



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

January 2018

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



This Sunday's Adult Forum: Ideas for a Healthier New Year. Join us this Sunday, December 31, at 9:15 a.m. in the McMillan Chapel for a discussion of adult vaccination and other ways we can practice preventive health in the New Year. The discussion will be led by Amy J. Behrman, MD, Director of Occupational Medicine Services and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and an Overbrook Presbyterian Church member.



Do you need healing in your life? If so, please join us this Sunday, December 31st during our 10:30 am worship service for a Service of Healing and Wholeness. We hope that you can join us for this special time of prayer for individuals in need.

Overbrook Church Staff

Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette
Co-Pastors

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Christopher Gage
Director of Music

Lisa Faso
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian



Martin Luther King Day of Service:



Monday, January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. lived his life serving God and serving others. On Monday, January 15, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. join us in the Fellowship Hall, Wistar Morris Room, Chapel and Kitchen as we serve God and others in honor of Dr. King.

We will begin with a litany in remembrance of Dr. King at 9:00 a.m. Then at 9:15 a.m., we will go to our service stations. There will be activities for people of all ages— from preschoolers through older adults. Service projects will include:

- placing crosses with T-shirts on the lawn for “Heeding God’s Call” in memory of victims of gun violence in the city of Philadelphia . (See page 3 for more information on this project)
- making soup and breakfast bags for Aid for Friends, an organization that provides meals for people who are homebound in Philadelphia and surrounding counties
- making children’s artwork to include in the breakfast bags (this was specifically requested, and it is a project that young children can help with)
- assembling health kits for people in need
- sewing simple dresses for girls, for “Little Dresses for Africa”
- beautifying our church building and property.

A simple pizza lunch will be provided. Please sign up in advance in the Wistar Morris Room or through sign up genius, so we have enough supplies, work activities, and lunch for everyone. Thank you!

Questions? Please contact Pastor Carolyn Gillette at carolyn@overbrookpresb.org or 302-528-1797.



From Our Pastors: *The New Year is for Children*

Over the years, we have heard many people say that Christmas is a holiday for children. While all of us, young and old, enjoy Christmas as a celebration of Jesus' birth, there are many parts of our holiday celebration that do seem geared toward the youngest in our midst. Children love the lights and celebration, the Christmas trees and gifts, and the baby in a manger with loving parents nearby.

We are moving past Christmas, though, and in some ways we are moving back into the challenging realities of the world that we may have chosen to put aside for a week or two. We are reminded that after the Christmas story, filled with love, there is the story of an angry, jealous king named Herod. In what we call the Slaughter of the Innocents, Herod ordered all male children under the age of two to be killed, in his attempt to kill the Christ child. This heart-wrenching passage ends with the words of Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more. (See Matthew 2:16-18).

Our country recently marked the fifth anniversary of the tragic Sandy Hook school shooting in Connecticut. Since that shooting, our nation has seen countless acts of physical violence against children— as well as proposed government programs cuts for their health care, food security, and feelings of safety and self-worth, on a variety of levels. Some children have been shot in the streets, incarcerated, detained, denied school lunches, and deported. Others have watched the opioid epidemic destroy their homes and families. Still others have been uprooted with their families because of hurricanes and fires. We may look at the New Year and wonder: What is this world coming to, for us, and for our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends and neighbor children?

Yet there is hope, because as followers of Jesus, we are a people of hope— and because God calls the church to share God's hope, peace, joy and love with others. After the Newtown shooting, we saw a suggestion that each person do 26 acts of kindness, in honor and memory of the 26 children and educators killed in that tragedy. This year, we invite you to reach out to children again. In a time that seems so filled with hatred and with neglect of those who are vulnerable, what can you do in Christ's name?

Think and pray about ways you can make a difference for children. Can you give a child the precious gift of time—reading a story book, going to the park, or playing a game together? Can you listen to a child's constant questions and patiently answer them? Can you show respect for a child by saying "Thank you" or "I'm sorry"? Can you read a daily Bible story with a child at bedtime, and teach the child bedtime prayers? Can you invite a neighboring family to Sunday School and church?

If you are farther-removed from young children in your life, and if you don't interact with them on a daily basis, there are plenty of ways you can still show them hospitality and love. Can you pray for families in our Sunday School? Can you work to make the world safer for them—and more just? Can you support legislation that provides children and youth with adequate food, shelter, safety, and health care-- including mental health care for those who are troubled? Can you mentor a youth?

While many say that Christmas is for children, we pray that in our families, our church, our society, and our world, this New Year will be a year for children— a year when all are cared for, loved, respected and protected. May we as a Church be among the leaders in making this happen, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Carolyn and Bruce Gillette



2018 Year of the Children

Mission and Outreach

Happy New Year from Mission & Outreach!

We are excited for a new year of opportunities to get involved with the community and the world to make this a better place now and for future generations. I wanted to lay out what we have coming up this year in Mission & Outreach and we hope you will find ways to get involved. Mark your calendar and come join us!

January

Monday, January 15, 2018 – Martin Luther King Day of Service

Sunday, January 21, 2018 – Feed My Starving Children Kickoff Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 24, 2018 – We Care Wednesday at Panera Bread Wynnewood

Sunday, January 28, 2018 – Prepare Life Center Meal

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 – Deliver Life Center Meal

February

Sunday, February 18, 2018 – One Great Hour of Sharing Kickoff

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – We Care Wednesday

March

Sunday, March 4, 2018 – One Great Hour of Sharing Dedication

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – We Care Wednesday

April

Sunday, April 1, 2018 – Easter Offering

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 – We Care Wednesday

Friday, April 27, 2018 – Set up for Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, April 28, 2018 – Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

May

Sunday, May 6, 2018 – Provide Welcome Church Coffee Hour in Philadelphia

Sunday, May 20, 2018 – Deacon's Offering

Martin Luther King Day – Opportunity for service

Gun violence continues to plague our city. The police department estimates that over 250 people will be murdered by guns during 2017. Many of these homicides are committed by illegal guns. On January 15th OPC will again be working with Heeding God's Call – to create a Memorial to the Lost displaying a T-shirt for every gun victim who was murdered in Philadelphia during 2017.



A view of OPC's 2015 memorial

Heeding God's Call is a faith based community created to help unite people of faith in the sacred responsibility of protecting our brothers, sisters and children. On the 15th we will need many volunteers to letter the shirts, build the crosses and actually post those shirts. Schedules and sign-up sheets will be available during coffee hours on the next few Sundays and also a link to sign up genius will be sent out via email. Please plan to be here to lend a hand in this task. Thank you, Jeff Bowker

Mission and Outreach (Cont'd)



HELP SUPPORT

Feed My Starving Children

WHERE 278 E. Lancaster Avenue | Wynnewood, PA 19096

WHEN Wed, January 24

FROM 4 PM - 8 PM

Bring this flyer or show an electronic version to the cashier when you place your order and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase. Gift card purchases and catering are not counted towards the event.

Learn more at PaneraBread.com/Fundraiser

Ordering Online? Try Rapid Pick-Up or Delivery.

Enter "FUND" at checkout to have a portion of your proceeds donated to your organization.

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WE CARE WEDNESDAYS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Can you imagine enjoying dinner out and at the same time providing a meal for a hungry child at no extra cost?! This year, the Overbrook Presbyterian Church community can enjoy a weekly meal out and contribute to one of the Church's most vital ministries – Feed My Starving Children. So get ready, mark your calendars for the **third Wednesday** of the month, January through April. This Month's "We Care Wednesday" is January 24th 2018 at the Panera Bread in Wynnewood Shopping Center on Lancaster Pike. Please join us. See you at Panera Wynnewood. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. See Kristan Davis, Becky Lazo, Janet Bowker or Deb Rottinger for a We Care Wednesday form to be sure your meal is credited to OPC or simply *bring this page with you from the newsletter.*

Feeding the hungry is a continuing mission of Overbrook. The next shelter meal is Tuesday, January 30. If you are interested in shopping, cooking, or cleaning up, please contact Nancy Gilhool at gilhoolfam@verizon.net. If you would like to help serve the meal, please contact Janet Bowker at jbowker@friendscentral.org. Many thanks.



HOLIDAY GIVING – 2017 - ADOPT A FAMILY-THANKS YOU



Adopt-a-Family Thirty-three (33) Overbrook families and individuals participated in Adopt-a Family, joyously contributing or buying presents for 16 children and parents, to make their Christmas brighter. Puzzles, books, clothing, remote-controlled cars, Star Wars toys, a punching bag, balls, games and two bicycles are only a partial list of what was given! Many thanks to everyone for your generosity and true spirit of Christmas. -The Mission and Outreach Committee

Christian Education



Souper Bowl of Caring: Sunday February 4 - Super Bowl Sunday is also Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Help our Overbrook Presbyterian Church Youth fight hunger in the Greater Philadelphia area. Following worship on Sunday, February 4, our youth will be stationed in the Wistar Morris Room with two soup pots, each pot representing a 2017 Super Bowl contender. By making a donation in one (or both) of the pots, you will be supporting a nationwide youth initiative to combat hunger. As we donate funds to this worthy cause, let's see which team "wins" in receiving the most donations.

Summer Church Camp and Family Church Conference Programs: Are you looking for a wonderful opportunity for fun and growth for your child or youth next summer? Consider including a week of church camp or a church conference in your summer plans! Camp allows children to experience new things, to be outdoors— hiking, fishing, canoeing, enjoying campfires, playing games, learning about nature — and also to grow in faith, develop new friendships, and build confidence in a non-competitive, supportive environment. Church camp friendships often last throughout the years, as youth stay in touch with each other and return to camp with their friends in future summers. For more information on camping opportunities for second graders through high school students, as well as opportunities for families and adults, please contact Pastors Bruce and Carolyn Gillette.



Sunday School Offering News: This Fall, our Sunday School classes began receiving a Sunday School offering each morning when the children and youth gather in their classes. In December, Sunday School classes voted on which mission project they would like their offering to support. They enthusiastically decided to support St. Vincent's Center for the Handicapped in Haiti. Children at the school are provided not only an education but also pediatrics, orthopedics, and physical therapy, as well as resources for those with hearing and/ or vision-related conditions. Prosthetic services are provided by a brace shop located on the Centre grounds. The powerful earthquake of 2010 took the lives of seven students and three staff members and destroyed most of the SVC complex. Since that time, the school is being rebuilt at a new location in a suburb of Port-au-Prince. Our Overbrook Sunday School offering will provide tuition assistance for a student at the school. Our support will be sent through our Presbyterian Church's Mission Agency which supports this Episcopal School.



Confirmation Class Retreat - February 23 - 25. Join Confirmation Classes from the region for a weekend retreat at Johnsonburg Camp. We'll leave Friday afternoon and return on Sunday afternoon. Please contact Pastor Carolyn for cost, scheduling information and permission forms.



Sunday Forum on January 7: Growing in the Christian Faith in 2018

Join us on the first Sunday of the New Year, January 7, at 9:15 a.m. in the McMillian Chapel for a presentation and discussion on different spiritual ways that individuals can grow in faith in the New Year. Our discussion leader will be Sharon Kraybill, a Mennonite graduate of Eastern Baptist Seminary (now Palmer Seminary) and spiritual director who has been using space at Overbrook Presbyterian Church for nine years.

Sunday Forum on January 14: Gun Violence

Join us on the January 14, at 9:15 a.m. in the McMillian Chapel for a presentation and discussion on gun violence. The next day Overbrook Presbyterians and friends will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day with service projects, including making t-shirts with the names of all the victims of gun violence in Philadelphia in 2017. Our discussion leader will be Bryan Miller, Executive Director of Heeding God's Call to End Violence.

Sunday Forum on January 21: Keeping Women Silent in Church

Some of the biblical writings of the Apostle Paul have been misused by some churches (including the two largest in the USA, Roman Catholic and Southern Baptist) not to allow women to have leadership roles in the church. We Presbyterians believe God speaks to us through the Bible, how do we interpret these "problematic teachings" to support women leaders? Join us on the January 21, at 9:15 a.m. in the McMillian Chapel for a video presentation by Dr. Kenneth Bailey of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem bringing a Middle Eastern perspective to biblical interpretation and a discussion led by Pastor Bruce Gillette.

Sunday Forum on January 28: Opioid Epidemic

Join us on the January 21, at 9:15 a.m. in the McMillian Chapel for a presentation and discussion.

Youth Group



Middle School and High School Youth Groups will be meeting together in the winter months. Here is the upcoming schedule:

Sun., Jan. 14 - Meet at church for pizza at 5 p.m. and help set up for MLK day the next day

Mon., Jan. 15 - MLK Day of service starting at 9:00 a.m. Youth volunteers are needed!

Youth Group

Sun., Jan. 28 - Ice Skating at Dilworth Plaza, early afternoon

Sun. Feb. 4 - Souper Bowl Sunday - Youth volunteers are needed after worship to staff the "soup pots" for donations from the congregation to help hungry neighbors

Fellowship



The Mens' Group will meet again on Saturday, January 6th at the church at 8:00. We will chat over bagels and coffee for a half hour and then enjoy a more structured program (topic to-be-named-later) for an hour. Keep an ear out for the topic. All are welcome, bring a friend.



Everyone is invited to come join Peter Seidel, art teacher and Overbrook member, to consider the reason for the season! On January 7th, come join Peter Seidel from 1:30-3:00pm for "The Art of Christmas Season Seven Centuries of Sacred Art at the Philadelphia". Everyone is to gather on the 2nd floor balcony in the Great Hall of the Philadelphia Art Museum at 1:30pm. The cost is "Pay what you wish" Sunday at the museum. There is plenty of parking at the museum or members can carpool from the church right after service.

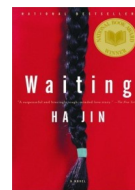
Urban/Suburban Book Club

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 16, 2018, 7pm

Location: Overbrook Presbyterian Church

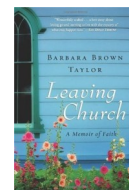
January selection: *Waiting by Ha Jin*

February selection is: *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith by Barbara Brown Taylor*



←January

February →



This is a book club of diverse membership involving members of several Presbyterian churches, including Overbrook. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Alyce Marsh at 215-472-7886.

Corner of Thanks

**WE JUST WANT TO SAY...
THANK YOU!**

❖Property Committee wishes to thank two "Angels" who have contributed to the landscaping budget this year. This has allowed us to remove some trees and bushes and replace them with new ones, and to maintain our older trees. Many thanks!! Rachel Carnahan

❖We give thanks for the service of Nicole Stokes-Robinson, Larry McGhee and Elienne Paul as they complete their terms as Deacons.

❖Dear Friends,

As I prepare to leave for mission service in Myanmar, my heart is filled with gratitude for your outpouring of kindness and love. Your gifts of prayers and good wishes will be treasured.

The generous contribution of the Mission and Outreach Committee, presented on behalf of the congregation, is truly overwhelming..and deeply appreciated. I will use these funds to support Christian education for adults and children in the Chin faith community. Through your graciousness and generosity, you will be travelling with me to Kalaymyo. Together, we will be doing God's work and serving his children in Myanmar.

I look forward to returning home with the stories of our sisters and brothers in Kalaymyo. May their lives be touched by your prayerful grace and goodness. Blessings to all, Sharon Parker

Deacons



Prayer List

- ◆ Evelyn Gorman is recovering from surgery
- ◆ Lynn Pompa has continued health issues.
- ◆ Gloria Justin is continuing to recover at her home
- ◆ The Rev. David McMillian has health concerns
- ◆ Dick Williamson has back issues
- ◆ Peter Seidel has back issues
- ◆ Andrea Gosfield is recovering from a car accident
- ◆ Will Vagnoni is going through transitions
- ◆ Ellen Burr has health concerns

Please contact Pastors Bruce or Carolyn to add names or concerns to this list. Bruce and Carolyn can be reached by email, cell phone, or by leaving a message in the Church Office, or by speaking with one of them in person.



1/1	Martin Gasonu	1/20	Herb Williamson
1/2	Raelyn Harman	1/23	William Kothari
	Jan Lovely	1/26	Kempley Bryant
1/4	Nicole Stokes Robinson	1/27	Mike Rottinger
	Jasmine Frisby		Paula Straka
1/7	Brad Biedermann	1/28	Zubin Fiorillo
1/8	Elienne Paul	1/30	Steven Gilhool
	Elise von Andreae		Phyllis Jackson
1/10	Margene Biedermann	1/31	Cheryl Davis
1/15	James Piatt		Suchita Fiorillo
1/16	Lucy Mason		Julia Straka
1/17	Kyle Lazorko		
	Tara von Andrea		

Pastoral CARE

Pastoral Care & Feedback

Welcome: We are grateful to people who let us know about pastoral needs in our church and community. We welcome visiting people in their homes, at work, in the hospital and at the church. We welcome the opportunity to bring home communion to anyone who would like to receive the sacrament.

Please contact us by email or phone: pastors@overbrookpresb.org, bruce@overbrookpresb.org or carolyn@overbrookpresb.org or call us (Office: 215-877-2744 or Bruce's Cell: 302-528-1796 or Carolyn's Cell: 302-528-1797) if you, or someone you know, would like a visit from an Overbrook pastor. Your ideas, feedback and prayers help us all serve better together. See our contact information above so we can have a conversation with you soon. Thank you. Pastors Bruce & Carolyn Gillette

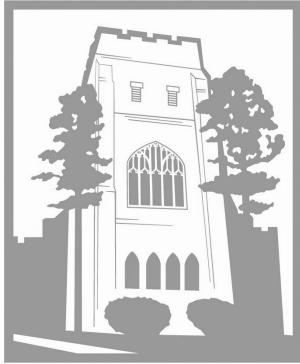
Remember to Sign the Prayer Cards:



These cards are located on the raised table in the Wistar Morris Room. We ask all church members and friends to please sign these cards before or after worship each Sunday. "You were remembered this Sunday in the prayers of the people of the Overbrook Church in Philadelphia" is the message found on prayer cards. Please contact our pastors or church office if you would like us to send a prayer card to someone.

Bonnie Miller is looking for a few good people willing to occasionally drive her to visit her daughter or drive her to/from church. Please contact Mike Rottinger if you think you can do this or want more details – mike.rottinger@comcast.net.

News from the Crossroads



Overbrook Presbyterian Church

6376 City Avenue ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19151

215-877-2744 ♦ office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

Church Office Hours

Mon., Wed., & Fri.
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Tues., & Thurs.
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Church Finance

We are looking forward to receiving your generous year-end gifts (pledges or other contributions) but please aware that the IRS will not allow a donation to be counted in 2017 unless we have it in hand by December 31st, or if mailed, it must be postmarked by December 31st. To confirm your pledge balance please contact Carol Rozmiarek by email (carol@overbrookpresb.org) or by calling the church office. If you have not already paid Apportionment this year (per capita is \$28 per member,) please do so now. Thank you!



Worship

Worship SCHEDULE

Sundays in January

January 7, 2018

Communion
Baptism of our Lord
Mark 1:4-11

Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Stephanie Kindt
Coffee Hour: TBD

January 14, 2018

2nd Sunday after Epiphany
John 1:43-51

Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Amanda Duckworth
Coffee Hour:

January 21, 2018

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Mark 1:14-20

Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette
Lay Leader: Mary Scott

Coffee Hour: Rachel Nkwenti and Evelyn/Ameerah Skipper

January 28, 2018

4th Sunday after Epiphany
Mark 1:21-28

Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette
Lay Leader: Aimerie Scherleubbe
Coffee Hour: TBD