

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

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Recently, I was introduced to a local artist and activist, JJ Tiziou. JJ is one of those connect-or-type people. He is always mixed up in some innovative project designed to promote relationships and notice beauty. I got connected with JJ because a couple of times a year he leads a multi-day trek around the perimeter of Philadelphia. Over the course of a week or so, a small group of folks commits to walking the perimeter of the city and pay special attention to whatever they walk past. The point is that walking slows us all down enough to notice all the things that are outside our rushing lives. Walking is slow, and when we are slow, we notice more.

I am intrigued and hope to join him this summer when he walks the perimeter again (Maybe you'll join me?). I hope to join him because understanding a city, a neighborhood, or a place requires special slow attention. The hard truth of our world is that we often move too fast to notice much of anything.

JJ's walk reminds me of this story that chef Dan Barber tells about farming. So the story goes, a farmer watched his Mennonite neighbors use steel tractor tires to plow their fields. Steel tractor tires mean you move at a glacial pace. Curious, the farmer asked a Mennonite bishop why they used steel tractor tires when rubber tires were so obviously more efficient.

The bishop responded with a strange question, "When do you start raising a child?" The bishop explained, child-rearing begins not with birth or conception. You start raising a child a hundred years before the child is born. The bishop went on. "If you use rubber tractor tires, you will see failure in a generation. Rubber tires mean easy movement, quick plowing, and planting. It leads to greater productivity, which means greater profit, which means acquiring more land, which promotes less crop diversity, and the use of more large machinery."

Within a generation, the Bishop explained, the farmer becomes less familiar with his farm. He loses track of the soil, he no longer sees the small details. Rubber tractor tires lead to a loss of intimacy. And without intimacy, ignorance reigns, and loss is inevitable. So, the bishop concluded, they choose to be slow. For the sake of their farms, but also for the sake of their community, and for the sake of future generations, they eschew productivity for intimacy.

This is my hope for our work this year--that we might pay close attention to the world we serve. That we might slowly walk the perimeter of our ministry so that we might not lose track of that which is easy to ignore or dismiss as insignificant. As we continue to emerge from this long winter (this long pandemic), I hope we might move with care and deliberation, so that our ministry might grow ever more connected to this city and this world.

- Adam



Worship Committee



Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Adam met approximately 25 of the faithful for drive through imposition of ashes between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m., 12:30 and 1:30 p.m., and 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Our traditional Ash Wednesday service was held by zoom at 7:00 and was attended by approximately thirty-five people.

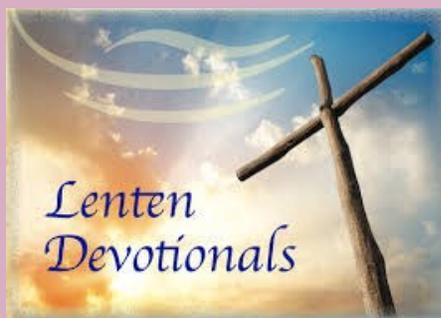
We look forward to gathering for our Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday evenings March 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 7:00 by zoom. Adam will lead us in a study of the Wisdom literature. If you wish to read ahead, the following are the scripture passages we will look at each week:

March 3- Proverbs 3
March 10-Job 28
March 17-Ecclesiastes 1:12-18
March 24-Song of Solomon 3:6-10

Mark your calendars for special Holy Week worship services: Palm Sunday (March 28), Maundy Thursday (April 1), Good Friday (April 2), Holy Saturday (April 3), and Easter Sunday (April 4). More information about these special worship services will be announced soon.

- Eileen Wiggins

Lenten Devotional - In previous years Lenten devotional booklets were often distributed in church on the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. This year's daily Lenten devotional, produced by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and written by Presbyterian ministers and members of the seminary teaching staff, is accessible electronically through the following link ([Lenten Devotional](#)). A ministry of the seminary, the devotional is a free and provides multiple options for access, including print and audio versions. OPC members without computer accessibility who wish to receive a printed copy of the daily devotional should call or email the office (office@overbrookpresb.org).



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.

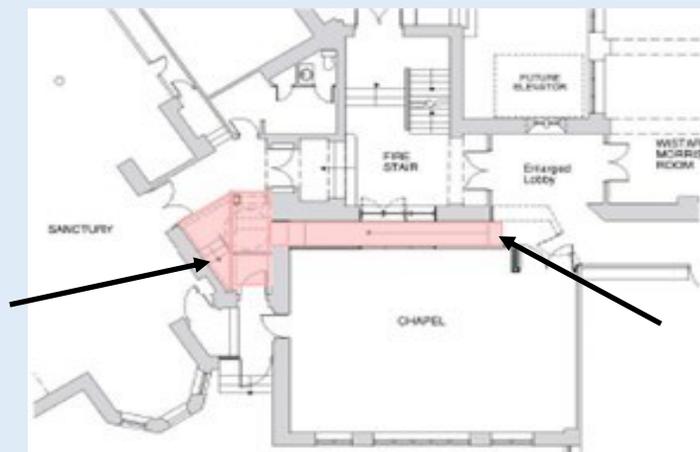


Property Corner

The word heard most often around the Property Committee these days is "Accessibility". Our church is beautiful, but presents challenges to people with physical limitations. To this end, Accessibility Improvements are divided into phases:

- Ramp connecting the main level of the church hallways up to the Sanctuary level;
- Ramp convenient to Handicap parking spaces up to the main level inside the church;
- Handicap unisex restroom.

This month we'd like to update church members on #1 below. The plan is to utilize a slice of the Chapel as shown below for a new ramp beginning in the hallway between the entrances to the Chapel and the Wistar Morris Room: Looking at the highlighted section, the right side is the new ramp which takes a narrow slice out of the top of the chapel as viewed above. At the far left we see the plan to demolish walls and an existing storage closet at the top of the ramp, as well as refashioning the "late arrivals stair" which would now be at an angle to the existing hallway. Of course, there are still some issues to be resolved!



COVID-19 Vaccinations



With prayerful anticipation, we await the time when members of the OPC family, especially those who are at the highest risk for COVID-19, are able to be vaccinated. While each day brings great news of those who have received vaccination appointments, many still wait. The registration process can be challenging, and may differ county by county. If you are experiencing difficulty navigating on-line registration sites, please know that a team of OPC volunteers is prepared to assist you with the registration process, as well as with transportation once a vaccination appointment has been made.

Should you have questions regarding the vaccine, please see the attached [Vaccine Q & A](#).

For assistance with registration:

Contact Pat Dillon (psdillon1@earthlink.net) or Sharon (sharon@overbrookpresb.org);

For transportation support:

Contact the Deacons (deacons@overbrookpresb.org) or Sharon (sharon@overbrookpresb.org).

We look forward to working with you.

Wishing you the blessings of hope and good health,
Sharon Parker



RPM

Retired Persons Ministry

OPC's Retired Persons' Ministry: March 26, 1:00-2:00 PM

The (virtual) RPM Café will be open for business on March 26...and our business will be good-natured humor, fellowship, and a thought-provoking presentation. Join us as we celebrate the convergence of two special commemorative days: National Spinach Day and National Nougat Day. In honor of this auspicious occasion, we will discuss healthful living practices during the pandemic. Put on your sneakers, dig out your favorite spinach recipes, and bring your sense of humor.

Christian Education



Christian Education Ministry Reflections on February :

The CE Team designed Lent-at-Home Kits for families to engage with this February and March. These packages included contemplative tools for children, devotionals for families, art projects, and more. Preparations were taken on by Sabrina and Julianna J., Becky L., and Anthony who assembled and distributed the kits in the weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday. If you haven't yet reserved a kit for your family and would still like one, we'd be happy to connect with you! Contact Anthony or Becky for additional information. Members of OPC's Youth Group hosted a virtual game night for families and individuals on Shrove Tuesday. Alice L., Aria F., Eleanor H., and Hannah L., began the evening by leading two rounds of bingo before moving into an at-home scavenger hunt. The ten attendees had a blast learning about Shrove Tuesday, playing games, and simply being together on a cold winter's night. Children, Youth, Families, and adults are having a blast during Virtual Sunday School! It has been observed that our young people are logging on and participating with increased enthusiasm than in sessions past. As we continue our journey through the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 1-12) together, we are helping each other grow ever deeper in the knowledge of Christ's love. We are learning that each of us is blessed by God, and that we can bless the lives of others by following Jesus's example.

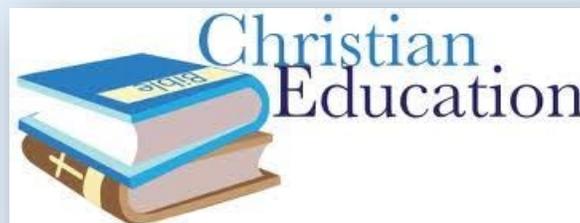
Your friend in Christ, -Anthony



Looking Ahead!

Planning is underway for Lent and Easter and more Spring fun, so let's make sure your calendars are up to date: Sunday School will be happening right after church on March 14 and March 21. We will continue to study the Beatitudes, learning about the many blessings that Jesus has bestowed upon us. Trudy & Judy will be co-teaching with Anthony. As a reminder the theme for youth group this spring is Getting Serious about Playtime. The Middle School Youth are scheduled to meet on March 2nd and March 16, and the High Schoolers are scheduled to meet on March 17th. Zoom remain the same week after week, but reminders will be sent in advance of each session. Additionally, we are sending out a survey to gather preferences from families regarding the distribution of church-related materials and comfort level of in-person, outdoor, socially distanced gatherings for youth and children. We appreciate getting your feedback! As always, you can contact Anthony or Becky directly with any ideas or questions.

Warmly, -Becky



Mission & Outreach



Mission & Outreach continues to help feed those who are food insecure. Each week we support about 60 individuals at the Norristown Hospitality Center with a weekly breakfast. Each month we prepare a hearty dinner for about 300 at the Upper Darby Community Outreach Corporation. A Signup Genius is emailed for each of these. If you have questions about how to participate, please contact me at aimerie.scherluebbe@gmail.com.

We will be meeting on Sunday, March 28 at 12:15pm. Join us to find out more about what Mission & Outreach is up to and get involved.

Did You Ever Wonder????????

Did you ever wonder what happened at a church committee meeting? Did you ever think about how the specific details of the worship service come together or how curriculum is chosen for bible study? We have the answers to that and much more....Our committee leaders are inviting anyone who would like to know more about a specific ministry at OPC to join the March monthly committee meetings. This is not meant to be an obligation to join the committee, it simply is just a way to give an opportunity to attend a meeting and see what it is all about before making a commitment.

"Committee participation can be a rewarding and enriching way to help sustain our church community, to meet new people and to grow in our Christian faith." as one member of OPC describes what it means to be part of a committee. Below you will find the next meeting dates, zoom links and committee leaders for each committee. If a link has not been provided or a meeting is not scheduled feel free to email the leaders of the committee and they will be happy to answer any questions.

Committee	Date	Time	Link	Leader	Leader's Email
Christian Education	Friday, 3/12	5:15 pm	Link TBD	Becky Lazo; Anthony Carrella	rebeccalazo@hotmail.com Anthony@overbrookpresb.org
Worship & Music	Monday, 3/22	7:30 pm	W&M	Eileen Wiggins	eewiggins3@gmail.com
Property	Wednesday, 3/3	3:00 pm	Property	Bill Baker Ted Dillon	wbaklava@aol.com esdillon@earthlink.net
Mission & Outreach	Sunday, 3/28	12:15 pm	M&O	Aimerie Scherluebbe	aimerie.scherluebbe@gmail.com
Finance	Tuesday, 3/2	7:00 pm	Finance	Lainie Blodgett	elblodgett@yahoo.com
Congregational Life	TBD			Artia Benjamin	newlife5125@aol.com
Stewardship	Tuesday 3/23	7:00 pm	Link TBD	Keedra Carroll	keedracarroll@gmail.com
New Member	TBD			Elizabeth Mendoza	egmendoza@comcast.net



Deacons

Happy March Birthdays

3/1	Dennis Elwell	3/20	Mikaela Richie
3/3	Angie Goodall	3/22	Laura Toy
3/5	Deja Nicole Stokes	3/23	Austin Kaercher
3/7	Eamon Hearlson		Nicolas Robinson
	Abigail Swartz	3/26	Lois Davis
	Adrien VanRawley	3/28	Alec Jacobson
3/11	Sara Davis	3/29	Elizabeth Swartz
3/13	Peter Wong		Peyton Swartz
3/14	Elizabeth Mendoza	3/30	Sue Schick
3/15	Stephanie Morris		Audrey Sigler
3/17	Kevin Davis		Eileen Wiggins
3/18	Elliot Hearlson		

Prayer List

- Prayers for Becky Lazo's mother who is having medical issues.
- Ellen Burr for ongoing medical issues and on the recent death of her cousin.
- Artia Benjamin's friend and co-worker, Kim Butler, who is in the hospital for Covid 19.
- Artia Benjamin's uncle, Abdul Mokum Sr, who has been put on dialysis and is in the hospital.
- Jeanne Cuvilly is facing family challenges.
- Marita Patino Treat Rosen- prayers for chronic pain relief
- Margaret Young's son Keith remains under medical treatment but is no longer on hospice care.
- Chris Gage's parents, Nancy and Wayne Gage.
- Mary Pat, friend of Ginny Leagans, is being treated for colon cancer and just started chemotherapy.
- Theresa Carter is currently being treated for metastatic breast cancer and her tumor is shrinking.
- Caroline Skinner is facing health challenges
- Dale, friend of the Kupstas's family, for an ongoing medical condition.
- Judy Swartz prayers for continued healing.
- Eric Long's father Bill Long's cancer
- Wendy Fraser, sister of Jeremy Blatchley, cancer treatment.
- 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.



Many birthday wishes to Laura Toy, who will turn 100 years young on March 22, 2021. Happy Birthday from your OPC Family.

Weekly Opportunities

- ♦ Tuesday Women's Prayer & Support Group, 7:30 a.m.
- ♦ Wednesday Evening Bible Study– 7:00 pm-Through Lent
- ♦ Thursday Vigil for Racial Justice, 2:00 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.



Prayer and Care Team

Prayer and Care Team Invitations

The Prayer and Care Team invites you to allow us...

...to serve YOU! If you are in need of food assistance during these challenging times, either due to medical precautions or financial need, please let us know and we will deliver Prayer and Care groceries to you home. Each bag contains meal support for 3-4 days, and includes fresh produce, meat and dairy products, as well as canned and packaged foods. For those who prefer to make their own food selections, grocery cards can be provided. Since March 2020, over 380+ grocery deliveries have been made, and numerous grocery cards have been provided. These gifts are freely given, made possible by generous contributions to the OPC Emergency Fund.

...to welcome YOU! If you are looking for an area of personal ministry during this time of separation, please know that the Prayer and Care Team welcomes you to serve with us. Following the guidelines of the CDC and the City of Philadelphia, we provide independent opportunities to maintain phone contact with recipients, shop, deliver groceries to doorsteps, and offer ongoing prayer for those in need.

If you would like to receive a delivery, make a delivery possible for others, or volunteer to be part of the Prayer and Care Team, please contact Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com.)

Blessings to all,
The Prayer and Care Team

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

