



# NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

## Overbrook PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson  
*Pastor*

Rev. David K. McMillan  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Sharon Parker  
*Parish Care Associate*

Dr. Christopher Gage  
*Director of Music*

Anthony M. Carrella  
*Director of Children  
& Family Ministry*

Artia Benjamin &  
Suchita Fiorillo  
*Youth Leaders*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

### Memorial to the Lost

For 9 years, OPC has provided for and hosted the Memorial to the Lost, an effort by Heeding God’s Call and OPC to bring attention to the tragic number of Philadelphians who died during the year as a result of gun violence. Writing the name, birthdate, and date of death of each victim on a tee-shirt to be displayed on church grounds honors the memory of each victim.

How can you help? Choose one or more of these options that fits your schedule.

1. Collect 5 shirts and names on **Sunday, January 12**, and letter them at home. Return the finished shirts to OPC by **11:00 AM on Saturday, January 18**. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/TShirtMemorial> or at the sign-up table during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, January 5.
2. Join other congregants on **Saturday, January 18 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** and letter shirts in the basement at OPC among friends. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/TShirtMemorial> or at the sign-up table during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, January 5.
3. On **Monday, January 20 at 9:00 AM** participate in the erection of the *Memorial to the Lost* on OPC church grounds.
4. Join Pastor Adam at the Crossroads on **Monday, January 20 at 11:00 AM** as he leads the community in prayer for the victims and their families and for an end to gun violence.

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## Inquirer Classes

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

## In the Spirit at Overbrook...

**Tuesday Morning Prayer Group:** Tuesday mornings, 7:30-8:30 AM. Early risers are invited to start the morning with small group community prayer. Join us from the comfort of your home for a time of faith-filled fellowship and shared prayer. All are welcome. Please use the following link: [tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer](http://tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer).

**Centering Prayer.** All are welcome to participate in OPC's Centering Prayer gathering, Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:00 AM, in the library of Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El. Centering Prayer offers opportunities for spoken intercessory prayer, as well as contemplative, silent prayer. In January, Centering Prayer will be held on January 8, 15, 22, and 29; we will not gather on January 1.

**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. Bible Study is not meeting on Jan. 1.

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

## 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](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) or Mary Lou Ryce (420-370-4211 or [marylou.ryce@gmail.com](mailto: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, January 14 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.

## Adult Forum

Adult Forum Adult Forum offers opportunities for shared discourse and learning in the comfort of community. Meeting on Zoom, **the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month, from 7:00-8:00 PM**, Adult Forum combines peer-led discussions with presentations from guest speakers. Please join us at 7:00 PM on January 21 and 28 for our discussion: *Courage of Our Convictions; A Christian Response to Global Crisis*. **Zoom link:** <https://tinyurl.com/OPCForumZoom>.

## Retired Person's Ministry (RPM)

**OPC's Retired Person's Ministry (RPM) Welcomes All!** With deep gratitude for the welcoming kindness of neighboring congregation, the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, RPM continues to provide fellowship, service, and shared learning opportunities for OPC members and community friends. Meeting on select Fridays each month, RPM has become a mutual ministry of our two faith communities. Come join us in January as we celebrate the new year, and the opportunities it brings for engagement, activism, and discovery.

**RPM Plus: January 10, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.** *The Undercroft (lower level) of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Global Expression/Local Inspiration: Music, Movement, and Art.* Please join us as we exercise body, mind, and artistic spirit. Our activities will be inspired by the aesthetics and rhythms of diverse global cultures. Activities will be accessible for all; all materials will be provided.

**RPM Café: January 29, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.** *Anderson Hall (upper level), The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.* The first RPM Café of 2025 will offer a sampling of diverse international foods, prepared by the Great Chefs of RPM. We invite you to join the cooking team and share a favorite global soup, salad, or casserole to share. Please contact Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)) or Pat Dillon ([psdillon1@earthlink.net](mailto:psdillon1@earthlink.net)) if you are able to provide an international taste treat. Following lunch, we'll welcome guest presenters to offer international perspectives on the question, *What in the World is Happening?*

RPM is a mutual ministry of Overbrook and St. Thomas. All are welcome; there is no cost to participate. Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) and Pat Dillon ([psdillon1@earthlink.net](mailto:psdillon1@earthlink.net)) welcome your questions and invite your responses to these special programs.



*December's  
RPM Café*



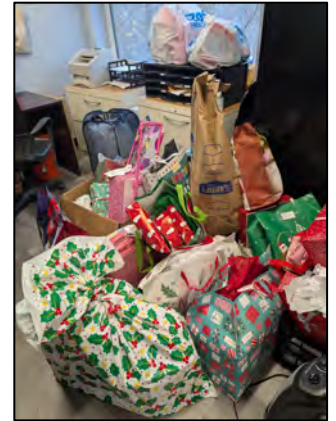
# Merry Overbrook Christmas



In December Overbrook member, Michele Whipple, was aided by the merry bakers of Overbrook in providing homemade treats to families caring for a loved one in hospice. Michele and her team from Main Line Health HomeCare & Hospice assembled over 400 packages of cookies for hospice families with additional cookies for the youth to take to Kensington, for

Wreaths Across America and the Veterans Resource Center in Philadelphia.

On **Monday, December 16**, Mission and Outreach delivered a carload of holiday presents to the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County for 20 children who, with their grown-ups, are in transitional housing this season. Overbrook responded with their usual generosity and brightened the holiday for these families. Many thanks to Joanne Roman and Ann Elise Lindgren for their leadership.



On **Tuesday, December 17**, the WePAC team from OPC had the pleasure of reading and reenacting the story of *The Gingerbread Boy* with the younger grades at Gompers Elementary School in Wynnefield. The story was followed by gingerbread cutout decorating and sampling of gingerbread cookies. A good time was had by all!



On **Friday, December 20**, OPC's very own Santa Claus (aka Mike Rottinger) visited the students at Gloria Casarez School in Kensington to spread some holiday joy. Students met with Santa who then met with the student ambassadors. Did you know that Santa attended kindergarten at the same school when he was just a lad?



On New Year's Eve, **Tuesday, December 31**, Nancy Gilhool will lead a team of dedicated volunteers in preparing a hearty meal for the 50 residents of the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County.

Thanks to your support, Overbrook's Mission and Outreach committee spread a great deal of holiday joy throughout the Philadelphia community.

### Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, January 4** - *Books Through Bars* - Meet at the OPC parking lot at 1:00 PM to carpool; return by 4:00 PM. Please contact Janet Bowker ([jabowker1001@gmail.com](mailto:jabowker1001@gmail.com)) if you are interested in learning more or joining the BTB fun.
- **Monday, January 20** - *Norristown Hospitality Center* - [Sign-up here](https://tinyurl.com/37zj5cpu) (<https://tinyurl.com/37zj5cpu>) to provide a portion of the Center's daily breakfast.
- **Saturday, January 18 and Monday, January 20** - Tee-Shirt Memorial to the Lost (see cover for more information).

## Congregational Life

### Fellowship Hour Hosts

We are grateful for all those who have hosted in December. Thank you to those who have volunteered to host in January. 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](http://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 December.

- December 1 – hosted by Stephanie and Michael Anthony celebrating their wedding.
- December 8 – hosted by Artia Benjamin
- December 15 – hosted by the Kuriyan family
- December 22 – hosted by the Congregational Life Committee
- December 29 – hosted by Elizabeth Mendoza

### January Hosts of Fellowship Hour

Thanks to the following people who have volunteered to host in January.

- January 5, 2025 will be hosted by Jessica Le
- January 12, 2025 will be hosted by Denise Stewart and Joanne Roman
- January 19, 2025 will be hosted by Sunanda Charles
- January 26, 2025 will be hosted by the Boswell Family and the Taylor Family

**Gingerbread House Decorating.** Be sure to check out everyone's gingerbread masterpieces on [our community Facebook page](#). Thanks to everyone for sharing in the fun!

## Children & Family Ministry

### Guided by the Light of Love: Celebrating Creativity and Care in the 2024 Christmas Pageant

At the heart of every beloved tradition lies a community of care, and the 2024 Christmas Pageant was no exception. Our congregation's creativity and love—well-practiced postures in this year of rebuilding—breathed new life into the story of Jesus' birth. While this year's pageant occurred in a new worship space, from the moment one entered the sanctuary, it was clear that the essential elements remained unchanged: the joyful spirit of collaboration and the reverence for a story that has shaped our faith for generations.



Preparations for this year's pageant required many hands and gifts. Under the guidance of art teacher Laurie Geers, the youngest members transformed recycled materials into imaginative props. Local artist Emily Stewart led a team of all ages in crafting an immersive backdrop, complete with a host of hand-painted creatures. The costumes, too, came from the collective work of the community. Molly Burke, owner of Chairloom in Narberth, worked alongside children to fashion everything from

magi robes to horse hides. These handmade elements told their own version of the Christmas story, where the ordinary is made extraordinary through loving care.



On the night of the pageant, all of these (and many more!) expressions of collaboration flowed into one harmonious whole. The sanctuary was glowing, and young people stepped into their roles with reverence and joy. As the last carol faded, the cast gathered around the Nativity in a memorable tableau — the oldest and youngest standing side by side, united. In that moment, the heart of the Christmas story seemed to radiate from every face — that hope, peace, and goodwill are gifts from God and a reflection of the community we co-create whenever we gather.

The Children and Family Ministry invites you to watch the live-streamed version of this pageant by going to [tinyurl.com/CFM-PageantLive-24](https://tinyurl.com/CFM-PageantLive-24). As we look ahead to a new year, may the creativity, resilience, and love embodied in this beloved Overbrook tradition continue to guide us—not only in our life as a church but also in our work of creating a more just and generous world. After all, the reality of Christmas is not meant to be contained to one night or place.



### Join us for King Cake and an Incense Workshop on Sunday, January 5th!

Join us for a special Communion Sunday on January 5th! Although Children's Sunday School will be on hold, we have engaging activities planned for all ages. After our biblical storytelling, children can head downstairs to bake a (GF) King Cake and learn about Epiphany through a short film on stargazing—exploring planets, galaxies, and the James Webb Telescope, much like the Magi who followed the star. They'll then return to the sanctuary to receive the Eucharist with the congregation. Following worship, everyone is invited outdoors for a frankincense and myrrh workshop, where you can learn about these ancient scents and even take some home. We hope you'll join us for this festive day!

## Youth Ministry

**Youth First Fridays.** On December 6th, thirteen of our youth gathered at OPC for their monthly gathering and Holiday Party. They enjoyed an evening of games, food, a classic white elephant gift giving game and lots of laughter.



Zubin, Solly, Wes, Galina, Makari, Zachariah, Moira, Anya, Blake, Aria, Sarah, Nora and Nieve

- All 6th graders, teens and young college friends are welcome. Those 18+ will require clearances. Our next gathering is on **Friday, January 10th.**
- **Save the Dates!** 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](mailto: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.

**Kensington Project.** Fourteenth our youth and parents prepared meals and took warm weather gear to Kensington on December 15<sup>th</sup>—another afternoon spent with The Kensington Project. Becky, thank you for being our fearless leader and many thanks to everyone who donated items, made lunches, sorted clothing, and spread their joy on the street that day.



## Youth Ministry (continued)

**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.

- **Why Volunteer?**

- Make a Difference: Shape the spiritual growth of our youth
- Build Relationships: Connect with students in a meaningful way.
- Grow Spiritually: Teaching others can deepen your own faith journey.
- Supportive Environment: Resources and training will be provided.

- **Who We're Looking For**

- People with a heart for youth and a desire to mentor and guide.
- No formal teaching experience is required—just a love for God and a willingness to serve.

- **Time Commitment:**

- Sunday mornings during our regular worship services.
- Preparation time during the week (lesson will be provided every Tuesday via email)
- Please note that all volunteers must have their clearances completed. Details on how to complete clearances are on the sign-up genius or follow the link to the clearance instructions—<https://tinyurl.com/mt72ntv2>.
- If you're ready to invest in the spiritual development of our middle and high school students, follow the link to the sign-up genius Youth Sunday School Teacher Sign Up

- **Any questions**, please see Corinna Bowser ([corinnabowser@gmail.com](mailto:corinnabowser@gmail.com)). Together, we can help our youth grow in faith and purpose!



**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 this link – <https://tinyurl.com/OPCYouthIceSkating> – to register and pay. There are scholarships available.

For more information about the OPC Youth Ministry contact us at [youth@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:youth@overbrookpresb.org).



## 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 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:30 PM*	Pat Dillon
Deacons deacons@overbrookpresb.org	2nd Monday 7:30 PM*	Bill Baker
Mission and Outreach mission@overbrookpresb.org	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 1:00 PM	Jeff Bowker
Finance finance@overbrookpresb.org	1 <sup>st</sup> 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.		

**HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!**

- 1/1..... Evan Cantiello  
Wyatt Smedley
- 1/2..... Raelyn Harman  
Janet Lovely  
Gordon Mayne
- 1/7..... Brad Biedermann
- 1/8 ..... Elienne Paul  
Ellie von Andreae
- 1/12 ..... Ben Hasselstrom
- 1/14..... Penelope Jennings
- 1/16..... Robert Ramsay
- 1/17 ..... Tara von Andreae
- 1/20..... Joe Blair  
Teresa Hunter
- 1/22..... Iris Fairfax  
Maisha Sorey
- 1/23..... BK Kothari
- 1/25..... Sharon Elwell
- 1/26..... Kempley Bryant
- 1/27 ..... Andrea Gosfield  
Raegan Laidley  
Mike Rottinger  
Paula Straka
- 1/28..... Zubin Fiorillo
- 1/29..... Robert May
- 1/31..... Cheryl Davis  
Suchita Fiorillo  
Julia Paone



*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](mailto:office@overbrookpresb.org).*

**Prayer List**

Prayers of comfort and consolation for Buck Scott and his family following the recent death of Mary Scott.

Prayers for restoration of health for Gwen Anthony, as she remains under medical care.

Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Joe Blair as he remains under medical care.

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, as she transitions to assisted living at Simpson House.

Prayers for Janie Martin's cousin, Maureen Cook, who is undergoing medical care for pancreatic cancer.

Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for Jim McDaniel's mother, Doris McDaniel, who is receiving hospice care.

Prayers for healing and comfort for Holly, Christine, and Connie, friends of Margaret Young.

Prayers for all who are facing health concerns, especially Jane Bevan, Bob Bevan, Scott Long, Gwen Harden, Ed Harvey, Milton Stokes, Valerie Craig, Joan Moylan, Jim Moylan, Dela Geraldo, Susan Leach, and Natalie DeShields.

Prayers of gratitude for the faith communities that continue to sustain Overbrook during our time of relocation.

Prayers for vision, wisdom, and stamina for all who are leading and supporting the revitalization and restoration efforts of Overbrook.

**Please contact Bill Baker ([wbaklava@aol.com](mailto:wbaklava@aol.com)) or Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) to add names to the prayer list.**