



OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News from the Crossroads

March 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

Overbrook Church Staff
Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette <i>Co-Pastors</i>
Rev. David K. McMillan <i>Pastor Emeritus</i>
Dr. Christopher Gage <i>Director of Music</i>
Lisa Faso <i>Office Manager</i>
Carol Rozmiarek <i>Financial Secretary</i>
Leonard Robbins <i>Church Custodian</i>

Lent

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness, where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world or any cause that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are, but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.

-Frederick Buechner originally published in *Whistling in the Dark* and later in *Beyond Words*



Wednesday Lenten Supper & Prayer Service -Each Week of Lent March 7-March 21st

There will be special meals followed by opportunities for children, youth and adults to worship together. Please contact Eileen Wiggins if you would like to help prepare soups for Wednesday evening soup nights.

March 7 - 6:00 p.m. - Soup and bread meal at OPC

March 14 - 6:00 p.m. - Soup and bread meal at OPC

March 21 - "We Care Wednesday" at a JD McGillicuddy's

On all of these five these Wednesday nights in Lent, you are invited to join us following dinner at 7:00 p.m. in the OPC Chapel for worship. The theme of these Lenten Prayer Services will be "Lord, Teach Us to Pray" with a special focus on the Lord's Prayer. Each of these services will be approximately half an hour in length. Child care will be provided for the youngest children in the church nursery, if it is needed.



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

This booklet of daily devotions is available on the table outside of the church office for anyone that wishes to have a copy. This devotional for Lent includes reflections by the late Henri J.M. Nouwen, one of the most widely read spiritual writers of our time. His deeply moving spiritual insights and prayerful conversations with God are particularly timely during this holy season of Lent when we contemplate the Christ who is our hope through his suffering, death and resurrection. Each meditation begins with a relevant quote from Scripture and ends with a brief prayer.

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From Our Pastors:

Lent is a wonderful time for growing in faith, and one of the ways we can do that is to grow in our prayer lives. Our Lenten Wednesday prayer services—which are for adults, youth and children— are built around the theme of the Lord's Prayer. For almost 2000 years, this prayer of Jesus has been spoken and sung. Children have learned it as part of their bedtime prayers. It has been prayed at hospital bedsides, at kitchen tables, and in worship services with thousands of people. This prayer has taught us again and again about how God wants to be in relationship with us.

Jesus' prayer begins: "Our Father..." Some people find "Father" to be a beautiful name for God, while others find it challenging to call God Father. Here is a hymn that lifts up what it means to call God "Father":

When Jesus Called You "Father"

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")

When Jesus called you "Father" in teaching folks to pray,
And when he said we're children who need to trust your way,
O God, he knew your closeness, your guidance from above.
Perhaps in Joseph's caring, he'd learned to trust your love.

Some cannot call you Father; they will not use that name.
The fathers they have known here have caused them fear and pain;
And though you're like a father, you're like a mother, too.
No single name can ever tell all we know of you.

Yet Jesus in his teaching described a father's joy
When, at his son's returning, he ran to greet the boy.
O God, when we have hurt you and struggled on our own,
Just like that loving parent, you run to bring us home.

O God, you seek to save us, no matter what the cost;
Our Father, your intention is no one will be lost.
As Jesus called you "Abba," and trusted in your plans,
We trust in you to guide us! Our lives are in your hands.

O God, you seek to save us, no matter what the cost;
Our Father, your intention is no one will be lost.
As Jesus called you "Abba," and trusted in your plans,
We trust in you to guide us! Our lives are in your hands.

You hold your children's future when all will be made new.
Your house has many dwellings so we may live with you.
Just like a loving father, you answer when we pray.
In thanks, may we your children now follow you each day.

(See Matthew 6:9; Hosea 11:3-4;
Deuteronomy 32:18; Isaiah 66:13; Isaiah 49:15;
Luke 15:11-32; Matthew 18:14; Mark 14:36;
Matthew 24:36; John 14:2-4; Luke 11:13)

Another beautiful word, right at the beginning of Jesus' prayer, is "Our." It reminds us that we are always part of the community of God's people:

We are never alone: When we pray for daily bread, we pray as a community, and we help those who are hungry to find daily bread. When we pray for forgiveness, we do so realizing that our relationships in the church really do matter. When we ask for deliverance from evil, we are reminded that, with evil all around us, we find courage in the church.

This Lent, may your times of prayer bring you closer to God who loves you like the most loving parent— and may they bring you closer to the community of God's church.

Grace and Peace,
Bruce and Carolyn Gillette, Co-Pastors

What's Happening with Session

Friends,

The second Tuesday of each month, OPC elders gather to make important decisions for the life of the church community. We pray, eat, laugh and share, too, but mostly we are there doing the work that you asked us to do on your behalf.

So we thought you might like to know what we've been up to:

In late January we gathered for a daylong retreat with deacons to help us get to know each other better and to deepen our faith and service. We learned from an expert on the best ways to give positive and negative feedback leaving us very eager to hear what you have to say!

All OPC committees are at work updating our mission statements and information for volunteers, so we can encourage more participation and do even greater work. Below is a listing of all the committee at OPC and which session elders serve on each committee. If anyone has a question about a particular committee or interest in joining a committee please see on the elders:

Christian Education:	Jeff Bowker, Becky Lazo, Will Schick
Congregational Life:	Raelyn Harman, Aimerie Scherluebbe, Karen Wong
Finance:	Bob Kothari, Kate Shackelford
Mission & Outreach	Jeff Bowker, Becky Lazo, Deb Rottinger, Jane Rozmiarek, Aimerie Scherluebbe
New Members:	Rachel Carnahan, Deb Rottinger
Nominating:	Will Schick, vice-chair TBD
Personnel:	Edelene Carroll, Raelyn Harman, Eileen Wiggins
Property:	Jeff Bowker, Rachel Carnahan, Kevin Davis, Jane Rozmiarek, Sean Whalen
Stewardship:	Will Schick, Karen Wong
Worship & Music:	Rachel Carnahan, Eileen Wiggins

We have approved candidates for baptism, marriage and membership. And we're looking forward to soon hearing the confirmands' statements of faith. We've also updated our policy to welcome brides and grooms who are not members at OPC to celebrate their marriages in our beautiful space, with proper vetting and counseling from our pastors.

We hear updates each month from every committee, and you can look forward to many great mission, fellowship and educational and other opportunities to come.

We also have analyzed our finances, feeling proud of the strength of our growing endowment and renewing our attention to pledge numbers to better understand our members' needs and wants.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord and Overbrook through our work on Session. We want to hear from you on how we're doing. Feel free to reach out.

Your session-Jeff Bowker, Rachel Carnahan, Edelene Carroll, Kevin Davis, Sara Davis, Bruce and Carolyn Gillette, Raelyn Harman, Bob Kothari, Becky Lazo, Deb Rottinger, Jane Rozmiarek, Aimerie Scherluebbe, Will Schick, Kate Shackelford, Sean Whalen, Eileen Wiggins and Karen Wong.

Music

“Rejoice, O Overbrook”: An Invitation

I was joking with my choir recently that Lent is the only time when we get to sing all the great pieces about doom and gloom. While this isn't entirely true, you may notice that the preludes, anthems, and postludes during this season are a little more subdued than usual, especially after the ebullience of Epiphany. In fact, in some religious traditions, instrumental music is banned during Lent, except when it is used to support singing. We see this change in other parts of the liturgy, as well: for instance, we generally refrain from using the word “Alleluia” until Easter.

Happily, we get one respite from Lenten austerity—the fourth Sunday in Lent, called “Laetare Sunday” after the beginning of the Latin introit for that day:

Laetare Jerusalem: et conventum facite omnes qui diligitis eam.
Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her.

Laetare Sunday, which falls on **March 11** this year, is celebrated differently around the world. In the UK, it is called Mothering Sunday; historically a day when servants were allowed to worship at their mother churches, often with their families, it is now celebrated much like Mother's Day in America. In some liturgical traditions, priests may wear rose-colored vestments as opposed to the usual Lenten violet.

At Overbrook, we will observe this special Sunday by beginning the tradition of an **extended postlude**. There are some pieces and sounds that just don't fit in the service for whatever reason—usually time—so this special postlude will be an opportunity for you to hear the organ in a slightly expanded setting; I plan to offer a “Postlude Sunday” at least once per season. In March, I will play J. S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E minor, BWV 548, which lasts around fifteen minutes. I hope that you will stay and enjoy this wonderful organ work, and don't worry about coffee hour—steps will be taken to make sure that there's plenty of coffee and treats left for when you arrive after the postlude.

-Chris Gage, Director of Music

Mission and Outreach



Love. Grow. Serve.

We are thrilled our prayers were answered and Sharon Parker has returned to us safely from her mission trip to Myanmar. She brought with her tales of an adventure filled with hope and a new challenge for us to continue her work, teaching English to the Chin people, through Skype. Look for more on this in the coming months.

We are pleased to have Will Schick representing Overbrook Presbyterian Church at the Overbrook Hospital in Thailand as they celebrate their 115th anniversary. We send our prayers with Will and we ask him to return with meaningful ways we can support the hospital we helped found.

We have much going on this month. One Great Hour of Sharing will wrap up on **March 4** with a dedication, during the Sunday service. Please give generously to support on-going hunger programs, self-development of people, as well as having funds in place to quickly respond to disasters when they happen.

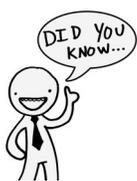
We continue to support Feed My Starving Children with the support of local restaurants. This month's We Care Wednesday will be on **Wednesday, March 21** at JD McGillicuddy's, 8921 West Chester Pike in Upper Darby. We continue to collect funds for Feed My Starving Children during coffee hour as we work towards our goal. Be sure to save **Saturday, April 28** for the Care at the Crossroads Mobile Pack, when we will pack over 100,000 meals for starving children around the world. -Aimerie Scherluebbe



Still wondering what this *Feed My Starving Children* thing is all about? It's not just pouring rice and soy and vitamins into a bag, sealing that bag, and putting it in a box. It's not just weighing and counting and labeling. It is life changing... for starving children around the world, and for the volunteers who show up to help. In just two hours time on April 28, I can guarantee that you will have an unforgettable and really meaningful experience. And it's fun! See what some members of the Wong family had to say:

"I loved having an event my whole family could join. FMSC does a wonderful job of connecting and explaining the work we are doing at the mobile pack to how it will have a positive impact on children around the world," said Karen. Zack, now 15, worked with his father, Peter, at the table sealing the completed packages at last year's MobilePack. "I liked the teamwork," Zack said.

So, please plan to join us; there are jobs for everyone. Anyone age 5 and up and with any kind of ability can participate. There are a wide range of volunteer options available. And thank you to all who have already donated time, talents (Nancy Gilhool!), and money. We are grateful! -- *Caring at the Crossroads* FMSC team



Q: What do Pat Dillon, Carol Tulba, Suchita Fiorillo, Christine Red, and Mary Scott have in common?

A: They all helped prepare Presbyterian Pasta for the clients of the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County on Tuesday, January 30.

Q: What do Laurie Geers and the Orange Class of Overbrook Preschool and Kindergarten have in common?

A: They all helped make the salad for the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County.

Q: What do Janet Bowker, Kim Parris, and Christine Red have in common?

A: They all served the meal.

Q: What do many others in the OPC congregation have in common?

A: They baked the brownies for the meal.

Praise God!

The next shelter meal is **Tuesday, May 29**. Will you help? Contact Nancy Gilhool, gilhoolfam@verizon.net



On Friday, February 23, thirty four women from OPC gathered at Stephanie Kindt's home to share a meal, wine, and fellowship. Sturgis Poorman shared his vision for First Place, an Ardmore Presbyterian Church initiative. First Place is literally the first place refugees and asylum seekers lay their heads following an often long and arduous journey to our shores. First Place is a three bedroom home in Ardmore that APC rented, furnished, and maintains as temporary housing. The residents stay no more than 4-6 weeks, while a more permanent housing situation and employment is sought. . We raised \$1,200 which will be matched by M&O for a total of over \$2,400, which is enough to cover rent and utilities for one month. Since January of 2017 there has been a steady flow of residents. We are working with APC to find ways that we can be of service to First Place. Thank you to Raelyn Harman for bringing this organization to our attention.

Christian Education



Overbrook Church's Vacation Bible School will be Sunday, July 8 - Thursday, July 12, 2018, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The theme is "God's Wonderful Welcome." VBS is for children ages Pre-K through 5th grade. Youth and adult volunteers are needed!; see Pastor Carolyn to register your child or to volunteer. There will also be an adult class so parents and others may stay and enjoy fellowship and learning. Cost: Free. Join us for Bible stories, supper, songs, crafts, games, and more! Look for registration information on the OPC website and OPC Facebook.



Summer 2018 Youth Mission Trip - Deposit Due March 15: Dates of the trip are Saturday, August 4 - Saturday, August 11, 2018. This trip is open to Middle and High School students. This summer's mission trip will be to the Greenbrier/White Sulphur Springs area in Southern West Virginia, to work with WVMAW— West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps. This area had major flooding in the summer of 2016; close to half of the homes in the area were damaged or destroyed.

We will be doing repairs or renovations on a home for a family in need. We will be sleeping in a church (on air mattresses) and doing our own cooking. Wednesday will be a fun day, and we will have opportunity to experience local mountain culture throughout the week. Adult volunteers/chaperones with child clearances are needed. Construction skills will be taught to our group ahead of time and on-site; adults with construction skills are welcome! Total cost per student will be between \$300 and \$375, depending on how much we can fund-raise. Scholarships are available so any Overbrook Church youth who wants to go will be able to go. Registration form and deposit of \$85 are due on March 15. See OPC website (youth page) and OPC Facebook for more information.



Massanetta Springs Bible Conference and Music Conference - from July 22 to 28 - are two wonderful events that meet the same week in Harrisonburg, VA.

The Bible Conference has excellent preachers, worship services, Bible studies and workshops. The music conference has opportunities for singing in a camp choir, learning to play handbells (or improving skills), learning to play the harp and more. A full program for children and youth runs during each day as well. Take the whole family! Scholarship help is available. More information is available in the church office.



Youth Group News: Join us for upcoming activities:

- ♦ **Sunday, March 11** - Bowling at Wynnewood Lanes: Cost is \$10 per person includes pizza and soda. RSVP to Pastor Carolyn.
- ♦ **Sunday, March 18** - Youth Group at Church - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Bring your own supper.
- ♦ **Sunday, March 24** - Overbrook youth, families and others are invited to join Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church and Heeding God's Call for a bus trip to Washington, DC for the Florida students' march on DC for sensible gun laws. Buses will be leaving from Overbrook Church parking lot. Cost is \$40 per person.



Summer Church Camp Scholarships Available: Camp information is available from Pastor Carolyn. Children and youth are encouraged to enjoy a week at church camp. There are camps for elementary, middle and high school youth, as well as family camp options. Brochures are available in the church office. Scholarships are available so that any Overbrook child or youth who wants to go to camp will be able to do so.

Aid For Friends



Saturday March 24 - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Service Day at Aid for Friends, North of Philadelphia: This is a great mission project for families. Meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. We'll carpool to the warehouse and pack/prepare food for people who are homebound in the Philadelphia area. Please contact Pastor Carolyn at 302-528-1797 by March 5th if you want to attend, so we can tell Aid for Friends how many people are coming to help.



SAVE THE DATE: Confirmation Sunday - Pentecost, May 20 - Members of the Confirmation Class will be received into church membership.

Christian Education (Cont'd)

Sunday Forums in March

Please join us at 9:15 a.m. in the McMillian Chapel for these opportunities for learning and fellowship.

March 4: Sharon Parker on The Church and Myanmar. Sharon will share faith stories and worship practices from the Chin tribal community, and explore unique ways in which our hands can continue to do God's work.

March 11: "We need to talk about an injustice" TED Talk by Bryan Stevenson and group discussion about it.

March 18: Will Schick on Overbrook Hospital in Thailand. Will will share about his participation in Overbrook Hospital's 115th anniversary celebration and ways we can continue to keep connected with our Thai friends. [Will do you want to say more?]

March 25: Jesus' Execution and the Death Penalty Today On this Palm Sunday we will discuss Jesus' death on Good Friday, how different Christians have interpreted the atonement over the centuries and why it challenges Christians to oppose the death penalty today.

Do you have a topic that you would like discussed at Sunday Forum? Your ideas are welcome, please share them with Pastors Bruce & Carolyn Gillette so we can explore your ideas with you.

Congregational Life



Recently Artia Benjamin and I checked-in with OPC's custodian, Leonard Robbins to be sure we understood what he needed from members and friends who use the kitchen. **WE MUST PUT AWAY, TAKE AWAY OR THROW AWAY ALL UNUSED FOOD FROM ANY EVENT WE ARE HOSTING.** Not doing this

has created burdensome work for Leonard and encouraged unwelcome critters to visit. Sometimes we want to leave leftovers for others to use or for a future occasion. If you want it kept for a specific event or person, you must clearly label the item and leave it in the refrigerator or in the freezer or in the tightly sealed plastic bins on top of the dishwasher. Markers are kept in the kitchen drawer to the left of the refrigerator. Otherwise, unlabeled food will be used by anyone who happens to come along or get thrown away.

There are people who volunteer to open and close the church before and after worship every Sunday. After coffee hour, they stack dirty cups and dishes and soak flatware and serving utensils in a "bowl" of water so that it is easier for Leonard to load the dishwasher and get the job done Monday morning. After coffee hour, it is always helpful to leave your dirty dishes on the rolling cart provided or stacked on the stainless-steel counter to the left of the doors as you enter the kitchen. Thank you for being good hosts and guests at the many occasions where we share a meal together by leaving the area at least as clean and tidy as we found it and considerate of everyone who helps us keep it that way.

Other than coffee hour, when planning an event that will create any dirty dishes, you must plan to hand wash the dishes or check to see in advance if Leonard is available to help clean up during his regularly scheduled hours. He can be reached through the church office, 215-877-2744

Best Regards, Raelyn Harman & Artia Benjamin, Co-Chairs

Fellowship



The Mens' Group will meet again on **Saturday, March 3rd**, 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.

Urban/Suburban Book Club

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Overbrook Presbyterian Church

March selection is: *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah

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.



Reformed and always reforming! *OPC's library is open for business.* Check it out in the Wister Morris Room. Look at it online at <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/OverbrookPresChurch>. We have over 220 books on a variety of subjects, mostly but not exclusively religious. In call number order! We have a self-checkout system. For the book you need to read, just write your name on the card found in the book pocket, add a due date of 1 month from now and leave that card in the box – that's it! No book reports required – ever! But bring the book back in a month!

Thanks to Sharon Parker, Noble Brigham, Susy Brandt, Davorka Sabljak, Stephanie Morris, Carol Tulba, and Elizabeth Cosgriff for their help. We continue to add books, but please, no further book donations at this time.

- Jeremy Blatchley

Deacons



Prayer List

3/1	Dennis Elwell	3/21	Anita Jones-Perry
3/2	Radine Goodall		Amanda Schwinn
	Sibyl Sheau	3/22	Laura Toy
3/3	Angie Goodall	3/23	Austin Kaercher
	Sandy Bevan Ritchey	3/24	Margaret Cosgriff
3/5	Deja-Nicole Stokes	3/26	Jeremy Sheau
3/6	Colin Sheau		Hannah Trindade
3/7	Abigail Swartz		Rachel Trindade
	Geneva Van Rawley	3/29	Phyllis Watson
3/11	Sara Davis	3/31	Camille Seidel
3/12	Matt Gilhool		Sue Schick
3/14	Max Straka		Audrey Sigler
	Elizabeth Mendoza		Eileen Wiggins
3/17	Kevin Davis		
3/19	Jaclyn Pompa		
	Elizabeth McMillan		

- ◆Gloria Justin is continuing to recover at her home
- ◆Andrea Gosfield is recovering from a car accident
- ◆Will Vagnoni is going through transitions
- ◆Ellen Burr has health concerns
- ◆Lynda Johnson recovering from knee surgery
- ◆Ed Harvey undergoing medical tests
- ◆Charlotte Carpenter coping with rheumatoid arthritis

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.



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.

Drivers and Cooks ?!



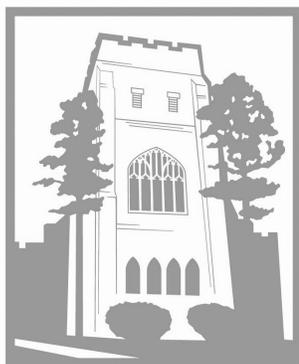
Are you willing to occasionally drive someone to/from church or an appointment?

How about occasionally preparing a meal for someone dealing with a major life event?

Call or email Mike Rottinger



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

What's Happening in March

- ♦ March 4 - 12:00 p.m. - New Members Meeting
- ♦ March 5-7:00 p.m. - Green Team (*see below for more info.*)
- ♦ March 6-1:00 p.m. - Worship Committee Meeting
- ♦ March 6-7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee Meeting
- ♦ March 7-5:00 p.m. - Property Committee Meeting
- ♦ March 11-12:00 p.m. - Deacons Meeting
- ♦ March 13-7:00p.m. - Session Meeting
- ♦ March 18-12:00 p.m. - Christian Education Meeting
- ♦ March 20-7:00 p.m. - Urban Suburban Book Club (*see pg. 10 for more info.*)
- ♦ March 21-We Care Wednesday @ JD McGillicuddy's (*see pg. 4 for more info.*)
- ♦ March 25-12:00 p.m. - Mission & Outreach Meeting



The Green Team is back in action. We will be opening with a meeting at the church on **Monday, March 5** at 7pm. The program that night will be the watching of a 40 minute video of a presentation, by Paul Hawken, about his new book, published in summer 2017, DrawDown. After the video we will have a good opportunity to talk with each other about our own issues and the ways that we all, individually and as a church, can find to engage with these issues. Tell and bring friends and family. We look forward to seeing you there. Please see Pastor Bruce or Jim Stephens if you have any questions.

Worship

March 4, 2018

Communion

3rd Sunday in Lent

John 2:13-22

Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette

Lay Leader: Dick Williamson,

Coffee Hour: Laurie Geers, Kim Parris, and Janet Bowker

March 11, 2018

4th Sunday in Lent

John 3:14-21

Preaching: Pastor Bruce Gillette

Lay Leader: Amanda Duckworth,

Coffee Hour: Amarilis Stricker and Woody Adams

March 18, 2018

5th Sunday in Lent

John 12:20-33

Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette

Lay Leader: Amarilis Stricker,

Coffee Hour: Van Rawley Family

March 25, 2018

Palm Sunday

Mark 8:31-38

Preaching: Pastor Carolyn Gillette

Lay Leader: Keedra Carroll,

Coffee Hour: New Member Committee

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

Dedication of our One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering is on Sunday, March 4.

Please bring your special offering to worship on that day or any day; your gifts for this life-saving, life-changing offering are welcome any time:

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

It is your church at work through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: One Great Hour of Sharing is the way our Presbyterian Church (USA) works faithfully and efficiently to help people in need around the world, by anticipating needs and having funds and resources in place, through existing mission programs and church groups.

When a disaster strikes— an earthquake, a flood, a fire, an outbreak of violence— and you hear about it on the news, you are already there because of last year's gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

You are there providing food, clean drinking water, blankets, clean-up supplies, counseling and support, and safe shelter.

You are there through staff who already know the region where there is trouble, who know the culture, and who know what to do to help in the most efficient and effective way.

One Great Hour of Sharing is your church at work through the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

When poverty and violence cause hunger and people join together to respond to the need and address its root causes.

It is important to help people who are hungry and in need of food. Our church also knows how important it is encourage development in poor communities and to work for justice so that all people have the food and resources they need.

One Great Hour of Sharing is your church at work through the Self-Development of People.

When injustice falls on those who are vulnerable and people join hands with one another and lift their voices against the interests of power,

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People is a ministry that affirms God's concern for humankind. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting, and enabling by participating in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people, seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice.

SDOP Core Strategies:

- Promote Justice
- Build stronger communities
- Seek economic equity

How is My Gift Used?

Your giving helps our church to work locally, nationally and internationally, as we seek to provide disaster assistance, justice for the poor, and long term development programs.

Please join Christians throughout the USA in supporting OGHS. Overbrook Presbyterians will give their special gift on March 4.

Please bring your special offering to church and place it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to the church. Thank you for your generosity.



OPC Book Club-Our next book club will be held on **Tuesday, March 27 at 7:30** at Nancy Gilhool's house. The book selection is: "**Another Brooklyn**," by Jacqueline Woodson. All are welcome and if you plan on attending please email Nancy at gilhoolfam@verizon.net. Thank you and hope to see everyone there!



THIS EVIL THING March 19

written and performed by
Michael Mears

*...the compelling, shocking
and inspiring story of the
men who said no to war...*

“This Evil Thing,” is an amazing one-man play that will be performed here in OPC’s Fellowship Hall on March 19th. This play is a heartfelt investigation into how conscientious objectors were treated by the authorities during the First World War that will be. Using a mixture of historical documentation and some testimonies from the time, Michael Mears plays a host of characters: the Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, the philosopher Bertrand Russell, Fenner Brockway and other founder members of the No-Conscription Fellowship – and people like Bert Brocklesby, a young teacher and Methodist lay preacher from Yorkshire, who suffer imprisonment, physical and mental abuse, and physical punishment – and still hold firmly to their beliefs that they will not take any part in the military machine.

When the first World War broke out, army enlistment was voluntary: as the war progressed, and the number of men killed escalated [over 19,000 men lost their lives on the first day of the battle of the Somme] it became increasingly clear that conscription of some sort would have to be introduced: many people were strongly in favor of it, but a sizeable number of men were prompted by their consciences to oppose being involved in any way in killing their fellow men. Using the verbatim reports of conscientious objectors and the words of Bertrand Russell and others, Michael Mears has written an account of the treatment meted out to people whose only crime was to say “you can’t force a man to murder against his will!”

Michael Mears believes he has inherited a ‘pacifist gene’ – but he’s not sure where from – as his own father and grandfather fought in both world wars. He is also an accomplished actor: with face, voice, gesture and a few simple props (hats, jackets, a pipe) he creates a staggering range of characters, bringing real people memorably to life, and asking us to

consider what we might have done in their situation. Would we be prepared to die for our principles?

Come and be amazed and challenged by this one-man performance. Please contact the Pastor Bruce Gillette for more information.



Bus Trip to DC to Participate in “March for Our Lives” - March 24. Tentative departure time is 6:00 a.m. from Overbrook Church Parking Lot; participants will return at approximately 6:00 p.m. the same day. Exact times may change as plans are finalized.

Recently seventeen students and educators were killed in the most recent school shooting. The T-shirt display on our church lawn recently reminded us that we need to pray and also to act. This invitation is for those church members and friends who would like to be part of efforts to prevent future gun violence in our schools and other places in a new way.

“March for Our Lives” is created by, inspired by, and led by students from across the country who will no longer risk their lives waiting for someone else to take action to stop the epidemic of mass school shootings that has become all too familiar.

David Smith, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church’s associate pastor for youth ministries has rented two coach buses so that church members and friends can attend the “March for Our Lives” on March 24 in Washington, DC.

All OPC youth and adults who plan to attend the march are REQUIRED to attend a brief training in methods of non-violent protest and safety procedures in the Loft at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 23 at 6 p.m. (the day before the march).

If you and/or your youth are interested in taking part in this March, please email Pastors Bruce or Carolyn directly at pastors@overbrookpresb.org so that we get you the registration information from Bryn Mawr and send you a permission/release form.

Tickets will be \$40 for the roundtrip. Space on the buses is limited, so please contact Bruce and Carolyn Gillette as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.