



Overbrook

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson
Pastor

Wanda Harris Cooper
Pastor of Care and Youth

Dr. Christopher Gage
Director of Music

Anthony M. Carrella
Director of Children & Family Ministry

Artia Benjamin
Suchita Fiorillo
Youth Leaders

Lisa Faso
Property Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

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NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

From the Pastor

Last week and this coming week, we are spending time in worship with one of the Bible's most fascinating—and frustrating—characters: Jacob.

Jacob spends much of his life grasping for blessings that God has already been promised. He manipulates, deceives, and schemes, not because he lacks faith, but because he doesn't know what to do with it. He believes God's promises but cannot imagine how those promises will become reality, so he takes matters into his own hands.

In each season, I return to Jacob and see new complexity in his story. His journey of faith is relatable.

The older I get, the less interested I am in pretending that faith is the absence of doubt. I've known moments when God's presence felt unmistakable, but I've also experienced seasons filled with questions and uncertainty. I suspect many of you have too.

Jacob's defining moment comes not in certainty, but in wrestling. Alone beside the river Jabbok, he wrestles through the night with a mysterious stranger and refuses to let go until he receives a blessing. He leaves with a limp, but he also leaves transformed.

I think that limp is the point. Jacob doesn't emerge stronger; he emerges more honest. He finally learns that God's grace is not something he has to seize or earn. It is something he wears, an unmerited gift of the God he never quite knew how to approach.

The theologian Paul Tillich once wrote, "Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith." Jacob's story reminds us that our questions don't disqualify us from faith—they can become the very place where we encounter God.

My hope is that Overbrook continues to be a church where faithful wrestling is welcomed. Not a community that has every answer, but one that trusts God enough to ask honest questions, carry one another's burdens, and discover together that God's blessing often meets us in the struggle itself.

grace + peace
Adam Hearlson

HELP WANTED

A summary of volunteer opportunities at OPC. More details throughout this newsletter.

Upcoming Opportunities

- **H-Can Collection. Sunday, August 16.** More info on page 4.
- **Summer Choir. Sunday, August 23.** More info on page 2.

Ongoing Opportunities

- Fellowship Hour Sharing Table. More info on page 9.

From the Director of Music

We had a wonderful turnout for the **Overbrook Summer Choir** in July! After just one short rehearsal, the choir sang Gordon Young's "Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing," and it was truly magnificent. If you missed it, there is one more opportunity to participate in the pickup choir: we will gather on **Sunday, August 23** to rehearse another short anthem and sing that day in the service. Watch your email for a reminder as the date draws near!

Do you have children who like to sing--or who might be convinced to do so? The **Overbrook Junior Choir** will resume this fall, and we want you to be involved! It is a great way for kids to learn about music, sing prayers and praises to God, and get together with their friends. No prior singing experience or music-reading knowledge is required.

I am very happy to announce that a contract for our new organ has been finalized with the **Schantz Organ Company**. We are currently working to coordinate with the architects to ensure that all the necessary preparations will be made in the restored Sanctuary. In the coming weeks, you can expect a more formal presentation on what to expect with our new instrument; in the meantime, feel free to contact me with any questions.

You may notice a stack of keyboards and pedalboard at the front of Fellowship Hall. This setup uses a computer program called **Hauptwerk Digital Pipe Organ** to simulate an organ sound. You will hear it being used in worship, mostly for prelude and postlude, but we are still working out some of the technical difficulties. Although it is no substitute for a pipe organ, it is a fun opportunity, while we are still in Fellowship Hall, for you to see just what is involved with playing the "King of Instruments." If you would like a demonstration, just stop by before or after worship!

Finally, we are thrilled to welcome the newest member of the Overbrook Quartet: **Jasper McQueen**, who comes to us from St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Whitemarsh. His first Sunday will be August 23; we will feature a short biography in that day's bulletin, and he will sing his first solo then.

As you can see, there are lots of exciting things happening! Thank you for your support during these transitional but fruitful times.

—Chris Gage

In the Spirit at Overbrook...

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group. Tuesdays. 7:30–8:30 AM. Online.

Early risers are invited to start the morning with small group community prayer. Join us from the comfort of your home for a time of faith-filled fellowship and shared prayer. All are welcome. **Please use the following link: tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer.**

Centering Prayer. Wednesdays. 9:30–10:00 AM.

All are welcome to participate in OPC's Centering Prayer gathering, Wednesday mornings from 9:30–10:00 AM. Due to construction, Centering Prayer is meeting at Janie Martin's home, 435 Parkview Dr, Wynnewood, PA. Centering Prayer offers opportunities for contemplative prayer and reflection.

Adult Bible Study will resume on **Wednesday, August 26** at 10:30 AM in the OPC Office.

OPC's Retired Persons' Ministry (RPM)

Camp RPM: VBS for Seasoned Believers

The Retired Persons' Ministry of Overbrook (RPM), warmly invites all "seasoned believers" to join them for Camp RPM, a series of summer field trips which highlight the historical foundations of faith and community in our area. Each day trip offers opportunities for good-spirited adventure, fellowship...*and a picnic lunch*. Lunch will be provided for each participant. There is no cost to participate in this special ministry.

Our August sessions will be held, weather permitting, on **Tuesday, August 11**, and **Tuesday, August 25**. Upcoming tours include historic sites in Marple and Tinicum Townships. Carpools will leave from the OPC parking lot at 9:15 AM; tours of Delaware County historic sites begin at 10:00 AM. Each program will conclude by 1:00 PM. RSVP to Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com; 610-742-8415) by the Sunday prior to the trip, if you plan to attend, need transportation, and/or can provide transportation for a non-driver. Responses assure transportation and lunches for all. Please see the weekly worship bulletins and Realm announcements for further updates.

Come discover with us!



Mission & Outreach

Habitat for Humanity has invited Overbrook Presbyterian to partner with other faith-based organizations in their *Pope Leo Village Initiative: Building on Faith*.

Mission and Outreach is looking for five volunteers to help rebuild homes on **Saturday, September 19** on the 1400 block of N. Hollywood Street in Brewerytown. Activities vary, but could include demolition of interiors of homes, facade work, neighborhood cleanup, etc.

Work starts at 8:30 AM and ends by 3:00 PM with lunch provided. The sign-up link is coming; stay tuned! If you are interested or want to learn more, please contact [Janet Bowker](mailto:jabowker1001@gmail.com) (jabowker1001@gmail.com).



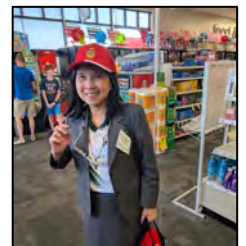
The **H-Can food collection** for our neighbors in Havertown continues. Please consider purchasing items from their list and bringing them to church on the third Sunday of the month. Our next collection will be **Sunday, August 16**.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kid-friendly cereal• Mac and cheese (the orange kind)• Dry pasta• Pasta sauce• Long grain rice (3 lb. bag or smaller)• Dry black beans (2 lb. bag or smaller) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shelf-stable or powdered milk• Instant coffee• Diapers (only size 5-7)• Feminine products• Reusable grocery bags |
|--|--|

Please remember to purchase only the items on the above list! Contact [Janet Bowker](mailto:jabowker1001@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.



A great BIG thank you from the Mission and Outreach Committee to the congregation for your incredibly warm welcome to our visitors from Overbrook Hospital, Thailand. From hospital visits to Fellowship Hour, our guests enjoyed every activity because of YOU!

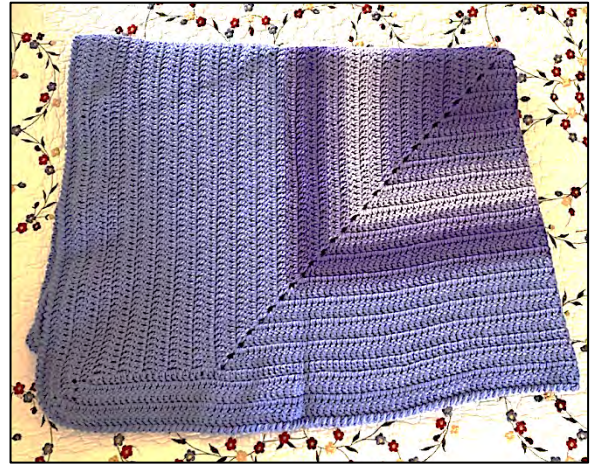


AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Saturday, August 1. Books Through Bars.** We meet at 1:00 PM in the OPC parking lot to carpool to 4722 Baltimore Avenue; return by 4:00 PM.
- **Ongoing Paperback Book and Calendar Collection.** Look for the purple and blue bins during Fellowship Hour.
- **Sunday, August 16. H-CAN food collection.** Mission table in the Wistar Morris Room
- **Saturday, September 5. Books Through Bars.**
- **Saturday, September 19. Building on Faith: A Pope Leo Initiative** through Habitat for Humanity
- **Tuesday, September 29.** Dinner service at the **Life Center of Eastern Delaware County**.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry warmly welcomes all who are interested in making blessed handwork for those facing illness or other difficulties, as well as those celebrating joys. These gifts go to OPC friends and members, and also to their family and friends. If you would like to request a prayer shawl gift for someone you know, please contact Bette Homer at bettebhomer@gmail.com or call 215-470-7736. If you know someone in our ministry, feel free to contact him or her.



Whether you are experienced in hand crafts or would like to learn, we invite you to join us at our monthly meeting. Crafts are not limited to knitting or crocheting. If you make a different craft that might be shared through our ministry, please call or email the contact above. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 8 at 11:00 AM** at the home of Bette Homer, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia.

If you're on our prayer shawl email list, we'll send you confirmation of our meeting dates each month. If you'd like to be added to our email list or want more information, please call or email Bette Homer at bettebhomer@gmail.com or call 215-470-7736.

Say Cheese! It's Photo Directory Time!

The OPC **Photo Directory Task Force** consists of Rodney Atienza (photographer), Cindi Landmesser (photographer), Carol Rozmiarek (Realm expert), Emily Stewart (photographer assistant) and Artia Benjamin (photographer assistant and Chairperson).

We had two successful photo sessions in June and July for the OPC Photo Directory. The next sessions will be announced in the Sunday bulletins so please look out for the schedules. These images will be hosted in Realm, making this an ideal time to ensure your contact information is up to date in the system. The completed directory will be made available in November.



A Sign-up Genius and further details will be shared in our weekly bulletins and announced during the "Life at the Crossroads" segment of our Sunday Worship.

We look forward to this opportunity for fellowship and to help our community put names to faces.

*Artia Benjamin,
Congregational Life Committee Chairperson*

Youth Ministry

We hope that all of our families are having a wonderful summer. We're working on planning for the upcoming program year that will start in September.

Save the Dates

- Inside College Admissions Webinar: Monday, August 10
- Friday Night Live! Youth Group: Friday, September 11
- Kick-off Sunday: Sunday, September 13
- Youth Talent Show: Sunday, October 25

Youth Sunday School. Starts on September 13!

College Admissions Webinar. Attention rising high school juniors and seniors! On **Monday, August 10 at 7:00 PM** we are having a Zoom meeting about the college admissions process. Kate Balboni owner of Balboni College Advising, LLC, will be giving a presentation titled "Inside College Admissions". Kate is also the Director of Ministries to Youth, Young Adults and Their Families at Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church. Juniors and seniors are asked to RSVP before August 10 to youth@overbrookpresb.org.



Kensington. On Sunday, July 12, Becky Lazo took four of our amazing young adults, Solly, Anya, Nathan, and Hannah to serve and love through action with The Kensington Project team. The Kensington Project is a non-profit organization that supports people affected by the opioid crisis in Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood. Youth and families are invited to join us as we feed, clothe, and love our neighbors.

Our next day of service will be on **Sunday, September 20, 10 AM at OPC**. If you would like more information or would like to attend, please contact **Becky Lazo at 443-745-3178 or rebeccalazo@hotmail.com** or **Suchita Fiorillo at 215-450-5356 or youth@overbrookpresb.org**.

Puerto Rico Mission Trip. From August 8-16, Suchita Fiorillo, Nathan Lazo, Blake Hotek, Solly Brown, and Anya Brown will be joining the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown (FPCG) on a service-learning experience to Puerto Rico to work with *Techo Pa' Mi Gente*, which translates to Roof(s) for my people. We'll be helping to rebuild homes damaged by hurricanes. Through your donations and



support during our coffee and hoagie sales, we were able to raise almost \$3000! That money along with the thousands that FPCG was able to raise will provide for 100% of our travel, food, housing, and equipment needs during our time of service. Please keep all of us, the island of Puerto Rico, and the families that we will be serving in your prayers.



The Youth Bake Sale on July 26 was a huge success! Thank you to all of our bakers and treat eaters! We made a whopping \$997 to go towards our youth programming for the year!

Our OPC Youth Choir, led by Virginia Jennings and Victor Fiorillo, will be taking a break until September. Stay tuned for more information and ways to participate.



For additional information, reach out at youth@overbrookpresb.org

Please keep our youth and leaders in your prayers.

Congregational Life

Fellowship Hour Hosts

We are grateful for all those who donated food in July and those who coordinated Fellowship Hour. If you would like an opportunity to practice hospitality and kindness toward one another or celebrate a special event. Please sign up to be a Fellowship Hour Coordinator. We still need your help. There are several ways to provide service:

- Be a coordinator – set up before worship service between 10:15 AM to 10:30 AM which includes putting table covers and trays on tables for the donated food.
- Donate food for Fellowship Hour, for example a bag of cookies, bag of cuties, etc.
- The church provides the table covers, trays, plates, cups and utensils – you provide the service.
- The church provides gluten free food to place on the gluten free table separate from other food.
- Clean up after Fellowship Hour. You do not have to break down tables and chairs.

Just fill out the SignUpGenius. Here's the link_

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4aacae2da2fe3-fellowship>

Here are some more tips for coordinating:

- Take all leftover food that is perishable home with you or give it away to someone.
- Coordinators do not need to break down furniture. It will be put away by Leonard.
- Trash and recycling handled by Leonard.

The Coffee Ministry

Coffee will resume service in September, so you, as host, do not have to do anything for coffee or hot tea.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Matthew 25:35

Thank you for your Fellowship Hour ministry!
Congregational Life Committee

Ongoing Weekly Events

Every Tuesday

- Tuesday Morning Prayer Group. 7:30 AM. Online. Join <https://bit.ly/3yxD2F4>—Meeting ID: 932 4865 5338

Every Wednesday

- Centering Prayer. 9:30 AM. Janie Martin's home.
- Bible Study will resume on August 26 at 10:30 AM.

Committee Information

Committee Name	Monthly Meeting	Chair or Co-Chairs
Worship and Music worship@overbrookpresb.org	4 th Tuesday 7:30 PM*	Janie Martin
Deacons deacons@overbrookpresb.org	2 nd Sunday 1:00 PM	Denise Stewart Mads Cosgriff
Mission and Outreach mission@overbrookpresb.org	4 th Sunday 12:30 PM	Jeff Bowker
Finance finance@overbrookpresb.org	Mon. 8/10 7:00 PM*	Lainie Blodgett
Children and Family Ministry (CFM) cfm@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Molly Andrews Burke
Personnel personnel@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Elizabeth Cosgriff
Property property@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Jeff Bowker Jason Duckworth
Stewardship stewardship@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Karen Testa
Congregational Life clc@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Artia Benjamin
Welcoming welcoming@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Elizabeth Mendoza
Youth Ministry youth@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Wanda Harris Cooper Artia Benjamin Suchita Fiorillo
An asterisk (*) indicates that the committee meets virtually.		

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

8/1 Yiran Xie Epley
 8/5 Rachel Carnahan
 8/10 Brian Burke
 Nathan Lazo
 8/11 Jessica Corrar
 8/12 Andy Bowser
 8/14 Susy Brandt
 Moira Heinz
 8/15 John May
 8/17 Earl Lindgren
 Bill Stewart
 8/18 Elizabeth Boswell
 Pat Dillon
 8/19 Lyra Cox
 8/21 Jeff Bowker
 8/22 Will Schick
 8/23 Peter Seidel
 8/27 Edelene Carroll
 8/30 Solomon Hunter
 8/31 Mary Shannon



If the birthday for you or a family member is not listed and you wish to be included on the monthly birthday list, please email office@overbrookpresb.org.

Prayer List

- Prayers for Jerry Naimoli, Lisa Faso's uncle, who was just diagnosed with ALS.
- Prayers of support for Bette and Ron Homer, facing challenging times.
- Prayers for strength for Hudson Cosgrove, Karen Lord-Hurwitz's great grandson in Florida, who was born premature.
- Prayers for comfort and healing for Andrea Gosfield in her recovery from hernia surgery.
- Prayers for guidance and comfort for Scott Long, who is in search of a new home near public transit and is also facing health challenges.
- Prayers for Capitola Cooper, mother-in-law of Wanda Harris-Copper, for restoration of health of heart issues.
- Prayers of support and healing for Elizabeth Mendoza as she faces newly diagnosed breast cancer.
- Prayers of comfort and support for Peggy Boatwright and her family as they mourn the loss of Peggy's brother, Charles Lewis.
- Prayers of comfort and support for all those mourning the loss of Robert Marshall, brother of Calvin Marshall.
- Prayers for strength and healing for Ed Harvey as he is facing some medical/dental issues.
- Prayers for strength and healing for Susan Leach, Becky Lazo's mom, as she continues her health recovery.
- Prayers for successful treatment and recovery of Kari McDevitt, friend of the Lazo's, as she faces her ninth cancer diagnosis.
- Prayers for peace and restoration in the Middle East, and that the hearts of world leaders are turned away from violence.
- Prayers of support for those embarking on new ventures and for all undergoing the uncertainty of transitions.
- Prayers for dignity, stability, and comfort for all those navigating changes in government assistance programs.
- Prayers for all who are facing health concerns, especially Roz Benton, Peggy Boatwright, Gary Fairfax, Brian Henderson, Gwen Anthony, Gail Kaercher, Vince Gilhool, Gwen Harden, Bette Homer, Beth Leach, Valerie Craig, Patricia MacCausland, Joan Moylan, Jim Moylan, Davorka Sabljak, Carolyn Summers, Nathan Tullio and Natalie DeShields.

Please contact Jill Van Rawley (deacons@overbrookpresb.org) or Adam Hearlson (adam@overbrookpresb.org) to add names to the prayer list.