

# 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*

### Inside This Issue:

- Worship.....2
- Reopening Task Force..2
- Christian Ed.....4
- Mission & Outreach.....5
- Stewardship.....5
- Community News.....6
- Deacons.....7
- Weekly Opportunities  
.....back page
- Prayer and Care Team  
.....back page

On the eve of Ascension Sunday, I am reminded of the disciples who stood staring at the sky as Jesus disappeared into the clouds. They continue staring at the sky. Christy calls this one of those Monty Python moments in scripture where something so absurd happens that no one really knows what to do. Eventually, an angel has to shoo the disciples off the mountain and back to Jerusalem.

It is a strange story and I love it.

I love it because it captures the difficult tension of our lives. On the one hand, the world is in need and we have all been called to be the hands and feet of Christ to this world. Simultaneously, it is hard to be those hands and feet without reflective contemplation of the Christ who has sent us into the world. Contemplation, in its most simple expression, is the active recognition and attention to the source of all life and goodness. If we are going to go back into the world, we will need to first notice the divine umbilical cord that connects us all to God.

Thomas Merton was a 20th century mystic who wrote a lot about contemplation. His books, *What is Contemplation?*, *Tears of the Blind Lion*, and *Zen and the Birds of Appetite* are deep and trenchant discussions of what it means to be a contemplative people. In one book, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, he writes, "Contemplation is the highest expression of man's intellectual and spiritual life...It is spiritual wonder. It is spontaneous awe at the sacredness of life, of being. It is a vivid realization of the fact that life and being in us proceed from an invisible, transcendent and infinitely abundant source. Contemplation is, above all, awareness of the reality of that source"

As the disciples stood looking up--their mouths wide open--they were doing something very important, they were caught in the "awareness of the source." As the world revs back into a higher gear and people feel the temptation to make up for lost time, may we also make time to meet this world with a renewed spiritual wonder. May we remember to look up, as the disciples once did, and marvel at the wonder of it all.

-Adam



Looking Up and Marvel at the Wonder

## Worship Committee

Notes from Worship and Music —

Even though Easter Sunday has passed, we are still in the season of Easter. How glorious it was to gather in person outside the church for an Easter sunrise service! How wonderful it was to see each other behind masks but without the intermediary of screens. Easter joy continues.

Worship and Music is turning its attention to what our worship will be like when we once again gather in the sanctuary. Where will we sit? Will we be able to sing? Will our choir sing from the choir loft? What about our soloists? How will we pass the peace, the offering plate, the communion plate?

Our zoom worship has been different from the worship we knew in the sanctuary. More people have participated in worship and there has been the ever popular chat room. Our task is to figure out how to include some of our zoom experiences in our sanctuary worship experience.

If you have suggestions for the committee, please email those ideas to Eileen Wiggins, chair of the committee, at [eewiggins3@gmail.com](mailto:eewiggins3@gmail.com).

-Eileen Wiggins

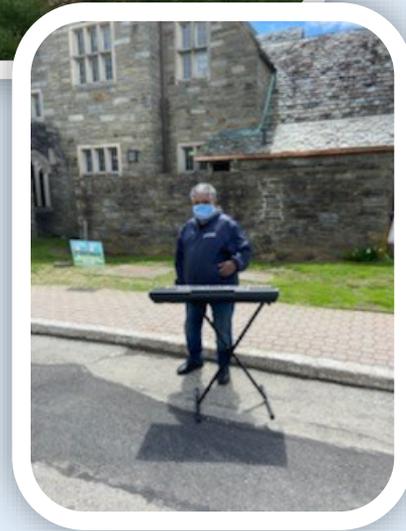
## Reopening Task Force

The time when we will worship and gather together in person is coming soon, and OPC will be prepared. A group of Session members, members of the congregation and staff - our Reopening Committee - has begun thinking and preparing how and when we can gather together for worship in the sanctuary and resume other in-person activities. The team met this past Sunday, April 25, and has considered ideas including outdoor worship services during the summer. They will present their plan to session in May. Stay tuned to our Weekly Enews, Facebook page and email communication from the team.



## A Huge Shout-Out

Another beloved member celebrated a milestone birthday last month. Ken Carroll celebrated his 85th birthday with a drive by celebration in the OPC parking lot on Saturday, April 17. A hearty thank you to all that participated and made Ken's birthday celebration so special. It was a joyful time.



### Easter Blessings, OPC Families!

Hosea 6:3 says “Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

We sure did acknowledge the Lord and our beautiful earth with our *New Creation Event* on April 17! Nearly 20 children and their parents gathered at church to play games, plant seeds, make crafts, and enjoy being together. Each child took home a beautifully painted pot with basil seeds, a pinwheel for Pentecost, and a recipe for home-made *post-Pentecost pesto!*

In every way we can, the Christian Education Committee acknowledges all the grace and gifts of the Lord. Here's what we've been doing...

- **Sunday School** continues working through the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5! In April we learned about righteousness, justice, and mercy. Our next gathering will occur on Sundays May 9th and 16th. Ms. Judy will be teaching along with Anthony, and you can look for a detailed announcement via email in the next few days. Families can access Sunday School resources by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/opc-sundayschool>
- **Youth Group** gathers once or twice per month and are now transitioning to live meetings with a hybrid connection option! Our first live meeting occurred on April 15th at OPC. We'll gather twice in May and once in June. Currently, the OPC Youth are working with the CE and the Vigil Committees to organize a carwash and fundraiser! Families can access Youth Group schedules and resources by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/opc-youth>
  - May: Thursday 5/6/21 at 5:00 PM live at OPC  
Carwash 5/TBD/21 at 4:00 PM at OPC.
  - June: Date TBD due to final exams and graduation schedules.
- **Notice Anything New in Worship?** 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](mailto:anthony@overbrookpresb.org).

- **Looking Ahead to Summer:** we are working on scheduling mission work, Vacation Bible School, and summer fellowship for the OPC family. A survey will be sent out to families soon to gauge preferred dates and time of day for VBS. Be on the lookout!
- **CE Link Tree:** Families with children and youth should bookmark our new Link Tree! Head to <https://linktr.ee/opcce> for a complete listing of CE links and resources for parents.



**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? Award recipient? Let us know! As we get closer to June, we will celebrate the achievements of children, youth, and family members! Submit up to five (5) honorees at the link below. We will recognize each honoree via the worship bulletin, a special mailing, and gifts for graduates. <https://tinyurl.com/opc-honors>.

-Anthony, Becky, Sabrina, and the CE Committee



**Wednesday Morning Bible Study—10:30 a.m.:** Spring Bible Series titled “Where are we Going?: Discussions about Heaven, Hell, Salvation, and the End of all Things” For the next five weeks we will be discussing questions about “the end.” What happens after death? How does God's salvation work? What's up with Heaven and Hell? We will consider these questions and more. Follow this link: [Wednesday Morning Bible Study](#) or to join by phone at 646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 978 9342 2986

**Sunday School Class:** The Church's Response to the Immigration Crisis runs through September every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. This class is co-led by Rev. Tom Lank and his daughter Alice Lank. Ages 12 to 112 are invited. Each class will center around a 10-15 minute video followed by discussion and prayer. Class is held virtually on Zoom until in person gatherings are able to be held. The link is below for anyone that is interested.

[Sunday School Link - 9:15 a.m.](#)

## Mission & Outreach

Mission & Outreach was blessed to have six new participants join us for our committee meeting. We are excited to get some fresh ideas and talents to support our future work.



New refugees and asylum seekers are arriving in our countries. Tom Lank invited us to get involved with Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) and Elizabeth Cosgriff received training to participate in the JFON Law Clinics and provide support for people who do not have legal status in our country. Join Tom Lank on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am to be a part of the conversation on immigration in the Americas.

Food is still needed to feed those in need in Norristown. Sign up here to support the meal that is delivered on Thursdays, each week: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044aacaf2aaa8-breakfast>

We have partnered with the Upper Darby Community Outreach Corporation. Each month we prepare and deliver a hearty meal to serve 250-300 guests. Nancy Gilhool organizes these meals each month. The next shelter meal is May 25. If you would like to get involved in planning, shopping, or prepping these meals, please contact Nancy Gilhool or Aimerie Scherluebbe.

We meet on the third Sunday each month at 12:15pm. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact Aimerie Scherluebbe at [aimerie.scherluebbe@gmail.com](mailto:aimerie.scherluebbe@gmail.com). Our next meeting is May 23, 2021.

-Aimerie Scherluebbe

## Stewardship

May 2 is Legacy Giving Sunday for Presbyterians. Did you know that there is a way to ensure that this community continues for generations to come? There is a way to live forward and give forward, blessing those who come after us through the choices we make today. May 2 is Legacy Sunday and Stewardship is asking members to consider making a legacy gift to the church. Below are a few points that the committee asks you to consider:

- Giving to the church through your will is the most common way to continue your support beyond your lifetime. When your estate is prepared, consider a gift to the church.
- Consider naming the church as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. The gift could be a set dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, the remainder after other gifts are made, or part of the estate gift left if designated heirs are deceased.
- A will represents a person's final wishes and intentions. After providing for your loved ones, please consider one final testament of faith through a bequest in your Will or living trust that provides enduring support for our vital work. For many of us, this will be the most significant gift we will make – our gift of a lifetime.

Just think – a gift that costs you nothing now can:

- give youth a safe place to gather
- make our church more accessible
- enrich worship



The possibilities are endless – and exciting! Thank you for everything you're doing to make this church — this community — a better place for all of us. And thank you for considering making a gift that will make our little piece of the world better — and more beautiful — for the next generation. If you have any questions, or want to know more about making a bequest or other legacy gift, don't hesitate to contact Keedra Carroll or Will Schick, co-chairs of the Stewardship committee.

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO A  
**MULTIFAITH PANEL ON FASTING**

*When do people in different traditions usually fast?  
 What does that fasting entail? What is the purpose of fasting?  
 What are our different personal experiences with fasting?*

Allyson Zacharoff, Rabbinic Intern of Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley is inviting everyone to join their upcoming **Multifaith Panel on Fasting** on Wednesday, May 5 from 8-9 p.m. They have a number of local representatives presenting about their traditions' perspectives on fasting, during this Muslim holy month of Ramadan. They have representatives from the local Jewish, Catholic, Muslim, and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints communities. Register now to receive the Zoom link at [bit.ly/multifaithfasting](https://bit.ly/multifaithfasting).

Join us for an exciting discussion and Q&A with local speakers:



**Peter Conti-Brown**,  
 2nd Counselor,  
 Philadelphia Stake Presidency  
 (Member of The Church of Jesus Christ  
 of Latter-day Saints)



**Rev. Liam Tomás O'Doherty, OSA**,  
 Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish  
 (Catholic)



**Umar Abdul Rahman**,  
 Muslim Student Advisor,  
 Swarthmore College  
 (Muslim)



**Allyson Zacharoff**,  
 Rabbinic Intern,  
 Har Zion Temple  
 (Jewish)

**WEDNESDAY · MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> · 2021**  
**8-9 PM**

*Free and open to all in the community!*

**Free Community COVID-19 Testing**

**TIME**  
 May 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
 10:00am - 2:00pm

**LOCATION**  
 Overbrook Presbyterian Church  
 6376 City Ave.  
 Philadelphia, PA 19151  
**In OPC's Parking Lot**

- No insurance or ID required.**
- Walk-ups accepted on first-come, first-serve basis.**
- Must collect your own nasal swab OR bring someone else to collect the swab for you.**
- Get tested if you're symptomatic or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.**

Department of Public Health  
 CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
[phila.gov/covid-19](https://phila.gov/covid-19)  
 (215) 685-5488

**The Farmers Market will Return!**

Every Saturday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the church parking lot.

Exact Date is still yet to be determined!

**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 - (Early berries and asparagus, in season sweet corn, peaches and more)
- ♦Homestead Gardens - (Seasonal fresh vegetables)



## Deacons

### Happy May Birthdays

5/1	Adam Shah	5/17	Nora Whalen
	Spencer Shah	5/18	Joanna Scherluebbe
5/3	Gail Kaercher	5/19	Kendi Long
5/4	Pat Ogundele	5/20	Nancy Gilhool
	Andrea McGhee		Becky Lazo
5/5	Kristan Davis		LaToya Richie
	Edith Lank	5/21	John Baker
	Lucas Ziemba	5/24	Alice Wilson
5/7	Theo Goedde	5/25	Isaac Gosfield
5/8	Dick Williamson		Isidora Gosfield
5/9	Liam Clifford	5/26	Lena Goedde
5/10	Auriane Geraldo	5/27	Bob Harden, Jr.
5/11	Bob Harden, Sr.	5/28	Yvenelly Gracia
	Bob Kothari	5/30	Keedra Carroll
5/12	Caroline Skinner	5/31	Zion Carter
	Christoph VonAndrea		
5/13	Dan Biedermann		

### Prayer List

- Ann Elise Lindgren is recovering from surgery.
- Pamela Taylor, Artia Benjamin's sister, who has COVID-19.
- 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
- Artia Benjamin's uncle, Abdul Mokum Sr, who has been put on dialysis and is in the hospital.
- 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, is being treated for colon cancer and just started chemotherapy.
- Caroline Skinner is facing health challenges
- Judy Swartz prayers for continued healing.
- Eric Long's father Bill Long's cancer 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.*

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](mailto: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 ([spark614@gmail.com](mailto:spark614@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**

## 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.



## 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.

...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 ([spark614@gmail.com](mailto:spark614@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*

