

NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Lenten Opportunities at OPC

As we journey through the Lenten Season, the OPC community has the following opportunities for worship, shared learning, and fellowship.

Lenten Studies and Soup Suppers

Every Wednesday, through Holy Week, there will be opportunities for a simple shared meal and spirited discussion. Please join us in the Wistar Morris Room for soup, bread, and food for thought. Supper will be served at **6:00 PM**; the Study will begin at **6:30 PM**. Weekly lessons and discussions will focus on the Gospel message found in popular culture. Members of the OPC staff will join Pastor Adam as session leaders on the following dates:

3/8	Sharon Parker	The Gospel as preached by Father Brown and the Clerics of Grantchester
3/15	Anthony Carrella	Gospels according to Harry Potter
3/22	Chris Gage	The Gospel of Game Shows
3/29	Adam Hearlson	The Gospel and Marvel Heroes

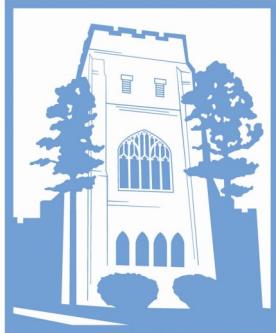
Supper helpers are needed. If you are able to provide soup, bread, and/or a salad, please use the following sign-up link <https://tinyurl.com/OPCLentSupper>, or contact Sharon Parker.

Holy Week Worship

4/2	10:30 A.M.	Palm Sunday Communion Service
4/6	6:00 P.M.	Maundy Thursday Congregational Supper and Worship
4/7	7:00 P.M.	Good Friday
4/8	7:30 P.M.	Holy Saturday Evening Vigil
4/9	7:00 A.M.	Sunrise Service
4/9	10:30 A.M.	Easter Service of the Resurrection

Lenten Devotional This year's Lenten devotional is *The Poetry of Lent*: a companion to Mary Oliver's, *Devotions*. While the devotional can be accessed online, [Click Here for the Lenten Devotional](#), print copies are available on the greeting tables. OPC will gladly provide copies of *Devotions* upon request. Please see Pastor Adam or Sharon Parker to obtain a copy.

May the Lenten Season be a blessings to all.



Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson
Pastor

Rev. David K. McMillan
Pastor Emeritus

Sharon Parker
Parish Care Associate

Dr. Christopher Gage
Director of Music

Anthony Carrella
Director of Children and Family Ministry

Lisa Faso
Office Manager

Carol Rozmiarek
Financial Secretary

Leonard Robbins
Church Custodian

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Community Wellness Fair—Recap

After months of planning and anticipation, the OPC Community Wellness Fair became a reality! On Monday, February 20, the doors to Overbook were open wide. A warm welcome was extended to regional medical professionals and community service providers, and especially to our West Philadelphia neighbors. Outreach through the Philadelphia Presbytery, invitations to over thirty area faith communities, and communication with five neighborhood associations drew attendees from thirty-five different zip codes in the Philadelphia area and the neighboring suburbs. The Overbrook message travelled far and wide!

Deep appreciation is extended to our many medical and community partners. May God bless the good work of these community servants: Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center, Drexel University College of Medicine, Nemours Children's Hospital, Mainline Health, American Red Cross, Hosts for Hospitals, 19th Precinct, Philadelphia Police Department, Families Impacted by Gun Violence, and Hosts for Hospitals. Within our church family, over thirty OPC volunteers placed signs, prepared lunch, guided parking, and offered a spirited welcome to all. Without the support of these blessed saints and friends of Overbrook, this special event could not have happened.

On February 20, the sun shone brightly on our community, and on our mission. It was a good day to be Overbrook!

Blessings to all.
Sharon Parker



Adult Forum

March Adult Forum *Beyond God's House: How Nature Invites Us into the Sacred*

Lent is a season of contemplation, self-reflection, and wonder; it is a time to renew our commitment to creation care. With the guidance of great contemplative thinkers and believers, the March Forum will explore the ways in which God speaks to us through the beauty and mystery of His creation. We will draw on the words of the prophets, of ancient religious mystics, and of contemporary saints who walk among us. Sharon Parker will lead us on this exploration through the use of video recordings and the reflections of contemplative theologians.

3/5	Featured author: John O'Donohue	<i>Walking in Wonder, Eternal Wisdom for a Modern World</i>
3/12	Featured author: Christine Valters Paintner	<i>Earth Our Original Monastery</i>
3/19	Featured Author: Victoria Loorz	<i>Church of the Wild</i>
3/26	Featured Author: Gerald May	<i>The Wisdom of Wilderness</i>

Please join us in the Chapel each Sunday from 9:15-10:15 AM. All are warmly welcomed

Civil Rights Trip



Civil Rights Tour of Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma—October 25-29, 2023. This trip will be a rare opportunity to explore our commitment to justice with the faithful people who were faithful in its pursuit. Recognizing our commitment to inclusivity, we hope all who feel called to participate in this trip can do so. OPC has raised money to create an Ambassador's Fund to help defray the cost of those called to participate. Moreover, the church is working on other means of financial support for participants. It is our sincere hope to find the means to help everyone called to attend. Additionally, we will hold two information meetings about this trip after worship on March 5 and March 26. To learn more about the trip in advance of the meetings, scan the QR code:



If, after reading the brochure, you are ready to attend this trip, you can sign up here: <https://www.civilrightstours.org/overbrook/>. Please forward any questions you may have to Jennifer Watts (jwattsrn@gmail.com).

Worship and Music

From the Director of Music:

During the month of March, you won't want to miss selections from *Trinity (Based on Gospel Songs)* by Robert Morris, as well as *Let This Mind Be in You* by Amy Beach, a pioneering composer of the early twentieth century. Our "Music Spotlight" is returning to the bulletin, so you can find more information about the pieces we sing and play every week in the paragraph just after the postlude.

The high quality of music we enjoy here, including inviting guest musicians from the Philadelphia area (who knew that we could fit a marimba in the chancel!), is due to the amazing level of support from the congregation. We have some exciting events this spring, both during and outside of worship, but I would especially like to draw your early attention to the following:

Dennis Elwell Organ Recital Series:
Monica Czausz Berney
Friday, April 28, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

As with the Messiah Sing, we are in need of people to help with preparing the reception and ushering, so watch your email for invitations to do so—let's keep our Overbrook hospitality going strong!

-Christopher Gage

Parish Care Corner

Parish Care... and Share

There are times in each of our lives, when we either need assistance, or know of someone who does...and there are also times in our lives when we have more than we need, and wish to share it with others. Through caring and sharing, Parish Care at Overbrook maintains a food pantry and a supply of assistive mobility devices for those with current needs. The following are available and freely given:

- *Meal support:* The top shelf of the OPC kitchen freezer is reserved for Parish Care. It contains fresh frozen soups, vegetables, meats, and meals.
- A *Parish Care Pantry bin* of non-perishable food is located in the kitchen, as well. (Please feel free to check the freezer and bin and select what is needed.)
- *Mobility support:* We have received donations of a new Drive Rollator (collapsible rolling walker) and a new Elenker Upright Walker (collapsible rolling walker)

Please contact Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) if you would like to adopt one of these new assistive devices.

RPM (Retired Person's Ministry): In-person and in the Spirit

Retired Person's Ministry: During the season of Lent, the RPM program schedule will be adjusted to allow for participation in the weekly Wednesday Lenten Soup and Study gatherings. Throughout March, RPM will be meeting on the following dates:

- | | | | |
|------|----------|----------------------|--|
| 3/10 | RPM Plus | Technically Speaking | Deb Rottinger will assist participants with the use of technology. |
| 3/24 | RPM Café | Poetic License | Writing with the Spirit |

Please contact Pat Dillon (psdillon1@earthlink.net) or Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) for more information about RPM opportunities.

Mission and Outreach

What could be better than brunch for a good cause? On Saturday, January 28, thirty-eight ladies enjoyed waffles, bacon, sausage and a good time at the home of Stephanie Kindt for the Women's Dining Circle. On behalf of Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) \$2,515 was raised AND matched by the Mission and Outreach budget for a total of \$5,030. We thank Tom Lank, JFON executive director, for his virtual appearance. Mark April 21 on your calendars now for the next WDC event. Details to follow.

If you are looking for a peaceful way to spend a Saturday afternoon, please consider joining those of us who venture to Books Through Bars on the first Saturday of each month. From 1:30 to 3:30 we select books from inmates' requests, prepare packing slips, or wrap packages of books for shipping. Currently, BTB is in need of craft and cook books, dictionaries, car repair and coloring books for adults. (See Book Wish List for complete listing) Our next trip to 4722 Baltimore Avenue will be Saturday, March 4. Contact Janet Bowker jabowker1001@gmail.com if you can help.

We are proud to say that on Tuesday, January 17, your OPC Library Team and WePac reopened the Samuel Gompers Public School library in Wynnefield. Every Tuesday morning we conduct library classes for Kindergarten, First and Second grades. We are hoping to add additional hours and grades, but we need more volunteers! If you can volunteer a couple hours, please contact Janet. Additionally, when you see Joanne Roman, Kim Parris or Margaret Paschal please thank them for the time they have already given to the students at Gompers. We are also grateful to Catherine Dawson, Nancy Haas and Mary Ann Sheldon, friends of Overbrook, for their time and energy at the library.

The Norristown Hospitality Center is a resource center for those experiencing homelessness and poverty in Norristown, under the direction of OPC member Sunanda Charles. Faithfully, on the 3rd Monday of each month, Ann Elise and Earl Lindgren transport our donation of bottled water, a hearty protein and fruit to the Center. As always, there is a space for you on the <https://tinyurl.com/37zj5cpu> or talk to Ann Elise in Fellowship Hour. The next date for donations is Sunday, March 19-with a delivery for Monday, March, 20.

On Friday, February 17, 8 members of the OPC community carried the church's mission of hospitality to Gloria Casarez School in Kensington. There we treated the sixty-five teachers and staff to a Presbyterian pasta lunch complete with salad, bread and dessert. From Luke Mueller at the school: "I cannot express enough how amazing the event went. The food was amazing, and the atmosphere was full of love. I LOVED how the members of the church and the school staff intermingled and became one community. For the staff, this was very clear appreciation and love in a time that has been very stressful for them. In addition, the food (like I mentioned) was FULL of love...I am currently eating more pasta." Many thanks to those who cleaned lettuce, chopped vegetables, prepared pasta, or provided desserts. Your work is truly appreciated.

The Mission and Outreach committee meets after church on the 4th Sunday of each month. Come and be a part of the good work of Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

Youth Ministry Announcements

Kensington Project—Sunday March 5, 9:30 A.M. The OPC youth will once again go to Kensington and serve a meal to those neighbors in need. We will be meet in the Kitchen before worship, this Sunday to prepare food; after the service, we will leave for Kensington. For more information on how to volunteer for that day, contact Becky Lazo (rebeccalazo@hotmail.com).



Youth Camping Trip—Friday, May 5, to Sunday, May 7. More information about this trip, which will take place at French Creek State Park in Elverson, PA, is forthcoming. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Adam (adam@overbrookpresb.org).

Community Events



Narberth Community Theater's "Little Women": Discounted Tickets. Did you know that you can purchase discounted tickets for any of Narberth Community Theater's amazing shows through the Stewardship Committee? Well, we've got them! They will be on sale today and next Sunday in the Wistar Morris Room for NCT's upcoming show, "Little Women." The price is \$20, with all proceeds going to the support of our church. If you would like to purchase tickets online scan the QR code below:



Deacons

<u>Happy March Birthdays</u>				<u>Prayer List</u>
3/1	Dennis Elwell	3/19	Bo Burke	
3/3	Angie Goodall		Dela Geraldo	• Prayers of gratitude for Jeremy Blatchley's successful surgery.
3/4	Matteo Atienza		David McMillan	• Prayers of comfort for Pat Ogundele on the death of her brother.
3/5	Jennie Atienza Deja Nicole Stokes	3/22	Khamani Parker Laura Toy	• Prayers of comfort for the Hearlson family on the death of Adam's step-father, Patrick O'Healy.
3/7	Eamon Hearlson	3/22	Austin Kaercher	• Prayers for restoration of health for Winnie Carver who remains under medical care at Saunders House.
3/11	Sara Davis	3/24	Molly Burke	• Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Joan Moylan following a recent fall.
3/14	Elizabeth Mendoza	3/26	Lois Davis	• Prayers for restoration of health and well-being for Sabrina Johnson's mother, Natalie DeShields.
3/15	Stephanie Morris	3/30	Audrey Sigler	• Prayers for compassionate care, comfort, and peace for Jacqueline Cole, sister of Lois Davis.
3/17	Kevin Davis	3/30	Eileen Wiggins	• Prayers for good health and well-being for Bob and Jane Bevan.
3/18	Elliott Hearlson			• Prayers for restoration of health for Milton Stokes, husband of Nickie Stokes.

If you or a family member's birthday is not listed and you wish to be included on the monthly birthday list please email Lisa at office@overbrookpresb.org.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry warmly welcomes all who are interested to join them on March 13 at 11:00 A.M. at the home of **Bette Homer, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia**. Newcomers to crocheting and knitting are also welcomed. Participants are reminded to BYO lunch. Knitters and crocheters have been busily preparing blessed handwork as gifts to those facing difficulties or celebrating joys. These gifts go not only to OPC friends and members, but also their family and friends. Currently, there is a large inventory shawls, lap blankets and baby covers. So please don't hesitate to bring someone to the attention of this ministry. If you would like to request a prayer shawl gift for someone you know, please contact Sharon Parker at (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) or Mary Lou Ryce at marylou.ryce@gmail.com or 410-370-4211.

- Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Margaret Young's great-grandson, Yusuuf, who continues to undergo chemotherapy at Children's Hospital.
- Prayers for all who face health challenges especially Ed Harvey, Judy Lang, Aimerie Scherluebbe, Don Carver, Ernestine Harris, Caroline Skinner, Aqueelah Folwell, Stephanie Stokes, Terri Carter, Judy Swartz, Ellen Burr, Bill and Jean Long, and Martha Brown.
- Prayers for Stephanie Morris and family.
- Prayers of hope and strength for all who are experiencing challenges and transitions in their personal lives.

Please contact Bill Baker (wbaklava@aol.com) or Sharon Parker (sharon@overbrookpresb.org) to add names to the prayer list

Ongoing Weekly Events:

Every Sunday:

- Adult Forum - 9:15 A.M. - Williamson Room
- Children's Sunday School - *Grades PreK-5* - 10:45 A.M. - Starting September 11 - Runs 2nd-Last Sunday of the Month
- Youth Sunday - *Grades 6-12* - 11:15 A.M. - Starting September 18 - Runs 2nd-Last Sunday of the Month
- Youth First Sunday Fellowship - *Grades 6-12* - Noon - Every 1st Sunday of the month

Every Tuesday:

- Women's Prayer Support Group - 7:30 A.M. - Online
Join <https://bit.ly/3yxD2F4> - Meeting ID: 932 4865 5338



Every Wednesday:

- Bible Study - 10:30 A.M. - In Person and Online - Resuming after Easter
Join <https://tinyurl.com/46n54thm> - Meeting ID: 894 5497 9360

Every Thursday:

- Handbell Rehearsal - 6:30 P.M.
- Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 P.M.

Every Friday:

- RPM Plus - 10 A.M. - Noon - 2nd-4th Friday of September
- RPM Café - 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. - 5th Friday of the month

Committee Information

Committee Name	Monthly Meeting	Chair or Co-Chairs
Worship and Music worship@overbrookpresb.org	3 rd Monday, 7:30 P.M.*	Eileen Wiggins
Deacons deacons@overbrookpresb.org	2nd Monday 7:30 P.M.*	Bill Baker
Mission and Outreach mission@overbrookpresb.org	4 th Sunday, 12:15 P.M.	Jeff Bowker
Finance finance@overbrookpresb.org	1 st Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.*	Lainie Blodgett
Children and Family (CFM) cfc@overbrookpresb.org	Quarterly	Christy Lang-Hearlson
Personnel personnel@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Elizabeth Cosgriff
Property property@overbrookpresb.org	3 rd Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.*	Bill Baker, Ted Dillon, and Jeff Bowker
Stewardship stewardship@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Keedra Carroll and Will Schick
Congregational Life clc@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Artia Benjamin
Welcoming welcoming@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Elizabeth Mendoza
Youth and Family pastor@overbrookpresb.org	TBD	Adam Hearlson

An asterisk (*) indicates that the committee meets virtually.