

Overbrook Church Staff Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson

Pastor

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus
Sharon Parker
Parish Care Associate

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Director of Music

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Director of Children
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Artia Benjamin & Suchita Fiorillo Youth Leaders

Lisa Faso Office Manager

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NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

Advent and Christmas at Overbrook

With the start of Advent, a new church year is beginning. December 1 is the first of four Sundays in Advent, a season when Overbrook celebrates Christ's coming into the world and watches with expectant hope for His coming again. Among our Advent traditions are the lighting of the Advent Wreath candles during the four Sunday services prior to Christmas, our personal spiritual practice of daily devotions, and our participation in special worship services and programs that bring us together in celebration of the coming of Christ. Please join us for the following Advent and Christmas events:

- Sunday, December 1, 11:00 AM. Advent Sunday Worship at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church
- Sunday, December 1, 3:00 PM. 30th Annual Overbrook Messiah Sing at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 415 Athens Ave, Ardmore. Join us for this beloved Advent tradition in which the audience is part of the performance: the Overbrook Quartet sings the arias from Handel's Messiah, while the audience sings the choruses for a thrilling "surround sound" experience. Reception to follow concert.
- Sunday, December 8, 11:00 AM. Advent Sunday Worship at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church.
- Friday, December 13, 7:00 PM. Sky Watch: Meteor Shower in the Advent Sky at Overbrook Presbyterian Church Parking Lot. A time of community fellowship, as we watch for the Geminid Meteor Shower in the Advent Sky.
- Sunday, December 15, 11:00 AM. Jazz Advent Sunday Worship at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church. 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 PM.** Service of the Longest Night at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church. 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. Advent Sunday Worship at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church. 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, 4:00 PM. Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church.
- Tuesday, December 24, 6:00 PM. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church. The Overbrook Choir has been hard at work preparing music for Christmas Eve. You can expect favorite hymns, candlelight, and choral music old and new.

Update from the OPC Fire Task Force

The following is a year-to-date summary (as of November 19, 2024) of the income from insurance proceeds and expenses related to fire restoration.

	Income	Expenses
Building	\$7,105,475.00	\$1,360,260.74
Contents	\$300,000.00	\$13,307.38
Business Interruption	\$50,000.00	\$29,151.41
TOTAL	\$7,455,475.00	\$1,402,719.53

The income represents payments from Church Mutual Insurance Company (CMIC), OPC's insurance carrier at the time of the fire. These values do not include any contributions received in connection with the fire.

The expenses relate to ServPro's

restoration services, the preschool rebuilding work from spring 2024, fees to Young Adjustment Corporation (YAC, our public adjuster), fees to our architect (Historic Building Architects), payments to Penn Wynne Presbyterian, and other miscellaneous expenses.

CMIC has prepared a preliminary Actual Cash Value (ACV) statement of loss that estimates a net loss of \$8.13 million. YAC has estimated our loss as \$17.89 million, which does NOT include the disputed charges of ServPro of approximately \$2.3 million.

OPC's property coverage is \$14 million (for building and contents), \$1 million of law and ordinance (for code upgrades), and \$500,000 of business interruption/ extra expense.

YAC is negotiating actively with CMIC, and we hope to have an in-person meeting with everyone in the near future.

We have engaged an owner's representative (a term for a construction professional who interfaces with contractors on the owner's behalf), Joe Ventresca, to accelerate certain construction activities cost effectively. Joe has helped us issue an RFP for stained glass, an RFP for repairing the slate roof, and an RFP for remediating the smoke odors in the building. Joe also removed the ServPro scaffolding which was costly and unnecessary.

Bethany Contractors is responsible for the OPC office restoration. Though we've suffered delays because of an electrical permit, we hope the staff is back into the office before year-end.

What's the critical path to getting back into OPC? We are currently on hold, awaiting feedback from the congregational "dreaming" committees. Until we have that feedback and understand what, if any, non-insurance building enhancements are desired and feasible (e.g., upgrading the kitchen, improving the building's energy performance), an RFP for architectural services cannot be issued. The architect will prepare building permit plans for the restoration of the church, which will then be competitively bid to contractors and submitted to the City of Philadelphia for building permits.

Summary. We are alarmed by the gap in cost estimates between CMIC and YAC and the potential for major losses in excess of our coverage. Even if YAC prevails in the insurance settlement, it will be necessary to economize on many aspects of the rebuilding (e.g., replace plaster with sheetrock, go with low bids on stained glass and organ) to ensure that we have the resources to rebuild and reoccupy OPC. As you are aware the church is anticipating a capital campaign to cover gaps in finding and work unrelated to the fire damage but the results of this are not yet known. We share the concerns with the mounting delays and believe that we need to be creative to simplify the rebuilding program, streamline the documentation, and accelerate the building's restoration.

In the Spirit at Overbrook...

Spiritual practice is at the center of life at Overbrook. In addition to our communal worship on Sunday mornings, all are invited to participate in the diverse spiritual practices offered throughout the week. Please consider exploring the following opportunities for faith formation and spiritual growth:

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group: The prayer group gathers by Zoom each Tuesday, from 7:30–8:30 AM. To join the Tuesday Prayer Group on Zoom, please use the following link: tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer.

Centering Prayer. Combining spoken and contemplative prayer, Centering Prayer participants meet in the Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El library each Wednesday from 9:30-10:00 AM.

Adult Bible Study: Led by Pastor Adam, from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM each Wednesday, Bible Study participants meet in the library of Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.

To learn more about these opportunities, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org).

Retired Person's Ministry (RPM)

OPC's Retired Person's Ministry: A Season of Sharing. Throughout December, 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.

- Friday, December 6, 9:00 AM 12:00 PM. Cooking in Community at Christ's Community Church Kitchen, 337 Riverview Road, Drexel Hill. Please join us as we bake holiday cookies and prepare soup for the "at-home" elder members of our community. Our morning will be spent whipping up holiday spirit and joy.
- Friday, December 13, 10:00 AM 12:00 PM. RPM Plus: Crafting for Christmas at the undercroft at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Join us for a morning of goodspirited fellowship, as we make greeting cards and prepare holiday gifts for the elder members of our community. Coffee and creativity will be in abundant supply.
- Friday, December 20, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. RPM Café. All are welcome at the RPM Christmas Cafe...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 (<u>sharon@overbrookpresb.org</u>) and Pat Dillon (<u>psdillon1@earthlink.net</u>) welcome your questions and invite your responses to these special programs.

Mission & Outreach



For many years Overbrook Church has partnered with the Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC) to provide dinner to the Life Center residents at 63rd and Market. With over 1,500 needy children in their county-wide emergency shelters and transitional housing, the need for help is greater than ever.

Your Mission and Outreach committee has agreed to sponsor 20 children by providing items on their wish lists. The agency assures us that there are no big-ticket items. *How can you help?*

After worship on December 1, please stop by the Mission table

during Fellowship Hour and pick up a name (or two) of a CAADC child. **Complete the holiday shopping** and return items to church by **December 15**. Items can be wrapped or unwrapped but should be brought together in a bag which hides its contents. **Gifts may be brought to Penn Wynne's parking lot** after worship on Sundays **December 1**, 8 or 15. If that is not convenient, please contact one of us to make alternate arrangements.

—Ann Elise Lindgren (203-723-1445), Joanne Roman (314-920-5197) or Janet Bowker (215-913-8766)

On a lovely **November 9**, Mads and Elizabeth Cosgriff hosted the Women's Dining Circle as we welcomed John Cochrane from the Narberth Community Theatre to speak about their on-going efforts to recover from the OPC fire. Thirty-five guests enjoyed his presentation and a delicious brunch which was prepared by the committee. \$1040 was raised at the brunch which is then matched by the M&O budget. Thank you to all!

As the number of guests keeps growing, (which is a good thing!) the committee could use additional hands to cook and/or to clean up. No extraordinary culinary or kitchen skills are required! If you want to learn more, please contact <u>Karen Testa</u> or <u>Janet Bowker</u>.







Are you thinking you need a way to give back to the community? Think no more! Mission and Outreach is in need of a volunteer(s) willing to organize the Life Center meals. Overbrook is committed to serving on the 5th Tuesday of a month. The dates for 2025 are: April 29, July 29, Sept 30, and December

30. Basically, the plan is to develop a menu, shop for ingredients and gather a group of volunteers to prepare dinner for about 50 people. Currently, we have the option of serving the meal or just dropping it off at the Life Center (63rd and Market) the day of. There is a library of menu ideas (in Nancy's brain and other places) and a cadre of people who can shop, chop and stir. We just need YOU to assemble the pieces. Nancy and Janet welcome your questions and are ready to assist at the drop of a spoon.

Regretfully, we must inform you that, due to our current displacement at Penn Wynne, Mission and Outreach is unable to host the **Fair Trade Market** this year. We look forward to returning to the Wistar Morris room next December.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Saturday, December 7 - Books Through Bars - Meet at OPC parking lot at 1:00 PM

Monday, December 16 - Norristown Hospitality Center - sign up here

Tuesday, December 31 - Life Center Meal - Contact Janet or Jeff

Monday, January 13 - Heeding God's Call Tee-shirt Memorial to the Lost - Details to follow

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry warmly welcomes all who are interested in making blessed handwork for those facing illness or other difficulties, as well as those celebrating joys. These gifts go to OPC friends and members, and also to their family and friends. If you would like to request a prayer shawl gift for someone you know, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) or Mary Lou Ryce (420-370-4211 or marylou.ryce@gmail.com).

Whether you are experienced in hand crafts or would like to learn, we invite you to join us at our monthly meeting. The next meeting will be held **Tuesday, December 10 at 11:00 AM** at the home of Bette Homer, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia.

If you're on our prayer shawl email list, we'll send you confirmation of our meeting dates each month. If you'd like to be added to our email list or want more information, please call or email Mary Lou.



ADVENT 2024...LOOK UP AND BE AMAZED!

The season of Advent begins on December 1. On November 25, each OPC household received a link to our annual Advent daily devotional, <u>Starry Nights: A season filled with light and wonder.</u> Starry Nights will also be available in a hard copy version outside the door to the Penn Wynne Sanctuary.

In celebration of the season, all are invited to participate in our special outdoor Advent event on Friday, 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 lawn at 7:00 PM, 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.

'Tis the Season

Although we are not able to gather at Overbrook this holiday season, we are able to fully enjoy the multitude of special programs happening throughout the Philadelphia area. Please consider a new family and friend activity for this year:

- Saturday, December 7, 11:00-4:00 PM. Handmade Holidays at Bartram Garden, bartramgarden.org
- Saturday-Sunday, December 7-8. St. Lucia Fest at Old Swedes Church. old-swedes.org
- Sunday, December 8, 12:00-4:00 PM. Narberth Dickens Festival. This free, family-oriented event offers holiday delights for all ages. http://narberthonline.com
- Saturday, December 14, 2:00-4:00 PM. A Philly
 Holiday Spectacular at Marion Anderson Hall, The
 Kimmel Center. The program features the Gospel Choir
 of St Thomas African Episcopal Church.
 http://nonamepops.org (special discount code for
 reduced admission: musicians25)
- Sunday, December 15, 3:00 PM. Renaissance Christmas Concert at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 217 Fernbrook Avenue, Wyncote. http://calvarypreswyncote.org

Congregational Life

Fellowship Hour Hosts

We are grateful for all those who have hosted in November. Thank you to those who have volunteered to host in December. If you would like an opportunity to practice hospitality and kindness toward one another or celebrate a special event, please sign up to be a Fellowship Hour host. We still need your help.

There are several ways to help:

- Be a host bring the food
- Set up before service arrive at 10:30 AM to help the host
- Clean up after Fellowship Hour help the host

Just fill out the SignUp Genius.

Here's the link: www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4aacae2da2fe3-fellowship

Hosts provide 150 bites of food. Keep the selection of food simple. Handheld food only. Example: one fresh selection (such as a bag of Cuties); one gluten-free option; enough other snacks to fill 10 to 15 small trays. Hosts **do not have to provide** table covers, plates, cups, trays or utensils. Hosts **do not have to set up or break down the tables and chairs.**

If you have any questions, please contact Artia Benjamin (clc@overbrookpresb.org). You will receive a reminder email from the SignUp Genius application. Please provide your email and phone number when you sign up. We will send you the Fellowship Hour Tips and guidelines document. "Let brotherly love continue".



The Coffee Ministry

With the return of the coffee ministry, let's practice being more planet friendly and personalize your coffee experience by bringing your own coffee mug.

The Congregational Life Committee thanks the following people for hosting Fellowship Hour in November.

- November 3 hosted by Sunanda Charles Brown
- November 10 hosted by Artia Benjamin and the CLC Committee
- November 17 Pie Day hosted by Keedra Carroll and the Stewardship Committee
- November 24 hosted by Corinna Bowser

Available Dates to Host Fellowship Hour

If you would like an opportunity to practice hospitality and kindness toward one another or celebrate a special event. Please sign up to be a Fellowship Hour host. We still need your help.

December 1, 2024 will be hosted by Stephanie and Michael Anthony

Hosts are still needed for:

- December 8, 2024
- December 15, 2024
- December 22, 2024
- December 29, 2024

Gingerbread House Decorating Tradition

While we'll miss our in-person gingerbread house decorating this year, we still want to celebrate your creativity! We're offering pre-built gingerbread houses to the first 20 families who sign up.

To reserve your house, <u>please sign up by December 15th</u>. You can pick up your house on December 22nd during Fellowship Hour. Please note that there is a **limit of one house per family, and only 20 houses are available.**

Once you've decorated your gingerbread masterpiece, we invite you to share a photo on our OPC Community Facebook page. We can't wait to see your creations!

To make sharing easy, <u>upload your photos to our community Facebook</u> <u>page</u> by December 29th. Be sure to include your family name, and please indicate if the house was decorated by children under the age of 12. Remember, this is just for fun – no competition involved!

Happy decorating!

-CLC Committee



Meet Our 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 30-year 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.

The Welcoming Committee and Adam would like to announce that our next set of **Inquirer Classes** will be held on **Jan 12 and 19** before church at **9:30 AM**. Childcare will be available on request. Contact Elizabeth Mendoza (welcoming@overbrookpresb.org) for more information.

Youth Ministry

Youth First Fridays. On November 1st, twelve of our youth gathered at OPC for our inaugural monthly gathering. Zachariah, Nina, Lahni, Andrew, Solly, Nathan, Aria, Makari, Blake, Anya, Zubin, and Hannah fellowshipped over food, games, and conversation. Being together and welcoming new kids to the family is always such a joy. All 6th graders and young college friends are welcome. Those 18+ will require clearances.

Our next gathering on **Friday, December 6th,** has a twist! We'll be celebrating the upcoming holidays with a good old-fashioned white elephant! Please bring in a wrapped non-gendered gift worth \$5-\$10 that will be randomly swapped.

- Save the Dates! The first Friday of every month.
 January 10 (In January we will meet on the 2nd
 Friday of the month due to the holidays.), February
 7, March 7, April 4, May 2.
- Where: Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 6376 City Avenue, Philadelphia. 5:30-8:00 PM. Use the entrance by the playground.
- RSVP: Please email youth@overbrookpresb.org or text Suchita Fiorillo at 215-450-5356 on the Sunday before we meet so we know who's coming to plan for food.





SUNDAY SCHOOL is every Sunday following the sermon. Please join us to learn more about the hows and whys of following Jesus.

For more information about the OPC Youth Ministry contact us at youth@overbrookpresb.org.

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 <u>Wishlist</u>. If you have any questions, please call or text **Becky Lazo at 443-745-3178**.



Ice Skating Outing - Save the Date: Sunday, January 26th. Youth are invited to an Ice Skating Outing at the **Dilworth Plaza Ice Rink** near City Hall. Cost is \$15. Drivers and chaperones are needed. Please use the QR code to register and pay. There are scholarships available.

Ongoing Weekly Events

Every Tuesday

• Tuesday Morning Prayer Group. 7:30 AM. Online. Join https://bit.ly/3yxD2F4-Meeting ID: 932 4865 5338

Every Wednesday

- Centering Prayer. 9:30 AM. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.
- Bible Study. 10:30 AM. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.

Every Thursday

 Choir Rehearsal. 7:30 PM. Gold preschool room of Overbrook Presbyterian Church. All are welcome, regardless of experience or skill level. For more information, contact Chris Gage (music@overbrookpresb.org).

Committee Information

Committee Name	Monthly Meeting	Chair or Co-Chairs
Worship and Music worship@overbrookpresb.org	3 rd Monday 7:30 PM*	Pat Dillon
Deacons deacons@overbrookpresb.org	2nd Monday 7:30 PM*	Bill Baker
Mission and Outreach mission@overbrookpresb.org	4 th Sunday 1:00 PM	Jeff Bowker
Finance finance@overbrookpresb.org	1 st Tuesday 7:00 PM*	Lainie Blodgett
Children and Family Ministry (CFM) cfm@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Molly Andrews Burke
Personnel personnel@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Elizabeth Cosgriff
Property property@overbrookpresb.org	Last Wednesday 7:00 PM*	Jeff Bowker
Stewardship stewardship@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Keedra Carroll
Congregational Life clc@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Artia Benjamin
Welcoming welcoming@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Elizabeth Mendoza
Youth Ministry youth@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Artia Benjamin Suchita Fiorillo
An asterisk (*) indicates that the committee meets virtually.		

Deacons

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

12/1...... Henry Adjei Nancy Magee Glynn McCann

12/2...... Allison Kothari Caroline Kothari Deborah Talbot

12/3..... Jim Stephens

12/4...... Donna Bell-Koon Kevin Boswell

12/6 Karen Taussig-Lux

12/7...... Tyrone Frisby

12/10..... Margene Biedermann Anne Foote Laura Taylor

12/11 Alyce Marsh

12/13..... Christine Stephens

12/16..... Ameerah Skipper

12/18..... Emma Eastling
Rex Hasselstrom
Maya Mendoza

12/19..... Andrew Paul Keira Taylor

12/20.... Bob Kaercher

12/22..... Isabel Bowser

12/23..... Julius Parrotta

12/26.... Naima Sorey

12/28.... Tristan Clark

12/29..... Zee Ann Mason

12/31..... Max Mason



If the birthday for you or a family member is not listed and you wish to be included on the monthly birthday list, please email office@overbrookpresb.org.

Prayer List

Prayers of gratitude for our many blessings. God's steadfast love endures forever!

Prayers of comfort and consolation for Jill Van Rawley and her family on the death of Jill's mother, Peggy Van Antwerp.

Prayers of gratitude for Bette's Homer's successful medical care during her recent hospitalization at Lankenau.

Prayers of comfort, encouragement, and support for Nathan Lazo as he prepares for out-patient surgery on December 6.

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 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 on-going medical challenges.

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 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 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.

Travelling mercies for all who will be visiting family and friends during this holiday season.

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.

Overbrook is saddened to learn of the passing of long-time former OPC member, Sue DeCray, on November 25. Sue is fondly remembered by many who sang, served, and shared joyful times at Overbrook with her.