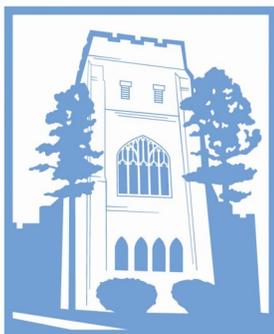


NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

Overbrook Presbyterian Church



Overbrook Presbyterian Church is a welcoming and diverse Christian community that seeks actively to love and serve God, each other, and the world.

—Mission Statement

Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson
Designated Pastor

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Christopher Gage
Director of Music

Anthony Carrella
Director of Christian Education

Lisa Faso
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

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At long last, Overbrook is preparing for a GLORIOUS reopening and return to in-person worship in our sanctuary, the weekend of July 10-11.

We return with enormous gratitude to all who have helped this community persevere during this pandemic, through technical innovations, outreach to those in need, unlimited generosity, virtual spiritual enrichment and commitment to inclusion and justice.

The OPC Task Force that has been charged with making recommendations for our safety confidently put forth a recommendation to reopen the weekend of July 10 for several reasons: This will mark the return of Pastor Adam from his well-deserved respite. It will be about a month after restrictions (except masks) are fully lifted in Philadelphia, giving us some time to adjust and ensure there are no setbacks. And it wonderfully coincides with the July 10 memorial service for the inimitable Gloria Justin, whose wish was that her life be celebrated with a service followed by a mega Fellowship Hour-style event.

When we return to the Crossroads, we will be welcomed with signs of progress and new life. Raised vegetable beds and a memorial garden have been planted on the property. The stone patio on the Lancaster side of the building has been fully repaired – and can be a wonderful space for outdoor Fellowship Hour and receptions.

The building itself has undergone maintenance to its stonework. And construction is expected to begin in June on a major project to make our building and sanctuary better accessible to all.

In the sanctuary, the audio/visual system purchased with donations and proceeds of the Tunes of Overbrook will help ensure that those who cannot or chose not to worship in person will still have a meaningful experience through Zoom. Over the past year or more, many former members and friends of Overbrook have been able to re-join our weekly 10:30 a.m. service because it was held virtually, and we want to ensure anyone who wishes to stay connected to us through technology is able to do so.

The Task Force believed it was important to ask everyone who attends worship to wear a mask, even if government mandates have changed. We do this in the spirit of inclusion and care for each other. We want no one to feel singled out or vulnerable, so we ask all to mask.

We also anticipate that outside groups will be able to return to using OPC as of September, if all goes well with our return and COVID rates remain low and vaccination rates continue to rise. Narberth Community Theatre will be planning for rehearsals for a coming season of plays. And support groups who use our space likewise have been eager to return.

-Reopening Task Force: Eileen Wiggins, Chair, Larry McGhee, Bill Baker, Bob Harden, Artia Benjamin, Amy Behrman, Nathalie May, Will Schick, Karen Wong and Lisa Faso.

A Note from our Pastor

On Sunday, July 11 we will welcome people back into the sanctuary for Sunday worship. By July, we will have spent over 70 Sunday's outside our sanctuary. This will be the longest period of time that space has sat without corporate song, communion, or a baptism.

These 70 Sundays online have taught us a lot. For one, the church is always and forever the people. Our building is a blessing, but it is not the church. The church is us--and we have gathered faithfully. We have prayed fervently online together. We have brought our anxieties and hopes to a glowing screen each week. The Spirit of God has moved among us, even as we were still wearing our pajamas (except Buck Scott, who is always dressed for church!).

Sure, singing is more difficult when you can't hear the person next to you, but I will miss Chris' red arrow telling me *where* to sing. I will miss listening to Iris, Toffer, Matt and Amanda lead with such strength and talent when I got sick of hearing the sound of my own voice. I give thanks to God for Zoom (something I never thought I'd say). I give thanks for Zoom's ability to gather us, when we couldn't gather close. I give thanks that we can continue to gather people into worship from near and far using our live streaming technology. Our worship ministry has expanded in some beautiful ways.

After 70 services online, we carry with us new wisdom as we re-gather. Being apart has given us a sense of the true value of being together. It has reminded us that so much ministry is done with a smile when passing the plate, a sincere comment during the passing of the peace, and a small compliment when waiting for coffee. I miss the sound of basketballs bouncing. I miss worrying that those same basketballs are going to knock the food out of someone's hands. I miss seeing parents help other parents by always keeping an extra eye out on the kids.

When we gather in July, worship won't look like we remember. The world has changed and the needs of the community require new caution. This is, I think, a good thing. 70 services online should teach us about ourselves and who we have become. We are not who we once were. We are all a bit more scarred. We have experienced sadness and fear. We have forgotten the rhythms of social life. Hopefully, we have also become more tender and compassionate--more aware of how fragile life can be. We return with new insights and needs. We will, also, return at our own pace. The road back to worshipping in person together will be shorter for some and longer for others. This is all natural.

The good thing is that even as we change, God is unchanging. The God we worshipped in that sanctuary for 130 years is the same God we worshipped online. As we return, God will continue to be faithful and will show up. All glory to God, who never fails to meet us where we are.

-Adam



Online Services



Worship & Music

What a joy it was to worship together outside on Mothers' Day and Pentecost! Now we look forward to being together again for outside worship n Sundays, June 13 and June 27.

Adam will be on vacation for four weeks in June and July and he has invited guest preachers and worship leaders to preach in his absence. Below is the guest preacher schedule:

Date	Guest Preacher	Affiliation
June 13	Sharon Parker	OPC
June 20	Tim Hughes	Light Street Presbyterian Church, Baltimore MD
June 27	Rev. Eustacia Moffett Marshall	New River Presbyterian Church
July 4	Anthony Carrella	OPC

Finally, after 70 weeks of Zoom worship, we will return to the sanctuary for worship beginning July 11, at 10:30 a.m. Rules and guidance are changing quickly in Philadelphia and the five-county area, so it is still too early to know the answers to all the questions such as can we sing and will we have coffee hour. Stay tuned and watch for further announcements and mark your calendar for Sunday, July 11, at 10:30 a.m. at City and Lancaster Avenues. Our zoom service will continue at 10:30 for the benefit of those who cannot come to church.



But.... we need your help. Can you smile and hand the bulletin to people who walk through the door? Are you big enough to open those heavy doors and hold them while people walk in? Are you able to help those who need assistance get up the steps at the portico entrance or get through the heavy doors on Lancaster Avenue and City Avenue? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions and if you are a youth or an adult, you have what it takes to be an usher. Our ushers now have more responsibilities than they have had in the past, and we need more ushers to serve each week. Please contact Max Mason at 610-246-8527 or Bob Harden at 215-776-1727. Being an usher is an important job at Overbrook. Ushers are the first people visitors see when they come to church. Please consider being part of this very important ministry.

Community News



The Farmers Market is Back!

Starting Saturday, June 5th

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the church parking lot

About the Market: Established in 2008, this market is located at the Overbrook Presbyterian Church, and has a loyal following of residents in the neighborhood who make this market a regular part of their Saturday mornings.

Look for:

- ◆Walnut Springs Farm
- ◆Homestead Gardens



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is back again to conduct a shredding event at OPC on Saturday, June 26, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Gather up old bank statements, bills, receipts, tax records, etc. to be shredded safely. We will do this in a safe and secure manner in the OPC Parking Lot, Lancaster Avenue side. Also, we are collecting can goods to be contributed to Narberth Community Food Bank. Thank you for your cooperation.

-Alyce Marsh

Pride Month at OPC

In the early morning of June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in New York City, prompting days of riots and protests. This uprising became a catalyst for the gay rights movement, and is remembered each June with the celebration of Pride Month to raise up Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (or Questioning), and other non-heterosexual (LGBTQ+) people.

Change has been slow over the last 52 years, and we need only to look at daily headlines to know the fight for LGBTQ+ rights is far from over. Each year, more cities and communities across the US join together with pride and solidarity in June, and now OPC will, too.

Worship Opportunities in Pride Month

LGBTQ+ individuals, families, and allies are invited to submit brief video testimonies reflecting on Pride Month and the LGBTQ+ experience. Videos will be shared during worship, in June. If you or someone you know might like to participate, contact Anthony Carrella at anthony@overbrookpresb.org.

Pray for Justice at the Crossroads

LGBTQ+ people of color experience disproportionate violence. This is especially true for transgender women of color. We hope you will join us on Thursday afternoons at the Vigil for Racial Justice and include the LGBTQ+ community in our messages. A banner with the Inclusive Rainbow Flag and the message that "All Are Welcome Here" will be hung from the façade of the church.

Pridefest and Ice Cream Social on Saturday, June 26, 2021, 3:00-5:00pm

Our celebration of Pride Month will culminate with our first OPC **Pridefest** and ICE CREAM SOCIAL. There will be outdoor music, ice cream and water ice, a collaborative art project, and speakers from the Attic Youth Center, the Mazzone Center, and Valley Youth House. Bring your friends and family to enjoy some cool refreshments and learn about these organizations that support our LGBTQ+ community. A free will offering will be accepted to support the speakers.

Join us in amplifying our OPC welcome and showing our pride and love for all people of God.

Green Team



OPC has been recertified as an "Earth Care Congregation" by the PCUSA through February 2022. The certification recognizes churches that strive to integrate environmental practices and thinking into their worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Many thanks to Kadie Whalen on her good work putting together information for the reapplication form.

PLASTIC RECYCLING PROJECT CONTINUES

OPC members have recycled nearly 350lbs of plastic this year. At 500lbs, we will earn another Trex Bench. Here's how it works:

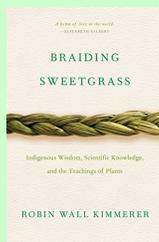
- Collect all your soft plastics, like bread bags, plastic wrap etc.
- Weigh the plastics
- Email a member of the Green Team with the weight of the plastic
- Drop the plastic at a collection recycling box, such as at Giant or Acme

PRO TIP: It's not easy to weigh plastic. One easy method is to hold it in your hands and jump on the scale. Note the number on the scale. Then put down the plastic, jump on the scale again and note the difference. (This is also a great opportunity to get your kids involved in an eco-friendly home math assignment).

Kadie Whalen, kaswhalen@gmail.com,

Gretchen Boger, gretchenboger@gmail.com

Margene Biedermann, margenebiedermann@gmail.com



SUMMER ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE SERIES

Our first event is on **Tuesday June 22nd, 7:30pm**. Gretchen Boger will lead us in a zoom exploration of an essay from the book "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. More details soon to follow!

Christian Education

The program year is winding down but the Christian Ed Committee is getting cranked up! Below is a list of upcoming events. Be sure to mark your calendars and watch your email for updates. The CE Committee always welcomes volunteers (with clearances, of course), so if you're interested, contact Anthony or Becky.



Sunday School: We'll be wrapping up the lessons on the Beatitudes LIVE on Saturday, June 12! (If you cannot make this event, there will be a virtual lesson after church on Sunday, June 13.) **Join us at Morris Park (Woodcrest entrance) at 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM.** More information will be shared very soon!

June Sunday School Schedule

June 6th: Virtual Immediately After Worship

June 12th: LIVE at Morris Park 11:00 AM.

June 13th: Virtual for those who could not attend live immediately after worship.

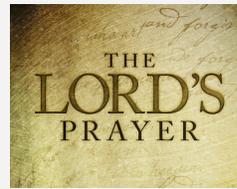


Vacation Bible School: This year's VBS program is called **Compassion Camp: Changing the World With Loving-kindness.** The programming begins on Sunday, July 18 with a family gathering and orientation at OPC. Camp will run from Monday- Wednesday, July 19-

21, 5:00 - 7:30pm at the church. Children in grades K-5 are welcome, as well as youth and adult volunteers. COVID-19 prevention measures will be in place. **Register <https://tinyurl.com/opc-vbs-21>**

Mission (Non) Trip: Plans are underway to provide a relevant, meaningful mission experience for middle & high school students. We are looking at 4 consecutive days in August: more details to come! What we can share is that it will be dynamic, the kids will get to do good work for 4 days, they'll meet some new people, and have fun! Stay tuned for more information.

It's not too late to **Submit End of Year Honors and Recognition:** Christian Education and the Deacons have teamed up this year to recognize any academic achievements made by children, youth or family members. So, if you know a graduate, honoree, or award recipient, let us know! Submit up to five (5) honorees at <https://tinyurl.com/opc-honors>. We will recognize each honoree via the worship bulletin, a special mailing, and gifts for graduates.



Have your kids recorded themselves praying yet? **Children and youth are invited to pre-record themselves praying the Lord's Prayer for Sunday worship.** Soon, you will also see children's artwork featured at the

start of worship. Want to participate? Head to <https://linktr.ee/opcce> or contact Anthony at anthony@overbrookpresb.org.

And don't miss our newly created **Christian Education Link Tree:** Families with children and youth should bookmark it in their browsers for easy access to our calendars, schedules, and links. Head to <https://linktr.ee/opcce> for a complete listing of resources for parents.

Wishing you & your families much health & happiness,
Anthony, Becky, Sabrina, and the CE Committee

Women's Support and Prayer Group

and who among us doesn't need prayer and friendly peer support during these exciting times? An opportunity for shared conversation, spiritual support, good humor, and group prayer is offered every **Tuesday at 7:30 AM.** You are warmly invited to start your Tuesday mornings with a group of women for whom "Amen" is not an ending, but a hopeful beginning.

Please consider us to be your prayer partners. As we do each Sunday, all who gather on Tuesday will pray with and for you. We encourage you to send us your requests ...and each will be faithfully lifted in prayer. Please contact Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com) for the zoom connection to the Tuesday morning prayer group, or to share a prayer request.



Join Us
every
Tuesday at
7:30 am

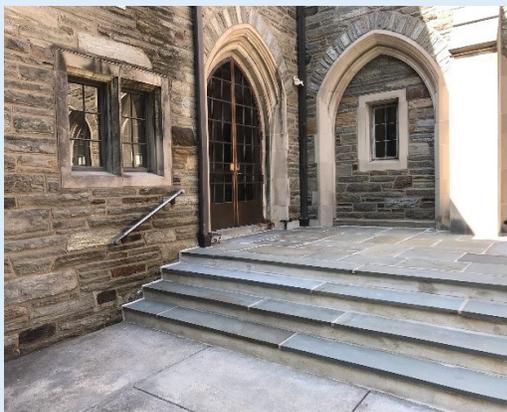
Property Committee

April and May have been months where the church has continued to engage the Masonry Preservation Group (MPG) to make exterior repairs around the church. As of this time they have spent most of their time repairing parapets. The center section (middle picture) was the major problem area above the City Avenue entrance, and was addressed first and has been completed. This was the area that has had the most damage due to rainwater leaks over the years and so the repair was more involved. The result of their work was excellent in that the repaired areas do not draw one's attention. Upon closer inspection you will note the uniformity of the masonry joints as the pointing has been newly completed in the exact style as the rest of the mortar joint in the 1889 Sanctuary building. The color of the mortar will darken with age.

The three pictures show the four walls that have been repaired from left to right. The first two walls have been pointed all the way from the parapets down to the ground. The third and fourth walls have been pointed above the water table course of stones that protrude just above the door and windows, up to the top of the parapets. The three buttresses have also been completely repointed.



The other major improvement concluded in May was the repair to the Lancaster Avenue patio. All of the stones had to be removed from the patio and steps, and many of the stones had to be replaced due to cracking caused by freezing water over time, and due to the addition of the concrete ramp to the right of the steps some years ago. The old bedding level was also removed below the stones and replaced with fresh concrete to bring the top level of the stones back to the original level. This concrete level also includes waterproofing along the interface with the building façade and door sills.



Lancaster Ave. Patio



Lancaster Ave. Patio

Deacons

Happy June Birthdays

6/4	Deb Rottinger	6/20	Miriam Harden
6/5	Vicki Swartz		Liz Shah
6/6	Declan Bright		Paul Stricker
	Sean Henry	6/21	Hugh Taussig-Lux
6/7	Ellen Valudes	6/22	Ernestine Harris
6/8	Bill Baker	6/25	I-Mei Huang
6/11	Kate Shackelford		Linda Huff-Paul
6/12	Theodore Baker	6/26	Adam Hearlson
6/13	Ted Dillon		Ron Homer
	Anna Taussig-Lux	6/29	Alan Halfenger
6/14	Sharon Parker		Kevin Trindade
6/15	Kieran Fernandez		Jane Bevan
	Claire Morris	6/30	Elias Hotek
6/17	Grace Underwood		James Whalen
	Rachael Underwood		
6/18	Maya Phan		
6/19	Chris Gage		

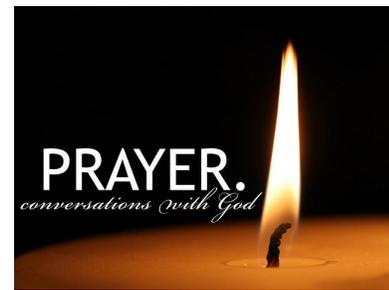
If you or a family member's birthday are not listed and you wish to be included on the monthly birthday list please email Lisa at office@overbrookpresb.org



Prayer List

- Bill and Susie Baker on the loss of Bill's mother on 5/2/21
- Stephanie Morris family in our prayers
- Aqueelah Folwell prayers for healing.
- Estalene Ferrillo prayers for healing.
- Ann Elise Lindgren is recovering from surgery and would appreciate ongoing prayers for healing
- Theresa McNeil Carter is hospitalized for medical issues.
- Prayers for Becky Lazo's mother who is having medical issues.
- Ellen Burr for continued medical issues
- Jeanne Cuvilly is facing family challenges.
- Ken Carroll is grateful for all prayers
- Marita Patino Treat Rosen- prayers for chronic pain relief
- Margaret Young's son Keith remains under medical treatment .
- Mary Pat, friend of Ginny Leagans, being treated for colon cancer.
- Caroline Skinner is facing health challenges and is hospitalized. She would appreciate prayers and uplifting during this difficult time.
- Judy Swartz prayers for continued healing.
- Eric Long's father Bill Long's cancer has returned.
- Wendy Fraser, sister of Jeremy Blatchley, is continuing treatment for cancer.
- Ed Harvey is still facing some multiple health challenges. He is grateful for all the prayers.

Please contact Terri Hunter (teresahunter42@gmail.com) or the Church Office to add names to the prayer list.



Dear Overbrook Friends,

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many cards, thoughts and prayers that were received for Robert's 101st birthday. This very special day was made even more memorable through your kindness. We thank you for your gifts of joy and remembrance, and look forward to the day when we can all gather together again in worship and in fellowship.

With loving appreciation,
Gwen and Robert Harden



Summer Hours



Summer proves to be a quiet time in the church building. Staff will be working from home or in the building sporadically for special projects. Please contact the office if you have a question or need and Lisa or Carol will respond by phone or email at their earliest convenience. Staff will also be available to provide access to the building by appointment. Lisa will be in the church office on Fridays from 9:00 am-12:00 pm if there is a specific office need.

Weekly Opportunities

- ◆ Tuesday Women's Prayer & Support Group, 7:30 a.m.
- ◆ Wednesday Morning Bible Study- 10:30 am
- ◆ Thursday Vigil for Racial Justice, 3:00 pm-Dusk
- ◆ Saturday Morning Men's' Group, 9:00 am

For more information or links to these opportunities please visit our community Facebook page or Realm.



Class of 2021

High School Graduates

- Justin Robertson (University of Pennsylvania)
- Ava Clifford (Northeastern University)
- Zack Wong (University of Oregon),
- Lucy Duckworth (Stanford University),
- Ben Bryant (Skidmore College),
- Robert May (Carnegie Mellon University),
- Adrien Van Rawley (Oberlin College),
- Matthew Kindt
- Audrey Sigler (Syracuse University).

College Graduates

- Sophie Shah | *Sophie recently graduated from University of Pittsburgh's School of Education with an M.S. in Applied Developmental Psychology*
- Sarah Stevens | *Sarah recently graduated from Penn State's Schreyer Honor College.*
- Brett Kaercher | *Brett earned a masters in management from Temple University in August.*
- Helena Bryant | *Helena is graduating with a BA in Theater from Muhlenberg College.*
- Caroline Kothari | *Caroline is graduating with a degree in Religious Studies.*
- Maya Subramanian | *Maya is graduating from Arcadia University and is a Public Health major. She is interested in working with immigrants and refugees.*



To keep up to date with the latest news and information on OPC—
visit our Facebook, Website and Realm

