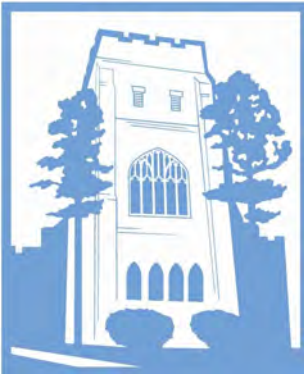


## NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

### Overbrook Presbyterian Church



#### 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 M. Carrella  
*Director of Children  
and Family Ministry*

Lisa Faso  
*Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

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## OVERBROOK CELEBRATES HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Come and share in the life of the risen Christ! We are a community of resurrection and hope, born of water and the Spirit, nourished at the table that Christ prepares.

Christ invites you; we welcome you in His name.

**Thursday, March 28, 7:00 PM. Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae.** The Sanctuary at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church, 130 Haverford Road, Wynnewood.

**Friday, March 29, 12:00PM. Good Friday Service.** The Sanctuary of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia.

**Saturday, March 30, 9:00 AM. Holy Saturday Vigil Walk.** Merion Botanical Park, Merion Station, followed by the planting of shrubs on the OPC grounds. Walkers will meet in the Septa lot at Merion Station, 100 Merion Road, Merion Station.

**Sunday, March 31, 11:00 AM. Easter Worship: Service of the Resurrection.** The Auditorium of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, 100 E. Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood.



## Parish Care and Spiritual Life

### **Tuesday Prayer Group: Each Tuesday at 7:30 AM**

Opportunities for fellowship, spiritual support, and shared prayer are offered each Tuesday morning at 7:30 AM on Zoom. You are warmly invited to join a group of faithful participants for whom “Amen” is not an ending, but a hopeful beginning. Regardless of whether your schedule allows you to participate, please consider us to be your prayer partners. As we do each Sunday morning during worship, all who gather on Tuesday will pray with and for you. We encourage you to send us your requests and each will be faithfully and confidentially lifted in prayer. You are invited to share your prayer requests with Parish Care Associate, Sharon Parker, ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org); H: 215-309-5388). To join the Tuesday Prayer Group on Zoom, please use the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer>.

### **Parish Care: Pathways of Faith**

Have you ever found yourself wondering about God’s plan for your life, or listening for the guidance of the Spirit? If so, I invite you to join me exploring God’s path through spiritual direction.

Spiritual direction is compassionate listening and prayer partnership given freely and confidentially by one child of God to another. It is the asking and answering of questions of faith; it is the journey of discovering God’s invitation in one’s life. As Parish Care Associate, and as a fellow congregant, I invite you to join me for shared listening and prayer, and for the realization of God’s will.

During the week, I will be at Overbrook on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 AM-2:00 PM. I am also available for home visits and am happy to schedule evening Zoom conversations at your convenience. It would be a joy to share time with you. Please feel free to contact me to reserve time for shared prayer and conversation ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) (H: 215-309-5388).

*Blessings to all,  
Sharon Parker*

## Retired Person’s Ministry (RPM)

### **Smoking Hot Chili**

February 17 was a wild day for RPM participants. With deep appreciation for the first responders who worked diligently to save Overbrook on January 15, RPM was in the process of delivering pots of homemade chili, cornbread muffins, and Girl Scout cookies to the Engine 54 firehouse at 63rd and Lancaster Avenue. As they walked three blocks down the hill from St. Thomas carrying the bundles of food, the fire call sounded and Engine 54, and the entire crew, sped away with sirens blaring. Fortunately, before Plan B could be put into action, the firetruck pulled back into the station. The “appreciation chili” was gratefully received and enjoyed by the crew of Engine 54. As for RPM participants, it was an uphill climb from there.



### **Retired Person’s Ministry Datesavers**

March is a busy month at OPC, and the RPM schedule has been tailored to encourage participation in the church-wide events that are planned. Save the following dates for RPM gatherings:

- RPM Plus: 3/15
- RPM Café: 3/22

Please check the weekly RPM update for more details. RPM will continue to meet at The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas through the end of March.

## Mission & Outreach

### Women's Dining Circle

On March 9, we will gather at the home of Stephanie Kindt, 6392 Overbrook Avenue, to enjoy a delicious brunch and to hear from Larry Arata, friend of Ginny Leagans, about OCAN-RF, the organization he founded with his wife, Heather, after the overdose death of their son. All women and women friends of Overbrook are invited. If you have not received your Evite, please contact Carol Rozmiarek (carol@overbrookpresb.org).

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Gather and socialize  
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM Hear from Larry Arata  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Brunch prepared by the WDC committee

We welcome Cindi Landmesser to the Women's Dining Circle committee. If you are interested in the work of this committee, please reach out to Karen Testa (testawong@gmail.com).



### Books Through Bars

4722 Baltimore Avenue was really hopping on February 3 with 11 OPC volunteers and a dozen more from the community picking books, preparing packing slips, and restocking shelves with recent donations. Even with all that people power, we made only a small dent in the amount of book requests received by BTB.

Our next visit is **Saturday, March 2**. We leave the OPC parking lot at **1:00 PM** and return by 4:00 PM. If you are interested in learning more, contact Janet Bowker (jabowker1001@gmail.com).

### Norristown Hospitality

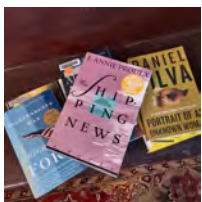
On Monday, February 19, Ann Elise and Earl Lindgren had a car full of food, donated by the generous members of Overbrook, destined for the Norristown Hospitality Center. The next trip to Norristown is **Monday, March 18**. Please consider a donation of fruit, water, or a casserole to feed those in need in Norristown. You can sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/37zj5cpu>.



**April 13** - OPC returns to **Habitat for Humanity Restore**, 2318 Washington Avenue, for an afternoon of assembling furniture, stocking shelves and other assorted retail store duties. Jill, Marlon, Ron, Laurie, and Janet cannot have ALL the fun! Details to follow.

***Mission and Outreach is determined to maintain our off-campus projects throughout this time of disruption. Consequently, with the shift to "Mobile Church", please note drop-off information.***

**Norristown Hospitality** - *Fruit and beverage donations* will be received on **Sunday, March 17** in the parking lot of Penn Wynne Presbyterian (look for Janet's green Subaru Outback). *Frozen casseroles* will be received by Ann Elise and Earl on **Monday, March 18** in the OPC parking lot (in the back near the playground). **Please deliver these by 10:00 AM.**



**Books Through Bars** - Paperback books, magazines, adult coloring books, and journals will be collected after worship each Sunday at the Mission & Outreach table.

**Kensington clothing** - Clothes may be brought to Penn Wynne Presbyterian church on Sunday mornings to be collected during Fellowship Hour. Look for the M&O committee member with the blue IKEA bag.



## Walking with Spirit

**A Midwinter Ramble:** On February 24, a sturdy band of fourteen walkers, participated in a Lenten pilgrimage along the Darby Creek Trail. Walkers went in search of awe and the beauty of God's creation and found an abundance of both. The starkness of gnarled tree roots and twisted vines was softened by snowdrops, winter buttercups, and the vibrant green hues of mosses and figwort. The flapping wings and splashing of four mallards, and the distant sounds of a woodpecker offered background music for the morning.



**Contemplative Easter Vigil Walk:** Saturday, March 30, 9:00-10:00 AM. Merion Botanical Park, 100 Merion Road, Merion Station. (Walkers will meet in the parking lot of the Merion Septa Station.) Following the walk, there will be an opportunity to participate in the planting of a flowering shrub on the OPC lawn.

*Walking with Spirit* is a Parish Care ministry, inspired by the work of Christine Valters Paintner, *Eyes of the Heart: Photography as a Christian Contemplative Practice*.

## Mission & Outreach Volunteer Help Wanted

**Assisting Teachers:** There is a need for teacher support in the elementary schools in Overbrook. I have been working for an hour a day with sixth graders who are struggling with math. The kids and teachers are fine, but more individual help would be very beneficial.

**Visitors:** Mission and Outreach generally likes to have personal contact with the agencies we deal with. Naturally, this requires that we visit them while they're functioning. We have a queue of potential new projects we would like to evaluate. Can you spare some time to make such a visit?

**Delivery and Inventory:** We spend considerable time and effort collecting and distributing books, school supplies and meals. We can always use additional drivers and muscles.

If you might be interested in helping with any of these projects, please contact Jeff Bowker at [bowkerjeffrey@gmail.com](mailto:bowkerjeffrey@gmail.com) or call 215-837-2426. You can also find me lurking near the food at Fellowship Hour.

—Jeff Bowker



### **Reflecting on Our Journey Together at Penn Wynne**

As we continue to navigate the unexpected path that has led us to Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church, we remain deeply grateful for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to us. Our Children and Family Ministry (CFM) programs have not just persisted but flourished in this new setting, thanks to the resilience and adaptability of our leaders, caregivers, children, and community.

***Prayerground and Biblical Storytelling*** have seamlessly transitioned, offering a sacred space for our young worshippers to engage with their faith and community. The introduction of children's greeters and the reserved rear pew for families have ensured our worship services remain inclusive and welcoming for all families and children of all ages. Many thanks to Judy W., Laurie G., and Emily S. for their Prayerground ministry!

***In Sunday School***, learners have embarked on a "Journey to the Heart," exploring contemplative prayer practices and adding tools to their spiritual toolboxes. Special guests like Virginia Jennings and Anne Montgomery Schmidt are enriching this journey with their time and talents, introducing yoga and labyrinth walks as mediums for prayer and reflection. Please pray for the Sunday School leaders nurturing this transformative program: Anthony, Molly A.B., Emily S., Davorka S., Donna B.K., Anne F., and Carol R.

***Fellowship Hour*** in the bike room has become a vibrant space for connection and play, with several children taking on *barista* leadership roles to ensure our fancy new coffee machines run efficiently. For those young children who are not yet interested in serving coffee, the Nok-Hockey table, Mini-Bowling set, putting green, and Magna-tiles have been a popular spot for gathering among friends community. Deep thanks to Molly and Brian B., Ben S., Leonard, and many others for helping to setup and strike the games each week.

### **Upcoming Events in the CFM**

***Labyrinth Walk | Sunday, March 17 @ Sunday School and Fellowship Hour:*** Experience the meditative path of the labyrinth, facilitated by Ms. Anne Montgomery Schmidt of [Encircled Grace](#) (@encircledgrace on Instagram). Children will meet Anne in Sunday School before inviting adults in the congregation to walk the labyrinth during Fellowship Hour. No sign up is required.

***CFM Committee Dinner | Wednesday, March 20 @ 5:30:*** The CFM Committee will hold a plenary dinner at the home of Emily Stewart and Ben Hasselstrom in Narberth. For those who have always wanted to serve in children's ministry, but never found the right moment, this dinner provides a great way to meet members of the CFM Committee. RSVP to Emily Stewart (emdstewart@gmail.com).

***NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on March 24th or 31st due to Palm Sunday and Easter.*** Children and families are invited join us for Worship, Prayerground, Biblical Storytelling, and a feast in the nursery!

### **Looking Ahead to Summer: Vacation Bible School 2024**

Despite the challenges we've faced, we are excited to announce that the CFM plans to hold a Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer! **Mark your calendars and save the dates for June 25-27** for an enriching three-day program filled with awesome activities, yummy snacks, and spiritual growth. This year, we are exploring various facility options for camp, but remain hopeful that we may be among the first to utilize a renovated space in the Fellowship Hall of OPC. Stay tuned for updates on our theme, program details, and how caregivers and the congregation can be involved!

## Youth Ministry

In the mist of this season of displacement we want to continue to provide opportunities for our youth. Suchita and I are excited in our role as co-directors of Youth Ministry to start planning the spring and summer programming.

In 1 Peter 4:10 it states, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." One of the ways our youth love to act this verse out is by participating in the Kensington Project, led by Becky Lazo, and going on mission trips. We are planning a mission trip in the summer. More details on that to come later.

We are also planning activities for the youth to have fun and fellowship with each other. Jason Duckworth and Corinna Bowser are leading the Sunday school program for the youth. Volunteer teachers are needed to teach Sunday school to the 6 – 12 graders. If you are interested, please email us at [youth@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:youth@overbrookpresb.org). We are thankful for the support of their parents and the general congregation.

—Artia Benjamin

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry warmly welcomes all who are interested in making blessed handwork for those facing illness or other difficulties, as well as those celebrating joys. These gifts go to OPC friends and members, and also to their family and friends. If you would like to request a prayer shawl gift for someone you know, please contact Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) or Mary Lou Ryce at 420-370-4211 or [marylou.ryce@gmail.com](mailto:marylou.ryce@gmail.com).

We have been making hats for Teachers' Teammates to distribute to school children in need. If you knit or crochet and want to contribute, you do not have to be a regular part of the prayer shawl ministry. Please contact Mary Lou if you have hats to contribute.



Whether you are experienced in hand crafts or would like to learn, we invite you to join us at one or both of the two monthly meetings. The weekday meeting will be held this month on **March 5 at 11:00 AM** at the home of Bette Homer, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia. For those who work on weekdays, an alternate evening or Saturday meeting is agreed upon each month. That meeting will be held at the home of Mary Lou Ryce, 80 West Baltimore Ave., Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. If you're on our prayer shawl email list, we'll send you confirmation of our meeting dates each month. If you'd like to be added to our email list or want more information, please call or email Mary Lou.

### Professional Services Available

Occasionally, Parish Care and the Deacons receive inquiries from the OPC community regarding recommendations for professional services. You will be pleased to know that several OPC members offer the following services on a professional basis: home health care, childcare, elder companion care, pet care, housekeeping, house sitting, tutoring, music instruction, and meal preparation. If you are in need of any of these services, please contact the Deacons ([deacons@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:deacons@overbrookpresb.org)) or Sharon Parker ([sharon@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:sharon@overbrookpresb.org)) for a list of professional service providers.



## HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/3	Angie Goodall
3/5	Deja-Nicole Stokes
3/7	Eamon Hearlson Adrien Van Stratis
3/11	Sara Davis
3/14	Elizabeth Mendoza
3/15	Stephanie Morris
3/17	Kevin Davis
3/18	Elliot Hearlson
3/19	Bo Burke Dela Geraldo
3/22	Khamani Parker Laura Toy
3/24	Molly Burke
3/26	Lois Davis
3/30	Eileen Wiggins

***If the birthday for you or a family member is not listed and you wish to be included on the monthly birthday list, please email [office@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:office@overbrookpresb.org).***



### Prayer List

Prayers of consolation for all who mourn the passing of Judith Swartz, especially her beloved family.

Prayers of comfort and peace for Grace Kothari, mother of Bob Kothari, as she enters hospice care.

Prayers of comfort and peace for all who mourn the passing of Lynn Zimmerman, mother of Michael Eastling.

Prayers for restoration of health for Phil Sheau as he recovers from recent surgery.

Prayers for restoration of health for Joe Blair who is under medical care.

Prayers for comfort and restoration of health for Jan Lovely who is recovering from recent back surgery.

Prayers for all who mourn the passing of Wendy Coughlin, especially her son, Nicolas.

Prayers for restoration of health for Lillian Carnahan as she remains under medical care.

Prayers for Patty Zuver, friend of Karen Taussig-Lux, as Patty recovers from surgery.

Prayers for comfort and peace for Barbara Lappen, mother of Mary Bear Shannon.

Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for Hannah Baukert's mother, Mary, who is receiving hospice care.

Prayers of gratitude for the positive breast cancer treatment of Ellen Carnahan, sister of Rachel, and prayers of hope and comfort as she begins a further course of treatment.

Prayers for compassionate care and comfort for John Shackelford, brother of Kate, as he receives medical treatment following brain surgery.

Prayers for comfort and peace for Colleen Granata, mother of Brad Biedermann.

Prayers for compassionate care, comfort, and peace for Jacqueline Cole, sister of Lois Davis.

Prayers for all who are facing health challenges, especially Scott Long, Caroline Skinner, Sonya Smith, Gwen Harden, Luis Wong, Ed Harvey, Aqueelah Folwell, Stephanie Stokes, Milton Stokes, Natalie DeShields, Bill Long, and Jean Long. May they find comfort.

Prayers for all who are facing the uncertainty of life challenges and transitions. May they find peace, hope, and security.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the loving generosity of our neighboring faith communities, especially Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Llanerch Presbyterian Church, The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, and Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

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

## Ongoing Weekly Events

### Every Sunday

- Adult Forum [NOTE: Adult Forum is on break for the month of March.]
- Children's Sunday School (Grades PreK-5). Following Biblical Storytelling. Runs from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday to last Sunday of the month.
- Youth Sunday School (Grades 6-12 ). Following the Sermon. Runs from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday to last Sunday of the month.

### Every Tuesday

- Tuesday Morning Prayer Group. 7:30 AM. Online.  
Join <https://bit.ly/3yxD2F4> - Meeting ID: 932 4865 5338

### Every Wednesday

- Centering Prayer. 9:30 AM. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El.
- Bible Study. 10:30 AM. Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El and Online.  
Join <https://tinyurl.com/46n54thm> - Meeting ID: 894 5497 9360



### Every Friday

- RPM Plus. 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. St Thomas Church.
- RPM Café. 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month. St. Thomas Church.

## Committee Information

Committee Name	Monthly Meeting	Chair or Co-Chairs
Worship and Music <a href="mailto:worship@overbrookpresb.org">worship@overbrookpresb.org</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:30 PM*	
Deacons <a href="mailto:deacons@overbrookpresb.org">deacons@overbrookpresb.org</a>	2nd Monday 7:30 PM*	Bill Baker
Mission and Outreach <a href="mailto:mission@overbrookpresb.org">mission@overbrookpresb.org</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 12:15 PM	Jeff Bowker
Finance <a href="mailto:finance@overbrookpresb.org">finance@overbrookpresb.org</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:00 PM*	Lainie Blodgett
Children and Family Ministry (CFM) <a href="mailto:cfm@overbrookpresb.org">cfm@overbrookpresb.org</a>	Wednesday, 4/3/24 6:00 PM*	Molly Andrews Burke Emily Stewart
Personnel <a href="mailto:personnel@overbrookpresb.org">personnel@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Elizabeth Cosgriff
Property <a href="mailto:property@overbrookpresb.org">property@overbrookpresb.org</a>	Last Wednesday 7:00 PM*	Jeff Bowker
Stewardship <a href="mailto:stewardship@overbrookpresb.org">stewardship@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Keedra Carroll
Congregational Life <a href="mailto:clc@overbrookpresb.org">clc@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Artia Benjamin
Welcoming <a href="mailto:welcoming@overbrookpresb.org">welcoming@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Elizabeth Mendoza
Youth Ministry <a href="mailto:youth@overbrookpresb.org">youth@overbrookpresb.org</a>	TBD	Artia Benjamin Suchita Fiorillo
An asterisk (*) indicates that the committee meets virtually.		