

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
Pastor 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

This past weekend, OPC held its Vision Summit to discern the shape of our future work. We had a fantastic turnout. On Friday night, a large group from the church participated in brainstorming exercises to help unearth the communities mission and goals. The following day, the elders, deacons, and staff brainstormed and created a draft of the church's mission statement, core values, and three-year goals.

During our initial conversation on Friday, I felt equal parts exhilaration and fear. It was exhilarating to hear the broad and beautiful visions for this church. The palpable sense in the room was that people LOVE this church. That love is vital for the continual stewardship of the community. I was also afraid because the ideas were so broad and generous that I was unsure how we could accomplish the many visions being presented.

I woke up very early on Saturday morning replaying the conversations of Friday night in my head. Truthfully, at about 4am my anxiety got the better of me. A part of me wanted to just cast the vision myself, without the aid of the congregation. You know how it is, terrible ideas seem attractive early in the morning when you can't sleep. Eventually, the Holy Spirit talked me out of my bad idea and reminded me that the strength of this church is its love in the midst of its diversity. Our unique power is that we all don't think alike, but we all love the church. We will find our way not because the vision is the product of one person, but because we have so many people who care about the direction of the church. We will make it to our goals, because we will travel together.

As for our goals, after two long conversations, we rest. The Vision Summit moved quickly, which was valuable, but now we lay fallow. After a bit of time and a little distance, the elders, deacons, and staff will once again gather to provide a final shape to these documents. We have made great strides in the past few days. Now we pray, we listen, we think, and we let the Holy Spirit shape us into the church we are becoming. May God bless us in this season, and may the way become clear for us all.

- Adam

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Worship and Music

Overbrook has been back in the sanctuary for worship for two months now. Attendance in the sanctuary continues to grow, and each week finds more people watching the live stream. Adam and Chris continue to tweak the live stream to work out minor sound problems. Very soon the music for the hymns will also be available to those who worship virtually.

Bob Harden and Max Mason would welcome some new ushers. If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact them.

We are two months away from the start of Advent. Mark your calendar for Messiah Sing on Sunday, December 5, at 3:00 in the afternoon. More details about other Advent events will be coming soon.

-Eileen Wiggins, Chair

A Note from our Pastor Care Associate



Pathways of Faith

Have you ever found yourself wondering about God's plan for your life...or listening for the encouragement and guidance of the Holy Spirit? If so, I encourage you to join me in exploring God's path through spiritual direction.

Spiritual direction is a compassionate listening and prayer partnership given freely and confidentially by one child of God to another. It is the asking and answering of questions of faith; it is the journey of discovering God's invitation in one's life.. As Parish Care Associate...*as your fellow congregant...*I invite you to join me for shared listening and prayer, and for the realization of God's will. During the week, I will be at the church on Monday's from 9:00 AM to Noon, and on Wednesdays from 8:30 AM-10:30 AM, and from Noon-1:30 PM. I am also available for home visits, and am happy to schedule evening "zoom" prayer conversations. It would be a joy to share time with you. Please feel free to contact me to reserve shared conversation and prayer time. (sharon@overbrookpresb.org; H: 215-309-5388; M: 610-742-8415)

Blessings to you,
Sharon Parker

RPM Cafe

RPM (Virtual) Cafe: October 15, 1:00-2:00 PM

RPM, Overbrook's Retired Person's Ministry, will zoom together at 1:00 PM on October 15, for "*What's Next: Exploring the "Adventures of Aging."*" Promising to present a wild, yet good-humored, blend of optimism and realism, a panel of OPC's card carrying seniors will share their personal experiences and offer guidance to enhance personal well-being. This is an exciting time in our lives...and many adventures are still well within our grasps. Please join us for this hour of spirited discussion and fellowship. You can connect to the program through the following zoom link:

[RPM - Friday, October 15 - 1:00 pm](#)

Cheers!
Sharon Parker





Introducing: The Children and Family Ministry and Committee!

To better serve our children and youth, the Christian education committee has been divided into two separate committees: Children and Family Ministries and Youth Ministries. The pandemic has been hard on our young people, and the beginning of the program year proved the opportune time to restructure our program to help them succeed. To this end, our Director of Christian Education, Anthony Carrella, will focus his attention on the Children and Family Ministries in his new role as "Director of Children and Family Ministries." In this role, Anthony will focus on Sunday School, children's events, co-leading confirmation, equipping families for Christian formation, and facilitating opportunities for children within worship. Additionally, the Children's Committee is now co-chaired by Sabrina Johnson and Christy Lang Hearlson, after many years of able leadership by Becky Lazo. Big thanks to Becky, Sabrina, and Christy.

To care for our youth, we have formed a Youth Leadership Committee of adult volunteers. This committee is already at work planning regular opportunities for service, fellowship, and education for our 7th-12th graders. Adam will chair this committee as it considers its goals, values, and calendar. More information on upcoming youth events will be finalized and communicated very soon-- imagine service opportunities in Kensington, ropes courses in Fairmount Park, and a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. If you have a heart for our teenagers and want to join this committee, please reach out to me!



Outdoor Sunday School is a Blast

Our teaching team decided to respond to the chaos of Hurricane Ida with arks and rainbows — a unit focused on Noah and the Flood (Gen 6:5 - 9:7). Over three sessions, children created wind and water resistance paintings, designed arks that float, and made a prismatic rainbow out of fabric swatches (thank you, Nancy G.!) We are so glad to see kids being kids in our COVID-safe, outdoor environment. Attendees have worn masks at all times without any issues, distancing has been encouraged, and all adults are vaccinated. **Join us on Sundays, Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, starting at 10:30 indoors and 10:45 outdoors.** We can't wait to see you there!



Confirmation Class Begins October 17th

Adam and Anthony are excited to announce that they will offer young people aged 12 and above the exciting and valuable opportunity to discern confirmation this Fall. The class begins on **Sunday, October 17th at 9:15 AM** and is held twice per month. Confirmation should occur in May of 2022. We are finalizing plans for rising confirmands and their *very patient* previously-confirmed peers to embark on a Civil Right Pilgrimage across the Southern US. Please reach out to Adam or Anthony with thoughts or questions. We can't wait to be with you.



Fall Events for Children and Families

As we begin a new season in ministry, our team will soon compile three-month event calendars for families. This document will be shared and quickly sent! In the meantime, we'd like to ask you to... **Save the Date: October 31st, 2021, 11:45 to 1:00 PM.** Join us at OPC dressed in your Halloween costume on **October 31st!** After worship and Sunday school, stick around for ghoulish festivities and treats. More details will be announced soon, so please stay tuned!

Volunteer Leaders Help Us Grow

The CFM invites two or three caring individuals with a love of children and their grownups to serve on our Children and Family ministry team. Our most senior committee members offer the following qualities of individuals we're seeking:

- Adults who are genuinely and authentically interested in the lives and experiences of children.
- Adults who are positive, responsive, and sensitive to children's needs.
- Adults who possess teaching experience.
- Young people 13+ who consider teaching or childcare their vocational call.
- Adults and professionals with expertise tailoring curricula.
- Anyone possessing musical, artistic, culinary, horticultural, and naturalistic talents.
- Anyone who considers themselves accountable, patient, flexible, a good listener, and enthusiastic.
- Anyone and grownups with a desire to minister to amazing parents and guardians of OPC.
- Anyone aged sixteen and older who agrees to adhere to child safeguarding standards and procedures.

Now is a truly exciting time to get involved in the life of young people at OPC. If you've made it this far, why not reach out? Contact DCF Anthony Carrella anthony@overbrookpresb.org

OPC Hardscape Project

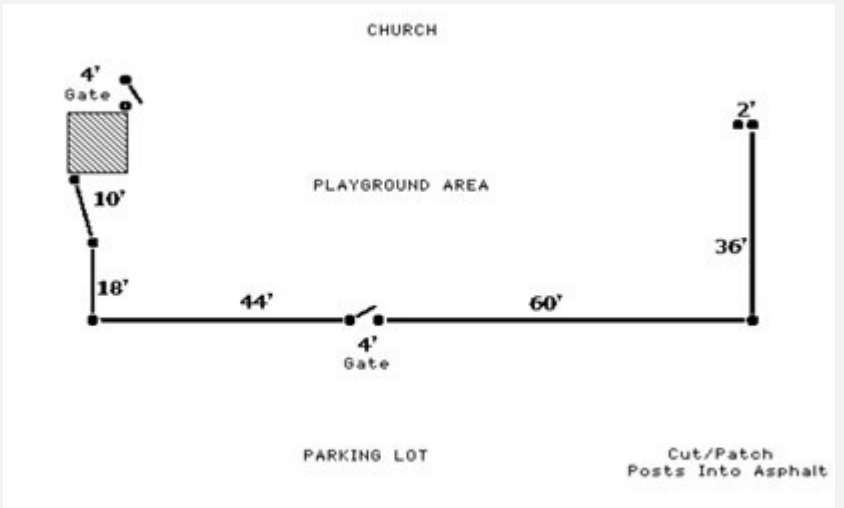
In case the word is new to you, Wikipedia tells us “Hardscape refers to hard landscape materials in the built environment structures that are incorporated into a landscape. This can include paved areas, driveways, retaining walls, sleeper walls, stairs, walkways, and any other landscaping made up of hard-wearing materials such as wood, stone, and concrete, as opposed to softscape, the horticultural elements of a landscape.”

Earlier this year in March, OPC was “awarded” \$75,000 by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, a 75% match for a hardscape project developed to improve the perimeter security of our church. There are three aspects:

- providing a protective wall around the OPK playground;
- make repairs to existing perimeter site walls along Lancaster and City Avenues; and
- plant shrubbery between the playground and Lancaster Ave. for improved visual security.

The major effort will be to replace the existing three-foot-high chain link fence surrounding the OPK playground with a 20-inch-high stone and concrete wall, topped by a 3-ft high black aluminum fence. The two gates to the playground will be replaced with appropriate black aluminum designs.

Our first proposal for a new fence was provided by Rusticraft who recently provided OPC with a wooden fence surrounding the rain garden near City Avenue.



While the context and fence details are not exact, the picture to the left provides a vision of the new low wall and fence that are being planned. The actual funding will not be provided by the state until the contracts are agreed and the initial payments are made. We are working on the timing for the project at this time. Wish us luck!

New Gas-fired Boiler

Since about 1975 the offices, Wistar Morris room, and the rooms above it have been heated by a small oil-fired boiler separate from the main heating system of the church. This arrangement allows those areas to be heated without turning on heat in the whole church.

Our heating maintenance company, Sebastian, has replaced that boiler with a new gas-fired boiler which connects to the existing gas main. The 4000 gallon underground oil tank supplying oil to the old boiler has been removed from the lawn area near the office entrance, which will make room for the installation of a wheelchair ramp from ground level up to the office entrance.



Adult Forum



The OPC Immigration Sunday School class has finished its curriculum and invites the congregation to join myself and the participants of the class for a discussion of "What Do We Do Now?" We will meet on **October 10 at 9:00 a.m.** both in person and online. During our time together, we will review some of the major topics that were discussed and hear about responses that OPC members are already making to the immigration crisis. We will provide information on avenues for individual and collective action. Our discussion will seek to align with the outcomes of the OPC Visioning Summit that took place on September 24 and 25. For those that will be joining us online, follow the link : [Adult Forum - What Do We Now - Response to the Immigration Crisis](#)

- Tom Lank

Welcoming Committee



Greetings from the Welcoming Committee! Wait a minute...WHAT is the Welcoming Committee?? Well, we are the committee formerly known as the New Member Committee.

So, WHY did we change our name? Well, we wanted to convey that our mission is really to welcome everyone that walks into our church, it's not just about increasing our membership. More than anything, we want people to feel comfortable asking questions and participating in our

church life...no matter their membership status. As we like to say at OPC, all are welcome!

- Welcoming Committee

Elizabeth Mendoza, chair, Phil Sheau, Bette Homer, Ron Homer, Gloria Brabham

Tunes of Overbrook



Greetings Overbrook! Come one come all to this year's Tunes of Overbrook! It will be held on **Saturday, October 23 at 7:00 via Zoom.**

We will showcase the many musical talents of the congregation. If you'd like to share your talent, please contact Keedra Carroll via e-mail (keedracarroll@gmail.com) or via cell (215.356.3224).

This year we are not going to do a traditional fundraiser instead we will come together and enjoy and celebrate each other as a church and a community.

There will be some special announcements during the program so make sure you mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this special event!

If you are interested in hosting a watch party please contact Janet Bowker via e-mail (jabowker1001@gmail.com) or via home (215.477.0379).

Nominating Committee



The 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee of OPC has begun to discern the persons whom God is calling to serve as **elders, deacons, and the 2022 Congregational Nominating Committee**. We seek the insight of members of the congregation to identify potential church leaders.

According to the *Book of Order*, individuals who undertake particular ministries including ruling elders and deacons, should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world.

Please submit your suggestions to the committee by dropping a completed form in the offering plate during worship or call or send an email to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Elizabeth Mendoza, 609-354-2766, egmendoza@comcast.net.

We need your completed forms no later than **Sunday, October 17th**.

Elders of the Current Session: Elaine Blodgett, Herbert Brabham, Elizabeth Mendoza, Richard Owens, Aimerie Scherluebbe*, Elizabeth Cosgriff, Bob Harden, Jr., Larry McGhee, Deborah Rottinger, Eileen Wiggins, Keedra Carroll, Kevin Davis, Solomon Hunter, Becky Lazo, and Nathalie May

Deacons of the Current Board: Nancy Gilhool, Terri Hunter*, Mary Lou Ryce, Carol Tulba*, Zachary Wong, Artia Benjamin, Suchita Fiorillo, Bill Baker, Bob Kaercher, Nickie Stokes, PejuAdebanjo, Joan Beck, Ginny Leagans, Leah Mayne, and Jason Sheau

Current Congregational Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Mendoza, *Chairperson and Session Representative*, Nathalie May, *Vice-Chair and Session Representative*, Bob Kaercher, *Deacon Representative*, *Congregational Representatives At-Large:* Jean Baker, Linda Huff-Paul, Janet Lovely, Brian Taussig-Lux. *Ex Officio Member:* Rev. Adam Hearlson

- denotes ineligible to serve another term this year

SUGGESTED ELDERS:

SUGGESTED DEACONS:

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Deacons

Happy October Birthdays

10/1	Elizabeth Bouzarth	10/14	Alan Wilson
	Johanna Gosfield	10/16	Jane Rozmiarek
10/3	Hannah Lazo		Lisa Faso
	Diana Sigler	10/17	Steven Kaercher
10/4	Claire Underwood	10/19	Jackson Ziemba
	Judy Moroz	10/22	Keith Young
10/5	Rebecca Winkler	10/23	Donya Coldwell
10/7	Edwin Beausoleil		Cayleigh Sneed
10/8	Emily Amerman	10/25	Park Mayne
10/9	Amanda Duckworth	10/27	Nieve Clifford
10/11	Don Carver	10/28	Marita Patino-Treat
10/12	Matthew Henry	10/29	Henry Baker
	Serena Hunter		CJ VonAndrea
	Kim McDaniels		
10/13	Siarra Cummings		
	Saronn Cummings		
	Jack Marshall		

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

Prayer List

- Prayers of healing and comfort for Marjorie Wright, cousin of Rev. LoisAnn Furgess-Oler as she battles Leukemia.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Caroline Skinner following successful kidney transplant surgery.
- Prayers for comfort for the Davis-Hotek family on the loss of Carl Davis, loving brother-in-law and uncle.
- Prayers for healing, hope and comfort for Judy Williamson as she prepares for breast cancer surgery.
- Prayers of comfort for the family of Amy Joy, cousin of Kim McDaniel.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Lincoln Hollowell, father of Aimerie Scherluebbe.
- Prayers for healing, hope, and comfort for Keith Young as he continues to receive medical treatment for cancer.
- Prayers for healing, hope, and comfort for Wendy Fraser, sister of Jeremy Blatchley, as she continues medical treatment for cancer.
- Prayers for those who face on-going health challenges, especially Flossye Johnson, Susan Leach, Aqueelah Folwell, Stephanie Stokes, Judy Swartz, Ed Harvey, Ellen Burr, Patrick O'Healey and Terri Carter.
- Prayers for Stephanie Morris and her family.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Bill Long, father of Eric Long.

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

Women's Prayer and Support 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) for the zoom connection to the Tuesday morning prayer group, or to share a prayer request.



**Join Us
every
Tuesday
at 7:30**

A Big Thank You....

A Big Shout Out & Thank you



After eight faithful years, Sara Davis has decided to step down from her role as Clerk of our session. Sara has been a steady presence on the session-- keeping minutes, ensuring fair and deliberate process, and providing wise counsel to the moderator and session. On numerous occasions, she has steered us around bad decisions and toward collaborative problem solving. She has been present amid lots of transition in this church and has served as a balancing presence in uncertain times. We will miss Sara's directness and her no-nonsense way of approaching the world. Sara was always clear where she stood, which was always a tremendous gift.

Church, please join us in thanking Sara Davis for her vigilant work as the Clerk of session? When you have a moment, please extend to her a hearty "Thanks!" for all of the amazing work she has done. In the meantime we will seek to find a new clerk for our session. They will not be asked to fill Sara's shoes (how could they?), but instead will stand in a role made immeasurably easier due to Sara's work.

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 and last 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.

