

## NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

## Overbrook Presbyterian Church

## MLK Day of Service Schedule

Join us at OPC on Monday, January 15 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for a morning of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. You can sign up to attend at <http://tinyurl.com/OPCMLK24> or at the sign-up table during Fellowship Hour.

**Memorial to the Lost Set Up.** Starting at 9:00 AM. Help set up the t-shirt memorial on the church grounds. Tasks from installing shirt frames outside to carrying shirts outside for display, so there's something to do for many ages and skill levels. [See M&O on page 4 for more info on the memorial and how you can volunteer to letter shirts.]

**Cooking and Caring.** Starting at 9:00 AM. Please join the cooking crew in the kitchen as we prepare meals for area residents in need. Our goal is to prepare 100 servings of soup for area homebound residents served by Caring for Friends, and 60 servings of hot meals for those supported by the Norristown Hospitality Center. **9:00 AM: soup making; 10:30 AM meal making.** Please register for cooking as kitchen space is limited.

**Pride and Polish.** Starting at 9:00 AM. Families and friends of all ages are welcome to help polish our vintage oak pews and woodwork. All supplies will be provided.

**Community Cleanup.** Starting at 9:00 AM (weather permitting). All ages are invited to participate in a clean-up walk on the OPC grounds and through the surrounding neighborhood. All materials will be provided.

**Children's MLK Day Service Project at 10:30 AM.** Children and families are invited to a time of service and learning as they reflect on the legacy and work of Martin Luther King Jr. The CFM committee seeks donations of healthy foods for snack kits that will be offered to beneficiaries of the Kensington Project. To donate food, please head to <https://linktr.ee/OPCCFM>.

**Dedication of the Memorial to the Lost at 12:00 PM.** Join Pastor Adam for a dedication of the Memorial to the Lost.

## 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 and Family Ministry*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

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## Meal Packing with Kids Against Hunger

After you've helped out at OPC in the morning, consider spending a couple hours of your afternoon helping pack meals at **Kids Against Hunger United's Million Meal Pack-A-Thon** at The Drexelbrook in Drexel Hill.



**KIDS AGAINST HUNGER UNITED**

**Million Meal Pack-A-Thon**

January 15, 2024 - Martin Luther King Jr Day  
The Drexelbrook, Drexel Hill PA

As a sponsor of the event, **OPC has 11 tickets for volunteers** which we can use for one of the afternoon time slots. Please contact Carol ([carol@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:carol@overbrookpresb.org)) if you're interested in joining our group.

Visit <https://onecau.se/kahmillionmeals> for more information on the event.

## The Art of Advent

### The Art of Advent: Seven Centuries of Great Sacred Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Sunday, January 7, 2024, 1:30 PM

Join Peter Seidel, art teacher and Overbrook member, to explore the happenings of Advent in art. ('Pay what you wish' Sunday) Please gather on the 3rd floor balcony of the Great Stair Hall in the museum at 1:30 PM.



## Welcome to RPM...OPC's Retired Person's Ministry

Come celebrate the New Year with RPM! While Overbrook's Retired Person's Ministry (RPM) began as a fellowship opportunity for retired members and friends, the program has expanded to offer daytime, in-person activities for all who are available to participate, regardless of age. RPM has two components: RPM Plus which offers weekly interest group activities, and the monthly RPM Café. All RPM events are scheduled on Fridays, and currently meet in the Chapel. Come join us for January's events!

### RPM Plus. Friday, January 5, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

*Promises and Prognostications.* Let's make lists...of things we want to do, don't want to do, and think may be happening in this new year! Come join us in the Chapel for special refreshments and refreshing conversation.

### RPM Plus. Friday, January 19, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

*Floral Artistry.* Join us as we practice our skills at floral arranging. All flowers and containers will be provided. Each participant will make a small arrangement to take home. All supplies and materials will be provided.

### RPM Café. Friday, January 26, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

WELL, WELL, WELL! Please join us for the monthly RPM Café. We'll meet in the Chapel for fellowship and lunch, followed by a rousing program on physical fitness and wellness. Chair dancing may be happening! The menu for the day will include a choice of soups, fresh fruit, desserts, and beverages. Participants are invited to BYO sandwich or salad.

RPM activities are an extension of Parish Care Ministry; there is no cost to participate. All are warmly welcome. Please feel free to contact Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) and Pat Dillon ([psdillon@earthlink.net](mailto:psdillon@earthlink.net)) for additional information.

Please note: Due to the MLK events planned on Saturday, January 13 and Monday, January 15, there will be no RPM Plus on Friday, January 12.

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

Whether you are experienced in hand crafts or would like to learn, we invite you to join us at one or both of the two monthly meetings. The weekday meeting will be held this month on Tuesday, December 12 at 11:00 AM at the home of Bette Homer, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia. There will not be a weekend meeting in December. 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 contact Mary Lou.



## Spiritual Life

### Tuesday Prayer Group. Tuesdays at 7:30 AM

Opportunities for fellowship, spiritual support, and shared prayer are offered each Tuesday morning at 7:30 AM on Zoom. You are warmly invited to join a group of faithful participants for whom “Amen” is not an ending, but a hopeful beginning. To join the Tuesday Prayer Group, please use the following Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3yxD2F4>.

### Centering Prayer. Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Each Wednesday morning at 9:30 AM the devotional practice of Centering Prayer will be offered in the Sanctuary. Centering Prayer allows us an opportunity to enhance our spiritual life. As we gather for Centering Prayer, there will also be a time for response to intercessory prayer requests. Additional information regarding Centering Prayer may be found on the reading table outside of the Chapel.

### The Library Table: Rejoicing in Faith

All are encouraged to browse and borrow from the rotational collection of books on the hallway library table outside of the Sanctuary. This month's theme is *Rejoicing in Faith*. Books for all ages focus on building a personal relationship with God, and embracing the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Please, come visit the Library Table...and select a special book that calls to you.

## January Adult Forum: Building a Blessed Community

All are welcome to participate in Adult Forum, 9:15-10:15 AM, Sunday mornings in the Chapel. The theme for January is *The Blessed Community: Diverse Believers Working for a Common Good*. Join Sharon Parker and interfaith guests as we explore common ground.

## Session Updates

On November 14, 2023, the OPC Session met to steward and lead this church. Here are a few agenda items of note:

- The session approved the direction of the OPC logo and brand redesign. Working in conjunction with the Design Task Force, the Session affirmed the style and direction of the work. Our design firm, Visionary Collective, will continue preparing a brand guide and some new printed materials for the church. Once we receive this final work, we will present it to the congregation, and the session will approve it for use.
- The Session received the first draft of the 2024 budget. The budget discussion centered on financial increases in the budget and possibilities for generating revenue for a more secure bottom line. The Session will continue to work on this budget for the next few months before approving a final budget.
- The Session also discussed the continued work of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and the Overbrook Preschool And Kindergarten Task Force. The APNC has been invited to the December session meeting to discuss the next steps in their work and the OPC staff composition.

## IRA Contributions to OPC

**Did you know?** If you are more than 70.5 years old (or young), you receive a tax benefit when you contribute to OPC directly from a traditional IRA. You can avoid taxes on the donation from your IRA unlike other withdrawals. This benefit is especially helpful for people ages 73 and older who are required to take distributions. It is a win-win for OPC and donors who have IRAs: OPC gets 100% of your withdrawal and you don't pay tax on the amount you contribute. If you have questions, please contact Carol Rozmiarek at [carol@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:carol@overbrookpresb.org) or 215-877-2744.



## Mission & Outreach

### Mission and Outreach in December

**Caring for Friends.** On Friday, December 1, the Retired Persons Ministry assembled 250 breakfast bags for the homebound served by Caring for Friends. Mission and Outreach provided the oatmeal, hot chocolate, crackers, and RPM created the assembly line for the bags.

**Fair Trade Market.** You came, you shopped, you supported Fair Trade which works to a secure a sustainable livelihood for low-income people. Holiday shopping at its best! Thank you for supporting the Overbrook Fair Trade Market.

**Gift Donations.** The Overbrook congregation helped the Community Action Agency of Delaware County to provide a merrier Christmas for 29 children in Delaware County transitional housing. Many thanks to Ann Elise Lindgren for taking the lead on this project, and to you for your generous support.



Anne Elise Lindgren and Joanne Roman helping with the collection of donated gifts. These (and MANY more) were delivered to CAADC by Janet Bowker and Joanne Roman.

## Mission & Outreach Volunteer Opportunities

### Memorial to the Lost

For 8 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 t-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 7**, and letter them at home. Return the finished shirts to OPC by 11:00 AM on Saturday, January 13. **Sign up** at <https://tinyurl.com/TShirtMemorial> or at the sign-up table during Fellowship Hour.
2. Join other congregants on **Saturday, January 13** from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and letter shirts in Fellowship Hall among friends. **Sign up** at <https://tinyurl.com/TShirtMemorial> or at the sign-up table during Fellowship Hour.
3. On **Monday, January 15** at 9:00 AM participate in the erection of the Memorial to the Lost on church grounds.
4. Join Pastor Adam at the Crossroads on **Monday, January 15** at 12:00 PM as he leads the community in prayer for the victims and their families and for an end to gun violence.



See more MLK Day activities on page 1 of this newsletter.



## Mission & Outreach Volunteer Opportunities

### Books Through Bars. Saturday, January 6, 1:00 PM

Spend a Saturday afternoon selecting books or preparing them for shipment to inmates in correctional institutions. We leave OPC at 1:00 PM and carpool to Books Through Bars on Baltimore Avenue and return by 4:00 PM. Contact Janet Bowker (jabowker1001@gmail.com) if you can help.

### Memorial to the Lost at Home Lettering. Sunday, January 7

Pick up shirts to letter (see details on page 4).

### Memorial to the Lost In Person Lettering. Saturday, January 13, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Join us to letter shirts in person (see details on page 4).

### MLK Day of Service, Monday, January 15, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Service projects around the church, including setting up the Memorial to the Lost (see details on page 1 and page 4).

### Norristown Hospitality Center Meal. Monday, January 15

Provide fruit, water or a hearty protein meal for the hungry in Norristown. See Sign Up Genius for details at <https://tinyurl.com/OPCNorristown>.

### Life Center Shelter Meal. Tuesday, January 30

Do you enjoy working in the kitchen with friends? Join Nancy Gilhool at OPC as she prepares dinner for the 35 residents at the Life Center of Delaware County and the 20 unhoused people at Breaking Bread Community in Upper Darby. Mission and Outreach provides the ingredients. You provide the labor and love. Contact Nancy (gilhoolfam@verizon.net) if you are interested in helping.



### WePAC at Samuel Gompers Elementary School Library. Every Tuesday morning from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The Gingerbread Boy came to Gompers School and you can, too! Join the OPC WePAC team as we lead library sessions for the kindergarten, first and second grades. Contact Janet Bowker if you are interested in being a library volunteer at Gompers or at another West Philadelphia school.





## Christmas at OPC





## HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Evan Cantiello
- 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 Lucy Mason
- 1/17 Tara Von Andreae
- 1/20 Joe Blair  
Teresa Hunter
- 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  
Iris Fairfax  
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 for restoration of health for Earl Lindgren who is under medical care.

Prayers for restoration of health for Susy Brandt following cardiac surgery.

Prayers of comfort for all who mourn the recent passing of loved ones, especially Pat Dillon, Don Carver, Yullio Robbins, and Artia Benjamin.

Prayers for comfort and peace for Barbara Lappen, mother of Mary Bear Shannon.

Prayers of peace and support for Jane and Bob Bevan as they prepare to move to Freedom Village in Coatesville.

Prayers for restoration of health for Angye Piatt, wife of Elizabeth Cosgriff's and Joe Piatt's nephew, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.

Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Danielle Long's mother, as receives ongoing medical care following a car accident.

Prayers of gratitude for the positive breast cancer treatment of Ellen Carnahan, sister of Rachel, and prayers of hope and comfort as she begins a further course of treatment.

Prayers of peace and comfort for the uncle of Karen Taussig-Lux.

Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for John Shackelford, brother of Kate, as he receives medical treatment following brain surgery.

Prayers for comfort and peace for Colleen Granata, mother of Brad Biedermann.

Prayers for compassionate care, comfort, and peace for Jacqueline Cole, sister of Lois Davis.

Prayers for all who are facing health challenges, especially Caroline Skinner, Sonya Smith, Gwen Harden, Luis Wong, Ed Harvey, Aqueelah Folwell, Stephanie Stokes, Milton Stokes, Natalie DeShields, Bill Long, and Jean Long.

Prayers for loved ones who are struggling with life challenges.

*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.*

## Ongoing Weekly Events

### Every Sunday

- Adult Forum. 9:15 AM. Chapel
- Children's Sunday School (Grades PreK-5). Following Biblical Storytelling. Runs from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday to last Sunday of the month.
- Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12 ). Following the Sermon. Runs from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday to last Sunday of the month

### 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. In person in the Sanctuary.
- Bible Study. 10:30 AM. In person in the Chapel and Online.  
Join <https://tinyurl.com/46n54thm> - Meeting ID: 894 5497 9360

### Every Friday

- RPM Plus. 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- RPM Café. 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month.



## Committee Information

Committee Name	Monthly Meeting	Chair or Co-Chairs
Worship and Music <a href="mailto:worship@overbrookpresb.org">worship@overbrookpresb.org</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:30 PM*	
Deacons <a href="mailto:deacons@overbrookpresb.org">deacons@overbrookpresb.org</a>	2nd Monday 7:30 PM*	Bill Baker
Mission and Outreach <a href="mailto:mission@overbrookpresb.org">mission@overbrookpresb.org</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 12:15 PM	Jeff Bowker
Finance <a href="mailto:finance@overbrookpresb.org">finance@overbrookpresb.org</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:00 PM*	Lainie Blodgett
Children and Family Ministry (CFM) <a href="mailto:cfm@overbrookpresb.org">cfm@overbrookpresb.org</a>	Sunday, 3/17/24 12:00 PM	Molly Andrews Burke
Personnel <a href="mailto:personnel@overbrookpresb.org">personnel@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Elizabeth Cosgriff
Property <a href="mailto:property@overbrookpresb.org">property@overbrookpresb.org</a>	Last Wednesday 7:00 PM*	Jeff Bowker
Stewardship <a href="mailto:stewardship@overbrookpresb.org">stewardship@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Keedra Carroll and Will Schick
Congregational Life <a href="mailto:clc@overbrookpresb.org">clc@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Artia Benjamin
Welcoming <a href="mailto:welcoming@overbrookpresb.org">welcoming@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Elizabeth Mendoza
Youth and Family <a href="mailto:pastor@overbrookpresb.org">pastor@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Adam Hearlson
An asterisk (*) indicates that the committee meets virtually.		