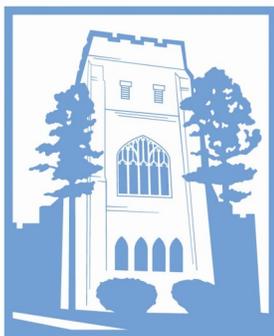


NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

Overbrook Presbyterian Church



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

—Mission Statement

Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson
Designated Pastor

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Christopher Gage
Director of Music

Anthony Carrella
Director of Christian Education

Lisa Faso
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

This year, Lent ends as the month begins. As flowers begin to bloom, as rain falls, and as the fast is broken, it is natural to get a bit...poetic. For me, Holy week-- with its passion, its emotion, and its pathos-- is a time to spend with the poets. The theologians and scholars can have other seasons, Holy week is reserved for the poets. Maybe you too would appreciate some poetry to meet this moment. In anticipation of the empty tomb, here is my (in no way conclusive) bibliography of poems to read during Holy Week. If you have a favorite I have left out, send it my way.

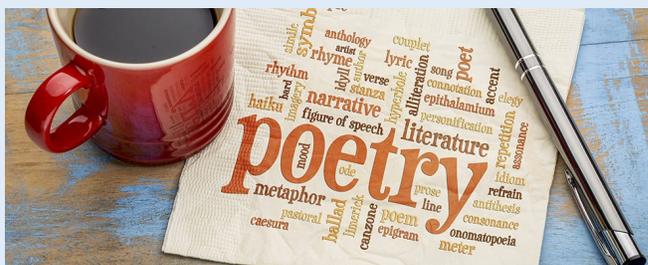
In chronological order (and available online):

A Hymn to God the Father, John Donne
Lent, George Herbert
My Thankful Heart with Glorifying Tongue, Anne Bradstreet
Good Friday, Christina Rossetti
The Donkey, GK Chesterton
This Bread I Break, Dylan Thomas,
Still Falls the Rain, Dame Edith Sitwell
The Ballad of Mary's Son, Langston Hughes
Simon the Cyrene, Countee Cullen
A Prayer from the Past, George Macdonald
Crucifixion, Anna Akhmatova,
And a Good Friday Was Had by All, Bruce Dawe
The calling of the disciples, Lucille Clifton
Resurrection, Mary Anne Bernard
Idiot Psalm: With Fear, Scott Cairns
Nativity, Li-Young Lee
On Belief in the Physical Resurrection of Jesus, Denise Levertov

This Holy Week, may you find time to spend with the poets. May their images, their words, and their rhythm inspire you as we all wait for the resurrection.
 - Adam

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Holy Week is here!



Palm Sunday - This Sunday, March 28, is Palm Sunday. Palms may be picked at the church on today or Saturday. They are in a bucket outside the door next to the church office. Everyone is encouraged to take palms for themselves and any other OPC friends/members that may not be able to pick them up themselves.

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 1 is Maundy Thursday. Everyone is invited to join us at the corner of City and Lancaster Avenues at 6:00 p.m. where we will process down Lancaster Avenue to the courtyard where we will receive the elements of communion. We will be following all the necessary safety COVID-19 protocols. This service will be livestreamed on YouTube—[Maundy Thursday YouTube Link](#). Please note that the YouTube link can also be accessed after the service is over for anyone that would like to view the service at a later time.

Good Friday - Good Friday is April 2. We will gather at 12:00 noon via zoom for a service of scripture, hymns, and reflections from people in our community.

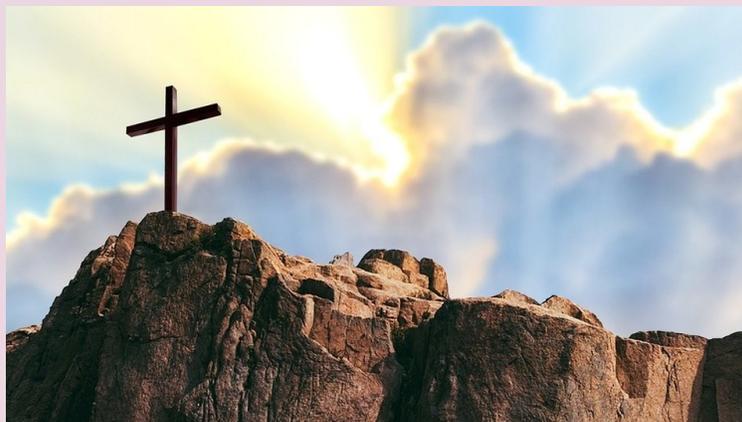
Holy Saturday - Holy Saturday is April 3. This is a self-led opportunity for contemplation and reflection. A service of art, music, and readings based upon the stations of the cross will stream from noon until 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Link is forthcoming.



Easter Sunday - Easter, the Day of Resurrection, is April 4. Join us at 6:30 a.m. in the church parking lot for a sunrise service. We will celebrate the resurrection in person masked.

At 10:30 a.m. join us on zoom for the traditional Easter service. We will hear our choir, our soloists, a brass ensemble, and the organ, and we will sing the Hallelujah chorus!

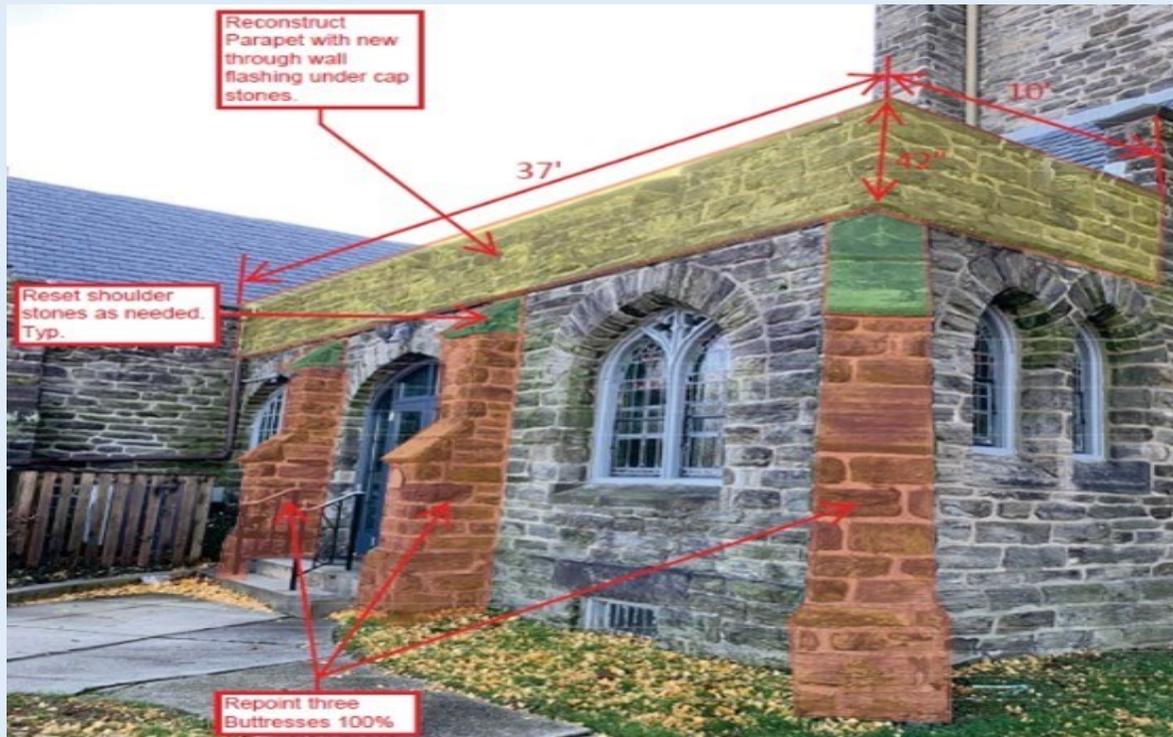
-Eileen Wiggins



Building the Future, Restoring the Past

If it's April, it must time for exterior Property Committee projects to begin. First on the list this year is the City Avenue Entrance.

Over time water has been able to get inside the wall, thus breaking down the structure which knits the stones together. The Scope of Work is to reconstruct approximately 47 lineal feet of masonry parapet at the City Ave. Entrance in nine (9) steps:



- Mobilization, erect and dismantle scaffolding
- Dismantle and salvage for reuse capstones, face stones and watertable course.
- Demolish backup wall material. Dispose of rubble and debris.
- Construct new backup wall CMU (concrete masonry units / block) fully reinforced and grouted solid.
- Reset watertable course and face stones. Point to match weather joint detail with approved mortar.
- Fabricate and install new Stainless Steel through wall flashing under capstones.
- Reset cap stones.
- Install silicone joint sealant at all skyward facing joints.
- Wash down, cleanup and demobilize.

As you can see from the picture, in addition to the parapet, this project also addresses the three (3) buttresses which are also falling apart to varying degrees. Particularly regarding the middle buttress, the shoulder stone at the top is merely propped in place with large air gaps which should be filled with mortar.

This portion of the building is made up of the vestibule on the City Ave. side of the Sanctuary plus the small lobby at the bottom of the stairs serving the balcony. The contractor who has been awarded this job is Masonry Preservation Group (MPG) headquartered in Pennsauken Township, New Jersey.

-Bill Baker, Ted Dillon, Jeff Bowker-co-chairs



Spring is here! With it, plans for Holy Week and Easter and outdoor, COVID-safe gatherings. Here's some of what the Christian Education Committee has been working on:

- **Sunday School** continues on the second and third Sundays of each month with a focus on blessings found in the Beatitudes! Davorka and Anthony will be teaching together on *April 11* and *April 18*. Prior to the sessions, parents can expect to receive an email containing access links and information on the lesson content. All learners are welcome to join our vibrant group immediately following worship on the respective Sundays.
- **Youth Group** continues to meet once or twice per month with Anthony via Zoom. The OPC young people are champions in our midst — rising to the challenges of juggling schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and future plans in the midst of pandemic. Our group gatherings are centered around designing and implementing new experiences for the OPC family and engaging in moments of personal introspection. Please continue to keep our middle and high schoolers in your prayers as they and their friends begin to emerge back into the physical world.
- **Outdoor Activities** in a COVID-compliant configuration are soon to come! We have heard from some families that they would be comfortable with small-group, appropriately distanced gatherings. (Thanks to the families who responded to our survey.) We had lots of fun brainstorming ideas for gathering, like an outdoor church clean up, gardening, easter egg hunt, a game day, a car wash, and more! Anthony will be working with the Committee and Youth Group to get plans in place for fun, safe events. Stay tuned!
- **New Worship Opportunities** for children, youth, and families are here! Young people and their families are invited to help leaders celebrate Sunday Worship each month. We have expanded worship opportunities beyond the Children's Message to include pre-recorded prayers, illustrated bulletins and graphics, and digital usher roles. An email invitation with signups is being configured, so keep an eye out!
- Stay tuned for a special message about One Great Hour of Sharing on April 18!



Leadership Change for the Christian Education Committee

Anthony and Becky are pleased to announce Sabrina Johnson will take on the position of co-Chair of the Christian Education Committee. Sabrina has been an integral part of the Christian Education Committee for years. Sabrina will work closely with Anthony on maintaining the Sunday School schedule and working on special events. Becky will continue in her role as Elder, serving on Session and taking care of Committee business. Becky will meet regularly with Anthony and Sabrina to contribute to planning and execution of CE events.

Session Update

THE SESSION - FIRST QUARTER 2021

Formal actions taken by the Session during the first quarter of 2021 are shown below. If you have questions, please consult the chair of the relevant committee as indicated. The Session:

Elected as officers of the Overbrook Presbyterian Church Corporation for the year 2021:

President: Aimerie Scherluebbe

Secretary: Sara Davis

Treasurer: Stephanie Morris

Approved the following actions:

- A motion to authorize serving communion on the first Sunday of every month of 2021, including Easter Sunday (April 4), and on Maundy Thursday, April 1. (*Worship and Music, Eileen Wiggins*)
- A motion to transfer \$60,000 from the Endowment Fund to the operating fund. (*Finance, Stephanie Morris or Lainie Blodgett*)
- A motion to pay \$16,000 to Converge Winkler LLC to provide architectural services to the Accessibility Project, the funds to come from a designated gift. (*Property, Larry McGhee, Bill Baker or Ted Dillon*)
- The budget for 2021 with the understanding that revisions may be necessary periodically throughout the year (*Finance*)
- A motion to spend \$69,325 to repair the parapet as described, the funds to come from the Endowment Fund (*Property*)

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is thrilled to report that Realm is live for financial reporting! Maybe we are more excited about this news than anyone else, but this does have a positive impact for our committees and other recipients of financial reports. While giving statements will continue to be issued from Realm, there are also some new developments:

- Committee reports will start to come from Realm. This means they will be easier to understand and committees will have more flexibility in terms of the information they need to manage their budgets
- Cross-committee projects can be tracked and reported more easily
- Designated gifts and how they are spent can now be reported

A big thank you to Carol Rozmiarek and Stephanie Morris for their tireless efforts over the past 2 years in getting Realm ready to go. We are excited about this new capability and the financial transparency it will provide to everyone at OPC!

We are also so happy to report that the PPP Loan that we received last year through the Small Business Administration has been forgiven! This loan for \$164,900 was used to fund the church and preschool staff payroll for a period of approximately 2.5 months during the spring. This is a positive factor for our overall financial picture.

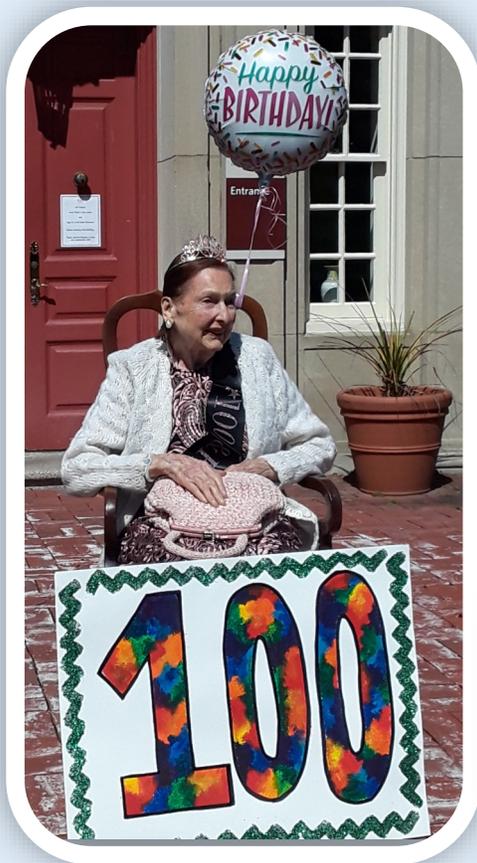
We thank everyone for their generosity, and for the financial support we are receiving for the mission and ministry of Overbrook Church.

-Lainie Blodgett

Celebrating OPC Style

Laura Toy Celebrates Her 100th Birthday

On Sunday, March 21, Laura Beale Toy celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by 25 members of the OPC family. Laura, wearing a special tiara and birthday sash for the occasion, sat majestically at the entrance to Waverly Heights, enjoying a parade of OPC well-wishers each wearing signature hats and carrying banners and signs to mark the occasion. Also joining the parade was one of our OPC canine mascots, Moses Lazo. Laura was presented with a gift box filled to the brim with birthday cards greetings. Laura's faithfulness and kind spirit are blessings to Overbrook. May the Lord continue to bless Laura with abundant joy.



Deacons

Happy April Birthdays

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

Prayer List

- Friends and family of Gloria Justin, who passed away on March 7.
- Theresa McNeil Carter is hospitalized for medical issues.
- Prayers for Becky Lazo's mother who is having medical issues.
- Ellen Burr for continued medical issues
- Artia Benjamin's uncle, Abdul Mokum Sr, who has been put on dialysis and is in the hospital.
- Jeanne Cuvilly is facing family challenges.
- Ken Carroll is grateful for all prayers
- Marita Patino Treat Rosen- prayers for chronic pain relief
- Margaret Young's son Keith remains under medical treatment care.
- Mary Pat, friend of Ginny Leagans, who is being treated for colon cancer Caroline Skinner is facing health challenges
- Judy Swartz prayers for continued healing.
- Eric Long's father Bill Long's cancer has returned.
- Wendy Fraser, sister of Jeremy Blatchley, is continuing treatment for cancer.
- Ed Harvey for continued health issues.

Please contact Terri Hunter (teresahunter42@gmail.com) or the Church Office to add names to the prayer list.

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



Women's Support and Prayer Group

and who among us doesn't need prayer and friendly peer support during these exciting times? An opportunity for shared conversation, spiritual support, good humor, and group prayer is offered every **Tuesday at 7:30 AM**. You are warmly invited to start your Tuesday mornings with a group of women for whom "Amen" is not an ending, but a hopeful beginning.

Please consider us to be your prayer partners. As we do each Sunday, all who gather on Tuesday will pray with and for you. We encourage you to send us your requests ...and each will be faithfully lifted in prayer. Please contact Sharon Parker (spark614@gmail.com) for the zoom connection to the Tuesday morning prayer group, or to share a prayer re-quest.



**Join Us
every
Tuesday at
7:30 am**

Weekly Opportunities

- ◆ Tuesday Women's Prayer & Support Group, 7:30 a.m.
- ◆ Wednesday Morning Bible Study– 10:30 am-Resumes March 21
- ◆ Thursday Vigil for Racial Justice, 3:00 pm-Dusk
- ◆ Saturday Morning Men's' Group, 9:00 am

For more information or links to these opportunities please visit our community Facebook page or Realm.



Prayer and Care Team

Prayer and Care Team Invitations

The Prayer and Care Team invites you to allow us...

...to serve YOU! If you are in need of food assistance during these challenging times, either due to medical precautions or financial need, please let us know and we will deliver Prayer and Care groceries to you home. Each bag contains meal support for 3-4 days, and includes fresh produce, meat and dairy products, as well as canned and packaged foods. For those who prefer to make their own food selections, grocery cards can be provided. Since March 2020, over 380+ grocery deliveries have been made, and numerous grocery cards have been provided.

...to welcome YOU! If you are looking for an area of personal ministry during this time of separation, please know that the Prayer and Care Team welcomes you to serve with us. Following the guidelines of the CDC and the City of Philadelphia, we provide independent opportunities to maintain phone contact with recipients, shop, deliver groceries to doorsteps, and offer ongoing prayer for those in need.

If you would like to receive a delivery, make a delivery possible for others, or volunteer to be part of the Prayer and Care Team, please contact Sharon Parker (spark614@gmail.com.)

Blessings to all,
The Prayer and Care Team

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

