



# OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *News from the Crossroads*

August 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*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

**Church Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Fridays thru Labor Day  
9:00AM to 12:00 PM

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A few days ago, city workers cut deep through the asphalt outside my office window. The saw required two people to operate, creeping slowly along predetermined lines. Eventually a backhoe loader will come through and rip up the asphalt and lay a drainage pipe. In due time, our parking lot will collect rain water and return it back to the water table where it can then irrigate the earth. Trees will lay roots deep into the ground and find water the water we collected. Because of our decisions, our sewer systems will be less prone to overflowing into our local streams and rivers. By putting a hole in our parking lot streams will run clearer. Sometimes digging a hole in the round is a holy task.

I know all of this. I feel all of this. I agree with all of this. And as that saw cut through the asphalt in the middle of my meeting, I didn't think about the deep rooted tree, or about the fish swimming in clear streams. Instead, I felt annoyed. The saw sounded like a jet engine. It was a sound that crawled into my ear and made it difficult to hear anything else. Meanwhile, I was preparing to leave for vacation and had a lovely checklist that needed attention. Emails to write, phone calls to make, and final preparations before I set my away message and walked out the door. But that noise. It was so loud and I was so annoyed.

I am ashamed to admit that too often I let the inconvenience of the work occlude the ends of the work. I forget that ministry is full of minor (and major) inconveniences. These inconveniences aren't a bug, they are a feature. To serve the world costs us our convenience and our ease of life. It is through these frustrations that God provides perspective and renews purpose. Because if many years from now future generations might be given the chance to wade into a clear stream on a hot day, then I can weather the asphalt saw outside my window. My meeting can be less efficient for the sake of tree roots. My to do list can be half done so that future ministers might finish theirs.

I see now that the noise was more than noise. It was an invitation. It was like the bells of the church calling us to worship. The saw was a call to weather the frustrations and difficulties for the sake of a better world. The present rarely knows the sacrifices the past has made. Likewise, the future generations will never recognize all of the petty frustrations we weather today so that they might inherit a better world. This is what grace looks like. We have received this grace from our ancestors and this is the grace we pass on to our children.

In his poem, A Vision, Wendell Berry, the great American poet and prophet, writes about the cost of repairing the world. Berry suggests that being steady and true in a world that encourages us to chase convenience and love the cheap dream is a holy task. Ministry requires a broader perspective and a longer time frame to make any sense. So we work today and then, as Berry puts it,

a long time after we are dead  
the lives our lives prepare will live  
there, their houses strongly placed  
upon the valley sides, fields and gardens  
rich in the windows. The river will run  
clear, as we will never know it,  
and over it, birdsong like a canopy.

## Upcoming Worship Services

### August 4, 2019

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion*

*Lectionary: Hosea 11:1-11; Luke 12:13-21*

*Preaching: Megan LeCluyse*

*Lay Leader: Calvin Marshall*

### August 18, 2019

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lectionary: Isaiah 5:1-7; Heb. 11:29-12:2*

*Preaching: Adam Hearlson*

*Lay Leader: Noble Brigham*

### August 11, 2019

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lectionary: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16*

*Preaching: Adam Hearlson*

*Lay Leader: Sean Whalen*

### August 25, 2019

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lectionary: Jer. 1:4-10; Heb. 12:18-29*

*Preaching: Adam Hearlson*

*Lay Leader: Amanda Duckworth*



## Session News

Dear Overbrook,

The Session met in a special meeting Tuesday night, July 16, to discuss plans to help fill the gaps created by Sharon Parker's absence. (This was a special meeting only because we had not planned a regularly scheduled meeting for July.)

As you may know, Sharon served as both Director of Christian Education and as OPC's head of staff. There's simply no way one person could replicate all Sharon has done! So Adam, the Personnel and Christian Ed committees, and others are collaborating on a comprehensive plan to ensure all our bases are covered.

We'll share all the details when this plan is finalized in August. So please stay tuned.

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Peace,

Overbrook Session

## From the Director of Music



Singing and Ringing This Summer—All Are Welcome!

Did you miss last month's pickup choir? Maybe you were traveling, or you weren't sure if it was for you. Well, fear not: you will have another chance to sing with the Overbrook Summer (Pickup) Choir on Sunday, August 18 (note that this date is different from what was previously advertised). Just as before, come to the sanctuary at 9:30 that morning to learn some simple but excellent music to sing during the service.

I am also thrilled to announce the *Pickup Handbell Choir* in August. This opportunity is for new and experienced ringers alike; it involves a few days of rehearsals, then ringing during the service. Here is the schedule:

Wednesday, August 21—Rehearsal, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 22—Rehearsal, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 24—Rehearsal, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 25—Ring in worship!

So, whether you've played bells for years or you've never rung a note in your life, this event is for you, and we can all look forward to a great handbell experience. Please join us to celebrate music this summer!

Christopher Gage, Director of Music

## Christian Education



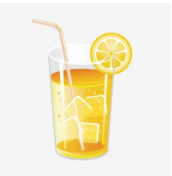
Update on Youth Mission trip to Altoona and Triennium trip to Purdue University: eight youth and three teens represented Overbrook Presbyterian Church in July. They worked, they worshipped, and they praised God! We are grateful for their commitment to their community of faith and are grateful to all who worked to support their travels. Don't miss a special Worship Service on August 25, during which youth will share their experiences.

News from Christian Education: The CE committee met most recently on July 21. Among other things, the Committee finalized the decision to revert back to the previous Sunday School schedule where children are dismissed following the sermon. Sunday School will resume on September 15, at this new (old) time. The committee, along with Pastor Adam, will spend the next month reviewing curriculum options and will be planning for the Fall at the next CE meeting on August 18. More information will be shared with families and the congregation when it is available. In the meantime, if you are interested in teaching Sunday School or volunteering to work with children and youth, please contact Becky Lazo.

-Becky Lazo, Committee Chair

## Congregational Life/Fellowship

### Summer Coffee Hour Ministry



During the summer months we still carry on the OPC tradition of Coffee Hour but we change to Ice Tea/Lemonade Hour during the warmer weather. We are still in need of Coffee Hour Hosts for the following **August 4, and 18** and **September 8, 15, 22 and 29**. A sign up genius has been created please look for it on the website, community Facebook page and also in the weekly E-News.

Are you wondering which ministry you can get involved with at OPC that can fit into your schedule? Volunteering to host a coffee hour after worship is an ideal activity. Instructions for this easily accomplished ministry are available on the OPC website. **All ages** can participate. Remember to **keep it simple**. There are always folks present to lend a hand. Coffee hour is a cherished tradition at OPC and hosts are heaped with gratitude by this congregation. For more information please contact Peggy Kaercher at 610-642-2906 or Pat Ogundele at 610-668-1309. Thank you.

## Communication

**Do you receive OPC's Weekly E-News?** If not please contact Lisa or Carol in the office to ensure that we have your email address in our online database. This E-News is published every Friday with all the events for the upcoming week at OPC and is delivered right to your email



### **Say Goodbye to Listserve and Hello to Realm**

So as of September 1, Listserve will no longer be active but have no fear, Realm is here. Realm is our online community database which allows us to communicate with each other, has an online directory of members/friends, members can even check their giving statements online. So, if you are not on Realm, please email Carol or Lisa in the office to receive your invitation.

Visit OPC on Facebook! Friend us. Like us. Be sure to join the *Overbrook Presbyterian Church Community Facebook Page*. Tell your FB friends that you like us and invite them to visit and like us as well.



## Property Committee

### STORMWATER ABATEMENT PROJECT/PARKING LOT

We are sorry to announce that yet again, the storm water project has been delayed. The reason for the delay is RAIN--the crew has not been able to finish their previous project because of too much rain over the past few weeks!

Once the work has been started, I will re-send the Sign-Up Genius to allow people to sign up for being a driver or traffic director during Sunday Service. As you may recall the driver will need to drive his/her own car back and forth to the train station BEFORE and AFTER church. Traffic directors will monitor traffic and parking in the City Ave. spaces. Must be able to stand and walk outside in any weather for 1 hour

Please keep the faith that this will happen someday. If you have questions, please feel free to email at [carnahanrachel@gmail.com](mailto:carnahanrachel@gmail.com) and I will do my best to answer. Thank you for your patience!

-Rachel Carnahan



## Mission and Outreach



Help keep the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County (aka The Shelter) open. The Community Action Agency of Delaware County is having a BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISER on Saturday, September 14 at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 229 Powell Lane, Upper Darby. Doors open at 5:30; bingo starts at 6:30. Bring your own food and drink. Bingo, door prizes, raffles, and other surprises. \$30 per ticket. Tickets on line at <https://caadc.org/tickets> or call 610-833-4454 or contact Nancy Gilhool during Coffee Hour.



We received news last week that 72 boxes, or 15,552 meals, that we packed in April were shipped to Rwanda through Feed My Starving Children partner World Help. World Help is a Christian humanitarian organization committed to serving the physical and spiritual needs of people in impoverished communities around the world. World Help has distributed FMSC meals in Africa, Central America and the Middle East and works primarily in communities, feeding centers, refugee camps and through churches. Here is a specific story about how Manna Pack meals have been used in their work: <https://www.fmssc.org/the-feed/from-the-field/2017/december/in-iraq-safe-but-homeless>. Praise be to God for every single hand that packed, every single quarter donated, and every single prayer uttered for these efforts. Thank you again for all your help, the Care at the Crossroads committee.

We are on track to deliver 30 backpacks to theVillage - Hope in Action for Children and Families. We want to make sure the children that they support are ready for the first day of school. The backpacks are filled with grade appropriate school supplies and cover ages from kindergarten through 12th grade. Please return any backpacks you took to fill by **August 4**.



We sent a donation of \$1,000 to support the Power of WE campaign at theVillage. Earlier this year, theVillage was chosen by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services as one of two citywide organizations to operate a Family Empowerment Center, a new pilot program focused on providing multi-tiered support for families who are at risk for future involvement with DHS. This new Center expands theVillage's long history of offering prevention programs.

On May 6, theVillage was proud to open the doors to our new Family Empowering Center at the Preheim Center in Southwest Philadelphia. Once fully up and running, this new program will serve more than 500 children and families annually.

Please feel free to join us on **Sunday, August 25 at 12:00** in the Chapel for our next Mission and Outreach Committee meeting.

Aimerie Scherluebbe  
Mission & Outreach



## Stewardship



### Taste of Overbrook Auction Donations

Your stewardship committee is asking for donations of items for this year's Taste of Overbrook auction [on October 19](#). This is our premier fundraising effort in the fall. We raised over \$7000 last year and have set a goal to raise \$8,000 this year. If you have a talent that you can contribute—gardening, sewing, pottery, gardening, cooking—we would love to auction off your talent. As well, if your employer, neighbor, or business that you frequent would like to contribute, we'd gladly accept donations. Particularly fun to have in the auction would be weekend “down the shore” or up in the Poconos at some kind benefactor's vacation home. Know anybody who would donate? Please contact Laurie Geers with donations at [lgeersgr@gmail.com](mailto:lgeersgr@gmail.com).



# October 2019

**A Taste of  
Overbrook  
DINNER &  
SILENT AUCTION**

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Save The Date</b>						19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Stewardship..Cont'd



### Legacy Giving Program & Committee

Your stewardship committee is forming a subcommittee to propose the formation of a legacy giving program for Session's consideration. The program would encourage members and friends to consider included OPC in their estate planning. Bequests and other legacy gifts are a beautiful and effective way to ensure the mission and future of OPC. The committee would propose a gift acceptance policy and would review existing endowment policies and propose new policies if needed. If you would be

interested in serving on the legacy giving subcommittee, please contact stewardship chair Will Schick via text or email [willsch84@yahoo.com](mailto:willsch84@yahoo.com) or 301-928-8244.

## Deacons

### Happy August Birthdays

8/1 Maynard Robison  
8/3 Larry Gavin  
8/4 Luis Wong  
8/5 Rachel Carnahan  
8/10 Nathan Lazo  
8/12 Larry McGhee  
8/14 Susy Brandt  
8/15 John May  
8/18 Amarilis Stricker  
Pat Dillon  
8/21 Jeff Bowker  
Evan Wilson  
8/22 Will Schick  
8/23 Peter Seidel  
8/27 Edelene Carroll  
8/31 Hugh Cole



### Prayer List

- Dick Williamson is home from the hospital.
- Sharon Parker is recovering from back surgery.
- Margaret Young's son Keith has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Diane, Laurie Geer's sister, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- Julie Hearlson, Adam's stepmother, has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.
- Brad Biedermann's stepfather, Lou, is in severe and constant pain from rheumatoid arthritis.
- Estalene Ferrillo is recovering from a fall
- Ed Harvey is doing better but still is experiencing health concerns.
- Don Carver is continuing to recover at home, and Winnie has back pain. Winnie and Don appreciate visitors.
- Dornell Guthrie's nephew, Nathaniel, is experiencing multiple health issues.
- Bruce Gillette is home after receiving treatment for leukemia.
- John Nathaniel continues to recover from a stroke.
- Ellen Burr is experiencing ongoing medical concerns.

*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).*



### Red Cross Blood Drive

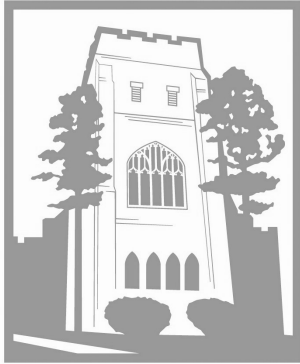
An early reminder!

Take good care of your blood until Friday September 6<sup>th</sup> – this year's date for Overbrook's Red Cross Blood Drive! You can sign up online or during coffee hour in August.

## In Other News

Thank you again to Overbrook Presbyterian Church for permitting the Omega Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority to serve as a site for our recent shredding event. We were able to collect over 325 cans of food that were donated to the Narberth Community Pantry to help those in need as we serve others.

# News from the Crossroads



«AddressBlock»

## Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

## August 2019 - OPC Church Events

**Saturday, August 3**

8:00 am-Men's Group

**Tuesday, August 6**

7:00 pm-Finance Committee

**Sunday, August 11**

12:00 pm-Deacons Meeting

12:00 pm-Personnel Meeting

**Tuesday, August 13**

7:00 pm-Session

**Sunday, August 18**

12:00 pm-Christian Education Committee

**Monday, August 19**

7:00 pm-Stewardship Committee @ Karen Wong's

**Wednesday, August 21**

5:00 pm-Property Committee

**Sunday, August 25**

12:00 pm.-Mission and Outreach Committee

**Tuesday, August 27**

12:00 pm-Worship and Music Committee

### Weekday Happenings:

- ❖ Every Sunday
  - 9:15 am-Adult Christian Education –Resumes Sunday, August 11
  - 10:30 am-Worship
  - 11:30 am-Coffee Hour
- ❖ Every Wednesday –Resuming August 14
  - 10:00 am –Adult Bible Study
- ❖ Every Saturday – 9:00-1:00 pm -Farmers Market-OPC Parking Lot

### Community Support Group Meetings @ OPC

- ❖ Every Sunday beginning at 8:00 pm—AA (Wistar Morris Room) and Al-Anon (Chapel)
- ❖ Every Monday beginning at 8:00 pm—Overeaters Anonymous (Chapel)
- ❖ Every Tuesday beginning at 7:30 pm-Nar-Anon
- ❖ Every Wednesday beginning 8:00 pm AA-Chapel

Please note a change in office hours through Labor Day.

Monday-Thursday - 9:00-3:00 pm

Fridays-9:00-12:00 pm