



Overbrook

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship Service
September 13, 2026
10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Overbrook Presbyterian Church
We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning!

Notes on Today's Service

Leadership:

The Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson, Pastor
Wanda Harris-Cooper, Pastor of Care and Youth Ministry
Davorka Sabljak, Liturgist
Anthony M. Carrella, Director of Children and Family Ministry
Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music
The Overbrook Choir
The Overbrook Quartet

Today's chancel flowers are given by Jeff and Janet Bowker
in gratitude for the life of The Rev. David McMillian.

Childcare is available during the worship service. Worship is for all ages, but, should your infant or preschooler become restless, excellent childcare is provided in the nursery.

Large Print Bulletins are Available.

Please speak to one of the ushers if you have special needs.

Following worship today, please join us for the Deacon's Picnic
All are welcome!

Ways to Give:

Text "GIVEOPC" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. You may also scan the QR code for giving options.

GIVING



❖=Stand as you are able

GATHERING IN

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Praise the Lord!

Ann Ker
(1937-2018)

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Davorka Sabljak

Leader: Holy God, we gather in the spirit of welcome.

People: May we welcome others as you welcome us.

May all who enter this place find the acceptance
and recognition that they need.

Leader: Blessed Savior, we gather in the spirit of Love.

People: May we love each other as you have loved us.

May all who enter this place find the tenderness
and compassion that they need.

Leader: Convening Spirit, we gather to be transformed.

People: May we learn to transform the world as we are transformed by
your gospel.

Leader: Triune God, bless us this day. May we find you among us

All: in welcome, in love, and in transformation. Amen.

❖HYMN (*on next page*)

WELCOME TABLE

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

WELCOME

Adam Hearlson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND COURAGE (*unison*)

Davorka Sabljak

Book of Common Worship

God of life,

You created us in your image

To care for one another, the young and the old, to care for all creation.

Forgive us for tuning away from you,

Ignoring the needs of our neighbors and the cries of the earth.

As the sun brings light and warmth to this earth,

Make us signs of your grace.

Through Jesus Christ, our light and life, we pray.

SILENT CONFESSION

1 I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble;
 2 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus;
 3 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers;
 4 Here all the world will find a wel - come;
 5 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey;

I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 here all the world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 we're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers; I'm gon - na
 Here all the world will find a wel - come; here all the
 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey; we're gon - na

eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

The image of a great feast showing God's welcome of all people was part of Jewish tradition (Isaiah 25:6-9) and underlies Jesus' parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24). Such equality remains as unknown to many people today as it was to the slaves who created this spiritual.

The service continues on the previous page.

EMBRACING GOD'S GRACE

◆ GLORIA PATRI

HYMN No. 581

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 67

Davorika Sabljak

If you would like to follow along with today's Scripture reading, Bibles are available at the back of Fellowship Hall. Kindly return them to the cart following worship.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(Following the blessing, learners aged 12 and below are encouraged to process to Children's Sunday School on the ground floor; youth 12 and above are welcome to join us as helpers. Before heading to Fellowship Hour, parents and caregivers are asked to check in with their children.)

SOLO

Randall Thompson

Praise Ye the Lord from *Twelve Canticles*

(1899-1984)

Toffer Mihalka, tenor

Praise ye the Lord,
for it is good to sing praises unto Him,
And praise is comely.

Psalm 147:1

SECOND READING

Matthew 8:14-15

Adam Hearlson

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Core Value 1: Welcome”

Adam Hearlson

(Following the sermon, youth in Grades 6-12 are encouraged to process to Youth Sunday School in the office conference room.)

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather



1 Here, O Lord, your ser - vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;
 2 Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands;
 3 Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease;
 4 Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death-less love;



look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.
 yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's de - mands.
 where, O where, can wea - ry souls find the source of peace?
 help us as we work and pray; send us from a - bove



As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:
 While in dark-ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:
 truth and cour - age, faith and power need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus, Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.
 Je - sus, Sav - ior, be our Way; be our Truth, our Life.

**Optional finger cymbals*

This gentle hymn was created for a 1958 international convention of Christian educators in Japan. The tune's use of the *gagaku* mode, originally from China but later limited to use in the Japanese court, serves as a subtle but significant affirmation of Christ's sovereignty.

❖ APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

LIFE AT THE CROSSROADS

Wanda Harris Cooper

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Wanda Harris Cooper

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Wanda Harris Cooper

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

Martin Shaw
(1875-1958)

With a Voice of Singing
The Overbrook Choir

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands.
O sing praises to the honor of His name,
make His praise to be glorious.

❖DOXOLOGY

HYMN No. 607

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

❖PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Davorka Sabljak

Blessed one, may we be blessed in our giving. May we find comfort in the fact that though we have less, in giving we are all more secure. May these gifts secure those in danger and comfort those in pain. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

❖HYMN (*on opposite page*)

CWM RHONDDA

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

❖BENEDICTION

Adam Hearlson

❖CHORAL RESPONSE

John Yarrington
(b. 1943)

The Grace of the Lord Jesus

POSTLUDE

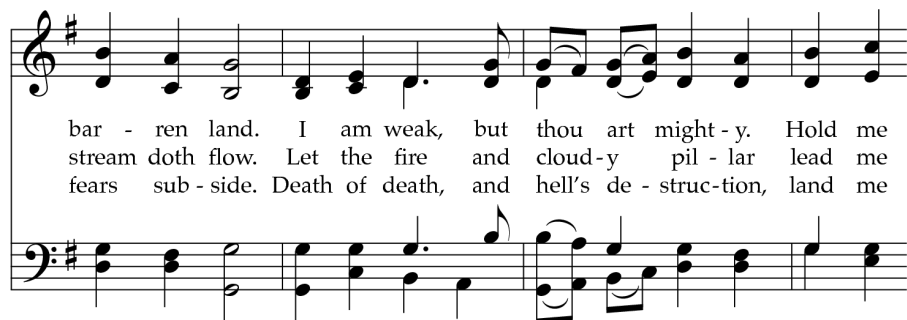
Maureen Howell
(b. 1962)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

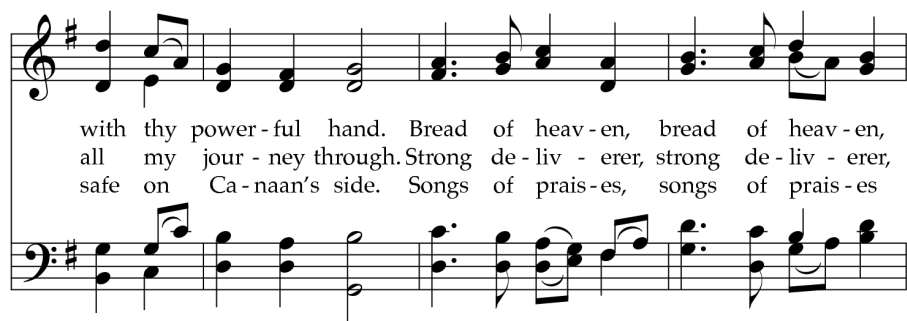
Please depart quietly for those who wish to listen to the postlude.



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

HAPPENINGS: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13 TO SEPTEMBER 20

All events take place at OPC unless otherwise indicated.

Sunday, September 13	<u>10:30 A.M.</u> – Worship Service 12:30 P.M. – Deacons Picnic
Tuesday, September 14	7:30 A.M. – Morning Prayer (online)
Wednesday, September 15	9:30 A.M. – Centering Prayer (Janie Martin's) 10:30 A.M. – Bible Study (Janie Martin's)
Thursday, September 16	6:30 P.M. – Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 P.M. – Overbrook Choir Rehearsal
Friday, September 18	10:30 A.M. – Caregivers Support Group
Sunday, September 20	<u>10:30 A.M.</u> – Worship Service 11:45 A.M. – Fellowship Hour 12:30 P.M. – Photo Directory Sessions

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Office Entrance Closed. Construction has begun on the permanent ramp and walkway to the office entrance. Due to the construction, the door and walkway to the office will be closed. We will use the playground door for entry until the project is complete. Should anyone need an accessible entrance for Sunday services, the ramp on the Lancaster Avenue side of the building by the women's restroom will be available; you can reach that ramp via the path in the playground. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience as we continue to improve and rebuild.

Important Notice: Men's Restroom. The men's restroom on the main floor is currently out of service for the foreseeable future due to construction. Alternative restroom facilities are available in the church office and downstairs near the playground entrance, located just outside the Sunday School classrooms. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Centering Prayer and Bible Study. These two midweek programs will be held at the home of Janie Martin, 435 Parkview Drive, Wynnewood, until construction is complete by the office entrance. Centering Prayer begins at 9:30 A.M. and Bible Study at 10:30 A.M.

Annual Deacons Picnic—Today, Due to the weather forecast today’s picnic will be immediately following worship at OPC. All are welcome to enjoy a picnic lunch of subs, chips, fruit, sweet desserts and beverages. It may be raining outside but the sun will be shining inside with this annual tradition of fun and fellowship.

OPC Caregivers Support Group – Friday, September 18, 10:30 A.M. This month’s topic is Dementia. All are welcome to join us in the **OPC Conference Room**. *“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit...” Psalm 34:18.* For information, contact Pastor Wanda (wanda@overbrookpresb.org).

Smile and Say Cheese!—Sunday, September 20, 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. On September 20th we will be resuming photo sessions after worship for the OPC Photo Directory. These images will be posted 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. OPC Photo Directory Task Force, consisting of Rodney Atienza, Cindi Landmesser, Carol Rozmiarek, and Artia Benjamin as Chairperson. If you have any questions, contact Artia Benjamin at clc@overbrookpresb.org.



Introducing the Overbrook Presbyterian Church Drama Ministry. We are excited to announce the launch of the “OPC Players” Drama Ministry! Our mission is to glorify Jesus Christ through performing arts by producing ten-to-fifteen-minute vignettes that support Pastor Adam’s sermon themes during Sunday services and special events.

Ministry Details:

- Director: Led by Theater Director and Actor Phillip Brown.
- Who Can Join: Open to all OPC members, including children (8–12), teens (13–18), and adults.
- Schedule: One-hour weekly meetings on Mondays (6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.); the first meeting is **September 21**.
- Commitment: Members may join at any time but must commit to the rehearsals and performances for which they are cast.

We are looking for a rehearsal assistant to support the director responsibilities below:

- Taking rehearsal notes and tracking changes.
 - Helping organize scripts, schedules, and rehearsal materials.
 - Assisting with blocking documentation (actors' movements on stage).
- (announcement cont'd on next page)

- Reading missing roles during rehearsals when needed.
- Coordinating communication between the creative team and performers.
- Helping prepare rehearsal spaces and props.
- Tracking attendance and rehearsal progress

If you are interested in joining or have questions, please let us know at drama@overbrookpresb.org.

Teachers' Teammates—Donations accepted. A collection bin is now stationed inside by the playground door during construction. There is a pocket hanging from its front with copies of the Accepted Donation List, or you can scan the QR code to see it.

SCAN HERE



Teachers Teammates are also now collecting unused toner cartridges, which can be turned in for school supplies for students and classrooms.

If you have any questions, please contact Raelyn Harman (610-331-8972 or Raelyn.Harman@TeachersTeammates.org). Thank you for your support!

Chancel Flowers—Donations needed. Please consider donating the Sunday morning chancel flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or simply in a celebration or thanksgiving for the many blessings we receive. The cost is **\$60.00**, but you may contribute what you wish. To sign up, follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ecsur>. There are three ways to pay for the flowers:

1. Log onto Realm: <https://onrealm.org/overbrookpresb/give/flowers>
2. Text "GIVEOPC FLOWERS \$60.00" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.
3. Mail a check to the church office, Attn: Carol. Please indicate "Chancel Flowers" in the memo of the check.

Each Sunday, the chancel flowers are delivered by the deacons to OPC members.

Fellowship Hour—Volunteers needed. We are grateful for all those who volunteer to be a coordinator or donate food in August. 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 by scanning the QR code. We still need your help.

SIGN UP



There are several ways that you can help:

- Set up before worship service between 9:15 and 9:30, including putting table covers and trays on tables for the donated food.
- Clean up after Fellowship Hour. You do not have to break down tables and chairs.
- Take all leftover food that is perishable home with you or give it away to someone.

The church will:

- Provide table covers, trays, plates, cups and utensils.
- Provide gluten-free food to place on the gluten-free table.
- Take care of furniture setup and breakdown.
- Handle trash and recycling.

“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!

FINANCE

What is Apportionment? Apportionment is OPC’s annual contribution to the Greater Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic USA, helping support the ministry and mission of our wider Presbyterian church family. This shared contribution is based on church membership and allows congregations to work together in ministry, accountability, and outreach. Our apportionment is calculated at **\$37.00 per official member on our church roll**. For Overbrook, the annual apportionment totals approximately \$14,400 each year. If you would like to help support this important commitment, and contribute even a portion of that \$37.00, it would ease a significant burden from our general operating budget. You may contribute by check, please write “apportionment” in the memo line of your check, by scanning the QR Code. Please reach out to the Finance Committee, finance@overbrookpresb.org, with any questions.

GIVE



DEACONS

Transportation Assistance. If you face challenges in getting to Overbrook for services or challenges in transport for other important needs, or if you know someone in our extended church family who does, we encourage you to speak to one of the Deacons. We are working to improve our transportation ministry, and we may be able to help. Email deacons@overbrookpresb.org for additional information.

Immigration-Related Support. If you or anyone in your circle of family or friends is facing immigration-related challenges, OPC would like to help. Please consider contacting one of the deacons or pastoral staff. We may be able to assist with daily needs or connect you with outside experts if necessary. We promise all requests will be kept confidential. A list of deacons is available on the back page of the bulletin.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Register for Sunday Mornings, 2026–27. Overbrook is a child-cherishing church, and registering for Sunday morning programs helps us get to know your family. The form takes five minutes per child and can be completed anytime by scanning the QR code. Sunday School begins today, September 13.

REGISTER



Contemplative Family Dinner Church Returns. This month the dinner will be held on Wednesday, September 16. Dinner is served at 5:45 P.M. and practice begins at 6:30 P.M. Families are warmly welcomed for dinner, fellowship, and contemplative spiritual practice.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Sunday School starts today. Following the sermon, youth in Grades 6 through 12 are encouraged to participate in Youth Sunday school in the office conference room.

The Kensington Project- The next opportunity will be Sunday, September 20 at 10:00 A.M. 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. If you would like more information or would like to attend, please contact Becky Lazo (443-745-3178; rebeccalazo@hotmail.com) or Suchita Fiorillo ([215-450-5356](tel:215-450-5356); youth@overbrookpresb.org).

MISSION AND OUTREACH

H-Can Collection—Sunday, September 20. Next Sunday is the next H-Can Collection. In your weekly food shopping trip, please include some (or all!) of the following items. Please remember to purchase only the items on the list below. Contact **Janet Bowker** (jabowker1001@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks for your support!

Long-grain rice (3 lb. bag or smaller)	Dry black beans (2 lb. bag or smaller)
Kid-friendly cereal	Mac and cheese (the orange kind)
Dry pasta	Diapers (only size 5-7)
Instant coffee	Reusable grocery bags
Feminine products	Shelf-stable or powdered milk

RETIRED PERSONS' MINISTRY

RPM Café: "A Wide Welcome"—Friday, September 25, 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. We will gather in Anderson Hall at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The lunch buffet will feature foods influenced by the rich ethnic heritages of Philadelphia's immigrant communities. We will be joined by guest speakers who are dedicated to welcoming and serving those who seek refuge, opportunities, and hope in our country. RSVPs are deeply appreciated, as is assistance with food preparation. Please contact **Sharon Parker** (sparker614@gmail.com) for more information.

RPM Welcomes Your Support! Volunteers are needed for envisioning, program planning, cooking, setting up, and cleaning up. As we begin our twelfth season, please consider your role in preserving and building our community's senior ministry. If you would like to help, please contact **Pat Dillon** (psdillon1@earthlink.net) or **Sharon Parker** (sparker614@gmail.com).

PRAYER LIST

- Prayers for resilience and swift recovery for Deb Rottinger following a hip fracture and surgery.
- Prayers of guidance and strength for Mads Piatt Cosgriff, as he enters his studies at Princeton Theological Seminary this fall.
- Prayers for strength and healing for Ed Harvey as he recovers from a heart procedure.
- Prayers for comfort and support for Allison Person's whole family as they mourn the death of Allison's mother, Tamie Person.
- Prayers of strength and healing for Elizabeth Mendoza as she recovers from surgery for breast cancer.
- Prayers of support for Bette and Ron Homer, facing challenging times.
- 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-Cooper, for restoration of health of heart 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 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, Beulah Wilson.

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

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OPC SESSION MEMBERS:

Adam Hearlson, Moderator, Stephanie Morris, Treasurer

** indicates second consecutive term

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Artia Benjamin	Brian Burke	Shanae Bryan
Joseph Blair	Karen Testa	Corinna Bowser**
Keedra Carroll**	Brian Taussig-Lux**	Cheryl Davis **
Solomon Hunter**	Christoph Von Andreae**	Claire Fay
Nathalie May**	Mimi Winkler**	Janie Martin

OPC DEACONS:

Margene Biedermann and Denise Stewart, Co-Moderators, Board of Deacons

Jason Sheau, Treasurer; Zee Ann Mason, Secretary

** indicates second consecutive term

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Denise Stewart	Margene Biedermann	Chris Bryan
Miriam Harden**	Mads Piatt Cosgriff	Laurie Geers
Leah Mayne**	Zee Ann Mason	Karen Lord-Hurwitz
Jason Sheau**	Mike Rottinger **	Scott Long
		Sharon Elwell**
		Jill Van Rawley
		Joanne Roman

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6376 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

Phone: 215-877-2744 Email: office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

The Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson - *Pastor*

Wanda Harris-Cooper - *Pastor of Care and Youth Ministry*

Dr. Christopher Gage - *Director of Music*

Anthony M. Carrella - *Director of Children and Family Ministry*

Artia Benjamin and Suchita Fiorillo - *Co-Directors of Youth Ministry*

Lisa Faso - *Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek - *Financial Secretary and Director of Programming*

Leonard Robbins - *Church Custodian*

The Overbrook Quartet:

Iris Fairfax, *soprano*; Syrena Torres, *alto*;

Toffer Mihalka, *tenor*; Jasper McQueen, *bass*

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