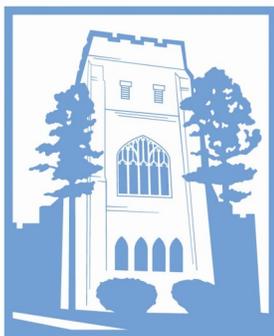


NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

Overbrook Presbyterian Church



Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson
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

Dear OPC Saints,

Last year, the church worked on a new mission statement to help guide its future in an uncertain season. The OPC mission statement reads:

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

What I love about this mission statement is how it understands our work as a church--namely, as an act of worship. We are called to welcome, love, and transform (our three core values) as a way to honor and celebrate God in our midst. A few weeks back in our Sunday service, I noted that Jesuit Richard Rohr once said that we often see ourselves as people of the world who "go to church." Rohr suggests that it would be better if we recognized ourselves as people of the church who go to the world. I agree.

This newsletter represents the work of a community seeking to form a loving church that is going out to the world in love, compassion, and grace. Over the coming months, the church has planned opportunities for service, learning, singing, fellowship, prayer, and advocacy. All of these, I would suggest the work ahead are acts of worship. As you decide how you would like to spend your time, I invite you to consider these events as ways in which you, too, might participate in the mission of this community.

I hope you find the upcoming season of ministry as inspiring as I do. I look forward to worshipping with you in the coming weeks and months.

grace + peace
Adam Hearlson
Pastor

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Worship and Music

WE ARE BACK!!!

Summer is nearly over. School has started or is starting soon. The staff is back in the office. The choir is back. The new program year is beginning, and the doors to OPC are open!

The Worship and Music Committee has worked hard to plan rich worship experiences for the next several months. Please open your calendar and mark these dates: (*Please note all these dates occur on a Sunday during worship, unless otherwise noted*)

September 11 - Homecoming Sunday. Adam will preach, the Overbrook Choir will sing, and we will observe Holy Communion. There will be a festival atmosphere following worship complete with food trucks, an ice cream truck, and fun activities for kids of all ages.

October 2 - World Communion Sunday. We will observe Holy Communion with Christians around the world, and we will hear scripture read in some of the many languages of our congregation. We will kick off a new liturgical Season of Creation. For four weeks we will pay special attention to our call to steward creation.

October 2 - 3:00 pm -Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis' Day

October 16 - 3:00 pm -The Gospel Choir of St. Thomas African Episcopal Church, our neighbor down the block, will present a concert in OPC's sanctuary.

October 30 - Heritage Sunday. We will take time to acknowledge those OPC members who have served the church for many years.

November 6 - All Saints' Sunday. We will remember the saints that have gone before us at OPC and we will sing with full voice For All the Saints.

November 27 - Advent I. This is the first Sunday of Advent, and we will light the first candle on our Advent wreath.

December 4 - Advent II. On this second Sunday of Advent, we will light the second Advent candle, and we will sing Messiah in the afternoon.

December 4 - Messiah Sing - 3:00 pm.

December 11 - Advent III. The third candle of Advent will be lighted as we begin the Greening of the Church.

December 18 - Advent IV. The fourth Advent candle will be lighted.

Wednesday, December 21 - 7:00 pm - This day, also known as the winter solstice, is the shortest day and longest night of the year. The Service of the Longest Night provides comfort for those who seek solace and comfort.

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve-5:00 pm. This will be our family and children's Christmas pageant.

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve-8:00 pm. The service of Lessons and Carols will be held.

December 25 - Christmas. We will worship together on Christmas.

The other Sundays that are not mentioned specifically will be celebrated with the usual great preaching, great music, and the extraordinary love and energy of the Overbrook family.

Watch for more details and make sure these dates are on your calendar—in ink!

Say it with Flowers—Sponsor Chancel Flowers



The chancel flowers that grace our sanctuary on Sunday mornings often are given in memory of someone who was important to a member of the congregation. The Worship Committee invites you to give flowers not only in honor of those who have gone before us but also in celebration of and thanksgiving for the many blessings we receive every day. In doing so, you will also be supporting the church.

The cost of the flowers we purchase every week from Overhill Florist has risen to \$60.00. We invite you to contribute what you can to offset this cost and to honor someone or something special to you. The Worship Committee will give flowers on September 11 to celebrate that Overbrook is back and our new program year has begun. Personally, I will give flowers on September 25 with thanksgiving that summer is gone and it is finally Fall! What birth, marriage, anniversary, graduation, new job, promotion, return to health or other joy do you wish to celebrate with your OPC family? We invite you to “say it with flowers.” You can reserve your celebration Sunday and make a contribution toward the cost of the flowers by following the sign up genius link provided: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8secsur>

*Eileen Wiggins for the
Worship and Music Committee*

Taste of Overbrook

Taste of Overbrook 2022—*Our Doors are Open to All*—Saturday, October 22 at 6:00 pm.

We open our doors to all—members, families, and friends—again this fall as the Taste of Overbrook resumes in person.

Join us as we share foods from around the world and support the ministry of the church. This year funds from the Taste will supplement the addition of handicap accessible doors at the church office entryway. Buy a ticket, bid on an auction item, share the joy of a meal together knowing you are supporting OPC's ministry.

Keep an ear out all September for details on early ticket sales and sign ups for cooks and helpers



Calling All Cooks for Taste of Overbrook!

Taste of Overbrook is an amazing international dinner and we need lots of help to make it happen. We're looking for volunteers to cook dishes from around the world. Not a cook? We'll also need help with set up, clean up and throughout the event. If you're interested in cooking and/or helping, please contact Carol (carol@overbrookpresb.org) or sign up at the Taste of Overbrook table during Fellowship Hour in September. Thanks!



Youth Ministry

What an exciting time for our Youth Ministry! After the hard work of many, we are ready to restart a regular youth Sunday School program. Youth Ministry is geared for youth Grades 6-12.

Youth Fellowship

On the first Sunday of every month, the Youth are invited to a time of food, fellowship and learning after the worship service. Starting at 12:00pm, the youth will spend time in conversation with a church mission partner and hear about the good work happening in our city.



Youth Sunday School Kick Off

As a way to kick off the year of Youth ministry, the young folks of OPC are invited to a pool party on September 11th at 4:00pm at Elizabeth Cosgriff and Joe Piatt's house in Merion. More details to follow.

Youth Sunday School to begins on September 18

On the 2nd-5th Sundays, the youth in Grades 6-12 will have their own Sunday School time for learning and formation. Arriving initially at 10:30 for the worship service, the youth will leave after the sermon for a time of conversation, study, and learning.

Youth Mission Trip

In addition to these Sunday Morning offerings, the Youth Ministry will be traveling to Baltimore for a fall mission trip. **From September 23-26**, the youth will be residents at **The Center**, a mission organization in **Baltimore** that ministers to underserved areas of the city. The trip will include opportunities to learn, feed, and worship. Thanks to the generosity of some folks in the congregation, the cost for this weekend is **\$150**. If the cost is prohibitive, scholarships are always available. All are welcome. Registration is available using the QR code below



Children and Family Ministry (CFM)

What a great summer we had! CFM enjoyed rotating playground hangouts together, and our four-day Earth keepers VBS was a huge success, with over 25 kids and nearly 20 volunteers. We learned about delighting in God's good creation and taking care of it together. Special highlights included watermelon at every dinner and amazing art projects led by artists in our church.

This fall, Children's Sunday School (Pre-K - G5) is using a curriculum called *Seasons of the Spirit*, a wonderful lectionary-based curriculum that will align with what is happening in the church year and in the Sanctuary. Sunday School will also be reintegrating the multi-classroom learning environment in the upper church each week, tailoring instruction for Early Learners, Lower and Upper Elementary students! Keep your eyes open for a fall calendar and Sunday School registration information arriving soon in your inbox. We look forward to a faith-filled year together!

Here is a list of events being held by CFM during September:

- Classroom Cleanup at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, September 7
- Sunday School Starts on Sunday, September, 11
- Caregiver Meet and Greet / Town Hall at 12:00 PM on Sunday, September 18:
- Sunday School / Storyteller Training / Clearance Acquisition at 12:00 PM on Sunday, September 25
- Parents' Night Out at 5:30 PM on Friday, September 30

For more information on the above mentioned events, please contact Anthony Carrella, anthony@overbrookpresb.org

Mission and Outreach

Heading into September, Mission and Outreach has a busy schedule of our ongoing programs and reconnecting with partners whose efforts have been interrupted by Covid and other evil spirits.

Food

- Donations for the Norristown Hospitality Center are going well, but support is always welcomed. Food donations are delivered on the third Monday of each month. Donations for September are due on Sunday, September 18 for delivery on Monday, September 19. If you are interested in signing up for food donations, please follow the link to the sign up genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044aacaf2aaa8-breakfast>. Please contact Ann Elise Lindgren at earl.r.lindgren@gmail.com.

Education

- WePac is getting re-established with schools in Philadelphia. We are in-line to work with the Gompers school library. We will be collecting school supplies for two other Philly schools.
- The Books Through Bars project was successful with 5 members going to the BTB office on July 16. This will be repeated on the first Saturday of every month starting September 3rd.

Gun Violence

- We support mentorship programs that offer alternatives to street violence. Herb Brabham is involved with ManUpPHL - Their main need is jobs for kids who are at risk .

Past efforts and partnerships we are trying to rekindle

- Habitat for Humanity is once again welcoming volunteers both skilled and unskilled
- Broad Street Ministry is no longer affiliated with the Presbytery. They have resumed many of their outreach efforts
- Aid to Friends is now Caring for Friends.
- Philly rec center volunteers

*Jeff Bowker for
Mission and Outreach*

Update-Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)

Beginning in June the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) was assembled and began to meet on a weekly basis. The committee is co-chaired by Herb Brabham and Bob Kothari. The other members include Margaret Paschal (secretary), Cheryl Davis, Hannah Lazo, Kadie Whalen, and Zubin Fiorillo.

The APNC was briefed by the Associate Pastor Task Force of it pre-work and reviewed several documents that were part of the development of the need and profile for OPC's Associate Pastor. With these inputs the, APNC is in the process of completing a draft Ministry Information Form (MIF). The draft MIF will be submitted to the Session after Labor Day and upon approval will be formally submitted via the Presbytery to solicit candidates.

Upon receiving a qualified candidate pool, the APNC will begin the qualification review and interview process. The process is like the one used to select our Minister.

The APNC will continue to provide updates as we meet key milestones. If there are any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the committee.

Many thanks to all members of the APNC for their dedication and devotion to this process as we call our Associate Pastor.

Peace and blessings,
Bob Kothari

Women's Prayer Group

An opportunity for shared conversation, spiritual support, good humor, and group prayer is offered Tuesday mornings at 7:30 AM by Zoom. You are warmly invited to start each Tuesday with a group of women for whom "Amen" is not an ending but a hopeful beginning. Regardless of whether your schedule allows you to participate, please consider us to be your prayer partners. As we do each Sunday morning during worship, all who gather on Tuesday will pray with and for you. We encourage you to send us your prayer requests, and each will be faithfully, and confidentially lifted in prayer. You are invited to share your prayer requests with Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) (H: 215-309-5388).

(A Date Saver) Walking with Spirit: An invitation for contemplation and wonder



Dear OPC Friends,

Considering that I am "uniquely abled," the following may seem like an odd statement: *I love to walk...and I am inviting you to walk with me!* While walking through the Sanctuary of God's creation, peace, awe, and an enhanced sense of spiritual direction can be realized. It can be a time of listening, and watching, for the work of the Spirit. Each Saturday in October, I will be walking a series of short, accessible trails in our area, and I hope you will join me. It will be an opportunity for us to marvel at the changing seasons...and to listen to the sounds of creation. I look forward to these wonder-filled walks and to discovering what God has in store for us. Open hearts, cameras, awe-inspired conversation, and adventurers of all ages are

welcome. Discoveries are promised!

The first walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 1: 9:00 AM Merion Botanical Park, 100 Merion Road, Merion Station. The full schedule of walks will be available in the October newsletter. OPC contemplative walks are inspired by Christine Valters Painter's work, *Eyes of the Heart: Photography as a Contemplative Christian Practice*.

Blessings to all,
Sharon Parker

Parish Care: 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? If so, I invite you to join me in exploring God's path through spiritual direction.

Spiritual direction is a compassionate listening and prayer partnership given freely by 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, and as a 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, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM- 1:30 PM. I am also available for home visits, and am happy to schedule evening zoom conversations at your convenience. It would be a joy to share time with you. Please feel free to contact me to reserve time for shared conversation and prayer. (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) (home: 215-309-5388)

Blessings to you,
Sharon Parker

Skyspace: Quiet awareness...contemplative joy!

Consider giving yourself the gifts of peace and beauty. Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting invites the public to join them for the viewing of *Greet the Light*, the work of acclaimed artist, James Turrell. *Greet the Light* is the theme of the permanent Skyspace installation, and is open the first Friday and Sunday evenings of each month. The presentation is timed to coincide with the setting sun. To learn more about this extraordinary experience, please see the following link chestnuthillskyspace.org, or contact Sharon Parker for more information.

Welcome to RPM...OPC's Retired Person's Ministry!

RPM is back in business...and our business is good spirited fellowship and shared learning. While RPM initially grew out of a call to provide gathering opportunities for OPC's retired members and friends, our program has now expanded to offer daytime, in-person activities for all who are available to participate. The RPM program has two components: **RPM Plus** which offers themed interest group activities, and the **monthly RPM Cafe**. All RPM events are scheduled on Fridays, and currently meet in the **Wistar Morris Room**. Come join us for September's events!

RPM Plus:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| September 9, 10:00 am-Noon | <i>Emotional Well-being...attitudes and lifestyle choices that support emotional health</i> | Conveners: Sharon Elwell and Pat Dillon |
| September 16, 10:00 am-Noon | <i>Genealogy, PT. 2: Continuing our ancestral searches</i> | Conveners: Pat Dillon and Sharon Parker |
| September 23, 10:00 am-Noon | <i>Creating Memories: Designing legacy art</i> | Conveners: Sharon Parker and OPC guest artists |

RPM Cafe:

September 30: 11:30-1:00 PM RPM Cafe: Please join us in the Wistar Morris Room for fellowship, lunch and a special program. The menu for the day will include a choice of soups, fresh fruit, desserts and beverages. Participants are invited to BYO sandwich/salad. Our special program for the day will be an exploration of topics that, for some, are often unthinkable. As an RPM community, we will have the opportunity to explore them together. Join us as we ask the question... "So...What's Next on the Agenda? Focusing on life transitions, we will welcome a guest panel including professionals in continuing care, celebrations of life, and estate planning.

-Sharon Parker
Parish Care Associate

Congregational Life



On World Communion Sunday, we would like to offer snacks from around the globe during Fellowship Hour. If you have a favorite international treat you can share or would like to help, please let us know. Fellowship Hour is an extension of our worship and we are always looking for hosts and helpers each Sunday. OPC provides beverages and gluten-free snack options. Please [click here to sign up for Fellowship Hour](#).

Congregational Life also needs volunteers to help with the oral history project, the church photo directory and other church-wide events. Please contact Chairperson Artia Benjamin at CLC@overbrookpresb.org if you'd like to learn more.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

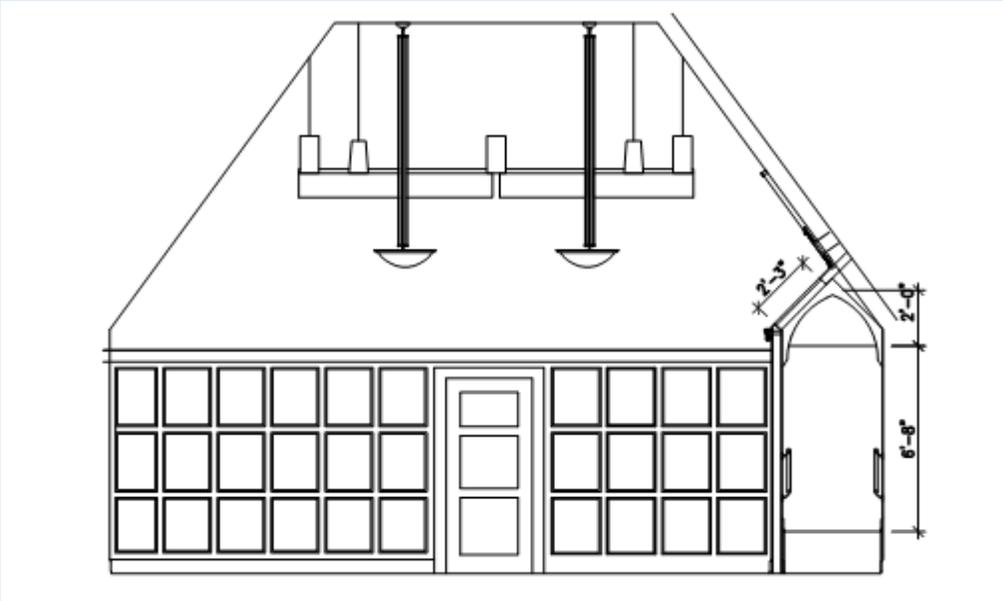


Prayer Shawl Ministry—Thursday, September 1, 11:00 a.m. This ministry warmly welcome all who are interested to join them at the home of *Bette Homer*, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia. Participants are reminded to BYO lunch. For more information, please contact **Mary Lou Ryce** (marylou.ryce@gmail.com).

Property Committee

Are you wondering what's going on behind all the plastic at the chapel and the hallway at Overbrook? Well construction is now well underway on a new accessible ramp that will connect all the spaces on the main floor such as the Wistar Morris Room and the Fellowship Hall to the sanctuary. The ramp will be inside a new corridor that will slide through the edge of the chapel and to meet up with the sanctuary foyer. The entrance to the chapel will be reconfigured to accommodate the new corridor, and the sanctuary foyer will get an expanded landing to receive the ramp at the top. The drawing below shows the new corridor at the side of the chapel.

We've had some challenges along the way getting the building permit and an unexpected need to reinforce some of the existing building framing but things are now back on track and we are hoping for completion in October in time for the Taste of Overbrook. Stay tuned for more updates.



Section drawing through the chapel with new ramp corridor on right

-Mimi Winkler on behalf of the Property Committee

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Next Women's Dining Circle will be
Friday, Sept. 30 at the home of Liz Shah



Blood Drive
Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Wistar Morris Room
6376 City Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151

Friday, September 2, 2022
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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



Come to give Sept. 1-18 and we'll say thanks with a limited-edition Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last! Good things happen when you give. In fact, every time you give, you may help save more than one life. Spread the word!

[R0] - Order ID: 1254651 - Item ID: 5036518 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 0000000616 - 3003-APL-0024 - AP02 - 2021734

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Deacons

Happy September Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|---------------------|
| 9/1 | Woody Adams | 9/12 | Peter Subramanian |
| | Elizabeth Cosgriff | 9/13 | Jeremey Blatchley |
| | Jonathan Kopcsik | | Eric Long |
| | Ben Scherluebbe | | Judy Williamson |
| 9/2 | Janet Bowker | 9/14 | Evelyn Skipper |
| | Joe Piatt | 9/16 | Lily Baker |
| | Gabriel Gidjunis | 9/18 | Aimerie Scherluebbe |
| | Rebecca Gidjunis | 9/19 | Hope Kupstas |
| | Peggie Kaercher | 9/23 | Amy Behrman |
| 9/3 | Lillian Carnahan | | Noble Brigham |
| 9/4 | Trudy Sheau | 9/24 | Lainie Blodgett |
| 9/6 | Karen Wong | | Denise Stewart |
| 9/8 | Greta Ham | 9/25 | Everett Whalen |
| 9/9 | Solly Brown | 9/27 | Aqueelah Folwell |
| 9/10 | Peggy Ingram | 9/28 | Gwen Harden |
| 9/11 | Kayla Davis | 9/30 | Justin Roberston |
| 9/11 | 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



Prayer List

- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Margaret Young's great-grandson, Yusef, who recently underwent surgery at Children's Hospital.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Trudy Sheau.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Ed Harvey.
- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Luis Wong.
- Prayers for restoration of health for all in our church family who have contacted COVID.
- Prayers for all who face health challenges, especially Aimerie Scherluebbe, Susan Leach, Ernestine Harris, Caroline Skinner, Aqueelah Folwell, Stephanie Stokes, Terri Carter, Judy Swartz, Alyce Marsh, Ellen Burr, Bill and Jean Long, and Martha Brown.
- Prayers for Stephanie Morris and her family.
- Prayers for safe travel and encouragement for our OPC college students as they move into their academic communities.
- Prayers for guidance, inspiration and encouragement for Pre-K through High School students as they start a new year.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for all who support teaching and learning.
- Prayers of hope and strength for all who are experiencing challenges and transitions in their personal lives .

Please contact Bill Baker (wbaklava@aol.com) or Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) to add names to the prayer list

Ongoing Weekly Events:

Every Sunday:

- Children's Sunday School – *Grades PreK-5*-10:45 am – Starting September 11 - Runs 2nd-Last Sunday of the Month
- Youth Sunday – *Grades 6-12* – 11:15 am – Starting September 18 – Runs 2nd-Last Sunday of the Month
- Youth First Sunday Fellowship-*Grades 6-12* -Noon – Every 1st Sunday of the month

Every Tuesday:

- Women's Prayer Support Group- 7:30 am -Online
Join <https://bit.ly/3yxD2F4>-Meeting ID: 932 4865 5338

Every Wednesday:

- Bible Study -10:30 am-In Person and Online
Join <https://tinyurl.com/46n54thm> - Meeting ID: 894 5497 9360

Every Thursday

- Handbell Rehearsal – 6:30 pm
- Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 pm

Every Friday

- RPM Plus -10-noon – 2nd-4th Friday of September
- RPM Café-11:30-1:00 pm – 5th Friday of the month



Committee Information

| Committee | Meeting Schedule | Chairs/Co-Chairs |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Worship and Music | 3rd Monday of the month-7:30 pm-Online | Eileen Wiggins |
| Mission and Outreach | 4th Sunday of the month –12:15pm-In person | Jeff Bowker |
| Finance | 1st Tuesday of the month-7:00 pm-Online | Lainie Blodgett |
| Children and Family (CFM) | Last Wednesday of the month-6:15 pm-Online | Anthony Carrella, Christy Lang-Hearlson and Sabrina Johnson |
| Property | Next Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 7-7pm-Online | Bill Baker, Ted Dillon and Jeff Bowker |
| Stewardship | TBD | Keedra Carroll and Will Schick |
| Congregational Life | TBD | Artia Benjamin |
| Welcoming | TBD | Elizabeth Mendoza |
| Youth and Family | TBD | Adam Hearlson |

For more information on above mentioned committees, please contact chairs and/or co-chairs of the committee. Contact information may be found in realm or contact the office at office@overbrookpresb.org