with the Holy Spirit in healing and sustaining Creation.

Children's Sunday School invites kids to explore their faith and spiritual life among their peers. 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 [tinyurl.com/RegisterKids-OPC](https://www.tinyurl.com/RegisterKids-OPC).

A Note on Ministry Age Groups and Transitions. The transition from Children's to Youth Ministry is an exciting and significant discernment opportunity! But when exactly is the right time to cross this threshold? Everyone is a little bit different. Generally, the CFM recommends 11-year-olds in the 5th grade use our 9-to-11-year-old Children's Sunday School class for their capstone experience in the children's ministry. 6th graders who are 11 are welcome to remain in Children's Ministry or explore Youth Ministry. We encourage open conversations between parents, kids, and ministry leaders to ensure a supportive and personalized transition consider their spiritual and emotional readiness, as well as social comfort, as indicators for knowing when to cross this threshold.

If you have any questions about your child's specific situation, please contact **Anthony, Artia, or Suchita** (youth@overbrookpresb.org) to set up a conversation.

Five-Minute Participation Form. Parents and caregivers with children 0-11 who join us regularly are asked to fill out the CFM Participation Form. It takes five minutes to register the whole family and ensures that leaders offer a safe and tailored experience each week. Forms can be submitted by visiting [tinyurl.com/RegisterKids-OPC](https://www.tinyurl.com/RegisterKids-OPC)

2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2024 Congregational Nominating Committee of OPC has begun to discern the persons whom God is calling to serve as **elders, deacons, and the 2025 Congregational Nominating Committee**. We seek the insight of members of the congregation to identify potential church leaders.

According to the *Book of Order*, individuals who undertake particular ministries, including ruling elders and deacons, should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world.

Please submit your suggestions to the committee by scanning the QR code to complete the google form ; you may also contact the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Keedra Carroll (215-356-3224 or keedracarroll@gmail.com). We need your completed forms no later than **Sunday, October 27**.



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

Deacons of the Current Board: Gloria Brabham, Nancy Gilhool**, Mike Rottinger, Mary Lou Ryce**, Sabrina Johnson, Dela Geraldo, Sharon Elwell, Bill Baker**, Bob Kaercher**, Philip Brown, Denise Stewart, Miriam Harden**, Hannah Lazo, Leah Mayne**, Jason Sheau**.

(** = ineligible to serve another term this year)

Current Congregational Nominating Committee:

Chairperson and Session Representative: Keedra Carroll

Deacon Representative: TBD

Congregational Representatives-at-Large: Brian Burke, Joe Piatt, Deb Rottinger, Kate Shackelford, and Aimerie Scherluebbe.

Member *ex officio*: Rev. Adam Hearlson.

Prayer List

- Prayers of comfort and peace for all who mourn the passing of OPC member Colleen Granata, mother of Brad Biedermann.
- 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 dear member of Anthony Carrella's extended family, who is under medical care.
- Prayers for comfort and healing for Bill Long, father of Eric Long, as he undergoes medical treatment.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Denise Stewart, following recent knee replacement surgery.
- Prayers for Janie Martin's cousin, Maureen Cook, who is undergoing medical care for pancreatic cancer.
- Prayers of compassion and comfort for Joan and Jim Moylan who are experiencing health challenges.
- 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 has entered hospice care at Wesley Inspired Living.
- 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, and Natalie DeShields.
Prayers of hope and peace for families in crisis.
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 at 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.”
