



NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

Overbrook PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Overbrook Church Staff

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Pastor

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

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Help Shape our Future! Complete the Capital Campaign e-Survey

As we begin preparations for our capital campaign, your voice is essential! We are conducting a survey to gather input from the entire congregation to help guide the direction of this important initiative. This is your opportunity to share your thoughts, hopes, and dreams for the future of Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

The survey is quick, easy, and available online. Your participation will help us plan wisely as we seek to enhance our worship space, improve facilities, and strengthen our ministries for years to come.

Please take a moment to complete the e-survey today at this link:

https://communitycounseling.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cTIDB aK7TRHHKrY. Every response matter as we build a vision for the future of our church, grounded in faith and community.

For more information or assistance with the survey, please contact **Carol Rozmiarek (carol@overbrookpresb.org)**.

Advent 2024

Look up and be amazed! The season of Advent begins on December 1. On **November 25**, each OPC household will receive our annual Advent Daily Devotional. This year's devotional, *Starry Nights: A season filled with light and wonder*, will be available in both hard copy and online versions.

In celebration of the season, all are invited to dress warmly and participate in our special outdoor event on **Saturday, December 14: Sky Watch: Meteor Shower in the Advent Sky**. Please save the date and watch for further details regarding time and location.

Our Advent and Christmas Eve services at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church are listed below. We're still working out some of the details, so watch for emails and next month's newsletter for updates.

- **Jazz Advent Service** – Sunday, December 15, 11:00 AM
- **Blue Christmas Service** – Date & Time to be announced
- **Christmas Eve Family Service & Pageant** – Tuesday, December 24, Time to be announced
- **Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service** – Tuesday, December 24, Time to be announced

Messiah Sing Concert

Mark your calendars for this year's Messiah Sing, now in its 30th year!

Despite our church's challenging circumstances, our annual *Messiah* Sing is continuing without interruption! Join us for this beloved Advent tradition in which the audience is part of the performance: the Overbrook Quartet sings the arias from Handel's *Messiah*, while the audience sings the choruses for a thrilling "surround sound" experience.

This year, we are delighted to hold this event at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 415 East Athens Avenue in Ardmore. They and their Director of Music, Andy Heller, graciously allowed us the use of their space for choir rehearsals in the spring, and we appreciate their hospitality for this important concert.

Don't have a score? We'll lend you one. Don't want to sing? No problem—just come and enjoy the music. We hope to see you at the *Messiah* Sing...and don't forget to stay for the reception!

30th Annual Messiah Sing
Sunday, December 1, at 3:00 PM
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
415 Athens Ave., Ardmore
Reception to follow
Free-will offering collected

In the Spirit at Overbrook...

Spiritual practice is at the center of life at Overbrook. In addition to our communal worship on Sunday mornings, all are invited to participate in the diverse spiritual practices offered throughout the week. Please consider exploring the following opportunities for faith formation and spiritual growth:

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group: The prayer group gathers by Zoom each Tuesday, from 7:30–8:30 AM. To join the Tuesday Prayer Group on Zoom, please use the following link: tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer.

Centering Prayer: Combining spoken and contemplative prayer, Centering Prayer participants meet in the Temple Beth Hillel–Beth El library each Wednesday from 9:30–10:00 AM.

Adult Bible Study: Led by Pastor Adam, from 10:30 AM–12:00 PM each Wednesday, Bible Study participants meet in the library of Temple Beth Hillel–Beth El.

To learn more about these opportunities, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org).

Adult Forum Welcomes All

Adult Forum offers opportunities for shared discourse and learning in the comfort of community. Meeting on Zoom from **7:00 to 8:00 PM on the third and fourth Tuesday of each month**, Adult Forum combines peer-led discussions with presentations from guest speakers. Please join us on **November 19th and 26th** for our discussion *Tests of Faith, Acts of Courage: The Intersection of Christianity and Politics*. For more information, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org).

Link to Adult Forum Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/OPCForumZoom>

Offset Your Apportionment

Each year, our church makes a significant financial contribution to the Presbytery and the PC(USA), helping to support their vital work and mission. We contribute **\$32 per member**, totaling nearly \$12,000 annually. We are inviting members of our congregation to consider offsetting their share with a \$32 donation. Your contribution will not only sustain the important mission of the Presbytery but also help reduce the financial burden on our church. To contribute, you can donate online at <https://onrealm.org/overbrookpresb/give/apportionment> or put a check made out to OPC in the Sunday offering. Please be sure to write apportionment on the memo.

Vote With Confidence

Transportation Assistance on Election Day

Through the collaborative efforts of the Octavius V, Cato Ministry of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas and Overbrook's Parish Care Ministry, transportation assistance is available from your door to your polling place. If you are in need of a ride to the polls on **Tuesday, November 5**, please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org; (M) 610-742-8415). We have volunteer drivers ready to provide this assistance for those in Philadelphia (19151, 19131, 19139, 19143, 19130) and the surrounding suburban communities of Lower Merion Township, Haverford Township, Upper Darby, Drexel Hill, and Lansdowne. If you live beyond those locations, and are in need of this service, *please call...we'll be there!*

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 (420-370-4211 or marylou.ryce@gmail.com).

Whether you are experienced in hand crafts or would like to learn, we invite you to join us at our monthly meeting. The next meeting will be held **Wednesday, November 13 at 11:00 AM** at the home of Bette Homer, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia.



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.

Mission & Outreach

After 16 years of faithfully leading the ministry to the **Life Center of Delaware County**, Nancy Gilhool is hanging up her apron and turning in her spoon. We calculate that she has fed over 13,000 people. In the pre-Covid years, over 200 community members would line up at the Life Center for dinner; since then, we regularly serve the 40 residents. As Nancy says, "That's a lot of pasta!" When you see Nancy, please thank her for her many years of service.

Now, we turn to YOU! **Do you feel called to feed the hungry?** Do you like to work on a cooking team of cheerful volunteers? Can you follow a recipe or create your own? Do we have a dream job for you!

Overbrook prepares the dinner meal on the 5th Tuesday of a month, usually 5 or 6 times a year. The Mission & Outreach Committee purchases the ingredients to your specifications; your job is to lead a team of volunteers in food preparation. If you would like more information or (prayerfully) are interested, please contact [Jeff](#) or [Janet](#) Bowker.



On a beautiful October Saturday, Jim Frick and Mads Cosgriff represented Overbrook Presbyterian at the **Rebuilding Together** event in the Haddington section of Philadelphia. The event provided critical repair for 10 homeowners on Irving Street. Way to go, Jim and Mads!



Many thanks to all who contribute paperback books and calendars to our ongoing **Books Through Bars** collection. BTB distributes reading material, free of charge, to the incarcerated in a 6-state area by fulfilling each request, as best they can, with donated books, magazines, comics, puzzle books. The OPC team volunteers on the first Saturday of each month. Our next journey to Baltimore Avenue is on **Saturday, November 2**. We meet at the OPC parking lot at 1:00 PM to carpool and always return by 4:00 PM. Contact [Janet Bowker](#) if you would like more information or want to join in the fun!



Another aspect of our food ministry is to provide breakfast items once a month to the visitors to the **Norristown Hospitality Center**. Headed by our own Sunanda Charles Brown, "The Hospitality Center provides numerous services and supplies five days a week to alleviate the day-to-day stress of poverty and homelessness, including breakfast, showers, bathrooms, toiletries, and clothing." (from their website)

The task is easy: Add items from [this list](https://tinyurl.com/37zj5cpu) (<https://tinyurl.com/37zj5cpu>) to your shopping cart, and bring them to church on **Sunday, November 17**. Meet the ever-young Ann Elise and Earl Lindgren who graciously transport items to Norristown and give yourself a pat on the back!

Congregational Life

Fellowship Hour Hosts

We are grateful for all those who have hosted in October. Thank you to those who have volunteered to host in November. If you would like an opportunity to practice hospitality and kindness toward one another or celebrate a special event, please sign up to be a Fellowship Hour host. We still need your help.

There are several ways to help:

- Be a host – bring the food
- Set up before service – arrive at 10:30 AM to help the host
- Clean up after Fellowship Hour – help the host

Just fill out the SignUp Genius.

Here's the link: www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4aacae2da2fe3-fellowship

Hosts provide 150 bites of food. Keep the selection of food simple. Handheld food only. Example: one fresh selection (such as a bag of Cuties); one gluten-free option; enough other snacks to fill 10 to 15 small trays. Hosts **do not have to provide** table covers, plates, cups, trays or utensils. Hosts **do not have to set up or break down the tables and chairs.**

If you have any questions, please contact Artia Benjamin (clc@overbrookpresb.org). You will receive a reminder email from the SignUp Genius 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".



The Coffee Ministry

With the return of the coffee ministry, let's practice being more planet friendly and personalize your coffee experience by bringing your own coffee mug.

The Congregational Life Committee thanks the following people for hosting Fellowship Hour in October.

- October 6th – On World Communion Sunday the Congregational Life Committee hosted Fellowship Hour. We received donations of handheld snacks from different cultures from the congregation. Thanks to everyone who contributed!
- October 13th – Melinda and Devin Rutan in honor of their daughter, Eleanor Jane Rutan's baptism.
- October 20th – There was no Fellowship Hour.
- October 27th – Our Heritage Sunday celebration during Fellowship Hour hosted by Keedra Carroll.

Available Dates to Host Fellowship Hour

If you would like an opportunity to practice hospitality and kindness toward one another or celebrate a special event. Please sign up to be a Fellowship Hour host. We still need your help.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| • November 10, 2024 | • December 1, 2024 | • December 22, 2024 |
| • November 17, 2024 | • December 8, 2024 | • December 29, 2024 |
| • November 24, 2024 | • December 15, 2024 | |

Retired Person's Ministry (RPM)

OPC's Retired Person's Ministry: A Season of Gratitude. Throughout November, all are encouraged to join RPM in a month-long celebration of gratitude. It is our fervent hope that this focused season of gratitude will continue far beyond the days of the month. All are welcome to join us for our November events:

- **November 1: Cooking in Community. 9:00 AM–12:00 PM.** Christ's Community Church kitchen, 337 Riverview Road, Drexel Hill. Please join us as we prepare the floral arrangements and reception meal for Olga Hoggard's Memorial Service. Our morning will be spent with enduring gratitude for Olga's abundant kindness and in honor of her enduring legacy of service at Overbrook.
- **November 8: RPM Plus. 10:00 AM–12:00 PM.** The undercroft at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. *Building Spirit and Creating "Gratitude Art"*. Join us for a morning of good-spirited fellowship, as we make gratitude cards for the elder members of our community. Coffee and creativity will be in abundant supply
- **November 22: RPM Café. 10:30 AM –1:00 PM.** Please join us for our Thanksgiving Cafe...a time to gather with friends, share a fine meal and look ahead to the coming season. A panel of OPC and St. Thomas speakers will present *The Power of Gratitude: Finding Hope in Challenging Times*. All are welcome...at all RPM events.



October's RPM Cafe



Cooking in Community in October

Youth Ministry

We had a wonderful time at our Back-to-School Celebration on September 27th in our beloved OPC building. We enjoyed a night full of good food, games and wonderful conversation.



On Sunday October 20th, youth members Hannah, Wes, Penny, Blake, Emma, Aria, Asa, and Andrew with adult chaperones, Becky, Virginia, Michelle, Scott, and Keith and organizer, Dawn, volunteered with the Kensington Project. They handed out food, clothing and toiletries with love and smiles. Thank you for the donations and stay tuned for more ways that you can help support their ministry.



Looking ahead, we're so excited to start **Monthly Youth Group!** This will be a time for our 6th-12th graders to gather together over food, games, movies, and conversation. All those 18+ will require clearances.

- **Save the Dates!** The first Friday of every month. November 1, December 6, January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2. (In January we will meet on the 2nd Friday of the month due to the holidays.)
- **Where:** Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 6373 City Avenue, Philadelphia. 5:30-8:00 PM. Use the entrance by the playground.
- **RSVP:** Please email youth@overbrookpresb.org or text Suchita Fiorillo at 215-450-5356 on the Sunday before we meet so we know who's coming to plan for food.

Parents of 6th-12th Graders: Please join us on **Friday, November 1st at 5:30-6:00 PM** for a brief informational session about youth programming at OPC. Hear about highlights from the past, upcoming plans, and how you can get involved.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is every Sunday following the sermon. Please join us to learn more about the how's and why's of following Jesus.

For more information about the OPC Youth Ministry contact us at youth@overbrookpresb.org.

Children & Family Ministry

For digital access to this newsletter, links, and email addresses, please go to:

tinyurl.com/CFM-24Nov-Newsletter

Coco Mexican Fiesta for Children and Youth – NEXT Sunday, November 3rd!

It's not a Sunday School Day...but that doesn't mean we can't celebrate! Our 9-11-year-old Sunday School class invites children and youth to the Lower Level of Penn Wynne for a Mexican Fiesta featuring a special screening of the heartwarming Pixar film *Coco*. Before the movie begins, 9-11-year-olds will share a brief presentation on monarch butterflies, the climate activist, Homero Gómez González, and Día de Muertos. During the event, children will be prompted to take a break and rejoin their families for communion, after which they may choose to stay in the pews or return to the fiesta. We encourage everyone to come downstairs during Fellowship Hour to continue the celebration! Parents are kindly asked to sign up to bring a snack to share by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/CFM-Fiesta>



Mexican Climate Activist Homero Gómez González

First Meeting of the Contemplative Caregiver Reflection Group

The Contemplative Caregiver Reflection Group will hold its first session and meal on either Tue. Nov. 19th, Wed., Nov. 20th, or Thu. Nov. 21st, at 6:15 PM in the basement of Overbrook Presbyterian Church. About 10 participants have expressed interest and are sharing their preferred date with leadership by email. If you are interested in attending, please let Anthony or Molly know your date preference. The gathering will culminate at ~ 7:30 PM. This monthly gathering invites parents, grandparents, and caregivers to explore the spiritual dimensions of caregiving. Connect with the Holy Spirit and others through spiritual reading, contemplative practices, and creative response, all while sharing a light meal. We'll create a safe and welcoming space to navigate the joys, challenges, and insights that come with caregiving. In 2024, we'll draw from *Bless This Mess* by Rev. Molly Baskette and Ellen O'Donnell, Ph.D., and in 2025, we'll explore *The Spirituality of Caregiving* by Henri Nouwen. Childcare is available so that all can participate fully. If you are interested, reach out to Anthony Carrella and Molly Burke at cfm@overbrookpresb.org. All are welcome!

Technical Leaders Needed for December's Multigenerational Christmas Pageant

We can't wait for this year's Christmas Pageant, and many participation opportunities are forthcoming for children and youth of all ages. For now, The Children and Family Ministry is seeking adult volunteers (18+) for setup, ushering, logistical support, and cleanup on **Sunday, December 24th, from 3:30 to 6:00 PM** at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church. These volunteers will serve as part of the technical leadership team rather than acting in the pageant. To sign up, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/CFM-Pageant-24>

Committee Announcement: The Q4 Meeting of the Children and Family Ministry will be held on Wednesday, November 13th by Zoom.

Leaders are asked to review an agenda, study resources, and submit discussion items to Molly prior to the meeting. A link will be distributed to committee members and parent representatives on the day of the meeting.

Reflecting on our Journey to the Heart Vacation Bible School

Twenty children gathered for an all-day Vacation Bible School that was held at OPC on Thursday, October 3rd. The theme for the VBS was “Journey to the Heart.” Our program centered around the children’s book “Journey to the Heart,” which we also use in Sunday School to introduce Centering Prayer practices to young learners. By incorporating contemplative activities, we aimed to guide the children in becoming aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence within themselves, their neighbors, and the world around them.



Our Children and Families Ministry team created multiple educational and artistic spaces—both indoors and outdoors—that forged a Christ-like atmosphere of welcome, love, fun, and care for our young learners. Our CFM team of staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure individualized attention was given to each child. The children had a photography class taught by professional photographer, Cindi Landmesser, a music class led by Dr. Chris Gage, and the lesson “Weaving with the Heart,” taught by expert crafter, Faith Eastling. The children also painted and designed their own creative visions for OPC’s stained glass windows project.



In the words of Mr. Anthony: “It was clear that our children had a fantastic time, strengthening their relationships with one another and with the Holy Spirit. We know they will never forget this experience.

—Davorka Sabljak

Children’s Sunday School in November

Practicing the Presence: The Lives of Young Saints

Children’s Sunday School invites kids to explore their faith and spiritual life among their peers. Classes are offered for children in three age groups to cultivate developmentally conscious learning communities. To participate in our **3–5**, **6–8**, and **9–11** classes, please head to tinyurl.com/RegisterKids-OPC.

This month, sessions will be held on **Sundays, Nov. 10, 17, and 24** on the lower level of Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church. There is no Sunday School on Sunday, November 3 to accommodate Communion and to celebrate a fiesta (see above).

Resources for Children and Families

The CFM offers a central hub where families, caregivers, and volunteers can find helpful resources at the click of a button. Through our dedicated Linktree linktr.ee/OPCCFM, you can connect with **Ministry Updates** 📅, **Forms and Documents** 📄, **Opportunities to Serve** ❤️, **Resources** that support spiritual life, theological education, and child development as your family deepens its journey in faith 📖, and **Ministry Directory** 📁

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. 10:30 AM. Temple Beth Hillel–Beth El.

Every Thursday

- Choir Rehearsal. 7:30 PM. Gold preschool room of Overbrook Presbyterian Church. All are welcome, regardless of experience or skill level. For more information, contact Chris Gage (music@overbrookpresb.org).

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	2nd 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	Wed. Nov. 13*	Molly Andrews Burke
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 NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- 11/1Nora Halfenger
- 11/2Koy Davis
- 11/5Gopal Subramanian
- 11/6Martha Phan
Taron Smith
- 11/9Edward Harvey
- 11/10Chris Ziemba
- 11/11Laurie Geers
- 11/12Nina Bowser
- 11/13Shayla Smedley
- 11/17Emma Biedermann
- 11/18Stevie Stephens
- 11/19Devin Rutan
- 11/22Zack Wong
- 11/23Kristin Taylor
- 11/24Kai Davis
- 11/26Jason Sheau
Yvonne Clark
- 11/29Kaleah Parker
- 11/30Cindy Gray



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 of gratitude for one hundred and thirty-five years of sustained ministry, service, and faithful witness at Overbrook.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Lillian Carnahan, mother of Rachel Carnahan.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Luis Wong as he undergoes medical treatment for post-transplant liver disease.
- Prayers of comfort and peace for all who mourn the passing of OPC member Colleen Granata, mother of Brad Biedermann.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Nancy, Cindi Landmesser's aunt, who is facing in-going medical challenges.
- Prayers for comfort and healing mercies for Lionel Lombroso, a dear member of Anthony Carrella's extended family, who is under medical care.
- Prayers for comfort and healing for Bill Long, father of Eric Long, as he undergoes medical treatment.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Denise Stewart, following recent knee replacement surgery.
- Prayers for Janie Martin's cousin, Maureen Cook, who is undergoing medical care for pancreatic cancer.
- Prayers of compassion and comfort for Joan and Jim Moylan who are experiencing health challenges.
- Prayers for comfort and peace for Mary Scott as she receives home hospice care.
- Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for Jim Mc Daniel's mother, Doris McDaniel, who is receiving hospice care at Wesley Inspired Living.
- Prayers for all who are facing health concerns, especially Jane Bevan, Bob Bevan, Scott Long, Gwen Harden, Ed Harvey, Stephanie Stokes, Milton Stokes, Valerie Craig, and Natalie DeShields.
- Prayers for strength and enduring spirit for family caregivers.
- Prayers of hope and peace for families in crisis.
- Prayers of gratitude for the faith communities that continue to sustain Overbrook during our time of relocation.
- Prayers for vision, wisdom, and stamina for all who are leading and supporting the revitalization and restoration efforts at Overbrook.

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