

# 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*

Dr. Christopher Gage  
*Director of Music*

Anthony Carrella  
*Director of Christian Education*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

### Inside This Issue:

Worship & Music.....2  
 CE.....3-4  
 Task Force..... 4  
 Tunes of Overbrook.....4  
 Spiritual Direction.....5  
 Blood Drive.....6  
 Deacons.....7  
 Green Team.....Back Page  
 Adult Forum....Back Page  
 Bible Study.....Back Page

On September 24th at 6:00pm, the church will gather in-person and online to discuss the mission and vision of the church. As you probably remember, we were supposed to have this conversation at the end of March 2020, a month that will exist in infamy as long as I have memory.

A lot has happened since the time we were supposed to meet. Our lives have changed, and it ought not surprise us that the priorities of February 2020 are perhaps not the same priorities of September 2021. The world feels more divided than ever. The needs are as acute as ever. Gun violence is rising. Neighbors are still hungry. Addiction surrounds us. In such a time, I am reminded of St. Ignatius’ good wisdom, “Seek the way that works.”

That is what our conversation will seek to do--seek a way that works. We will seek to find a way to be the hands and feet of the risen Christ to a world in need. Our aim is to sort out how we might be the loving presence of Christ in this world, to each other and to neighborhood.

Lately, I have been studying the book of Ruth, which is, line for line, probably my favorite story in the Bible. The book of Ruth is a theological exploration of the Hebrew word *Hesed*. *Hesed* is often translated as loving kindness. Really, it is a term to describe all the things that go over and above what the law prescribes. The Hebrew law had a prescription for right living, but there was always the option to pursue something more generous, more loving, and more gracious than the law--that’s *Hesed*.

This is my hope, that we are a congregation filled to the brim with loving kindness and overflowing generosity. I want us to do more than is expected and dream bigger than seems reasonable. I want us to figure out how our expression of *Hesed* might look like in a world divided, hungry, and dying. I want us to be like Ruth, who crosses boundaries with grace, who seeks the way of love and grace, and faces trials with strength and tenderness.

I don’t know the exact shape of what that will look like, but I am confident that WE know. The most compelling and inspiring visions grow from amid the congregation. On **Friday, September 24 at 6:00pm**, the church will gather to discuss and brainstorm our common future. The success of this process is directly related to gathering the largest possible group to this conversation. Childcare will be available. Members and friends of OPC alike are invited. Online options will be provided.

Come and be a part of the amazing future we are writing together with God. Together we will begin building a vision of *Hesed* in our hearts, in our homes, and in our world.

- Adam



## Worship and Music

Welcome to September! Welcome to the new, always changing normal that is the constant in our lives. Welcome to Overbrook where the faithful will continue to gather for worship and will continue to press forward.

**Call for Ushers** - Our July and August return to the sanctuary has given us an opportunity to assess the changes that have occurred within our congregation in the last eighteen months and to give some thought to how we will meet new challenges. Our response starts with providing a full complement of ushers at every worship service. We need ushers at every door to greet visitors and old-timers alike and to hold heavy doors for those who need help with them. We need ushers to help people negotiate the ramp. We need ushers to greet worshippers, especially newcomers. We need ushers to fill the as yet undefined requirements of our ever changing new normal. Please give serious thought to volunteering to be an usher. Your participation could be the difference between someone getting into the church for worship or being left at the door.

**Looking ahead** - We will sing **Messiah** on December 5. **Isabelle Demers** will play an organ recital on May 15, 2022, the third concert in the Dennis Elwell recital series. Mark your calendar now.

- Eileen Wiggins, Chair

### *Let's Make Music Again!*



It has been such a blessing to worship in the sanctuary once again, and we will soon begin our music programming for the 2021-22 season. As always, we welcome visitors or new participants to our rehearsals, and I hope that you will take the time to consider joining one of our ensembles.

The Overbrook Choir will resume rehearsals on *Thursday, September 2*. Masks will be required, but we will have some activities where we are outside or sufficiently spaced apart so that we can take a break from mask-wearing. Our rehearsals take place in the Choir Room from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. every Thursday.

The Overbrook Westminster Handbell Choir will not meet until late September or October, when the weather is cooler and we can rehearse comfortably in close quarters. Likewise, The Overbrook Junior Choir will remain on hiatus until we make decisions regarding health and safety, especially in light of the evolving information about vaccine eligibility.

Singing, ringing, or simply listening--we appreciate anything you do to help make our music program a success! As always, you can contact me ([music@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:music@overbrookpresb.org)) with any questions. I hope to see you soon!

-Chris Gage, Director of Music



Backpack Blessings and Outdoor Ice Cream Party! | 9.12.21

*First, We Worship. Then, We Party!*

Indoor blessing @ 10:30 AM - Outdoor blessing and party @ -11:45 AM  
Heading back to school or work this September? All families are invited to come out to Overbrook with their school bags and carriers **on Sunday, September 12th**, to receive a blessing. Those who are comfortable worshipping indoors may choose to participate during our 10:30 service. For those who prefer to remain outdoors, we will bless you in our park-

ing lot at around 11:45 AM. Be sure to stick around because you won't want to miss the outdoor ice cream party and social during fellowship hour! Non-dairy options will also be served. No RSVP is required. See you there!

Fall Program Updates

As Summer fades, we warmly welcome your family back to Overbrook for what promises to be an exciting and interesting program year! While the Delta variant poses new and challenging formation questions for all of us to consider, our team has been optimistic and inventive when proposing solutions for these concerns. We are close to finalizing our approach to ministry this Fall and Winter, but while you wait for those details, here are a few hints to get you excited!

— *WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES at OPC* —



Outdoor Sunday School | Starting Sunday, September 12th at 10:30

Following a successful and well-received outdoor Vacation Bible School, Christian Education will aim to host two or three outdoor Sunday School sessions per month at OPC! These interactive learning sessions will feature rich biblical storytelling and engaging activities, and will aim to foster a safe space for social-emotional learning and interaction. Registration will be available soon. There are two paths for participation:

- **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.

Fellowship Hour for Kids | Starting Sunday, September 12th

Children and families may choose to *fellowship* (v.) at our playground space outdoors or join us for fun inside Fellowship Hall.

Confirmation Class for Middle School | Starting in Early October

Adam and Anthony are excited to announce that we will be offering young people the exciting and valuable opportunity to discern confirmation this Fall! Details surrounding the class are coming soon, but age-eligible individuals can expect to begin the course in the early portion of October. If you or someone in your family is twelve years old or more and *did not receive* a personal invitation to participate in the class, please reach out to Director of Christian Education, Anthony Carrella [anthony@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:anthony@overbrookpresb.org).

There are plans in-motion to honor the patience of our previous Confirmation class participants who were expecting an exciting Civil Rights pilgrimage to the Southern US just as the pandemic became serious. Details are forthcoming and will be announced soon.

## Christian Education—(Cont'd)

### — SEASONAL OPPORTUNITIES at OPC —

#### *Coming Soon: Outdoor Family Chapel Services*

CE is experimenting with the possibility of offering families with young people a developmentally responsive outdoor worship opportunity! We don't want to give away any surprises just yet. More details are soon to come.

#### *Coming Soon: Resource Ministry*

We are putting the final pieces together of a resource ministry for families. The aim here is to provide families with prayers, poems, ideas, and activities for walking the life of faith at home. A mixture of physical and digital resources is being considered. If you would like to share a favorite at-home faith resource or collaborate in other ways, please reach out to Director of Christian Education, Anthony Carrella, at [anthony@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:anthony@overbrookpresb.org).

### SUMMER EVENTS

#### Last Chance . . .

#### Wednesday Rotating Playground Fellowship!

Summer is not over . . . yet! Join us for the final installment of Playground fellowship! Monkey bars. Ice pops. Summer fun with friends. What could be better? All are invited to join children, youth, and families for rotating playground fun! The Christian Education team will provide bottled water, ice pops, and a first aid kit at each site. Individuals and families should bring anything to keep their crew comfortable, such as snacks, meals, sunscreen, picnic blankets, etc. Come when you can, and leave whenever you'd like.

#### Dates and Locations

Weds 9/1: 5:00 - 7:30 PM: Freedom Playground, 9000 Parkview Dr, Haverford, PA 19041

### COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES



Families with children and youth should bookmark our new Link Tree! Head to <https://linktr.ee/opcce> for a complete listing of CE links and resources for parents. Additionally, youth over 13 years old are invited to join Remind, our SMS communications platform. Join by heading to [remind.com/join/opcce](https://remind.com/join/opcce)

## Task Force Report

The Task Force continues to monitor the covid risk to our congregation and the rules and regulations put into place by the City of Philadelphia to reduce those risks. As of this writing, the City of Philadelphia requires masks in all indoor facilities and has a number of indoor food service restrictions. At Overbrook, vaccinated or not vaccinated, we will all wear masks indoors as a sign of love and concern for each other. Fellowship Hour will be held outdoors until further notice. It will not rain!

## Tunes of Overbrook



Greetings Overbrook! Well here we are, another year later and it's time for Tunes of Overbrook. We are still working out the logistics, but there will be a way for everyone to participate. This year, it will be held on **Saturday, October 23 at 7:00**. As we did last year, Tunes of Overbrook will showcase the many musical talents of the congregation.

**SAVE THE DATE** to join us via Zoom and/or YouTube and maybe In-Person  
**Saturday, October 23 at 7:00**

Stay tuned for details around fundraising, signing up to perform and more!

-The Stewardship Committee

## Note of Thanks



*Mahalo* (Thank You) for the fellowship!

Our recent Summer Prayer Breakfast, and its salute to the anniversary of Hawaii's statehood, brought together over 40 members and friends of Overbrook. Against the backdrop of tropical music, pineapple casseroles and good-spirited fellowship, we lifted our prayers as a community of faith. IN the spirit of joy, the prayer breakfast also offered the opportunity for some fine "chair hula dancing" and the gift of a new ukulele. Congratulations to Kate Shackelford...the winner of the ukulele drawing! Hopefully, we'll hear Kate strum a few tunes at an upcoming fellowship hour.

During this time of caution, it took quite a few villagers to make the Prayer Breakfast possible. Shouts of **mahalo** go to the Prayer Breakfast Crew:

Trudy Sheau, Aimerie Scherluebbe, Artia Benjamin, Margene Biedermann, Margaret Young, Margaret Paschal, Suchita Fiorillo, Sabrina Johnson, Jason Sheau, Karen Wong, Zach Wong, Phil Sheau...and the incredible all-star OPC Youth Buffet Servers: Ben Scherluebbe, Hannah Lazo, Julianna Johnson, Nathan Lazo, Aria Fiorillo, Emma Biedermann, and Zubin Fiorillo. Special waves of the palm branches go to Leonard Robbins and Chris Gage for their support.

A heartfelt **mahalo** to all who gave so generously to the free-will offering for Presbyterian Disaster Relief. Offering contributions, totaling \$631.00, will be sent to help relieve the suffering of those impacted by natural disasters in our country and across the globe.

Blessings to all, Sharon Parker

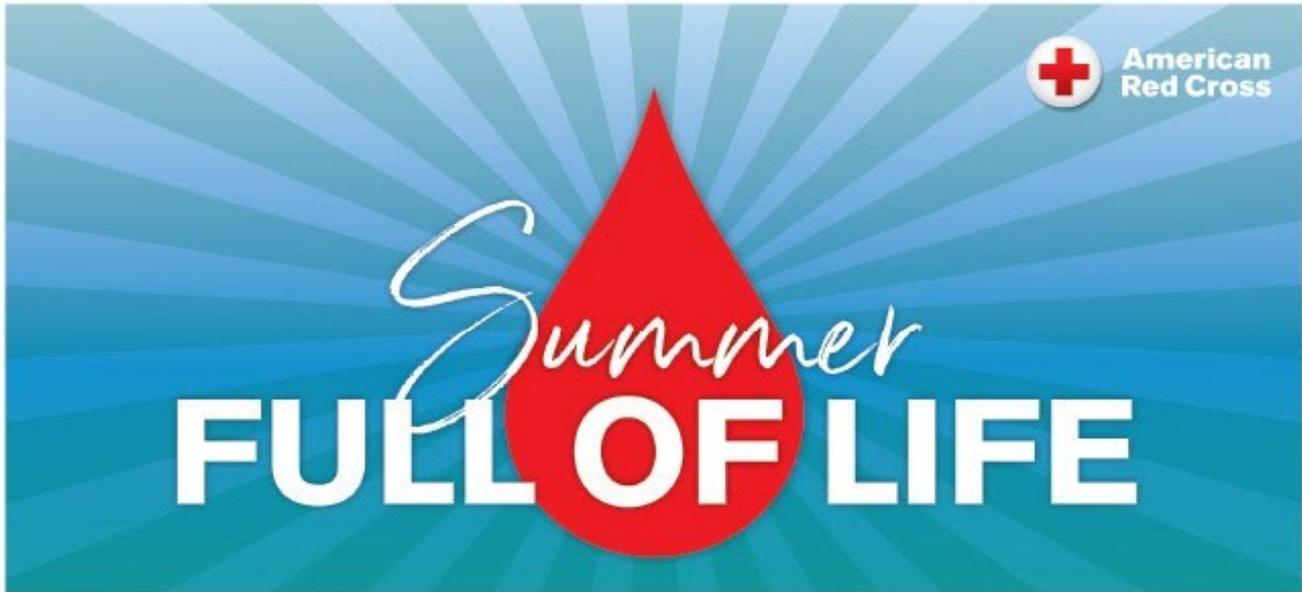
## Sense of Spiritual Direction

The isolation of the pandemic gave many of us an abundance of time and silence. With my time and silence, I made the bold, and possibly erratic decisions to move out of my neighborhood and comfort zones, try new recipes, and find long-deceased kinfolk on Ancestry.com. I also listened in that silence and prayed for a sense of direction.

As a visual learner, my childhood sense of direction was often rooted in landmarks, rather than the actual quadrants of a compass or direction of the sun. To find my way home, I knew to turn left just past the flower shop, and then make a quick right at the Atlantic Gas Station. NSEW were interesting, yet meaningless letters. In the isolation of these past 19 months, I lost my superficial landmarks, yet I gained a greater sense of spiritual direction. I did so through discernment, study, and most especially by the grace of God. Throughout the past academic year, and with the encouragement of Pastor Adam, I studied at Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. I learned to be silent; I learned to listen; and I learned to be open to God's spiritual direction. I would like to share what I have learned with you.

For me, 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 church on Mondays from 9:00 AM until noon; and on Wednesdays from 8:30AM until 10:30 AM. I am also available evenings for "zoom" time. 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)

Peace and joy to all,  
Sharon Parker



**Blood Drive**  
**Overbrook Presbyterian Church**

Wistar Morris Room  
6376 City Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19151

**Friday, September 3, 2021**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Overbrook Presbyterian Church to schedule an appointment.



**Cheers to you! Come to give Sept 3-7 for a NEW 16 oz. Red Cross campfire mug, while supplies last!**

**Share the vibe. Give blood to help save lives.**

Download the Blood Donor App | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Call 1-800-RED CROSS

© The American National Red Cross | 335201-57 CW

[25]-Order ID: 127421 - Item ID: 525873 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 0025873 - 001-APL-02 - APC2 - 2T 457

## Deacons

### Happy September Birthdays

9/1	Woody Adams	9/12	Olga Hoggard
	Elizabeth Cosgriff		Peter Subramanian
	Essi Gasonu	9/13	Jeremey Blatchley
	Jonathan Kopcsik		Eric Long
	Ben Scherluebbe		Judy Williamson
9/2	Janet Bowker	9/14	Evelyn Skipper
	Gabriel Gidjunis	9/16	Lily Baker
	Rebecca Gigjunis	9/18	Aimerie Scherlubbe
	Peggie Kaercher	9/19	Hope Kupstas
	Joe Piatt	9/23	Amy Behrman
	Jennifer Watts		Noble Brigham
9/3	Lillian Carnahan	9/24	Lainie Blodgett
9/4	Trudy Sheau		Makiyah Keys
9/6	Alexis Goodall	9/25	Winnie Carver
	Karen Wong		Everett Whalen
9/8	Greta Ham	9/28	Ron Homer
9/9	Solly Brown	9/30	Justin Roberston
	Zachary Jacobson		
9/10	Peggy Ingram		
9/11	Kayla Davis		
	Stephanie Kindt		
	Davorka Sabljak		

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

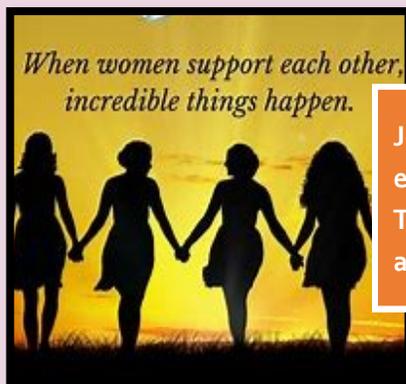
- Prayers for healing and comfort for Ted Dillon as he recovers from spinal surgery.
- Prayers of thanks for all the well wishes during Jeremey Blatchley's recovery.
- Prayers for restoration of health for members of Artia Benjamin's family diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Prayers for hope and restoration of health and mobility for Barbara, friend of Mary Lou Ryce.
- Prayers for healing and comfort for Patrick O'Healey as he recovers from spinal surgery.
- Prayers for Theresa De Cesare and her family, the extended family of Jill Van Rawley.
- Prayers of comfort for friends and family of Mary Pat who entered life eternal after a long illness.
- Prayers of healing for Amanda Benjamin as she recovers from a recent medical procedure
- Prayers of restoration of health for Lincoln Hollowell, father of Aimerie Scherluebbe.
- Prayers for healing, hope, and comfort for Keith Young who remains under medical care for cancer.
- Prayers for restoration of health for Anna, daughter of Rev. Lisa Farrell, Pastor of Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Estalene Ferrillo.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Wendy Fraser, sister of Jeremy Blatchley, as she continues treatment for cancer.
- Prayers of hope and comfort for families experiencing poverty, domestic strife, and uncertainty.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Aqueelah Folwell.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Caroline Skinner.
- Prayers for those who face on-going health challenges, especially Susan Leach, Judy Swartz, Ed Harvey, Ellen Burr, Marina Patino-Treat, and Theresa Carter.
- Prayers for Stephanie Morris and her family.
- Prayers for restoration of health and comfort for Bill Long, Eric Long's father, as he faces cancer treatment.

Please contact Terri Hunter ([teresahunter42@gmail.com](mailto:teresahunter42@gmail.com)) or Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) to 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 ([spark614@gmail.com](mailto:spark614@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

## Green Team



### NEW DATE

#### FOR THE LAST OF THE SUMMER SERIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Deepest apologies to anyone that tried to attend the last series on the environment on Tuesday, August 24, there was a technical error, and the Green Team has re-scheduled for this Tuesday August 31, at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.

#### [Zoom Link for Series 3 on the Environment](#)

Lastly, there is still time to either read or refresh yourself on the essay "Burning Cascade Head" by Robin Wall Kimmerer from her book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. [Link for Essay](#)

---

## Adult Forum

### September 12: Disability Inclusion Sunday

As a fellowship of believers, we are called to recognize and affirm that every person is created in God's image and has unique gifts to bring to the church. In that spirit, the Presbyterian Church -USA has designated September 12 as Disability Inclusion Sunday. On that date Overbrook will offer a special presentation, *Uniquely Able*, from 9:15-10:15 AM in the Chapel, led by *Sharon Parker and Bette Homer*. Please join us to hear the stories and the perspectives of those who contribute their talents openly and uniquely to the OPC community. The discussion will also be available via livestream for those who are unable to participate in person.

---

## Wednesday Bible Study



Wednesday Bible study will resume on September 15th from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Bible Study will be in person along with the opportunity to join online. The study will be on Paul's Letter to the Romans for the fall through December.

To keep up to date with the latest news and information on OPC—  
visit our Facebook, Website and Realm

