

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

September 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

Overbrook Church Staff

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

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Inside This Issue:

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

I have a guacamole problem. More accurately, I have guacamole problems, plural. I have a deep love for guacamole and I am irrationally picky about guacamole so I tend to make my own. The problem is that I never know when the deep craving for guacamole might strike. Another problem is that most grocery stores carry under ripe avocados because avocados are expensive and have a window of ripeness that is always approximately 30 seconds. Under-ripe avocados make terrible guacamole. The only way to meet my craving is to plan ahead which is hard since cravings, by definition, are unpredictable. Holding under ripe avocados in the grocery store has given me the chance to meditate on an important question: How do we plan for the unpredictable?

I think there are three options. The first is to go without. Just resign yourself to the fact that unpredictable stuff happens and that you won't be able to meet the moment with a proper solution. The problem is, of course, you never get to eat guacamole and that would be a true tragedy. The second option is to plan to eat guacamole on a schedule. Buy avocados every Sunday and eat guacamole every Tuesday. But what about the Saturday cravings? Most problems that need solving rarely arrive on a schedule. The third option: always have avocados available. Get ahead of the curve, as Seth Godin notes in his famous discussion of "the avocado principles." Ripe avocados then become an opportunity to dream what else you might eat with avocados when you aren't craving guacamole and how you might be generous with unused and ripe avocados for those who are.

Ministry works best when we plan ahead, gather what we need, and invest abundantly for the inevitable moment of an unpredicted problem. To plan ahead isn't an opportunity to set in stone what we will do, but to free us to meet the demands of the moment. Paul gets shipwrecked on an island and ministers to new community. Peter meets new gentile followers of Jesus and expands the church. John is exiled to Patmos and writes powerfully of the fulfillment of God's promises. Planning gives us the ability to improvise in the midst of an unpredictable world. Guided by the Holy Spirit that blows wild and free, we can find new vitality in the unpredictable problems of today.

August has been a time of planning at OPC. The leaders of this church have been working overtime to plan a fall program that will meet the needs of the community. Many have taken on more responsibility so that we can get ahead of the curve. They have put us in a position to dream about what is next for this community. This fall will be a season of dreaming for the church-- a time to begin thinking about the next season of ministry at OPC. This dreaming is made possible by planning, generosity, and the embrace of abundance. I am grateful for what has been and what will be. And guacamole. I am grateful for guacamole too.

- Adam



Upcoming Worship Services

September 1, 2019

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

Lectionary: Psalm 81:1, 10-16, Luke 14:1,7-14

Preaching: Laura Colee

Lay Leader: Rachel Carnahan

September 15, 2019

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Deuteronomy 6:4-9;

Corinthians 12:4-13

Preaching: Adam Hearlson

Lay Leader: Raelyn Harman

September 29, 2019

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Ecclesiastes 4:1-12;

Matthew 25:31-70

Preaching: Adam Hearlson

Lay Leader: Amos Paul

September 8, 2019

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Deuteronomy 30:15-20;

Luke 14:25-33

Preaching: Adam Hearlson

Lay Leader: Keedra Carroll

September 22, 2019

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Psalm 84; John 9:1-7

Preaching: Adam Hearlson

Lay Leader: Ron Homer



From the Director of Music



As summer draws to a close and the program year begins at Overbrook, it's time to think about the **2019-2020 Music Season**. Here's what you need to know about the resumption of rehearsals for our choirs:

The **Overbrook Choir**, our singing ensemble for adults and older youth, sings in worship every Sunday. Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room.

The **Overbrook Westminster Handbell Choir** is *returning* to a weekly schedule of rehearsals; the ensemble rings approximately once per month in worship, as well as on Christmas Eve during the earlier service. Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 5, at 6:15 p.m. in the bell room, which is located on the second floor of the church.

The **Overbrook Junior Choir** sings approximately once per month in worship and is in its second year of Monday night rehearsals. We will kick off the season on Monday, September 9, with a meet-and-greet and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Rehearsals will take place every Monday from 5:15-6:00 p.m., with dinner to follow starting September 16.

More information is forthcoming regarding concerts this year, but you can definitely add one date to your calendar: **The 25th Annual *Messiah* Sing** will happen on Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m.

Of course, dates and times are nothing without the most important part of our music program: **YOU!** We need people singing and ringing to make this year a success. If you enjoyed participating in our summer choirs, think about joining for the whole year. If you're curious about what music-making is like, talk to me or any of the choir members. If you can't commit to weekly rehearsals, you can support us by attending concerts, telling your friends, or making a monetary contribution so that we can meet our budget this year.

Thank you for all your support!

Congregational Life/Fellowship



Chancel Flowers

ble to Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

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 paya-



Coffee Hour Ministry

As of September 1, the coffee hour goes back to serving coffee and hot tea. We are still in need of Coffee Hour Hosts for the following: **September 15, 22 and 29**. 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. Thank you.

Urban Suburban Book Club

Our book for September is *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish— The meeting is Tuesday September 17, 2019, 12 noon at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

Remember to bring your lunch and a beverage.

Here are the books for the following months:

October - *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover - Meeting at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, October 15, 2019, 7pm

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.

A note from Sharon Parker

Dear Overbrook Friends,

I am deeply grateful for your kindness. Your gracious gifts of prayer, visits, cards and calls have lifted my spirits and added good humor to an "interesting" medical journey. Although this has been a challenging month, I feel blessed to be able to return home to all that is familiar and predictable. Each day brings new healing, renewed energy...and abundant hope. Each day also brings opportunities for prayers of gratitude...to God and to God's faithful at Overbrook. Blessings to all, Sharon

Communication

Do you receive OPC's Weekly E-News? If not please contact Lisa or Carol in the office to ensure that we have your email address in our online database, Realm. This E-News is published every Friday with all the events for the upcoming week at OPC and is delivered right to your email



Say Goodbye to Listserve and Hello to Realm

So, as of September 1, Listserve is no longer active but have no fear, Realm is here. Realm is our online community database which allows us to communicate with each other, an online directory of members/friends, members can even check their giving statements online. So, if you are not on Realm, please email Carol or Lisa in the office to receive your invitation.

Property Committee

STORMWATER ABATEMENT PROJECT/ PARKING LOT

Our storm water abatement project continues, as you can all see. Please remember that it started over a month behind schedule, on August 8. There have also been a couple of rain delays. Therefore, the finish date of the project will be delayed. Even after the "pit" is filled in, the re-paving of the parking lot is almost the last step in the process, and we will not be able to park on the lot until it is paved, due to safety concerns and issues related to the structural pieces that will be exposed until the paving is done. I ask again for your patience and imagination in parking/riding to church. Take public transit. Park at the Overbrook train station and walk over, or get a ride from our volunteer drivers. Park on the street a block or two away. Leave early to leave time for the parking. There is a lot going on at Overbrook, and even more will begin again in September, so let's plan accordingly and look forward to the many exciting opportunities that await us

Thank you, and peace be with you,

Rachel Carnahan

New Member—Inquirer Class

got questions?

Dear Friends of OPC,

I'd like to invite you to participate in our upcoming new member inquirers class at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. As you might have experienced OPC is a vibrant and diverse place with lots to offer. The church is on the cusp of some amazing new things and we would love you to be a part of them. The new member inquirers class is an opportunity for you to discern if this is a community where you can best use your gifts and blessings to serve God and this world. The class takes place over two weeks, September 8th and 15th at 9:30 in the McMillan Chapel. I will lead both of these classes and we will discuss a bit of the history, theology and values of OPC while also leaving ample time to get to know each other, and ask the many questions you might have. Childcare can be provided if needed. If you should need childcare, please email Lisa Faso at office@overbrookpresb.org by Wednesday, September 4. If you have any questions about the class, please don't hesitate to call or email me (adam@overbrookpresb.org). If you cannot make this class but are still interested in becoming a member of OPC, please reach out to me. We will hold new member inquirer classes three times a year. Hope to see you on September 8th! - Grace and Peace, Adam Hearlson

Christian Education



The countdown is on to a brand new year for program year at OPC! Join us **September 8** to kick things off with a mega coffee hour and a chance to see old friends, make new ones, and meet your child's Sunday School teachers. Sunday School will begin on September 15. NOTE: children in grades Pre-K to 6th will be dismissed to Sunday School (or the nursery) right after the Children's Message— and we have some new plans for Sunday School (see other announcement)! Confirmation students and High School students will remain for the entire worship service. A new confirmation class will be starting in October; stay tuned for details. We are looking forward to seeing everyone soon! Questions? Talk to Becky Lazo (rebeccalazo@hotmail.com) or Adam Hearlson

(adam@overbrookpresb.org).



NEW this year: the rotation curriculum for Sunday School! This new method of teaching allows a deeper experience for children to hear and learn and practice and interact with the concepts of Bible stories. Students will continue to be divided by grade and will "travel" to different learning stations each week for hands on opportunities to learn about God's Word. Sound interesting? It is! (Learn more here <https://www.rotation.org> or here <https://www.wearsparkhouse.org/store/category/286790/Spark-Rotation>.)

Want to be a part of it? Great! You can volunteer to shepherd students to learning stations or demonstrate a particular concept of skill— and you can volunteer for the year or a month or whatever time frame works best for you. Experienced teachers will support you in learning the Bible stories and getting necessary clearances. Contact Becky Lazo (rebeccalazo@hotmail.com) or Adam Hearlson (adam@overbrookpresb.org) with any questions or to get involved! You can pre-register your children by visiting our website and following the link <http://overbrookpresb.org/pdf/SSReg2019-20.pdf>



Calling all youth in Grades 7-12, come join us for some fun and fellowship on September 14th 2-6pm. Rock Climbing at the Philly Rock Gym and dinner at Snap Pizza. \$25. scholarships available. Meet at the church. No climbing experience or gear necessary. RSVP to Carol Rozmiarek at carol@overbrookpresb.org



Sunday Adult Christian Education September-October Schedule:

| Date | Topic | Date | Topic |
|---------|--|----------|---|
| 9/22/19 | The State of the Church in America | 10/13/19 | Sustainability-The Need for Ecological Conversion |
| 9/29/19 | The State of OPC | 10/20/19 | Sustainability-God, Gardens & the Princeton Farminary |
| 10/6/19 | Sustainability-Becoming an Earth Care Congregation | 10/27/19 | Sustainability-Creation, the Bible and God |

Mission and Outreach



Mission & Outreach is starting September with One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS is a

Presbyterian ministry with a trinity of missions - self-development of people, disaster relief, and hunger relief. Your donations help to support each of these missions equally or as you designate. When water levels rise, winds blow, or the earth shakes, your donation makes it possible to implement an already funded plan. This allows disaster relief to start as soon as possible. In the meantime, people around the world are improving their communities through individuals who want to make a difference and create a sustainable change. This may be digging a well for fresh water, creating a farmers market for people to share their crops, or establishing a safe place for children to complete their homework. Hunger relief happens everywhere, as the needs are identified. Your donations are used locally and around the world to support those who need it most.

Look for information on the Women's Dining Circle, which will be meeting September 20, at 6:30 pm. We are excited that over the last ten years we have supported local organizations with thousands of dollars in donations and goods collected. We continue to support our local community and this month Raelyn Harmon will be our guest speaker, as we get ready for kids and teachers to go back to school.

We are excited to announce the first recipient of the Sharon Parker Mission Scholarship. Raelyn Harmon has made it her mission to support the teachers of Delaware County, by raising money to provide school supplies for the classrooms. This aligns with a Presbytery Initiative on education. Raelyn attended a meeting in Louisville to better understand and support the Presbyterian initiative. She also continues to collect funds for Supply a Classroom, as she works towards providing a supply closet for area teachers.



Help keep the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County (aka The Shelter) open. The Community

Action Agency of Delaware County is having a BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISER on Saturday, September 14 at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 229 Powell Lane, Upper Darby. Doors open at 5:30; bingo starts at 6:30. Bring your own food and drink. Bingo, door prizes, raffles, and other surprises. \$30 per ticket. Tickets on line at <https://caadc.org/tickets> or call 610-833-4454 or contact Nancy Gilhool during Coffee Hour.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Book Bag Drive supporting the Village - Hope in Action for Children and Families. Special thanks to Nancy Gilhool for organizing and preparing all the book bags. Here's to another successful school year!



Mission & Outreach meets on the fourth Sunday of each month at 12:00pm. Please join us on September 22, 2019 for our next meeting.

Aimerie Scherluebbe
Mission & Outreach

Stewardship- A Taste of Overbrook Dinner & Silent Auction

Date: Saturday, October 19 at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 6376 City Ave

Time: 6:00 p.m. Live auction starts at 7:30

Tickets: \$30/person. \$75/family. \$10/children under 10. **\$5 ticket discount on Kick Off Sunday, September 8**

Ticket availability: Purchase at Sunday coffee hours or online at <http://overbrookpresb.org/ToO19.php>

Dress: Auction casual

What's it look like? OPC families cook and share dishes representing their ethnic heritage. Beer & wine included in your ticket price. Silent & live fundraiser auctions.

New this year: wine raffle.

Goal: To raise \$10,000 for this year's confirmation class trip to historic civil rights sites.

To donate a dish and show off your heritage: Sign up at coffee hour or contact Carol Rozmiarek

To donate an auction item: If you have a talent that you can contribute—gardening, sewing, pottery, gardening, cooking—we would love to auction off your talent. As well, if your employer, neighbor, or business that you frequent would like to contribute, we'd gladly accept donations-Contact Will Schick

To volunteer: Contact a member of your stewardship committee. Davorka Sabljak, Will Schick, Karen Wong, Keedra Carroll, Jason Sheau, Janet Bowker. We need help with set up & clean up.

One Day Only

Taste of Overbrook

\$5 Off

*\$5 off your Taste of Overbrook Ticket
If you buy them
at coffee hour on
Kickoff Sunday,
September 8*

**ACT
NOW!**

**Wanted
Auction Items
See Will Schick**

The future of our faith movement and our congregation lies with our youth and children. This year's confirmation class provides an opportunity to develop faithful Christians who will lead OPC into the future. This year confirmations class could be as large as 15 confirmands.

To strengthen the effort, funds raised from Taste of Overbrook 2019 will be used to support the 2019/2020 confirmation capstone experience. This spring the class will travel to the Atlanta, Selma and Montgomery to discuss and learn how the faith of courageous civil rights leaders made the difference in America's civil rights movement.

Keep an ear out for more details on this exciting program. And remember that support for the Taste of Overbrook 2019 is support for our confirmation and the future of our church.

Stewardship (Cont'd)



LEGACY GIVING PROGRESS

Overbrook Presbyterian Church is fortunate to have a modest endowment, created primarily from memorial contributions and the generosity of those who have included the church in their estate plans. There is much for everyone to learn about planned giving, our church's endowment, and ways that we can help it to grow for future generations.

Your Stewardship committee has formed a subcommittee for legacy giving. Some of the goals of this subcommittee are to:

1. Create a thoughtful OPC policy for encouraging and accepting gifts.
2. Provide training for members to ask for legacy gift commitments.
3. Propose creation of a legacy society for Session approval.
4. Develop a year-round education program to promote legacy giving.
5. Gratefully acknowledge and recognize givers who wish to be thanked publicly.

The subcommittee is newly formed and welcomes any church members who are interested in serving on the subcommittee as we begin this important work. If you are interested in becoming a member of this subcommittee that will help to preserve our church's valuable heritage and ensure the financial foundation of the Church at the Crossroads, please contact Stewardship committee chair -Will Schick.

Deacons

Happy September Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|
| 9/1 | Elizabeth Cosgriff | 9/18 | Aimerie Scherluebbe |
| | Jonathan Kopcsik | 9/20 | Anita Belfie |
| | Ben Scherluebbe | 9/23 | Amy Behrman |
| 9/2 | Janet Bowker | 9/24 | Lainie Blodgett |
| | Peg Kaercher | 9/25 | Winnie Carver |
| | Joe Piatt | | Everett Whalen |
| 9/4 | Trudy Sheau | 9/27 | Aqueelah Folwell |
| 9/6 | Karen Wong | 9/28 | Bette Homer |
| 9/8 | Greta Ham | | Gwen Harden |
| 9/9 | Solomon Brown | 9/30 | Justin Robertson |
| 9/11 | Stephanie Kindt | | |
| | Davorka Sabljak | | |
| | Kayla Davis | | |
| | Jon Nathaniel | | |
| 9/12 | Olga Hoggard | | |
| | Peter Subramanian | | |
| 9/13 | Jeremy Blatchley | | |
| | Eric Long | | |
| | Judy Williamson | | |
| 9/14 | Evelyn Nkewnti-Skipper | | |
| 9/16 | Lily Baker | | |



Prayer List

- ◆ Bette and Ron Homer's daughter, Allison, is marrying Jacob Speil on Saturday, September 7th in Buxton, Hatteras Island, North Carolina
- ◆ Pat, friend of Ginny Leagans, is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- ◆ Sharon Parker is home recovering from back surgery. She welcomes visitors!
- ◆ 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, is in severe and constant pain from rheumatoid arthritis.
- ◆ Ed Harvey is doing better but still is experiencing health concerns and he is grateful for all the prayers.
- ◆ Bruce Gillette had a transfusion and is preparing for another round of chemotherapy before undergoing 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).

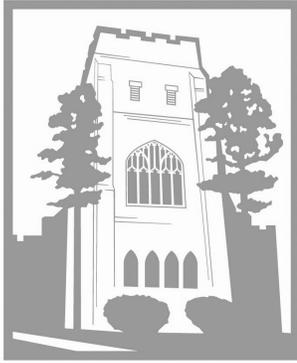
You can also leave a message with the Church Office



Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday September 6th – this year's date for Overbrook's Red Cross Blood Drive! It is not too late to register at www.redcrossblood.org

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

September 2019 - OPC Church Events

Tuesday, September 3

7:00 pm-Finance Committee

Thursday, September 5

6:30 pm-Congregational Life Committee

Saturday, September 7

8:00 am-Men's' Group

Sunday, September 12

12:00 pm-Deacons Meeting

12:00 pm-Personnel Meeting

Tuesday, September 10

7:00 pm-Session

Sunday, September 15

12:00 pm-Christian Education Committee

Monday, September 16

1:00 pm-Prayer Shawl Ministry

7:00 pm-Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, September 18

5:00 pm-Property Committee

Sunday, September 25

12:00 pm.-Mission and Outreach Committee

Sunday, September 29

12:00 pm-Confirmation Meeting for Parents

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 starting 9/16
- ❖ 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