



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

April 2019

### *Letter from our Pastor*

Overbrook Presbyterian Church is a welcoming and diverse Christian community that seeks actively to love and serve God, each other, and the world.

—Mission Statement

#### Overbrook Church Staff

Adam Hearlson  
*Designated Pastor*

Rev. David K. McMillan  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. Christopher Gage  
*Director of Music*

Sharon Parker  
*Director of Christian Education  
& Administration*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

#### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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I write this letter to you all on this my first day as the pastor of Overbrook Presbyterian Church. I am making lists of all the things that need attention and I am working hard to not feel overwhelmed by this new beginning. Among the paperwork, the traffic patterns, the committees and the calendar, people keep peeking into my office to say hello. I am grateful for these small gestures of hospitality. Truthfully, ministry involves more emailing and paperwork than I'd like, but it is a small price to pay to see another smiling face walk into my office. I do ministry because I love God, I love people and because God loves people. Please recognize that you all have a standing invitation to come by my office and say hello. If you'd like to share a meal or have cup of coffee I am happy to schedule time with you. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Now, let me answer some of the more frequently asked questions (the first being the answer to the most frequently asked question of my life).

1. I am 6'7" tall. That is abnormally tall. I used to play basketball well, now I play pretty poorly. Don't be surprised to see me shooting hoops in the fellowship hall trying to relive some former glory.
2. My wife's name is Christy. She is a professor at Villanova. She is remarkably smart and also unusually kind. Our sons are named Elliot and Eamon. We also have a cat named Queen Margaret and two hermit crabs, Spock and Red.
3. My robe is unique. It was made for me as a gift from a dear congregation I served in New Jersey. It is two pieces and the outer coat is reversible. It is hand made of raw silk and the bright side of the coat is designed to look like the California coast.
4. I am from Newport Beach, CA. My family still lives out there. I go back to California a few times a year. I miss the Pacific ocean.
5. I live in the Coopertown neighborhood of Bryn Mawr. Near Bryn Mawr Hospital.
6. I am not really an Eagles fan but I can fake it for the purposes of coming to your house on Sunday.
7. I don't have any dietary restrictions or food allergies and will gladly eat whatever is put in front of me.

That should do it for now. All remaining questions can be asked and answered around a dining room table or in a comfortable church. Blessings to you all and I look forward to seeing whatever smiling face enters my office.

Adam

## Music

Sunday, April 7, 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ardmore: The Overbrook Choir will combine with the choirs of Ardmore Presbyterian Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ardmore, to present excerpts from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. We have been blessed with fruitful collaborations among our three choirs, and we are happy to continue this tradition.

Friday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.: Join us for a unique experience at Overbrook! Concert organist David Baskeyfield will accompany a silent movie—while the film is projected to us, he will improvise a complete musical score. He has gained critical international acclaim for his organ playing, having recently won the Canadian International Organ Competition in Montréal, and his concert here is sure to be spectacular.

The music program here provides diverse, fulfilling programs year-round, and I am grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

-Chris Gage

## Lenten Worship at Overbrook

Please join us on the spiritual journey through Lent.

- ❖ April 3: Mid-week Service and Soup Supper, 6:00 PM in the Wistar Morris Room
- ❖ April 7: Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30 AM Worship/Holy Communion
- ❖ April 10: Mid-week Service and Soup Supper, 6:00 PM in the Wistar Morris Room
- ❖ April 17: Palm/Passion Sunday 10:30 AM Worship
- ❖ April 18: Maundy Thursday Service/Holy Communion 7:00 PM
- ❖ April 19: Good Friday Service 7:00 PM
- ❖ April 20: Easter Vigil 9:00 AM: The Sanctuary will be open for personal prayer from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. At 11:00 AM all are invited to dress the Chancel for Easter.
- ❖ April 21: The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday Service/ Holy Communion - 10:30 AM; Children's Easter Festival following worship



## Upcoming Worship Service

### April 7, 2019

*Communion Sunday/5th Sunday in Lent*

*Lectionary:* Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8

*Preaching:* Adam Hearlson

*Lay Leader:* Jill Van Rawley

### April 21, 2019

*Easter Sunday*

*Lectionary:* Isaiah 65:17-25; John 20:1-18

*Preaching:* Adam Hearlson

*Lay Leader:* Will Schick

### April 14, 2019

*Palm Sunday*

*Lectionary:* Luke 19:28; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29

*Preaching:* Adam Hearlson

*Lay Leader:* Greta Ham

### April 28, 2019

*2nd Sunday of Easter*

*Lectionary:* Rev. 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

*Preaching:* Adam Hearlson

*Lay Leader:* Davorka Sabljak



## Stewardship



### OVERBROOK TIME AND TALENT FAIR

Stewardship invites you to mark your calendar for Sunday, April 28, for the OPC Time and Talent Fair.

This is a time of great enthusiasm and new beginnings at OPC. What new ways will you be part of it?

If you are a newcomer, we welcome you with pathways to be involved in our community and ministry. If you're returning, come find new ways to re-engage. If you're a regular, what is something you've never done but always wanted to do at Overbrook?

There are limitless ways to share of your Time and Talents: Can you sing? Sew? Cook? Drive? Read? Pray? Serve? Rake? Paint? Read? Listen? Learn? Serve? Greet?

Come explore the committees and organizations of Overbrook. Ask any question about how this place works and how you can be involved. And help our new pastor, Adam Hearlson, see the very best of Overbrook.

We are strongest when we all find ways to give of our time and talent and to live out Overbrook's mission to be a welcoming and diverse community that "actively seeks to love and serve God, each other and the world."

We hope to see you April 28!

## A Warm and Wide Welcome...A Safe Sanctuary

Entering the doors of Overbrook, we are greeted by signs of blessing, "*May the peace of the Lord be with you.*" In this, our spiritual home, we know that God is with us, that the power of the Holy Spirit surrounds us, and that Christ holds us in his loving arms. We are comforted by the assurance of God's presence. The Overbrook footprint stands squarely in a time and place that also calls for wisdom and sensitivity. Our mission calls us to ministry within the context of our culture and community.

Recently, the realities of our time and place have raised the need for an enhanced level of institutional security. Throughout our daily lives, in schools, hospitals, and commercial establishments, we enter secure environments. Overbrook is now adapting security measures to which we are accustomed in other facets of life. These measures include, but are not limited to the following:

Security Alarm System: The Property Committee approved and facilitated the installation of a security alarm system, upgrading and expanding the one previously in place.

Police Engagement: Several unfortunate incidents associated with intruders, have led to the establishment of an ongoing, positive relationship between the Philadelphia Police Department and Overbrook. Throughout the week, especially while the preschool is in session, local officers stop into the church office to assure an informed and protective presence.

Greeters Ministry: In the March newsletter, and in our worship bulletins, you have seen the initiation of a Greeters Ministry. The goals of this ministry are to assure a warm and wide welcome to all who come to worship with us, to help visitors find their way to the Sanctuary, and to provide each of us with an additional an opportunity to serve our faith community.

Door Security: In order to assure a safe worship environment, we are adopting the best practices of numerous area churches and synagogues. Beginning on Sunday, April 7, the rear parking lot and office portico entrance doors will locked at 10:35 AM. (While entry will be restricted, congregants may exit these doors at any time.) Signage will be posted on the two secured doors that direct late arrivals to the Chapel/Sanctuary entrance. The door leading to the Chapel/Sanctuary will remain open, as will all other doors leading into the Sanctuary. All open doors will be monitored by greeters and ushers.

Safety and Security Team: Please consider joining the OPC Safety and Security Team. Members will review current practices, identify areas of need, and demonstrate a willingness to serve as openers, greeter, and monitors. An organizational meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on April 8, in the Williamson Room. Please join us!

May the Overbrook welcome always remain a sign of God's grace at the crossroads. -Blessings, Sharon Parker



## Children's Easter Festival: Sunday, April 21

Immediately following worship on Easter Sunday, Overbrook children and young visitors up through grade 5, are invited to participate in the Children's Festival on the church lawn. In addition to special outdoor activities, each child will receive an age-specific bag filled with activities to inspire prayer, praise and celebration of God's kingdom. In the event of inclement weather, the Children's Easter Festival will be held in Fellowship Hall. Joyful activities also take preparation...and this preparation will be fun! Adult and OPC Youth members are invited to help with the planning of this special event. Please contact Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) if you would like to serve on the Children's Festival team!



**OPC Youth:** Let's support Feed My Starving Children: April 27! Children and youth are invited to participate in the FMSC Mobile Pack at Archbishop Prendergast and Bonner High School. This is a great way to help fight global hunger and to serve with our broader community. Please sign-up online, by contacting Becky Lazo ([rebeccalazo@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccalazo@hotmail.com)), or at the Feed My Starving Children table in the Wistar Morris Room following worship. God's work, our hands!

### Summer Activities for Children and Youth

- ◆ OPC Youth Lock-in and Car Wash: May 31-June 1 (Car wash proceeds benefit the Youth Mission Trip to Blue Knob, PA) Grades 6-12
- ◆ Youth Mission Trip: July 7-13 Blue Knob, PA (Penn State Altoona Campus) Grades 6-12
- ◆ PC-USA Triennium: July 17-21 Purdue University Grades 9-12
- ◆ Vacation Bible School: July 28-August 1 5:00-7:00 PM Ages 4- Grade 5 "Bible Super Heroes!"

Please see Sharon Parker for additional information.

## A Note on Behalf of our Session

Overbrook Friends,

With the completion of the Rev. Raymond Bonwell's service to Overbrook, he has now entered into a Covenant of Closure. It may sound a bit harsh, but this is a standard practice when a pastor leaves a congregation and it is meant to give space for transition and full support of the leadership of a new pastor.

As part of the covenant he signed with the Presbytery, Raymond will not worship again with Overbrook. He won't give opinions or directions regarding church business. He will not accept invitations to fill any functions he performed during his service at Overbrook, unless the invitation comes from the new pastor.

He will not involve himself in any leadership or advisory role concerning his successor. He will not intervene, support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute.

While Raymond was not active in our community Facebook page, the standard covenant also asks outgoing pastors to be judicious in their continued use of social media with members of the community.

This policy does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals in the congregation, but these friendships must be continued in the spirit of the closure agreement.

Raymond plays a unique role in this presbytery, serving both on the Commission on Ministry and at the national Board of Pensions. So there may be a time when the staff at Overbrook needs to reach out with administrative questions, and that is perfectly OK.

The congregation is asked to respect this agreement, and to do all we can to help Raymond maintain these boundaries, out of respect for him and for the Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson.

If you have any questions, please see Adam, Clerk Sara Davis or a member of Session.

## The OPC Prom is coming!



The rumors have been swirling...and yes, they are true! We ARE having a congregational Prom on Friday evening, May 24, from 6:00-9:00 PM. Fellowship Hall will be transformed into the Stardust Ballroom for this special event. Unpack your promenade finery and join us for an evening of fellowship, music, dancing and small plate servings of authentic prom food (yep, pigs in a blanket and Hawaiian punch *with* sherbet!) The DJ will help us turn the clock back to whatever time we want to remember. Whether you plan to dance the night away, or sway in your seats, it will be a fine evening of moving to the music. For those who have happy feet and a competitive streak, there will be a "Dancing with the Stars" component. A mirror ball trophy awaits the lucky contestants. Come claim your corsage and boutonniere and pose for a prom picture. Plan to be delighted!

Prom tickets are \$5.00 per person. If that seems ridiculously inexpensive, it's because it is! The Prom is a *fun* raiser, not a fundraiser. This is a multi-generational event to which guests are most welcome!

If you have a way with streamers and twinkle lights, a flair with punch and finger food preparation...or a high-spirited sense of humor, consider joining the Prom Committee. Contact Sharon Parker at ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) ...all volunteers welcome!



I scream, you scream, we all scream for the ICE CREAM SOCIAL. During coffee hour on Sunday, April 14, the New Member Committee will host an Ice Cream Social. Be sure to bring a friend that Sunday to worship and you never know who you might meet.



### Coffee Hour Ministry

Coffee Hour - We are still in need of hosts for the upcoming months. Let's keep this beloved ministry going for 2019. Signups for coffee hour are available on the OPC web site and in the church kitchen (on the door). For more information, please contact Peggy Kaercher at 610-642-2906 or Pat Ogundele at 610-668-1309. Thank you!

## Mission and Outreach



Laurel House started in 1980 as a domestic violence hotline and shelter and has grown into a comprehensive domestic violence agency. Please contact Carol Rozmiarek to be added to the Evite list or to RSVP.

The Women's Dining Circle is planning to get together on Friday, April 5, 2019 to benefit Lau-

rel House. Please feel free to join us on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 12:00 in the Chapel. We would love to hear your ideas and share our plans for the coming months.

Aimerie Scherluebbe  
Mission & Outreach



Thanks to those who have already donated or signed up to volunteer at the Care at the Crossroads FMSC MobilePack! We still have some money to raise and some volunteer slots to fill. Please consider giving— saving even just a quarter per meal, per day until Saturday, April 27 makes a huge difference! You can send a check to Overbrook, with FMSC in the memo line. You can also donate online or register on our event page: <https://give.fmsc.org/crossroads>. Thank you for all your support!

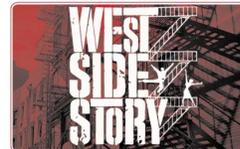
-Becky Lazo, Janet Bowker and Deb Rottinger.

We will be preparing and serving dinner at the Life Center of Delaware County on Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Nancy Gilhool and Janet Bowker do a wonderful job coordinating these meals. Contact them if you would like to help out.



this event.

We are planning to be part of the June build for Rebuilding Together on June 7-8, 2019. Get your gardening and construction tools ready and watch for more information on



NCT's successful run of the Westside Story dropped its final on curtain on March 16, an epic nine showings (as to the usual eight shows during this season) of this popular play. The attendance to this show was phenomenal and the concession was able to greatly enhance our intake (over a thousand dollars) that is slotted for OPC's general budget. Because the microwave is an essential appliance for our program, upon the breakdown of the contributed microwave at the beginning of this run, proceeds raised during this show also enabled us to replace it with a new microwave. KUDOS to the following staffers: Dick and Judy Williamson, Jane and Carol Rozmiarek, Edylene Carroll, Lainie Blodgett, Sharon Parker, Alyce Marsh, Bob, Peggy and Gail Kaercher, Linda Huff-Paul, Jill VanRawley and her friend, Nancy Gullo, Suchita, Aria, and Zubin Fiorillo, Mary Lou Ryce, Ron Homer, Jason and I-Mei Sheau, Phil Sheau, Kathryn Fernandez and her friend Hillary Cantiello, Nickie Stokes, Becky and Hannah Lazo, Artia Benjamin, Cindy Gray, Laurie Geers, Jennifer Watts, and last, but not least, to Janet and Jeff Bowker. Hope to see your name in the future on this listing also.

*It truly takes a team to make the OPC's refreshment stand a success.*

*With Much Appreciation, Trudy Sheau*



## Deacons

### Happy April Birthdays

4/2	Maya Stricker	4/17	Ginny Leagans
4/3	Vimala Johnson		Anya Brown
4/5	Jason Duckworth	4/19	Ken Carroll
	Annabelle VanRawley		John Crampton
4/7	Lucy Duckworth	4/20	Laura Adabia
	Alan Sigler	4/21	Andrea Knight
4/8	Sarah Whalen	4/22	Richard Owens
4/9	Vince Gilhool	4/23	Kadie Whalen
	Brian Taussig-Lux	4/24	Angela Duckworth
4/10	Janine Miller		Pearl Sticker
	Hayford Baidoo	4/25	Victor Fiorillo
	Maya Subramanian	4/27	Andy Kaercher
4/11	Madison Harden	4/28	Jonathan Paul
4/13	Artia Benjamin	4/30	David McMillian
4/16	Sue Brastow		Connie Moran
	Ellen Burr		

### Prayer List

- ◆ Karen Wong's father, is currently hospitalized for cardiac issues.
- ◆ The family and for all who mourn the passing of Nyani O'Leary. Nyani became ill and died while traveling to Africa to visit with family.
- ◆ Lillian Carnahan is hospitalized for medical concerns regarding a hip replacement several years ago.
- ◆ Don Carver is recovering from knee surgery.
- ◆ Becky Lazo's uncle, Craig Lazo is battling esophageal cancer.
- ◆ Artia Benjamin's cousin, Dolores Harrison, is recovering from a stroke.
- ◆ Joe Duckworth, father of Jason Duckworth, is currently hospitalized.
- ◆ Eric Long's father, Bill Long, is recovering from his surgery for cancer removal.
- ◆ Judy Kelly Johnson, Danielle Long's mother, is recovering well from a partial hip replacement.
- ◆ Wayne Gage, Chris Gage's father, has received new treatment for his heart condition.
- ◆ John Nathaniel continues to recover from a stroke.
- ◆ Ellen Burr is experiencing ongoing medical concerns

Dagmar Holl, a retired, active non-smoker, is looking for a new, shared housing arrangement. Please contact her or one of the deacons if you are interested or want to learn more.



*Please contact Mike Rottinger to add names or concerns to this list.  
Mike can be reached by email, [mike.rottinger@comcast.net](mailto:mike.rottinger@comcast.net).*

## Other News.....



### Easter Parking at OPC!

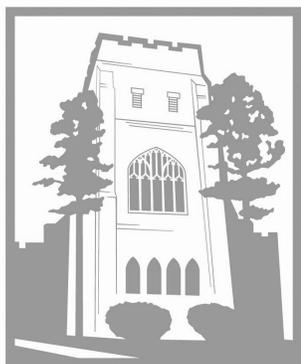
Easter worship at OPC is a blessing...however Easter Sunday parking is an annual challenge. As you look ahead to Easter Sunday, April 21, please consider the following: carpool with a fellow congregant; consider parking at the Overbrook regional rail station.



### Easter Flowers

Easter Flowers -Sign-up Sheet for Easter Flowers are in the Wistar Morris Room. Pay as you wish-if paying by check note "Easter Flowers" in the memo. You may also request flowers via sign genius, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4aacae2da2fe3-easter>

## News from the Crossroads



### Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

### April 2019 - OPC Church Events

#### Tuesday, April 2

1:00 pm-Worship Committee

7:00 pm-Finance Committee

#### Wednesday, April 3

6:00 pm-Lenten Supper/Service

#### Saturday, April 6

8:00 am-Men's Group

#### Sunday, April 7

12:00 pm-New Member Committee

4:00 pm -Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah* @ *St. Paul's Evangelical Church, Ardmore*

#### Tuesday, April 9

7:00 pm-Session

#### Wednesday, April 10

6:00 pm-Lenten Supper/Service

#### Sunday, April 14

11:30 am-Ice Cream Social

12:00 pm-Deacons

12:00 pm-Personnel Committee

#### Wednesday, April 17

5:00 pm -Property Committee

#### Thursday, April 18

7:00 pm-Maundy Thursday Service

#### Friday, April 19

7:00 pm-Good Friday Service

#### Saturday, April 20

9:00 am-Easter Vigil

#### Sunday, April 21

11:30 am-Easter Festival for Children

#### Monday, April 22

1:00 pm-Prayer Shawl Group

7:00 pm-Prayer Shawl Group

#### Wednesday, April 24

10:00 am-Adult Bible Study—Resumes

#### Saturday, April 27

9:00 am-Feed my Starving Children @ Bonner High School

#### Sunday, April 28

11:30 am-Time/Talent Fair

12:00 pm-Mission/Outreach

❖ Every Sunday - 9:15 am -Arrival for Christian Education (Adults/Youth)

10:30 am-Worship

11:30 am-Coffee Hour

❖ Every Monday -5:15 pm -Junior Choir Rehearsal/ Dinner

❖ Every Thursday - 7:30 pm -Adult Choir Practice

#### Coming up in May:

❖ May 4-Prayer Breakfast at 9:30 am

❖ May 17-Organ Concert at 7:00 pm

❖ May 24-OPC Prom at 6:00pm

❖ May 31-June 1- Youth Lock in/Car Wash