



# Overbrook

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Overbrook Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson  
*Pastor*

Wanda Harris Cooper  
*Pastor of Care and Youth*

Dr. Christopher Gage  
*Director of Music*

Anthony M. Carrella  
*Director of Children & Family Ministry*

Artia Benjamin  
Suchita Fiorillo  
*Youth Leaders*

Lisa Faso  
*Property Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek  
*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins  
*Church Custodian*

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# NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS

## From the Pastor

At the beginning of a new program year, it is easy to feel the pace quicken. September arrives with school schedules, sports practices, meetings, rehearsals, classes, work, and all the other commitments that fill our calendars. Summer's slower rhythms give way to the familiar rush of fall.

So much of modern life is lived at a break-neck pace. A furious dash from one thing to the next.

A friend of mine runs the Farminary at Princeton Theological Seminary, a working farm that is also a place of theological education. Before it became a farm, the land was used to grow sod. Growing sod is hard on soil: each roll removes topsoil and nutrients, leaving the earth depleted. When my friend began working the land, he told me, "The land is exhausted. A lot like the people who tend it."

I think that is a fitting description of our lives. We live at a remarkable pace, and often we confuse speed with faithfulness. We fill our calendars because there is always something more to accomplish. Eventually, like overworked soil, we become depleted.

Sabbath is not simply a day off. It is a different pace. It is time set apart to pay attention to the things we cherish most: our loved ones, our community, the beauty of creation, and God.

One of my favorite stories is about a Mennonite bishop who explained to his neighbors why he used steel tractor tires instead of rubber ones. Steel tires move much more slowly. Why choose something less efficient?

His answer was that speed can come at the cost of intimacy. When we move too quickly, we stop noticing the soil beneath us. We lose track of the small details. We become less familiar with the things we are trying to cultivate and protect.

The Sabbath slows us down so that we can pay attention.

As we begin another program year at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, perhaps this is a good invitation for all of us: what would it mean for the church to avoid exhaustion in favor of revitalization? Not simply to add worship, Christian education, service, fellowship, and ministry to already crowded calendars, but to allow our life together to become a place where we are renewed.

The church does not need to become one more source of exhaustion. It can be an incubator rather than a cage—a place where our roots deepen, our relationships grow, our faith is nourished, and our spirits are restored.

So as September begins and our calendars fill, let us remember: we do not have to hurry toward God. God is already here.

Perhaps the invitation of this new program year is not to do more, but to notice more, love more deeply, and move at the pace of grace. May God meet you in your sabbath.

*grace + peace*  
*Adam Hearlson*

## HELP WANTED

*A summary of volunteer opportunities at OPC. More details throughout this newsletter.*

### Upcoming Opportunities

- **Cooking in Community, Friday, September 4, 9:30–11:30 AM.** More info on page 5.
- **Books Through Bars, Saturday, September 5, 1:00–4:00 PM.** More info on page 6.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry, Tuesday, September 8, 11:00 AM.** More info on page 8.
- **Habitat for Humanity, Saturday, September 19, 8:30 AM–2:00 PM.** More info on page 6.
- **Kensington Project, Sunday, September 20, 10:00 AM.** More info on page 10.
- **H-Can Collection. Sunday, September 20.** More info on page 3.
- **Life Center Meal, Tuesday, September 29, 5:30 PM.** More info no page 7.

### Ongoing Opportunities

- Fellowship Hour Sharing Table. More info on page 11.

## Worship & Music

In the future when you tell a new member of OPC that you were here during the summer of 2026, what will you say was especially memorable? The heat and the fans? Having the front entry closed so that everyone entered through the playground? The microphone that had to be turned on and off? The amazing way that people coped every week with something different and unexpected?

We're living through a time of change, and change is going to continue through the month of September. Some things will be traditional—Kickoff Sunday, for example, will be the Sunday after Labor Day, when the choir will, once again, provide an introit, an anthem, and a closing response while wearing robes. Some things will be new, such as an Advent committee that will meet several times this fall to help plan Advent. Is that something that appeals to you?

We're planning to be back in the sanctuary by the end of the year, and *that* will be a significant event. We're going to need new paraments and new hymnals, because the ones we used to have were destroyed. New seating has already been selected, ordered, and at least partly constructed. Some stained-glass windows will be new, and some will be the same. An order has been placed for a new organ, but it takes years to build a pipe organ, so we're fortunate to have the electric organ that is currently in the fellowship hall.

Worship will be new in some ways, and it will be the same in other ways. I'll see you there.

—Janie Martin

*Chair of Worship and Music*

## From the Director of Music



Please join in welcoming **Jasper McQueen**, the newest member of the Overbrook Quartet! Jasper brings years of vocal experience as a classical baritone. A graduate of Temple University with a degree in Music Education, Jasper has a deep passion for sacred music and choral worship. Over the course of his musical journey, he has served as a staff singer and soloist for congregations across both Philadelphia and Austin, Texas. He also sings with the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus.

I hope you are as excited as I am for the new program year! We have many ways for you to be involved in the music ministry here at Overbrook. Our regularly rehearsing ensembles will begin meeting on **Thursday, September 10**, with the following schedule:

- **Overbrook Westminster Handbell Choir. Thursdays, 6:30–7:15 PM.** *Conference Room.* The Overbrook Westminster Handbell Choir meets weekly and plays every month in worship. We welcome visitors and new members to our rehearsals.
- **The Overbrook Choir. Thursdays, 7:30–9:00 PM.** The Overbrook Choir sings every week in worship, leading hymns, providing service music, and offering special anthems. New singers and visitors are encouraged to join us at any time, and no prior experience is necessary.

Watch your email for information regarding the **Gospel Choir** and **Junior Choir**, too. And don't forget: if you **play an instrument**, we would love to have you offer your gifts in worship! No matter your experience or skill level, we have a place for you. Contact me ([music@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:music@overbrookpresb.org)) for details.

—Chris Gage

## In the Spirit at Overbrook...

**Tuesday Morning Prayer Group. Tuesdays. 7:30–8:30 AM.** *Online.*

Early risers are invited to start the morning with small group community prayer. Join us from the comfort of your home for a time of faith-filled fellowship and shared prayer. All are welcome. **Please use the following link: [tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer](https://tinyurl.com/OPCTuesPrayer).**

**Centering Prayer. Wednesdays. 9:30–10:00 AM.**

All are welcome to participate in OPC's Centering Prayer gathering, Wednesday mornings from 9:30–10:00 AM. Due to construction, Centering Prayer is meeting at Janie Martin's home, 435 Parkview Dr, Wynnewood, PA. Centering Prayer offers opportunities for contemplative prayer and reflection.

**Adult Bible Study** meets on **Wednesdays at 10:30 AM** in the OPC Office or online. Depending on construction at the church, Bible Study might meet only online – watch your email for updates.

## OPC's Retired Persons' Ministry (RPM)

### The Retired Persons' Ministry celebrates a *Perfect Dozen!*

The Retired Persons' Ministry of Overbrook (RPM), a mutual ministry of Overbrook Presbyterian Church and the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, is beginning 12 years of service to the senior members of our faith communities and our neighborhoods. Offering faith-centered activities, RPM is built on a foundation of Service, Adventure, Fellowship, and Education. Please come meet us...join us as we begin this new and exciting year!

- **Friday, September 11. 10:00 AM-11:30 AM. RPM Plus: A Morning of Reflection: Prayers for Peace.** *The Undercroft of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.* Please join us at 'the breakfast table' for a morning of prayer, reflection, and discussion. A warm welcome, a light breakfast, and good coffee will be available.
- **Friday, September 25. 11:30 AM-1:00 PM. The RPM Café.** *The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Anderson Hall, corner of Overbrook and Lancaster Avenues, Philadelphia.* Our September theme is *A Wide Welcome*. The lunch buffet will feature foods influenced by the rich ethnic heritages of Philadelphia's immigrant communities. We will be joined by guest speakers who are dedicated to welcoming and serving those who seek refuge, opportunities, and hope in our country. RSVPs are deeply appreciated, as is assistance with food preparation. Please contact Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)).

RPM welcomes your support! Volunteers are needed for envisioning, program planning, cooking, and set-up/clean-up. As we begin our twelfth RPM season, please consider your role in preserving and building our community's senior ministry. Contact: Pat Dillon ([psdillon1@earthlink.net](mailto:psdillon1@earthlink.net)); Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)).

## Camp RPM: Adventures in Faith and Fellowship

A "VBS for seasoned believers," this summer's Camp RPM celebrated the 250th birthday of our nation by visiting unique faith-based historic sites throughout Delaware County. Over the summer, 26 participants travelled to, and picnicked at, the Thomas Leiper House and (former) Leiper Presbyterian Church in Wallingford and Swarthmore, The Old Mill and Lenni-Lenape Minquas path in Rose Valley, Old St. David's Church in Newtown Square, and the New Sweden Settlement site and Lazarretto in Tinicum Township.



## Chancel Flowers

**Chancel Flowers** decorate Sunday services through the year. The cost of the flowers is absorbed by the Church's budget, and just like keeping the lights on, or assuring the building's comfortable temperature through the seasons, we need to assist in the expense of chancel flowers.

Donations for flowers can be given in commemoration of life's many passages (such as birthdays and births), in celebration of life's accomplishments (such as graduations), in remembrance of loved ones, or in thanksgiving for the many blessings we receive every day. Following worship each Sunday, our Deacons deliver the flowers to shut-ins or those facing difficult times.

The cost of a week's flowers is \$60, but you may contribute what you wish. You can sign up online (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4AACAE2DA2FE3-chancel#/>) or look for a physical sign-up sheet at Fellowship hour. If you need help, speak with Trudy Sheau.

To make a donation for flowers, you can:

1. Donate online at: <https://onrealm.org/overbrookpresb/give/flowers>
2. Text "**GIVEOPC FLOWERS** \$60.00" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.
3. Mail a check to the church office, Attn: Carol. Please indicate "Chancel Flowers" in the memo of the check.

## Cooking in Community...A recipe for compassion and service!

**Friday, September 4. 9:30-11:30 AM.** *The kitchen of Christ's Community Church, Riverview and Garrett Roads, Drexel Hill.* Please join us for a morning of community service and fellowship, as OPC cooks for those in need. On September 4, we'll be making pans of turkey shepherd's pie and baking cornbread for the guests of the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County. All ingredients and utensils are provided...BYO willing hands and caring spirit! Contact Sharon Parker ([sparker614@gmail.com](mailto:sparker614@gmail.com)) to join the cooking crew.

## OPC Caregivers Support Group



OPC Caregivers Support Group meets on the third Friday of the month. The next meeting will be on **Friday, September 18 at 10:30 AM**. The September topic is Dementia.

*"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit..."*  
*Psalm 34:18*

For information, contact Pastor Wanda ([wanda@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:wanda@overbrookpresb.org)).

## Mission & Outreach

Inspired by Pope Leo XIV, an anonymous donor has launched a nationwide initiative that will see *Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia* rehab and build 26 affordable homes in Sharswood and Brewerytown. Good news! Overbrook Presbyterian has been invited to participate.



Mission and Outreach is looking for four more volunteers (thank you, Jill!) to help rebuild homes on **Saturday, September 19** on the 1400 block of N. Hollywood Street in Brewerytown. Activities vary, but could include demolition of interiors of homes, facade work, neighborhood cleanup, etc. Joe Tatum, volunteer coordinator at H4H, promises work for all abilities. Work starts at 8:30 AM and ends by 2:00 PM with lunch provided. Contact [Janet Bowker](#) if you want to learn more. You can sign up here for the Registration [Link](#). We will arrange a carpool closer to the date.



The **H-Can food collection** for our neighbors in Havertown continues. Please consider purchasing items from their list and bringing them to church on the third Sunday of the month. Our next collection will be **Sunday, September 20**.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kid-friendly cereal</li><li>• Mac and cheese (the orange kind)</li><li>• Dry pasta</li><li>• Pasta sauce</li><li>• Long grain rice (3 lb. bag or smaller)</li><li>• Dry black beans (2 lb. bag or smaller)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shelf-stable or powdered milk</li><li>• Instant coffee</li><li>• Diapers (only size 5-7)</li><li>• Feminine products</li><li>• Reusable grocery bags</li></ul> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Please remember to purchase only the items on the above list!** Contact [Janet Bowker](#) if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

This year **Books Through Bars** has received more than 5,300 requests from people in prison and mailed over 15,000 books. Their hope is to send over 30,000 books by the end of the year. Most of this work is done by volunteers.

Please consider joining the OPC volunteer team on the first Saturday of the month from 1:00 to 4:00 to help fulfill book requests. Contact [Janet Bowker](#) for further details.

**In addition to volunteers**, calendars are also needed, those you receive in the mail because you are so incredibly generous to a cause. Look for the book/calendar donation bins in the Wistar Morris room at Fellowship Hour. Our next visit to Baltimore Avenue will be **Saturday, September 5**.



Mark your calendars now! **Friday evening, September 25** is the beginning of the 2026-27 **Women's Dining Circle** calendar. Details to follow but be sure to hold the 25th open for dinner and fellowship, in addition to supporting a good cause.



For over 30 years Overbrook Church has served dinner on a regular basis at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County. Our next opportunity for service is **Tuesday, September 29**. The meal will be prepared by the great RPM chefs; we need four people to serve the meal. We carpool from the OPC parking lot around 5:30 PM and return there by 7:30 PM. Please consider being a part of this community service. Contact [Janet Bowker](#) if you can help.



Mission and Outreach is organizing a school supply collection to replenish the shelves at Teachers' Teammates. We will have supplies to purchase and then donate, but, if you cannot resist the \$.25 crayons or \$.99 markers at Staples, Walmart, Target, purchase some NOW for our back-to-school supply drive in October.



### SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Saturday, September 5, 1:00 to 4:00 PM.** Books Through Bars.
- **Saturday, September 19, 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM.** Building on Faith: A Pope Leo Initiative through Habitat for Humanity.
- **Sunday, September 20.** H-Can Food Collection.
- **Friday, September 25, 6:30 PM.** Women's Dining Circle.
- **Tuesday, September 29, 5:30 to 7:30 PM.** Dinner service at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County.
- **October.** School supply collection for Teachers' Teammates.

## Deacons' Picnic

OPC has a long tradition of gatherings for food and community. At our Annual Deacons' Picnic, we welcome everyone in our extended Overbrook family to a time of fellowship and joy for all ages. We provide hoagies, chips, desserts, drinks, and activities free of cost. Friends are welcome!

When: **Sunday, September 13, 12:30–3:30 PM**

Where: **General Wayne Park, 305 Maplewood Ave, Merion Station, PA**

Park on the street or a block-long single-row parallel lot on one side of the park – an easy walk from the picnic area. The park is fully accessible, with restrooms.

There are picnic tables and benches or bring blankets for a picnic on the grass. Amenities include two large playgrounds, a basketball court, baseball field, tennis and pickleball courts. Consider bringing sports gear to take advantage of this opportunity for a match or a game.

For planning purposes, please **RSVP by September 6** at Fellowship Hour with Sharon Elwell, email her at [shrnelwell@aol.com](mailto:shrnelwell@aol.com).



## 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 Bette Homer at [bettebhomer@gmail.com](mailto:bettebhomer@gmail.com) or call **215-470-7736**. If you know someone in our ministry, feel free to contact him or her.



Whether you are experienced in hand crafts or would like to learn, we invite you to join us at our monthly meeting. Crafts are not limited to knitting or crocheting. If you make a different craft that might be shared through our ministry, please call or email the contact above. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 8 at 11:00 AM** at the home of Bette Homer, 5948 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia.

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 Bette Homer at [bettebhomer@gmail.com](mailto:bettebhomer@gmail.com) or call **215-470-7736**.

## Say Cheese! It's Photo Directory Time!

The OPC **Photo Directory Task Force** consists of Rodney Atienza (photographer), Cindi Landmesser (photographer), Carol Rozmiarek (Realm expert), Emily Stewart (photographer assistant) and Artia Benjamin (photographer assistant and Chairperson).

On September 20, we will be starting photo sessions after worship for the OPC Photo Directory. The next sessions will be announced in the Sunday bulletins so please look out for the schedules. We had two successful photo sessions in June and July for the OPC Photo Directory. The next sessions will be announced in the Sunday bulletins so please look out for the schedules.



These images will be hosted in Realm, making this an ideal time to ensure your contact information is up to date in the system. The completed directory will be made available in November.

A Sign-up Genius and further details will be shared in our weekly bulletins and announced during the "Life at the Crossroads" segment of our Sunday Worship.

We look forward to this opportunity for fellowship and to help our community put names to faces.

*Artia Benjamin,  
Congregational Life Committee Chairperson*

## Children & Family Ministry

Friends, the new program year is almost here. Here's what's waiting for your family this fall.

**Sunday School kicks off Sunday, September 13**, the official start of the program year. The Deacons' Picnic follows at General Wayne Park.



**Registering your children helps us know them.** The form asks about allergies, medications, and any accessibility needs, so we can care for your child well. It also asks what your child loves to do and where you've noticed the Spirit moving in their life. All of this helps our leaders greet each child by name and meet them where they are. Registering takes five minutes per child and can be done anytime at [bit.ly/OPC-CFM-Reg-26](https://bit.ly/OPC-CFM-Reg-26). You can also stop by our table in the **Wistar Morris Room** on Sundays **August 30, September 6, or September 13**, where we'd love to say hello and paper forms will be there too. Please have every form in by kickoff, **September 13**.

**Sunday mornings this fall**, we begin with Storymaker's *Creation* (September–October): welcoming one another, settling back into our rhythms, and getting our hands busy again in the makerspace through the Season of Creation. *Creation* invites us to slow down inside Genesis 1 to 3, where light is spoken, the garden grows, and everything is called good. Together we will make and wonder, and ask where God is still creating. In November we turn to *The Stars*. God once brought Abraham outside at night and asked him to count the stars, promising a family just as countless. We will keep company with that family through Genesis 11 to 33, wondering how God stays faithful through every kind of trouble.

**If you have a ten, eleven, or twelve-year-old:** beginning **October 4**, they're invited to a monthly gathering all their own on first Sundays in the Sunday School classrooms, followed by communion with the whole congregation. Each of them receives a zine to carry through the fall, a little book of stories, questions, and art to make their own. Check the zine box when you register, and we'll have one waiting with their name on it. And keep a late-October Saturday open. A fellowship gathering for this crew is coming.

**Contemplative Family Dinner Church** returns. Each month, the Spirit gathers our families for dinner, fellowship, and contemplative spiritual practice. You are warmly welcomed in this sacred space. Together we pray the way Jesus taught us, "*going into your room, shutting the door, praying to our Father in secret,*" using Centering Prayer and other contemplative practices for getting in touch with the Divine. Dinner is served at 5:45, the practice begins at 6:30, and we end at 7:15. We gather on **Wednesdays: September 16, October 14, November 4, and December 2**.

*Anthony M. Carrella, Director of Children & Family Ministry*

# Youth Ministry

**Youth Group.** If you're in grades 6-12, join us on **Friday, September 11, from 5:30- 8:00 PM**, for some fun, food, and fellowship. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. RSVP to [youth@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:youth@overbrookpresb.org) by Sunday, September 6 so that we can plan accordingly. We're so excited to start the new programming year with you.

**Youth Sunday School.** Starts on September 13!

**The Kensington Project** is a non-profit organization that supports people affected by the opioid crisis in Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood. Youth and families are invited to join us as we feed, clothe, and love our neighbors. Our next day of service will be on **Sunday, September 20 at 10:00 AM at OPC**. If you would like more information or would like to attend, please contact **Becky Lazo** (443-745-3178; [rebeccalazo@hotmail.com](mailto:rebeccalazo@hotmail.com)) or **Suchita Fiorillo** (215-450-5356; [youth@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:youth@overbrookpresb.org)).



## **Puerto Rico Service Trip.**

From August 8 to 16, Suchita Fiorillo, Nathan Lazo, Blake Hotek, and Solly & Anya Brown joined the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown (FPCG) on a service-learning experience to Puerto Rico to work with *Techo Pa' Mi Gente*, which translates to Roof(s) for My People. We were able to help start the rebuilding process for two homes damaged by hurricanes, as well as help *Techos* prepare their headquarters for upcoming trainings and future volunteers. Our time in Puerto Rico was such a blessing, and we hope to continue to grow our partnership with the FPCG and *Techos*. Please continue to keep the island of Puerto Rico in your prayers as they are suffering from a severe drought and as prime hurricane season is approaching.



**Our OPC Youth Choir**, led by Virginia Jennings and Victor Fiorillo, will be starting on **October 11**. Sign-up sheet and more information will be available at September's Youth Group.

**Youth Talent Show.** Save the date: **Sunday, October 25**. If you play an instrument, sing, dance, know some magic tricks, or want to try out your new comedy routine, we're excited to see you shine! More details to follow.

For additional information, reach out at [youth@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:youth@overbrookpresb.org).

Please keep our youth and leaders in your prayers.

## Congregational Life

### Fellowship Hour Hosts

We are grateful for all those who volunteered to be a coordinator or donated food in August. If you would like an opportunity to practice hospitality and kindness toward one another or celebrate a special event. Please sign up to be a Fellowship Hour Coordinator. We still need your help. There are several ways to provide service:

- Be a coordinator – set up before worship service between 10:15 AM to 10:30 AM which includes putting table covers and trays on tables for the donated food.
- Donate food for Fellowship Hour, for example a bag of cookies, bag of cuties, etc.
- The church provides the table covers, trays, plates, cups and utensils – you provide the service.
- The church provides gluten free food to place on the gluten free table separate from other food.
- Clean up after Fellowship Hour. You do not have to break down tables and chairs.

Just fill out the SignUpGenius. Here's the link\_

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4aacae2da2fe3-fellowship>

Here are some more tips for coordinating:

- Take all leftover food that is perishable home with you or give it away to someone.
- Coordinators do not need to break down furniture. It will be put away by Leonard.
- Trash and recycling handled by Leonard.

### The Coffee Ministry

Coffee will resume service in September.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Matthew 25:35*

*Thank you for your Fellowship Hour ministry!*

*Congregational Life Committee*

## News from the Philadelphia Presbytery September & October 2026 Events

### ❖ Arctic Adventures: Encounters with Creation and Culture

Presbyterians for Earth Care invites you to a special webinar featuring Rev. Courtenay Willcox and Rev. Andrew Black as they share their experiences and reflections from a remarkable journey to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

- Date: September 8, 2026
- Time: 7:30 – 8:30 PM
- Location: Webinar
- Access: [Click here to learn more and register for the webinar.](#)

### ❖ Attend the 2026 James Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage

This faith-based training and continuing education event equips participants with practical, pastoral, and prophetic tools to help congregations engage in meaningful ministry to prevent gun violence.

- Date: September 15–18 ,2026
- Time: All Day Event
- Location: Heartland Retreat Center, 16965 NW 45 Hwy, Parkville, MO 64152
- Phone: 816-891-1078
- Website: <https://www.heartlandcenter.org/>

### ❖ **Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2026**

Join church leaders from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and other ecumenical partners for three days of learning, inspiration, worship, and connection.

- Date: September 21- 23
- Time: All Day Event
- Location: Renaissance Baltimore Harbor, 202 E. Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202
- Phone: 410-547-1200
- Contact: [Click here to learn more and register today!](#)

### ❖ **Fall Fest 20 Equipping Event 2026**

Join leaders and members from across the Presbytery of Philadelphia for a day of inspiration, practical learning, and collaborative conversation as we explore how God is calling our congregations to renewed life and mission. Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Holland, II.

- Date: September 26, 2026
- Time: 9:30 AM – 3:15 PM
- Cost: \$10
- Location: Oxford Presbyterian Church, 8501 Stenton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19150

### ❖ **Philadelphia, First Hosts Conversation on The History and Evolution of Religious Liberty**

Religious freedom is a foundational principle for our city and our commonwealth, and later for our nation. But does it have limits? Does your freedom to practice religion extend to limiting my freedoms? Does religious freedom supersede the social responsibility of a community to care for the vulnerable?

- Date: October 3, 2026
- Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Location: First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Old Buttonwood Hall, Philadelphia, PA
- Phone: 215 – 567-0532
- Contact: [Registration is required](#)

### ❖ **Clerk of Session Summit**

Calling All Clerks of Sessions! You are invited to attend our Annual Clerks Summit! For Clerks new to their roles, or Clerks having served for some time, join us on Saturday morning for our annual gathering!

- Date: October 10, 2026
- Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Location: Presbytery Office, 915 East Gowen Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19150
- Contact: Betsi Moise at [databaseadministrator@presbyphl.org](mailto:databaseadministrator@presbyphl.org)

### ❖ **The 2026 1001 NWC National Gathering for New Community Leaders**

Registration is now open to all that are associated with 1001 NWC. Leaders, coaches, mid-council leaders, & supporters of the movement, come one, come all and join us for this gathering. This year's National Gathering is an invitation to (re)Consider Jesus for our times and context. Not as an abstract idea but as our source of peace and stability; as the living trailblazer of the path of faith we are all traversing.

- Date: October 12, 2026 – October 15, 2026
- Time: All day event
- Location: YMCA of the Rockies, 2515 Tunnel Road, Estes Park, CO
- Registration link: <https://app.groupize.com/e/1001-nwc-national-gathering-436f6c>

## Ongoing Weekly Events

### 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. Janie Martin's home.
- Bible Study at 10:30 AM. OPC Office or online.

## Committee Information

| Committee Name                                                | Monthly Meeting                     | Chair or Co-Chairs                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Worship and Music<br>worship@overbrookpresb.org               | 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday<br>7:30 PM* | Janie Martin                                              |
| Deacons<br>deacons@overbrookpresb.org                         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br>1:00 PM   | Denise Stewart<br>Margene Biedermann                      |
| Mission and Outreach<br>mission@overbrookpresb.org            | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday<br>12:30 PM  | Jeff Bowker                                               |
| Finance<br>finance@overbrookpresb.org                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday<br>7:00 PM* | Lainie Blodgett                                           |
| Children and Family Ministry (CFM)<br>cfm@overbrookpresb.org  | TBD                                 | Molly Andrews Burke                                       |
| Personnel<br>personnel@overbrookpresb.org                     | TBD                                 | Brian Taussig-Lux                                         |
| Property<br>property@overbrookpresb.org                       | TBD                                 | Jeff Bowker<br>Jason Duckworth                            |
| Stewardship<br>stewardship@overbrookpresb.org                 | TBD                                 | Karen Testa                                               |
| Congregational Life<br>clc@overbrookpresb.org                 | TBD                                 | Artia Benjamin                                            |
| Welcoming<br>welcoming@overbrookpresb.org                     | TBD                                 | Elizabeth Mendoza                                         |
| Youth Ministry<br>youth@overbrookpresb.org                    | TBD                                 | Wanda Harris Cooper<br>Artia Benjamin<br>Suchita Fiorillo |
| An asterisk (*) indicates that the committee meets virtually. |                                     |                                                           |

### HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

9/1..... Elizabeth Cosgriff  
Jonathan Kopcsik  
Dianne O'Healy

9/2..... Janet Bowker  
Gabe Gidjunis  
Rebecca Gidjunis  
Peggie Kaercher  
Joseph Piatt  
Jennifer Watts

9/3..... Lillian Carnahan

9/4..... Trudy Sheau

9/6..... Karen Testa

9/9..... Solly Brown

9/10..... Peggy Ingram

9/11..... Stephanie Anthony  
Davorka Sabljak

9/13..... Jeremy Blatchley  
Eric Long  
Judy Williamson

9/14..... Evelyn Nkwenti

9/16..... Lily Baker

9/18..... Aimerie Scherluebbe

9/19..... Scott Filkin  
Syrena Torres

9/21..... Zoe Boswell

9/22..... Anne Conroy

9/23..... Amy Behrman  
Noble Brigham

9/24..... Lainie Blodgett  
Denise Stewart

9/25..... Everett Whalen

9/27..... Aqueelah Folwell

9/28..... Gwen Harden  
Bette Homer

9/30..... Eiley Eastling

*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 for resilience and swift recovery for Deb Rottinger following a hip fracture and surgery.
- Prayers of guidance and strength for Mads Piatt Cosgriff, as he enters his studies at Princeton Theological Seminary this fall.
- Prayers for strength and healing for Ed Harvey as he recovers from a heart procedure.
- Prayers for comfort and support for Allison Person's whole family as they mourn the death of Allison's mother, Tamie Person.
- Prayers of strength and healing for Elizabeth Mendoza as she recovers from surgery for breast cancer.
- Prayers of support for Bette and Ron Homer, facing challenging times.
- Prayers for comfort and healing for Andrea Gosfield in her recovery from hernia surgery.
- Prayers for guidance and comfort for Scott Long, who is in search of a new home near public transit and is also facing health challenges.
- Prayers for Capitola Cooper, mother-in-law of Wanda Harris-Cooper, for restoration of health of heart issues.
- Prayers for strength and healing for Susan Leach, Becky Lazo's mom, as she continues her health recovery.
- Prayers for successful treatment and recovery of Kari McDevitt, friend of the Lazo's, as she faces her ninth cancer diagnosis.
- Prayers of support for those embarking on new ventures and for all undergoing the uncertainty of transitions.
- Prayers for dignity, stability, and comfort for all those navigating changes in government assistance programs.
- Prayers for all who are facing health concerns, especially Roz Benton, Peggy Boatwright, Gary Fairfax, Brian Henderson, Gwen Anthony, Gail Kaercher, Vince Gilhool, Gwen Harden, Bette Homer, Beth Leach, Valerie Craig, Patricia MacCausland, Joan Moylan, Jim Moylan, Davorka Sabljak, Carolyn Summers, Nathan Tullio and Natalie DeShields.

**Please contact Jill Van Rawley ([deacons@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:deacons@overbrookpresb.org)) or Adam Hearlson ([adam@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:adam@overbrookpresb.org)) to add names to the prayer list.**