



Overbrook
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

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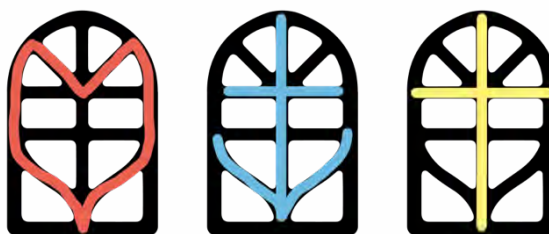
Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

Over the last year, the OPC Design Task Force (Molly Burke, Emily Stewart, Artia Benjamin, and Pastor Adam) has been working with the firm Visionary Collective to create a refreshed OPC logo and brand identity that better reflects the vibrancy, welcome and mission of the congregation. OPC's new glyph will now be incorporated into our written and digital materials and external facing communications.

Here are the highlights:

The glyph serves as a symbolic representation of a stained-glass window or doorway, combining abstract elements with recognizable features. It evokes a sense of familiarity for those who have admired the beautiful windows within the Overbrook Church building.

Take a close look and you'll see a heart, an anchor and a cross – an early set of Christian symbols. The heart represents love, the anchor represents hope, and the cross represents faith.



Visionary Collective explains color plays a pivotal role in shaping a brand's identity. The Overbrook Brand Voice is split among three complementary tones: Love, Light and Welcome. And these tones are communicated through words, voice, imagery, and interactions.

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YOUTH MISSION TRIP NEWS

Dear Youth Families,

Thanks to our congregation's wonderful generosity, the youth mission trip cost is now only \$50 per participant.

The Youth Mission Trip this summer will be with Urban Promise in Camden, NJ. Urban Promise is an amazing organization where we will be working alongside their teams assisting in their summer camp program and neighborhood repairs and beautification.

- The trip is open to all youth who will be turning 14 by October 31, up to 18 years old.
- Trip Dates are July 14th-19th.
- Please register by May 12th at youth@overbrookpresb.org.

Pride Month Task Force

We are excited to extend an open invitation to join our new **Overbrook's Multigenerational Pride Month Task Force!** We are seeking a wide range of experiences and perspectives from all across our beautifully diverse community, and encourage you to pass along our invitation to anyone who may be interested in helping plan and implement two key initiatives for a multigenerational Pride Month:

1. Overbrook's hosting or presence at Narberth's Pride in the Park
2. Church-wide worship, education, and outreach initiatives

Get involved by reaching out to Anthony (anthony@overbrookpresb.org). Let us know if you will be joining us for the **First Pride Month Task Force Meeting on May 5th at Fellowship Hour (12:30 PM - 1:30 PM)** and your preferred involvement (Pride Event or church-wide initiatives). If you are unavailable but interested in meeting at a later date, please provide your availability.

Our objectives:

- Identify interested individuals and their availability for various opportunities.
- Set up working groups for the Pride Event and church-wide initiatives.
- Discern next steps for implementation and congregational communication.
- Whatever else is on our minds and hearts!

Your support, in spirit or body, is cherished. Feel free to forward this invitation to anyone who might want to contribute.



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.

Skyspace: Quiet awareness...contemplative joy

All are invited! Consider giving yourself and those you love, the gifts of peace, awe, and beauty. Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting invites the public to join them for the viewing of *Greet the Light*, the work of acclaimed artist James Turrell. *Greet the Light* is the theme of this permanent Skyspace installation, which is open the first Friday and Sunday at dawn and at dusk. The presentations are timed to coincide with the rising and setting of the sun.

A group of OPC members and friends will be travelling to experience *Greet the Light* on **Sunday evening, May 26**. The program for that evening will capture the night sky from **8:17-9:17 PM**. Tickets and carpooling can be arranged through Parish Care. There will be no charge to participate. To learn more about this extraordinary experience, click on the following link (chestnuthillskyspace.org) or speak with Sharon Parker.

Retired Person's Ministry (RPM): May and Beyond

May brings many opportunities for shared faith, learning, and fellowship. RPM will begin to settle down from what has been a very busy season in the life of OPC. We encourage all RPM folks to consider participating in Adult Forum, Walking with Spirit, and the Greet the Light trip to Chestnut Hill. In addition to those events, RPM will be offering an opportunity to Zoom around the world! Please save the date for this special event:

Friday, May 17. Join us on Zoom as we speak live with several of our OPC travelers, who are currently in faraway places. Efforts are underway to establish international connectivity that will allow us to spend time virtually in other parts of the world. Please watch the worship bulletin and the weekly RPM updates for more information about the exact time of day for this special event.

RPM Summertime Electives. If you have a special interest in creating art, making music, writing, and designing welcoming green spaces, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org). Summertime interest groups will be forming and performing, showing and showcasing, learning and leading. Let's explore and grow together!

RPM is a Parish Care Ministry; there is no charge to participate. For further information, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) or Pat Dillon (psdillon1@earthlink.net)

Walking with Spirit: A Celebration of Creation!

Adventurers of all ages are invited to join the growing group of OPC woodland walkers as they explore area trails. On two Saturday mornings in spring and summer, area trails will come alive with OPC wanderers. It will be a time for us to encounter the magnificence of the season and to watch for all creatures great and small. Open hearts, cameras, awe-inspired conversation, and adventurers of all ages are welcome. Inspired by the work of Christine Valters Paintner, *Eyes of the Heart: Photography as a Contemplative Christian Practice*, trail walks include an opportunity to capture the beauty of God's creation through both observation and photography. The length of the trails ranges from 1-1.5 miles. Each trail is accessible; both trails are inspirational! Please join us as we journey through God's creation.

Saturday, May 4 at 10:00 AM

Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden, 1829 County Line Road, Villanova

Participants will meet in the Stoneleigh parking lot at 10:00 AM. Those needing a ride, and those willing to provide transportation for others, are asked to meet in the OPC parking lot at 9:30 AM. Following the walk, we'll gather in Stoneleigh garden pavilion for a light picnic brunch. Participants are invited to bring their own beverages; fruit and brunch treats will be available for all to share. To assist with the planning and carpooling for the May 4 walk, all are asked to RSVP to Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) by May 2.

Saturday, July 20 at 10:00 AM

Cynwyd Heritage Trail, 321 Conshohocken State Road, Bala Cynwyd

Participants will meet in the Septa Station lot at 10:00 AM. Following our walk, we'll gather at the Trails End Cafe for good coffee and great conversation.

For additional information, or to recommend a favorite trail, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org).



Mission & Outreach



On **Saturday, April 13**, an enthusiastic, energetic group of OPC volunteers traveled to the *Habitat for Humanity ReStore* for an afternoon of work.

H4H Director of Development, Deidra Duncan, writes: “Thank you for the volunteer support from Overbrook Presbyterian! We are humbled by your partnership, generosity, and willingness to work alongside us at the ReStore. Your investment of time means so much and we appreciate you for being part of the Habitat community.

Together, we are building a Philadelphia where everyone has a decent place to live!”

On **Friday, April 12th** Herb Brabham led a group from Overbrook Church as we visited a “Rebuilding Philly in Action” block build event on the 5200 block of Sansom Street in West Philadelphia. This event was sponsored by *Rebuilding Together Philadelphia (RTP)*, an organization that offers free home repairs for low-income homeowners with emphasis on health, safety and energy efficiency. RTP has repaired and upgraded over 2,100 Philadelphia homes since 1989.

RTP will typically identify around 10 homes within a block or two in a Philadelphia neighborhood to repair. Our group got to see a “block build” in action, watching the volunteers and talking directly with the homeowners. We heard many stories from the homeowners how they were understandably suspicious when RTP offered them free home upgrades and repairs, only to have their skepticism turn to tears of joy to see the house that they’ve lived in for 30 or 40 years get a new look, making the house more energy efficient and safe. Statistics have shown that crime rates decrease in a neighborhood following an RTP project.

Our Mission and Outreach committee is discussing the many ways we can team up with this group, providing funds and/or volunteers for future events.

There’s also a Run to Rebuild 5K and 2 mile run on **Saturday May 18th** on Forbidden Drive near Chestnut Hill College which benefits this group. Any questions or interest in supporting RTP? Contact Jeff Bowker or Herb Brabham. You can also visit www.rebuildingphilly.org.

April/May Mission Opportunities

- **Tuesday, April 30.** Prepare or deliver dinner to the 40 residents of the *Life Center of Eastern Delaware County*. Contact Nancy Gilhool (gilhoolfam@verizon.net) to see how you can help.
- **Saturday, May 4.** Join the “pickers and packers” of *Books Through Bars* as they fulfill requests from inmates for books. We leave the Overbrook parking lot at 1:00 PM and return safely home by 4:00 PM. Contact Janet Bowker (jabowker1001@gmail.com) if you would like more information.
- **Saturday, May 18 - Run to Rebuild** for *Rebuilding Together Philadelphia* - Can we assemble an OPC Running Team? Contact Jeff Bowker (bowkerjeffrey@gmail.com) if you are interested.
- **Monday, May 20** - The third Monday of each month presents Overbrook with an opportunity to serve those in need at the *Norristown Hospitality Center*. Ann Elise and Earl Lindgren are faithful transporters of fruit, water and protein meals which the OPC congregation provides. You can sign up here (tinyurl.com/OPCNorristown).
- **Mark your calendars now!** - On Friday evening, **June 21**, the OPC Women’s Dining Circle will meet for one last time before summer at the Wynnewood home of Karen Testa. We will support the OPC Youth Group’s summer mission trip. Details to follow.

Adult Forum Returns in May!

Overbrook's Adult Forum is returning in a new time and place! The new place will be the comfort of your homes, and the time will be select **Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 PM**. Come Zoom with us on **May 21 and May 28!** Our topic for May will be *Christian Perspectives on the War between Gaza and Israel*. Pastor Adam, Sharon Parker, and guest presenters will offer perspectives on this challenging topic, and will welcome yours, as well.

Meet Joachim Emmanuel Alfonse

Meet **Joachim Emmanuel Alfonse**, born Thursday, April 19th at 1:30 PM, weighing a healthy 6 pounds 1 ounce. Both mom and baby are doing well, as for me, I am overjoyed and in awe of this precious new life. The wonder of it all has left me amazed and grateful!

Thank you so much for your boundless generosity and unwavering support. We are deeply grateful for your kindness. Despite the challenges posed by the fire, you have consistently shown us love, warmth, and hospitality. We feel truly blessed to be part of this community. We pray that God's abundance and peace be upon you, and that God's storehouses of blessings be always open to you.

Some months ago, as Valencia and I considered whether to have a child or wait, we sought guidance through prayer. I was initially more hesitant, but as we opened our Bibles, mine fell open to Psalm 127. While I'm not suggesting this as a decision-making method, the psalm's words resonated deeply with me, and I felt a clear sense that we were meant to welcome a baby. Little did we know, the baby was already on the way! God was graciously preparing us to receive the news with joy and peace, rather than worry.



Psalm 127 (NRSVUE)

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil,
for he gives sleep to his beloved.*

*Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the sons of one's youth.
Happy is the man who has
his quiver full of them.
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.*

Thank you again, OPC, for your overwhelming kindness and generosity. You have become an integral part of Joachim's journey and story.

Be Blessed,
Marc & Valencia Alfonse

Congregational Life Committee

We like to thank all those who signed up to host Fellowship Hour May and June. **The CLC is thankful for your assistance.** The next few months we will 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

Just fill out the SignUpGenius. Here's the link: <https://tinyurl.com/OPCFellowshipHour>. If you have any questions, please contact Artia Benjamin email at clc@overbrookpresb.org.

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:

- | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| • May 5, 2024 | | • July 7, 2024 | | • July 21, 2024 |
| • June 2, 2024 | | • July 14, 2024 | | • July 28, 2024 |



Honoring Our Graduates

A list of the names of our high school and college graduates will be published in our June newsletter. If you know of any graduates in high school or college please email the name of the graduate and their achievement either to **Artia Benjamin (newlife5125@gmail.com)** or **Lisa Faso (office@overbrookpresb.org)** no later than **Wednesday, May 22**.

Gardens and Greens



Although we are a church on the move, our building and grounds still remain at the Crossroads. During this time of relocation, OPC gardens can be a sign of hope and promise; they can be a gift to our neighborhood. If you would like to help keep OPC in bloom over the coming summer months, please be in contact with Rachel Carnahan (carnahanrachel@gmail.com) or Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org). The soil is rich; the opportunities are endless! All are welcome to join in this effort.

Children & Family Ministry

Summary for Busy Parents & Caregivers

May Schedule

- **Prayerground, Biblical Storytelling, and Nursery** are offered every Sunday in May.
- **Children's (3-8) and Big Kid's (9-11) Sunday School** will be held on May 19th and 26th only. These are the last two Sunday School sessions of the program year.
- **Confirmation** will be celebrated on Sunday, May 12th.
- **Treetop Quest** for 9-11 year-olds and their caregivers will be held on 5/19 or 6/2. Reply to our RSVP so we can determine a final date.

May Action Items

- **RSVP** for our 9-11 Year-Old Treetop Quest Event by form or email.
- **Fill-out** a Registration Form for Vacation Bible School 2024. Final location pending.
- **Volunteer** to teach or assist in our new Sunday School Class for 9-11 year-olds.

Children & Family Ministry (continued)

Enhancing our Ministry to 9 - 11 Year Olds

To read the full letter sent to parents and caregivers, please head to tinyurl.com/Big-Kids-Letter-April

New Big Kid's Sunday School

The CFM is launching a new Sunday School classroom specifically tailored for learners aged 9-11! Big Kid's Sunday School (BKS) will provide an engaging and developmentally appropriate learning experience for upper elementary and early middle school children with the hope of fostering their exploration of faith and spiritual growth. This important and necessary program expansion is truly and only made possible by the efforts of volunteers and leaders. To that end, The CFM is seeking parents who will contribute their time and talents during this unique post-fire ministry period, believing your partnership on our team during weekly Sunday School is essential for our learning community's overall success and sustainability. Whether you feel called to lead, assist, or prepare Sunday School materials, your presence on even one Sunday will bless our children.

- Please sign up for a volunteer slot here (<https://tinyurl.com/CFMVolunteerSignUpForm>) and begin the online clearance process in compliance with Overbrook's Child Protection Policy (2020).

RSVP to Treetop Quest

The CFM will host an afternoon at Treetop Quest exclusively for our 9-11 year-olds and their families! This unique adventure will serve as the first of several events that aims to strengthen the bonds within this special group and close our Sunday School unit on "Sabbath". We kindly ask caregivers to make childcare arrangements for younger children, ensuring that only 9-11 year-olds and at least one guardian will be present. Additionally, we ask caregivers contribute 50% of the cost for those who will participate in the treetop activities, while the CFM Ministry will cover the remaining 50% and the cost of pizza. Details:

Treetop Event Schedule

- 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Worship at Penn Wynne
- 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM Fellowship Hour with Pizza
- 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Adventure at Treetop Quest

Caregivers, please reply via form here (<https://tinyurl.com/Treetop-Participation>) or letting us know via email:

1. Which Sunday works best for your family? **May 19th**? **June 2nd**? Or **both**?
2. How many adults and children will participate in the treetop course itself?
3. Please indicate if you can carpool some folks and how many individuals you can accommodate. If you plan to attend, we would greatly appreciate your help with carpooling from Penn Wynne Pres. to Fairmount Park.

Register for Vacation Bible School 2024

Campers, Counselors, and Volunteers, sign up here (tinyurl.com/VBS-Participation-24)

- Dates: Tuesday, June 25, Wednesday, June 26, Thursday, June 27
- Theme: *Less is More*
- Location Pending. Stay Tuned.



Youth Ministry

Below are some upcoming youth events. Please contact us at youth@overbrookpresb.org with any questions about these events or volunteer opportunities. Again, we are thankful for the support of their parents and the general congregation.

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Sunday, May 12, 2024.** Confirmation Sunday.
- **June 20-23, 2024.** Confirmands Civil Rights Pilgrimage 2024 to Birmingham, Montgomery, & Selma, Alabama.
- **June 25-27, 2024.** Vacation Bible School is looking for youth volunteers.
- **Sunday, June 30, 2024. Youth Sunday.** The youth will participate in all aspects of the worship service.
- **July 14 -20, 2024.** Youth Summer Mission Trip (see page 1).

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1.....Seth Adjei
- 5/3.....Gail Kaercher
- 5/4.....Christy Hearlson
Pat Ogundele
- 5/5.....Kristan Davis
Lucas Ziemba
- 5/7.....Karin Ferguson
Theo Goedde
- 5/8.....Dick Williamson
- 5/9.....Liam Clifford
- 5/10.....Auriane Geraldo
- 5/11.....Bob Kothari
- 5/12.....Joanne Roman
Caroline Skinner
Christoph Von Andreae
- 5/13.....Daniel Biedermann
Sage Bryan
- 5/17.....Nora Whalen
- 5/18.....Joanna Scherluebbe
- 5/19.....Kendi Long
- 5/20.....Nancy Gilhool
Rebecca Lazo
- 5/21.....John Baker
John Roman
- 5/25.....Isaac Gosfield
Isidora Gosfield
Phoebe Morris
- 5/26.....Lena Goedde
- 5/27.....Bob Harden
- 5/29.....Jim McDaniel
- 5/30.....Keedra Carroll

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 compassionate care for Joyce, friend of Bette Homer.

Prayers for comfort and healing for Larry Arata who remains under medical care.

Prayers of consolation for Michael Eastling and his family, on the death of his stepmother.

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

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

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

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

Prayers of gratitude for all who have supported Overbrook during our time of relocation.

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

Ongoing Weekly Events

Every Sunday

- Children's Sunday School (Grades PreK-5). Following Biblical Storytelling. Runs from the 2nd Sunday to last Sunday of the month.
- Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12). Following the Sermon. Runs from the 2nd 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. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.
- Bible Study. 10:30 AM. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El and Online.
Join <https://tinyurl.com/46n54thm> - Meeting ID: 894 5497 9360



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 12:15 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.		