

# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

October 2019

### *Letter from our Pastor*

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

Diversity is a gift. At the most recent New Member Inquirer’s class, the most common answer to the question “What attracted you to Overbrook Presbyterian Church?” was diversity. People are searching for diverse congregations that do more than tolerate difference. They are searching for a community that revels in difference. Diversity is at the heart of who we are. It is also at the heart of who God is. The great gift of the doctrine of the Trinity to the church is that God is one *and* three. God is a unity and a plurality. God’s own self contains difference. Furthermore, God’s whole creation is created with a wonderful diversity and all of it is described as “very good.” Diversity is a gift we give and a gift we have been given.

#### Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson  
*Designated Pastor*

Rev. David K. McMillan  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. Christopher Gage  
*Director of Music*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

Diversity is also a strength. In his fascinating book, *The Difference: How the Power of Diversity Creates Better Groups, Firms, Schools, and Societies*, Scott Page describes an experiment he created that pitted two sets of algorithms against each other to solve complex problems. The first set of algorithms were high powered but similar. The second were less powerful but diverse. Over and over the diverse set of algorithms outperformed the high powered ones. According to Scott, the high powered but similar algorithms would get stuck at the same problem, but the diverse ones rarely taxed their limits-- they just kept grinding away at a problem long after the high powered equations had been exhausted. The strength of diversity lies in its ability to solve intractable problems .

In an interview, Page explains this conclusion by talking about ketchup. Typically, he asserts, where people keep their ketchup defines their problem solving imagination when they run out of ketchup. Those who keep their ketchup in the refrigerator look to other spoilable condiments beside ketchup to put on their french fries—mustard or mayonnaise. But, if you are British and you keep your ketchup in your cupboard with the shelf-stable condiments, when you run out of ketchup you reach for malt vinegar. So when your French fries are hot, having both a refrigerator person and a cupboard person to help solve a problem increases the chances that you will find a tasty condiment to put on your French fries.

#### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Our diversity is our strength. This is why it is such a gift. Our world is full of some very complicated and intractable problems. More and more people are becoming aware that they cannot solve these problems alone. They will need a community of difference to ever have a chance to make a real difference. We *need* each other to meet the demands of the coming future. The great gift we give each other is the opportunity to come exactly as you are: the “very good” child of God. Together, by the grace of God and unified by the Spirit, we will meet the coming challenges as a community unified in its differences. Praise be to the triune God, who loved us enough to make us different.

-Adam

#### Inside This Issue:

Worship/Music .....	2
Congregational Life .....	3
Christian Education .....	4
Mission & Outreach.....	5
Stewardship.....	6
Deacons .....	7
Calendar .....	Back Cover

## Upcoming Worship Services

October 6, 2019

World Communion Sunday

Preaching: Adam Hearlson

Lay Leader: Bob Harden, Jr.

October 13, 2019

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Baptism-Grace Marshall

Preaching: Adam Hearlson

Lay Leader: TBD

October 20, 2019

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Adam Hearlson

Lay Leader: TBD

October 27, 2019

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Heritage Sunday

Celebration of Baptism-Koy Davis

Preaching: Adam Hearlson

Lay Leader: TBD



## Worship & Music

**New Date  
and Time**

Your Worship and Music Committee has changed its meeting time to the LAST Monday of each month, at 6:30 pm. We hope that this change will allow more working/younger folks to join us. We need to hear from as many parts of our congregation as possible as we move forward. Let Rachel Carnahan know, or come and join us on the last Monday of the month.



Do you enjoy making music? Perhaps you sang in choir in high school or college, or you previously rang handbells with a church or community group. Or maybe you've never participated in a musical activity but would like to try. Overbrook Presbyterian Church has many opportunities for you to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psalm 100). Come visit one of our rehearsals and see why the music program here is fulfilling and fun:

**Overbrook Choir**—Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m., in the Choir Room.

**Westminster Handbell Choir**—Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m., in the Bell Room (upstairs).

**Junior Choir**—Mondays, 5:30-6:15 p.m., in the Choir Room, with dinner to follow.

We have *immediate need* for three to four more handbell ringers, as well as sopranos and tenors; however, people of all ranges and interests are welcome! For more information, contact Chris Gage, Director of Music, at [music@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:music@overbrookpresb.org).

## Coffee Talk

### OUR PROPERTY - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

One of OPC's greatest assets is its gorgeous property—a historic chapel first built in 1889 that still beckons the curious to come inside for a peek. Hundreds of people pass through our doors every week for worship, study, fellowship, and healing, most without ever having to give thought to whether the roof leaks, the heat comes on, or if we are in safety compliance. For this, we are blessed with a dedicated Property Committee, who in recent months has worked on mold mitigation, flooring installation, leaky roof estimates, and the replacement of the City Avenue door.

This wonderful place of worship requires constant vigilance, upkeep, and investment. It's important for all who love this place to appreciate its historic beauty and be aware of some of its challenges.

To that end, OPC's Property Committee invites you to a Coffee Talk after worship on **Sunday, Oct. 6** to learn the good, the bad, and the ugly of OPC's property. Grab a snack at Coffee Hour and join us in the Chapel for a conversation and slide show of the latest in OPC Property issues.

## Congregational Life/Fellowship

**Save the Date:** Tuesday, November 19th, 1p-7p, OPC will be hosting the Philadelphia Presbytery meeting. All are welcome to attend all or part of the meeting. This is a chance to see first hand our larger but local PCUSA community at work. The participants are our Presbyterian neighbors and friends engaged in interesting, inspiring and challenging work throughout our region. Please see Raelyn or Artia, Co-Chairs of the Congregational Life Committee if you are available to help extend OPC hospitality that day.



Chancel Flowers

Chancel Flowers-If you would like to dedicate these flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one simply sign up in the Wistar Morris Room. The cost of these flowers is a suggested donation of \$35.00, checks can be made payable to Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

### Coffee Hour Ministry



We are in need of Coffee Hour Hosts for the following: **October 27**. A sign up genius has been created please look for it on the website.

This ministry is very flexible and can fit into the busiest of schedules. Instructions for this easily accomplished ministry are available on the OPC website. All ages can participate. Remember to **keep it simple**. There are always folks present to lend a hand. Coffee hour is a cherished tradition at OPC and hosts are heaped with gratitude by this congregation. For more information please contact Peggy Kaercher at 610-642-2906 or Pat Ogundele at 610-668-1309.

### Urban Suburban Book Club

Our book for October is *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover—The meeting is Tuesday October 15, 2019, 7:00 pm at Overbrook Presbyterian Church

#### Looking Ahead:

**November** - *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens - Meeting at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, November 29, 2019, 12 noon.

**December** - No Meeting.

This is a book club of diverse membership involving members of several Presbyterian churches, including Overbrook. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Alyce Marsh at 215-472-7886.

## Community Events



Saint Joseph's University (SJU) is hosting a series at the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations on "The Intersection of 'Race' and 'Religion' in the USA: African Americans, Jewish Americans, and Trauma" and

would like to extend an invitation to anyone that is interested in attending. The event is free and no registration is required.

In this series, three speakers discuss the experiences of African Americans and Jewish Americans in the predominantly Protestant Christian ethos of the United States.

--On October 23 Dr. Jodi Eichler Levine (Lehigh University) speaks on "Suffering Citizens: Past Traumas in Jewish and African American Youth Literature."

-On November 6 Dr. Paul Finkelman (Gratz College) speaks on "Did the Bible Sanction Slavery? How the Churches Used the Bible to Justify Slaveholding."

All events are in North Doyle Banquet Hall, Campion Student Center, Saint Joseph's University, 7:00-8:30pm. (Attendees are welcome at any or all of the presentations.)

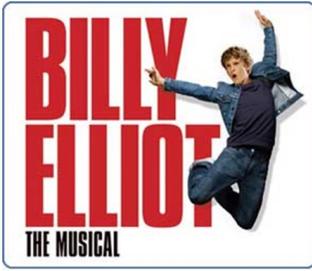
## Nominating Committee

The 2019 Nominating Committee has met and mapped out their plans for their work this fall. It is important to get suggestions from the congregation regarding who you think would be good candidates for Elder, Deacon or next year's Nominating Committee members-at-large. Forms will be included in the next 3 week's bulletins and available on the OPC web site ([overbrookpresb.org](http://overbrookpresb.org))

The deadline for submitting suggestions is **Friday, October 18**. Feel free to email or call Raelyn Harman, [raelynkay@aol.com](mailto:raelynkay@aol.com), 610-331-8972 with questions or the names of people you think we should consider.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our prayerful discernment.

Raelyn Harman, *Chairwoman*, Larry McGhee, *Vice-Chairman*, Sabrina Johnson, *Deacon Representative*, Alyce Marsh, Solomon Hunter, Davorka Sabljak, Jason Sheau *Congregational Representatives At-Large*: and Pastor Adam, *Ex-Officio Member*.



**NCT Concession  
Scheduling is  
ready for sign up**

**A VERY POPULAR PLAY WITH  
A VERY CONTEMPORARY  
THEME**

**NOV 1 THRU NOV 16, 2019**

**EVENING SHOWS ON FRIDAYS AND  
SATURDAYS**

**MATINEES ON SUNDAYS**

Revenues from **'THEATRE REFRESHMENT STAND** benefits OPC's general budget. Your support of this concession is essential and appreciated. Just give **Trudy Sheau** a call, **215-878-4872** or look for your invitation to serve via Genius Signup.

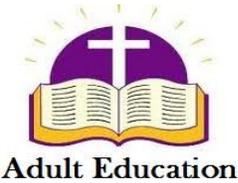
**Christian Education**



REMINDER: Sunday school is now occurring during church. Children in grades PreK-6 are invited to attend church and leave after the Children's Message to attend Sunday School. We are implementing a new Sunday School program this year called the rotation model, where kids focus on one Bible verse for several weeks, rotating to different learning workshops each week (e.g., cooking, art, Bible study, and science). Parents, you can find out which room your child is in by viewing the easel as you exit worship each week.



Also, we are in need of teachers! There's just a small group of teachers at the moment and we really need a few more. The schedule can be flexible, we can help you with your clearances if necessary, and it's a chance to work with some of our amazing children. Contact Adam Hearlson ([adam@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:adam@overbrookpresb.org)) or Becky Lazo ([rebeccalazo@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccalazo@hotmail.com)) with questions.



Meets every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Chapel  
All are welcome!

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
10/6/19	Sustainability-Becoming an Earth Care Congregation	11/3/19	Sustainability-Song of Songs and the Poetry of Environment
10/13/19	Sustainability-The Need for Ecological Conversion	11/10/19	Legacy-Planned Giving
10/20/19	Sustainability-Creation, the Bible and God	11/17/19	Legacy-End of Life Decisions
10/27/19	Sustainability-Creation, the Bible and God, Part II	11/24/19	Legacy-Planning your own Funeral Service



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

### One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) allows you to give to three great causes with one donation. The disaster program provides assistance to people who have been devastated by natural and man-made disasters. The hunger program provides food to the hungry. The self-development of people program provides grants to people to create better lives for communities. Very often all three programs work together.

You can donate by writing a check to Overbrook Presbyterian Church and writing OGHS in the memo line. There are envelopes and bulletins on the table outside of the Chapel. The Sunday school children were given fish boxes to collect coins for this cause.

We are wrapping up our campaign for One Great Hour of Sharing on **Sunday, October 6**. Please return the fish boxes for the dedication.

### Life Center Meal

There will be two meals prepared for the Life Center of Delaware County this month. The teachers of Friends Central are helping to support this ever-increasing need. Our regularly scheduled meal will be prepared and ready to serve for **Tuesday, October 29**. Please contact Nancy Gilhool to help prepare the meal or Janet Bowker to help serve the meal.

### Women's Dining Circle

On September 20th, a lovely Friday evening, 29 women gathered at the home of Karen Wong to enjoy a delicious meal together and to support Teachers Teammates, an organization started by Raelyn Harman to provide school supplies for teachers in Delaware County. After hearing from Raelyn, the guests enjoyed an apple-themed (apples for the teacher!) meal of roasted pork with apples, grilled chicken, roasted brussels sprouts, sweet potatoes, salad, homemade apple sauce, fresh fruit salad, and salted caramel apple cheesecake. The dinner raised over \$1100 which will be matched by the Mission and Outreach committee. Many thanks to all who gave so generously.

### Next Meeting

Please feel free to join us on **Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 12:00** in the Chapel.



# Stewardship- A Taste of Overbrook Dinner & Silent Auction

## Don't miss the Taste of Overbrook!

Join the Overbrook Presbyterian Church community for a spectacular meal featuring foods from across the globe representing the many heritages of our diverse community.

The meal is buffet style, with dessert and beer and wine included.

The evening will also feature a live auction and raffle items as part of our biggest fundraiser of the year!

*NEW THIS YEAR:* A secret wine raffle, a giant Eagles bed quilt and sale/auction items especially for kids. This is a family-friendly event.

*WANT TO HELP?* We need Volunteers! Cooks! Auction/Raffle items!

When: Saturday, Oct. 19, Doors open at 6 p.m.

Pricing: \$75 per family/\$30 per single/\$10 kids under 12.

Tickets: Online at <http://overbrookpresb.org/ToO19.php> or in person after Sunday worship.



Do you care about climate change and taking care of God's creation? Then help us to make OPC greener! OPC is working to become an "Earth Care Congregation." We are renewing our commitment to caring for God's creation. We're working with PCUSA to achieve the designation of "Earth Care Congregation" and we need your help! Everything we do to help our church be more eco-friendly and to raise awareness about environmental issues earns us points towards getting this award. We hope to be a model other churches can look up to for our environmental policies.

Kicking off our program, we are starting a soft plastic recycling collection. Soft plastic can't be recycled by regular means. In fact, including plastic bags in your regular recycling will cause damage to the machines and is discouraged. So we're collecting it and sending it to a specialized recycling plant where it will be made into plastic furniture and decking. If we can collect 500 pounds of soft plastic we can get a free bench made out of recycled plastic from Trex! So bring in your grocery bags, ziploc baggies, cereal bags, shrink wrap, newspaper bags, and bubble wrap - anything clean and dry - and fill up our bins! Help us work to clean the earth and get a new bench for OPC! If you have ideas about helping OPC to be more green or want more information, please see Kadie Whalen.

### What can be recycled?

*All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.*



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

## Finance



Church family:

With great joy and gratitude, we share the news that Overbrook this week has been given an anonymous donation of \$40,000. Truly we are blessed, knowing this generosity can only be born of deep love for this congregation, its people, its building and its ministries.

This Church at the Crossroads is a remarkable place, but the maintenance of the building itself and the services and programming within come with substantial costs. OPC is currently facing a major repair on part of our roof, which will cost tens of thousands of dollars. This gift gives us the confidence we should be able to make the needed repairs without a significant compromise to our long-term investments.

In recent years, Overbrook has been blessed with similar generosity by those who prepared in life to support us after their death. These incredible acts have sustained and fortified us, and they help ensure Overbrook's legacy for our next generations. We are grateful for these acts of kindness, and the hearts that remain with us.

## Deacons

### Happy October Birthdays

10/1	Elizabeth Bouzarth	10/17	Steven Kaercher
	Johanna Gosfield	10/19	Jackson Ziemba
	Leonard Sloan	10/23	Donya Coldwell
10/3	Hannah Lazo	10/25	Park Mayne
	Diana Sigler	10/28	Marita Patino-Treat
10/5	Rebecca Winkler	10/29	Henry Baker
10/7	Edwin Beausoleil	10/31	Virginia Russell
10/9	Amanda Duckworth		
10/11	Don Carver		
10/12	Matthew Henry		
	Serena Hunter		
10/13	Saronn Cummings		
	Siara Cummings		
	Jack Marshall		
10/14	Frances Cuvilly		
10/16	Lisa Faso		
	Jane Rozmiarek		



### Prayer List

- ◆ Edward Allen Jarmond, Jr., nephew of Herbert Brabham, passed away at the age of 27, a victim of gun violence. Prayers are asked for the extended family and for the prevalent gun violence in York, Pa.
- ◆ Erin Harris, a friend of the Taussig-Lux family, who will be participating in a clinical trial for an aggressive form of cancer
- ◆ Lynn Pompa is recovering from total knee replacement.
- ◆ Pat, friend of Ginny Leagans, is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- ◆ Margaret Young's son Keith has been diagnosed with cancer.
- ◆ Diane, Laurie Geer's sister, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- ◆ Julie Hearlson, Adam's stepmother, has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.
- ◆ Brad Biedermann's stepfather, Lou, has been diagnosed with spine cancer and has begun radiation treatment.
- ◆ Ed Harvey is doing better but still is experiencing health concerns and he is grateful for all the prayers.
- ◆ Bruce Gillette is undergoing chemotherapy before receiving a bone marrow transplant.
- ◆ John Nathaniel continues to recover from a stroke.
- ◆ Ellen Burr is experiencing ongoing medical concerns.

*Please contact Mike Rottinger to add names to the prayer list. Mike can be reached by email (mike.rottinger@comcast.net). You can also leave a message with the Church Office*



Our Goal was to collect 23 pints . We collected 26 pints!

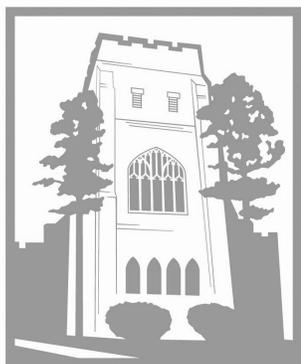
### Official Results from our Red Cross Drive

- Registered: 24 whole blood donors / 3 power-red donors
- Collected: 20 whole blood pints / 6 power-red pints

Please know that 26 pints may help save up to 66 patient's lives in our Philly Region.

Thanks to all donors and volunteers!

# News from the Crossroads



## Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

## October 2019 - OPC Church Events

### Tuesday, October 1

7:00 pm-Finance Committee via Zoom

### Saturday, October 5

8:00 am-Men's' Group

### Sunday, October 6

12:00 pm-New Members Committee

12:00 pm-Property Presentation-Chapel

### Tuesday, October 8

7:00 pm-Session

### Sunday, October 13

12:00 pm-Deacon Committee

12:00 pm-Personnel Committee

### Tuesday, October 15

7:00 pm-Urban Suburban Book Club

### Wednesday, October 16

5:00 pm-Property Committee

### Saturday, October 19

6:00 pm-Taste of Overbrook

### Sunday, October 20

12:00 pm-Christian Education Committee

### Sunday, October 27

12:00 pm-Mission & Outreach Committee

### Monday, October 28

6:30 pm-Worship & Music Committee

### Weekday Happenings:

- ❖ Every Sunday
  - 9:15 am-Adult Christian Education
  - 10:30 am-Worship
  - 11:30 am-Coffee Hour
- ❖ Every Monday-Jr. Choir Rehearsal—5:15 pm followed by dinner
- ❖ Every Wednesday -10:00 am -Adult Bible Study
- ❖ Every Thursday-6:15 pm-Handbell Rehearsal
  - 7:30 pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal
- ❖ Every Saturday - 9:00-1:00 pm -Farmers Market-OPC Parking

### Community Support Group Meetings @ OPC

- ❖ Every Sunday beginning at 8:00 pm—AA (Wistar Morris Room) and Al-Anon (Chapel)
- ❖ Every Monday beginning at 8:00 pm—Overeaters Anonymous (Chapel)
- ❖ Every Tuesday beginning at 7:30 pm-Nar-Anon
- ❖ Every Wednesday beginning 8:00 pm AA-Chapel