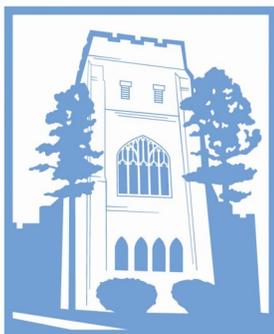


# NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

## 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*

Sharon Parker  
*Parish Care Associate*

Dr. Christopher Gage  
*Director of Music*

Anthony Carrella  
*Director of Children and Family Ministry*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

In October, the session approved new vision documents for the church. These documents include a new mission statement, a description of core values, and three-year goals for the church. As we work toward these goals, you will hear me discuss these documents throughout the year. As brief statements, they are easy to read, but they contain the depths of the many conversations we have had over the years. These documents represent an attempt to gather the richness of our life at OPC into something portable and easy to remember. Take our Mission Statement, it reads:

"Overbrook Presbyterian Church actively seeks to worship God, serving each other and the world through a welcoming, loving, and inclusive ministry."

The first thing to note about the mission statement is that it frames our work as a church as an act of worship--"actively seeks to worship God." Worship is not something we do only on Sunday mornings, but as a church, we aim to present our praise, our lives, and our service as acts of worship to God. We are, as Paul notes, presenting our lives "as living sacrifices."

Additionally, our witness and ministry is to those both near and far--"serving each other and the world." God has blessed us with a church in a particular place. We are called to serve our local community, and also, the Spirit of God calls our attention to the broader world. The global and the local are inextricably tied together. A ministry to refugees settling in our area, for instance, has deeper global connections than just our neighborhood. Fighting climate change is a local *and a global cause. Our pursuit of racial justice affects people in the neighborhood and people across the world.*

Finally, to be a part of our community is to commit to acts of generous welcome, inclusion, and love. We live in a divided world, where tribal affiliations hold strong influence. OPC is a rare community of grace and compassion amid the division. We aim to reflect the generosity of Christ in our welcome and love people as they grow, heal, and change by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It's a short mission statement, but it holds big ideas. May God humble us before the weight of these responsibilities. And may God bless us as we seek to live them out.

Adam

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## This Week at OPC

Join us this Sunday, as we celebrate Heritage Sunday and recognize members that have been part of OPC for 25 years or more. This year is the 132nd anniversary of our founding. We will be recognizing the following members for their years of membership:



### 25 Years

Brad Biedermann  
Margene Biedermann  
Peggy Boatwright  
Gwen Harden  
Jane Rozmiarek

### 30 Years

Sue Brastow  
Elaine DeVaughn  
Louis DeVaughn  
Dornall Guthrie  
Margaret "Peggie" Kaercher  
Patrice Pompa

### 35 Years

Carol Tulba  
Steven Kaercher

### 40 Years

Andrew Kaercher

### 55 Years

Richard Williamson

### 60 years

Bob Bevan  
Jane Bevan



For those, who will not be able to join us in person, worship will be live-streamed on You-Tube starting at 10:30 a.m. Follow the link to connect to our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/3fLYlolgL-s>

### Trunk or Treat at OPC this Sunday following worship

October 31st, 2021, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. for Friends and Families of OPC



Families, and friends, are invited to start their Halloween day at Overbrook on Sunday, October 31st, with our Trunk or Treat celebration! Come dressed in your favorite costume and spend an hour safely trick or treating with family and friends. Throughout our church parking lot, you can:

- Trick or treat at the decked-out trunks of our church family.
- Sip on hot and cold apple cider at our *Cider Station*.
- Jam out to live music.
- Snap cute photos in our spooky photo booth.
- Stick around for our Jack-O-Lantern contest!

Everyone is invited to bring a carved jack-o-lantern with them to church and enter our Jack-o- lantern contest! Judges will award prizes to the best jack-o-lanterns in the following categories:

- Kids up to 12 years: Most creative pumpkin. Silliest pumpkin.
- 13 to 17 years: Most creative pumpkin. Creepiest pumpkin.
- Adults 18 years and older: Best use of the entire pumpkin.



Masks and distancing are required. Trunk or Treat is a family event, and parent supervision is required at all times. Get your cars, costumes, and jack-o-lanterns ready!

## Worship and Music



Welcome to November! We begin the month with a celebration of All Saints Day and end the month with the start of Advent.

Advent begins on November 28, the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, and this year we expect to celebrate Advent in the sanctuary. Each of the four Sundays of Advent, the Advent banner will lead the choir to the front of the church, and each week we will light a candle in the Advent wreath.

On December 5, the second Sunday of Advent, we will sing Messiah at 3:00 in the afternoon. Chris Gage will conduct the congregation in the choruses, and our soloists, Iris Fairfax, Amanda Staub, Toffer Mihalka, and Matthew Lulofs, will sing the arias. Everyone will wear masks.

On the third Sunday of Advent, December 12, we will decorate the sanctuary as an act of worship in our greening celebration. Chris has invited a brass ensemble to provide music for the service.

Advent is a very special time at Overbrook. Please plan to join us.

-Eileen Wiggins, Chair

## A Note from our Parish Care Associate



### Walking with Spirit: An invitation for Contemplation

Dear OPC Friends,

Considering that I am "*uniquely abled*," the following may seem like an odd statement: I love to walk...and I invite you to walk with me! While walking through the sanctuary of God's creation, peace, joy, and a greater sense of spiritual direction can be realized. On weekends in November, I will be walking a series of short trails in our area...and I hope you will join

me. It will be an opportunity for us to marvel at the changing seasons, the stark beauty of bare branches, and to listen...just listen to the sounds of creation. I look forward to these wonder-filled walks and to discovering what treasures God has in store for us. Cameras, conversation, and adventurers of all ages are welcome; discoveries are promised!

- Saturday, November 6: 9:00 AM Merion Botanical Park, 100 Merion Road, Merion Station (entrance closest to City Avenue)
- Saturday, November 13: 9:00 AM Kenealy Nature Park, Youngsford Road and Monticello Drive, Gladwyne (meet at the unpaved parking area)
- Saturday, November 20: 9:00 AM Haverford College Trail, 88-2 College Lane, Haverford
- Sunday, November 28: Noon (following worship) Merion Botanical Park, 100 Merion Road, Merion Station (entrance closest to City Avenue)

*"Walking with Spirit" is subject to weather conditions. Confirmation of the day's event will be sent through a Realm notice.*

Blessings,

Sharon Parker  
Parish Care Associate

## RPM Cafe

RPM is back in-person!

*But first, a few questions:* Q. Is RPM just for retirees? A. *Nope...*RPM events are open to all members and friends of OPC, regardless of age. Our attendees often reflect a 30-35 year age span. Q. Is there a membership fee? A. Again...*nope*. RPM offers a series of programs throughout the year that are provided at no cost to participants. Occasionally, there will be an admission/transportation fee for a "field trip," or a free-will offering. Q. What exactly does RPM offer? A. Warm fellowship, good-spirited humor, shared learning...*and so much more!*

Now...let's save the dates!



**November 19: The Grand Re-Opening!!** The RPM Café is back in business! Come join us in the OPC Chapel from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM for lunch and fellowship. The Café will be serving your choice of two soups: chicken pastina bisque and vegetable tortellini, as well as crackers, fresh fruit, and assorted beverages. Feel free to BYO salad or sandwich. Our program for November 19, *Live and Learn*, will give each attendee an opportunity to help build our calendar of events for 2022! Bright and bold ideas are welcome...as are guests.



**December 17: "It's Christmastime in the City: an RPM holiday adventure"** On the morning of December 17, we'll be leaving Overbrook and heading to Center City to enjoy the holiday festivities and lunch. Participants will have the opportunity to choose their own adventures. Each of the following holiday sites is walkable from Suburban Station: Comcast's Christmas Multimedia Display; the Christmas Market; Macy's (Wanamakers') Light Show; and Ice Skating at Dilworth Park. Dine at your convenience...a "rolling lunch" will be served from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM at Sharon Parker's home, 1815 JFK Blvd., #1607. All are welcome. The

only cost for the day will be that of transportation...or skate rental! Information regarding departure time and carpooling will be forthcoming.

The RPM Crew looks forward to welcoming you! (To assure the safety of all, the COVID guidelines for the City of Philadelphia will be followed. All attendees are asked to wear masks except when seated for meals.)

Blessings to all,  
Sharon Parker

## Congregational Life Committee



Thanks to the following people contributed to World Communion Sunday October 3<sup>rd</sup> Fellowship Hour refreshments: Artia Benjamin, Raelyn Harman, Nathalie May, Sharon Parker, Aimerie Scherluebbe and Karen Wong. There were snacks from Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, and the USA. Everyone like getting a taste of the different snacks.



- November is a time to be thankful and a time to start preparing for the Christmas Season.
- In December we are bringing back our Virtual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest, look for more details in This Week from OPC in December.
- In December we want to welcome our College Students home for the holidays, please let us know when you been home. Please contact Artia Benjamin at [newlife5125@gmail.com](mailto:newlife5125@gmail.com)

## Youth Ministry

### Youth Volunteer opportunity:

#### Assembling toiletries kits on 11/14/21 and feeding the hungry on 11/24/21

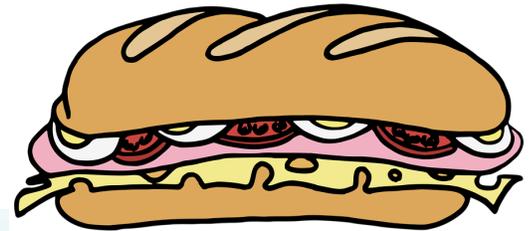
Middle and high school youths are invited to participate in our next service event with the Kensington Project, which delivers food, clothing, hygiene products and more to some of our neediest neighbors in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. This will be the second time that OPC youth and some adult volunteer to pack and deliver food for the Kensington Project. In early August about 150 sandwiches were made at the OPC kitchen and handed out with water and chips at a park in Kensington. Everyone involved that day realized how much our help was needed and well received by the people they met that day. It was an opportunity for our young OPC members to make a small difference in through service.

This time we will expand this service project by including 120 toiletries kits donated by OPC's Mission & Outreach. We are inviting OPC youth to assemble these kits in the Wistar-Morris Room on **Sunday 11/14 at 11:45 am - 12:30 pm**. During that time participants of the August trip to Kensington will be available to answer questions from interested young volunteers or their families in the McMillan Chapel. Since we are headed into the colder season, we ask our congregation to make donations if they are moved: toiletries, hats, gloves or socks are needed.

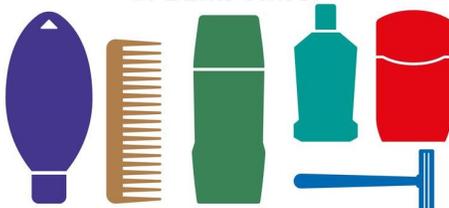
Our next trip to Kensington is planned for **Sunday 11/21/21, 9:30-2:00 pm**. We will meet at church at 9:30 am to share a brief devotion and then get to work. We will make about 150 sandwiches and assemble bagged lunches. Coolers will be packed and then parents and youths will head out to serve our neighbors in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. Afterwards we offer to gather again at church for a debrief meeting for those who participated.

This event is available for volunteers from 6th grade up. Parent participation is recommended for the younger middle school students.

Thank you in advance for your support & involvement,  
Becky, Brian, Christoph and the OPC Youth Leadership Team



TOILETRIES



## Stewardship Committee



Pledge season has officially begun. As you begin to think about your contributions for 2022, keep in mind that these decisions are not made lightly and we understand that. Please know that your contributions go to the work, upkeep and operations of the church. There will be information over the coming weeks about how to make your pledge. Pledge Sunday will be November 14th and since we are back in person, pie will be served!

-Keedra Carroll, Chair

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee continues to review our 2021 financials, and evaluate our revenue vs. expenses each month. We are balancing the need for property investments, which are needed and best done when the church is not at capacity, with diligence around the church financial security.

In our October meeting we reviewed August financials. We noted that giving continues to beat the historical 3-year average, but is lower than last year, and not able to compensate for the lack of rental income. In addition, property projects like exterior building repair and boiler replacement require some additional funding. To date this year, we have withdrawn \$410K from the Endowment in order to keep the operating account at agreed-to levels.

One process improvement you will see soon is the switch to credit card processing in Realm. As a result of this change, online pledge forms will be available for pledge season, which we hope will make the pledge and budgeting experience more streamlined for all.

Thank you again for your continued support for the mission and ministry of Overbrook Church.

Respectfully,  
Lainie Blodgett  
Stephanie Morris  
Sara Davis  
Bill Baker  
Trudy Sheau

## Deacons

### Happy November Birthdays

11/1	Nora Halfenger	11/22	Zach Wong
11/2	Koy Davis	11/24	Kai Davis
	Simon Trindade		Judith Swartz
11/5	Gopal Subramanian	11/26	Jason Sheau
11/6	Martha Phan	11/29	John Nathaniel
	Taron Smith		Kaleah Parker
11/10	Chris Ziemba	11/30	Cindy Gray
11/11	Laurie Geers		
11/13	Susie Baker		
11/17	Emma Biedermann		
11/18	Sarah Stephens		



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)

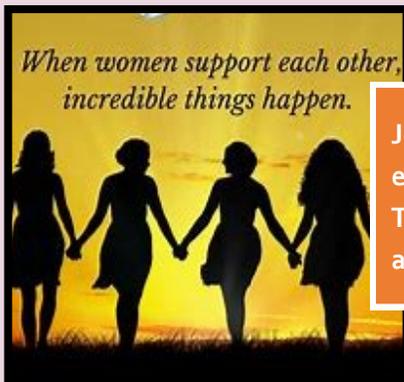
### Prayer List

- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Sara Davis who is in Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital following a stroke.
- Prayers for healing and comfort for Judy Williamson following successful breast cancer surgery.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Sabrina Johnson's grandmother, Flossye Johnson, who is currently hospitalized in Delaware.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Becky Lazo's mother Susan Leach, who remains under medical care.
- Prayers for continued healing and restoration of strength for Caroline Skinner following her successful kidney transplant surgery.
- Prayers of hope and healing for Margaret Young's brother Chuck Lundeen, who is undergoing medical treatment for cancer.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Lincoln Hollowell, father of Aimerie Scherluebbe.
- Prayers for Stephanie Morris and her family.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Bill Long, father of Eric Long.
- Prayers for healing, hope, and comfort for Wendy Fraser, sister of Jeremy Blatchley, as she continues medical treatment for cancer.
- Prayers of healing, hope, and comfort for Marjorie Wright, cousin of Rev. LoisAnn Furgess-Oler as she receives medical care for leukemia.
- Prayers for healing and comfort of Ted Dillon as he recovers from back surgery.
- Prayers for healing, hope and comfort of Keith Young as he continues to receive medical treatment for cancer.
- Prayers for those who face on-going health challenges, especially Aqueelah Folwell, Stephanie Stokes, Judy Swartz, Ed Harvey, Ellen Burr and Terri Carter.

Please contact Terri Hunter ([teresahunter42@gmail.com](mailto:teresahunter42@gmail.com)) or Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) add names to the prayer list.

### Women's 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](mailto: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

## General Announcements



We need people to host Fellowship Hour. If you are interested, please follow the link to the sign up genius. <https://tinyurl.com/4bxe8caf> or call the church office and leave a message. For instructions on how to host Fellowship Hour, follow the link: <https://tinyurl.com/psjhtd4x>



## Weekly Opportunities

- Tuesday Women's Prayer & Support Group—7:30 am

Join <https://bit.ly/3yxD2F4> or call 646-558-8656,

Meeting ID: 932 4865 5338

- Wednesday Bible Study—10:30 am

Will resume on Wednesday, September 15 both in person and online.

Masks are required regardless of vaccination status.

To Join via zoom: [Wednesday Bible Study Zoom Link 10:30-12:00 pm](#)

- Thursday Vigil for Racial Justice—4:00 pm-6:30 pm

- Saturday Morning Men's' Group—9:00 am

Join <https://bit.ly/3hOXg6H> or call 646-558-8656,

Meeting ID: 920 1485 0418

- Sunday School for Children-PreK-Grade 6

Join us on the second, third, fourth and fifth Sunday of the month.

- **Indoor -> Outdoor:** Learners may arrive at 10:30 for indoor worship, stay to the children's message, and then walk with their teachers and leaders to the outdoor learning space.
- **Outdoor Only:** Learners arrive at 10:45 in the OPC playground. Indoor participants will meet the outdoor participants
- **Inclement Weather:** Should inclement weather remain in the forecast after 9:30 AM on any given Sunday, all learning will most likely occur in an indoor, ventilated space.

