



Overbrook
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

Confirmation Class Civil Rights Trip

The confirmation class of 2024 recently spent four days in Alabama retracing the steps and actions of civil rights leaders as they fought for justice in this country. We went to Alabama in search of helpful models of faith who courageously sought change that reflected Christ’s inbreaking kingdom. Below are a few of the churches and sites that we visited. In the fall, we will convene the class again to share their experience with the congregation. Please stay tuned for that!

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



Inside this Issue

Confirmation Trip (con'd)	2
Parish Care & Spiritual Life	3
Worship & Music	3
Mission & Outreach	4-5
Olga Celebration	6
Garden Cleanup	6
Prayer Shawl Ministry	6
CLC	7
RPM	7
Youth	8
CFM	8-9
Weekly Events	9
Deacons	10

Thursday, June 20 – Birmingham, AL

1. **AG Gaston Motel:** Located in Birmingham, Alabama, this motel was a key meeting place for civil rights leaders in the 1960s, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It played a significant role in the planning of the Birmingham Campaign.
2. **Bethel Baptist Church:** This church was the headquarters for the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. Under the leadership of Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, it became a center for civil rights activities and was bombed three times by segregationists.

Friday, June 21 – Birmingham and Selma, AL

1. **Kelly Ingram Park:** Known for its powerful sculptures and monuments, this park was the staging ground for civil rights demonstrations in the 1960s, including the famous Children’s Crusade, where young protestors faced police dogs and fire hoses.
2. **16th Street Baptist Church:** This historic church was the site of a tragic bombing in 1963 by the Ku Klux Klan, which killed four young African American girls – Addie Mae Collins, Carol Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Rosamond Robertson. The bombing was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, drawing national outrage and support for the cause.

(continued on page 2)

3. **Tabernacle Baptist Church:** A key site during the Selma to Montgomery marches, this church served as a meeting place for activists and was integral to the planning and execution of the Selma Voting Rights Movement.
4. **Edmund Pettus Bridge:** This bridge is the site of the infamous “Bloody Sunday” on March 7, 1965, when peaceful marchers were brutally attacked by law enforcement. The event highlighted the struggle for voting rights and led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Saturday, June 22 – Montgomery, AL

1. **The Legacy Museum:** This museum explores the history of slavery, racial terrorism, segregation, and contemporary issues of mass incarceration. It provides a comprehensive narrative of African American oppression and resilience from the transatlantic slave trade to the present.
2. **The National Memorial for Peace and Justice:** Also known as the Lynching Memorial, this site is dedicated to the victims of racial terror lynchings. The memorial includes over 800 steel monuments, each representing a county in the U.S. where lynchings occurred and serves as a powerful reminder of the history of racial violence.
3. **The Freedom Monument Sculpture Park:** This park just opened, and features sculptures and monuments dedicated to the memory of those who have fought for justice in this country. It serves as a place of reflection and education on the struggle for freedom and equality.
4. **The Southern Poverty Law Center:** Known for its legal advocacy and tracking of hate groups, the SPLC works to combat racial and social injustice. Its Civil Rights Memorial honors those who died during the civil rights movement and serves as an educational center.



Parish Care and Spiritual Life

Tuesday Prayer Group. Each Tuesday 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. Regardless of whether your schedule allows you to participate, please consider us to be your prayer partners. As we do each Sunday morning during worship, all who gather on Tuesday will pray with and for you. We encourage you to send us your requests and each will be faithfully and confidentially lifted in prayer. You are invited to share your prayer requests with Parish Care Associate, Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org; H: 215-309-5388).

To join the Tuesday Prayer Group on Zoom, please use the following link: tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer.

Centering Prayer. Wednesdays, 9:30-10:00 AM. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El

Centering Prayer will continue throughout the summer, on Wednesday mornings from **July 10-August 28**. Gathering at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El from 9:30-10:00 AM, Centering Prayer offers the opportunity for both spoken and contemplative prayer. All are warmly welcome. (Please note that due to the Fourth of July holiday, Centering Prayer will not be in session on July 3.)

Worship & Music

Summer Sermon Series

During the month of July, OPC will be welcoming four special guests to lead us in worship. Please plan to extend warm greetings to these fine preachers and faith leaders.

- **July 7:** The Rev. Dr. Lisa Farrell, Pastor of Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church
- **July 14:** Mark Alfonce, former OPC Intern
- **July 21:** Rev. Brenton Thompson, Director of Congregational Resourcing, Presbytery of Philadelphia
- **July 28:** Lars Peterson, University of Pennsylvania Campus Ministry Intern

Announcing the OPC Summer Pickup Choir!

One of my favorite summer traditions at OPC is our pickup choir, where anyone who wishes to sing during the service can, regardless of experience and without any commitment other than the day of. Here's how it works:

1. Show up at 9:45 on Sunday morning.
2. Rehearse a short, simple anthem. (*And yes, it will be accompanied!*)
3. Sing that anthem during the service.
4. Bask in your musical accomplishment.

Interested? The OPC Summer Choir will meet and sing on two Sundays this year: **July 14** and **August 18**. I hope to see you there! Feel free to direct any questions to me (music@overbrookpresb.org).

- Chris Gage

Mission & Outreach

Summer Block Build at Strawberry Mansion

On Saturday, June 8, Mission & Outreach teamed up with Rebuilding Together Philadelphia (RTP) for the very first Block Build in Strawberry Mansion! Three times per year, RTP sponsors a "Rebuilding Philly in Action" Block Build event to support and revitalize a local neighborhood through direct collaboration with its homeowners.

RTP offers free home repairs for low-income homeowners with emphasis on health, safety and energy efficiency. Alleviating the financial burden of costly maintenance helps these homeowners afford to stay in their homes, which is critical to uplifting the neighborhood and maintaining the community's identity. This incredible initiative ultimately equips families to pass down their homes and build generational wealth in the process. RTP has repaired and upgraded over 2,100 Philadelphia homes since 1989!



At this year's Summer Block Build, eight homeowners and their families received critical house repairs – both inside and out – that will improve the safety and health of families in their community for years to come.

Jeff Bowker rallied a group of OPC volunteers to join forces with a wide array of volunteer crews for a dedicated day of rehabbing homes. The project organizers assigned each crew to a specific house and homeowner, and provided all the materials, sustenance, and instruction for the day's work. OPC was tasked with the final paint job of the newly repaired walls and ceilings, as well as all sorts of miscellaneous finishing touches.

While waiting for paint to dry and fumes to fade, we had the opportunity to share pizza on the porch with our elderly local homeowner. Her love for the neighborhood shone brightly through even her most casual remarks, and her illustration of this profound community identity was a blessing and privilege to witness!

Our Mission & Outreach committee is discussing the many ways we can team up with this group, providing funds and/or volunteers for future events. Any questions or interest in supporting RTP? Contact Jeff Bowker (bowkerjeffrey@gmail.com) or Herb Brabham (hbrabham@rcn.com). You can also learn about the good works of their various initiatives at www.rebuildingphilly.org

Backpack Collection for Gemma Kids

Gemma (formerly known as theVillage and The Presbyterian Children's Village) serves over 3000 youth and families who are experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges. Gemma provides residential treatment, a special school and community services to people in the Greater Philadelphia area. Gemma's mission is to make sure every individual knows that *they matter*.

We can help Gemma carry out their mission by providing backpacks and school supplies to equip the young folks as they return to school in the fall. If you wish to participate, go to Gemma's Amazon Wish List (<https://a.co/21JnH0j>) to choose the items and they will be sent directly to Gemma. Please complete your shopping by **July 31** and indicate on the message line that you are part of Overbrook's backpack collection.

Many thanks from your Mission & Outreach Committee

Women's Dining Circle



On a sultry, Friday June evening 35 members and friends of OPC gathered at the home of Karen Testa for an evening of fellowship, food and financial support of the Youth Mission Trip to Camden this July. We were delighted to hear Aria Fiorello and Tess Kupstas describe their past mission trips and the impact which the trips made on them. We supped on a fine buffet of roasted meats and countless salad choices and finished the meal with meringues topped with fresh fruit. It was an additional blessing to have some of our newer members join us for the evening.

The event raised \$930 which will be matched by Mission and Outreach funds. Thank you to our hostess, Karen, and to those who came and supported our youth. If you'd like to contribute toward the Youth Mission Trip (and have your donations matched by Mission & Outreach), you can donate here: <https://onrealm.org/overbrookpresb/give/WDC>.



Feeding the Hungry

The Mission and Outreach Culinary Committee (aka Nancy Gilhool) responded to the Life Center's Call for Help by preparing an additional meal on June 7. Pasta salad and green salad were on the menu, as well as beverages and dessert. Without the OPC kitchen, preparation is challenging, but Nancy manages (generally, with a smile). However, many hands make light work, and **your hands are needed!** If you can shop for groceries, chop vegetables, prepare a casserole, WE NEED YOU.

Our next Shelter Meal is not until **Tuesday, October 29**, but these same skills are needed for our monthly service to the Norristown Hospitality Center. We are most grateful to our faithful volunteers who donate water, fruit and/or a casserole, but we imagine that everyone in our congregation can participate.

For those, who may not be familiar with this opportunity, Norristown Hospitality Center is located 20 minutes from OPC. They provide breakfast, showers, case management, etc. to the homeless population in the nearby community and distribute a hot meal for breakfast to their clients 7 days/week at their facility. Sunanda Charles Brown, OPC member, is the Executive Director of this center. On the third Monday of every month OPC's Mission and Outreach committee collects and delivers food to the center. These meals can be frozen or refrigerated which the staff will heat and serve in individual containers. They do not have to be typical breakfast items, but can be any hearty, simple meal (i.e. chili) that includes a protein, starch and/or vegetable. We also need fruit and beverages, such as bottled water or juice. Donations are received in the Penn Wynne parking lot on Sunday prior or OPC parking lot the day of.

If the drop-off seems problematic, please contact Janet Bowker (jabowker1001@gmail.com) and we will discuss an alternative. Our next visits are **July 15** and **August 19**. You can [sign up here](#).

Books Through Bars

If you are looking for a "no muss, no fuss" volunteer opportunity, consider joining our *Books Through Bars* team for our monthly first Saturday afternoon visit to Baltimore Avenue. Many OPC members have found this service of providing reading material to the incarcerated very rewarding. Our next times at BTB are **July 6** and **August 3**. We carpool from OPC at 1:00 and return by 4:00. All are welcome. Contact [Janet](#) for more information.

In Celebration of Olga Hoggard

All are encouraged to come to worship on **Sunday, July 7**, when the OPC family will celebrate the congregational ministry of Olga Hoggard. Olga will be moving to Rhode Island on July 10, and this will be our opportunity to offer joyful wishes, and fond remembrances. Throughout her life at Overbrook, Olga has served as Clerk of Session, a Ruling Elder, Lay Leader, Chair of the Pastoral Nominating Committee, and friend and mentor to many. Olga has been our keeper of memories, manager of details, and the “supervisor” of the Sunday offering. Let us look forward to sharing and celebrating this special occasion.



Midsummer Night's Team

Midsummer Night's Team, Thursday, July 18, 6:00–7:30 PM

As the sun goes down, the weeds will come up...*and out!* All are invited to gather on the OPC lawn for **one hour** of weed-pulling and garden maintenance. Before the hour is fully up, the pizza delivery will arrive, and the lemonade and iced tea will start flowing. This is a great event for families, “olders,” and “youngers.” There will be a variety of tasks suitable for all stamina levels. Your gift of one hour, will be a tribute to the fine old building at the Crossroads, and a gift to all who pass by. If you are ready to join the OPC Midsummer Night's Team on **July 18**, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org). Rain date: July 19.

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 at 420-370-4211 or marylou.ryce@gmail.com.

This summer the group will be making hats for Teacher Teammates for teachers to distribute to their students when the weather is cold.

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 **July 9 at 11:00 AM** at the home of Bette Homer, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia. For those who work on weekdays, an alternate evening or Saturday meeting is agreed upon each month. 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.

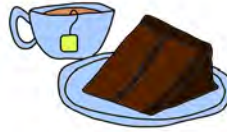


Congregational Life Committee

Fellowship Hour is an opportunity to practice hospitality and kindness toward one another. We are grateful for all those who have volunteered to host in June. The next few months we still need your help.

There are several ways to help:

- Be a host
- Set up before service – arrive at 10:30 AM
- Clean up after Fellowship Hour



When hosting, you'll provide **150 bites of food**. Keep the selection of food **simple**, handheld food only. Example: one fresh selection (bag of Cuties); one gluten-free option; enough other snacks to fill 10 to 15 small trays.

If you have any questions, please contact Artia Benjamin at clc@overbrookpresb.org. To volunteer, just fill out the SignUpGenius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4aacae2da2fe3-fellowship>).

You will receive a reminder email from the SignUpGenius 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" Hebrews 13:1

Available Fellowship Host Dates

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 21, 2024• July 28, 2024• August 4, 2024• August 18, 2024• August 25, 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 1, 2024• September 8, 2024• September 15, 2024• September 22, 2024• September 29, 2024 |
|--|--|

RPM Shines!

OPC's Retired Person's Ministry welcomes all to the summer sessions of *RPM Art in the Park*. Offered on select Friday mornings in July and August, *RPM Art in the Park* activities provide opportunities for creative expression, fellowship, and appreciation for the blessings of nature. Each gathering will take place from 10:00 AM-Noon, weather permitting. Come celebrate and create with us on the following summer Fridays, *weather permitting*:

- **July 12:** *Photography and Poetry*. Stoneleigh Natural Gardens, 1829 County Line Road, Villanova
- **July 19:** *Mixed Media Nature Collage*. Merry Place, 800 Glendale Road, Havertown
- **August 9:** *Splash of Color. Drawing and Painting*. General Wayne Park, 305 Maplewood Avenue, Merion Station
- **August 16:** *Music for the Soul: Sung and Spoken Words*. Merion Botanical Park, 100 Merion Road, Merion Station

Inspiration and supplies will be provided. Responses will be appreciated in order to assure that we have sufficient materials for all. For more information, or to share ideas for future RPM programs, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.com) and Pat Dillon (psdillon1@earthlink.net).

Youth Ministry

Youth Sundays

Once a quarter those from age 12 to mid-20's will be participating in all aspects of our worship service. The youth that volunteer for June 30th are listed below:

- Anya Brown – Call to Worship
 - Claire Underwood – Prayer of Confession
 - Rachael Underwood – Assurance of Pardon
 - Blessing Qsazuwa (from Penn Wynne Presbyterian) – First Reading
 - Nathan Lazo – Biblical Storyteller for time with children
 - Zubin Fiorillo – Music – Cello
- Hannah Lazo – Prayers for the People and Passing of the Peace
 - Grace Underwood – Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication
 - Julianna Johnson – Usher/Greeter
 - Blake Hotek – Usher/Greeter
 - Andrew Paul – Usher/Greeter
 - Solly Brown – Usher/Greeter
 - Mads Cosgriff – Usher/Greeter / co-host Fellowship Hour

Youth Summer Mission Trip. July 14-19

Our Youth Summer Mission Trip this summer will be to Urban Promise, Camden, NJ. Thanks to our congregation's wonderful generosity, 15 youths are participating.

"Urban Promise inspires generations of positive change agents working towards a compassionate and just world. Built on a holistic framework of care, cultivated by relationship-based, experiential learning, and guided by Christian faith, Urban Promise proudly stands as a beacon of hope for the families of Camden, NJ."

Blessings,

Artia Benjamin and Suchita Fiorillo

Children & Family Ministry

Happy Summer from the Children and Family Ministry!

On June 27th, more than 30 children and caregivers gathered at Belmont Hills Pool for an afternoon filled with fun, fellowship, and the kickoff to the Summer of 2024! Children delighted in speeding down water slides, while parents enjoyed dipping their toes in the water and engaging in



lively conversations. The CFM extends heartfelt thanks to several parents who generously provided dozens of slices of watermelon, loads of cheese sticks, and refreshing seltzer for everyone to enjoy. Stay tuned for more Family Fellowship events coming soon!

This summer at Penn Wynne, our Prayerground and nursery will continue to be open and staffed every Sunday. Additionally, Biblical Storytelling sessions will be offered. Please note that the Children's Sunday School for ages 3-8 and 9-11 will be paused during the summer and will reconvene on **Sunday, September 15th**.



Bless us, O God, as we enter summertime, set our feet on the path of adventure, prepare our hearts for new friendships, show us the way to give you glory, and through all our days may our faith in You increase and deepen. Amen.
 – Jenifer Gamber, Common Prayer for Children and Families (2020)



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 is on break for July.

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	2 nd 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 Emily Stewart
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 JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7/1.....Jean Baker
Bob Bevan
- 7/2.....Anthony M. Carrella
- 7/4.....Chuck Bryant
- 7/6.....Galina Whipple
- 7/7Mads Cosgriff
Eric Marshall
- 7/8.....Jessica Le
Phil Sheau
- 7/9.....Peggy Boatwright
Paul Stricker
- 7/10Stephanie Marshall
- 7/13Leah Mayne
- 7/15Emily Stewart
- 7/16Deepa George
- 7/18Aria Fiorillo
- 7/19Carla Hasselstrom
Wesley Hasselstrom
Nathalie May
Dornell Guthrie
- 7/21.....Jerome Henry
Calvin Marshall
Samantha Taylor
- 7/22Pam Smith
- 7/23Thomas Wilson
- 7/24.....Julianna Johnson
Tess Kupstas
- 7/25Holly Brigham
- 7/26.....Carol Rozmiarek
- 7/27Kim Parris
- 7/30.....Lynda Johnson
- 7/31Nickie Stokes
Carol Tulba



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 for comfort and restoration of health for Bob Bevan, who recently underwent surgery.

Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Jane Bevan, who is receiving medical care at Freedom Village

Prayers for comfort and compassionate care for Joyce, friend of Bette Homer, as Joyce receives hospice care.

Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for Doris McDaniel, mother of Jim McDaniel.

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

Prayers for restoration of health for Michele Whipple’s sister, Valerie Craig, who is receiving medical care for uveal melanoma.

Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for Hannah Baukert’s mother Mary, who is receiving hospice care.

Prayers for all who are facing health challenges, especially Mary Scott, John Shackelford, Scott Long, Caroline Skinner, Sonya Smith, Gwen Harden, Ed Harvey, Aqueelah Folwell, Stephanie Stokes, Milton Stokes, and Natalie DeShields.

Prayers of gratitude for all who have supported, and continue to support, Overbrook during our time of relocation.

Prayers for all who are serving this week at the PC-USA’s 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

Travelling mercies for the Hearlson family, and for all who are beginning their summer journeys.

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