



~75th Anniversary Celebrations, “Let Our Light Shine”~

*“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid...
Let your light shine before others.”*

~Matthew 5:14-16

Dear Members and Friends,

Bower Hill Church is 75 years old! The theme for our celebrations is, “Let our light shine.” A special service of worship will kick things off on Sunday, September 7. On that day, we will loosely re-enact our very first service of worship which took place on September 10, 1950—all except the hymn “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus,” which will be played on the violin but not sung. (Google the lyrics to see why. Alas, 1950 was another age!) Wear one of the “liturgical colors” in our stained-glass—red, green, purple, blue or yellow—to unlock donations to our 75th campaign. Stay for lunch and programming after the service. But what are we celebrating? Why are we celebrating? And how are we going to celebrate?

WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING?

- >God’s faithfulness in the past, which calls us into the future.
- >The many ministries and missions we’ve successfully undertaken down through the years.
- >Our church’s unique identity, which fits us for specific callings and ministries in our times.

WHY ARE WE CELEBRATING?

- >To foster a sense of pride and belonging at Bower Hill Church.
- >To create excitement about the ways that we are being called to serve in years to come.
- >To re-establish connections between our church and our community.
- >To re-energize our church with a sense of identity and purpose.
- >To get a clear vision of the future of religion in America and especially OUR PLACE in it.

Wait, what was that last bullet point? “To get a clear vision of the future of religion in America and OUR PLACE in it”? What does that mean? The role of faith in American life has changed enormously since 1950, when 76% of the population held membership in a church or synagogue. Today, only about 37% of the population holds membership in a religious body, and that percentage declines each year. How do we live faithfully in these times, just as the founders of our church lived faithfully in theirs? To answer that question, we’re hosting a **3-Part Speaker Series** on the future of faith in America...and how to lean into it. Possible names for this series might include: Faithful Futures, The Unfolding Faith, or Beyond the Steeple. It will consist of three dinners and programs led by well-known personalities in the trajectory of religion in the 21st century. These dinners, at Cefalo’s, will be advertised and open to the public, especially to leaders of religious organizations. These include: Wednesday, March 11 with Ryan Birge (just Google him); Wednesday, April 22 with Andrew Root (again, Google him; he’s famous); and in May, a panel discussion featuring Dr. Gregory Jones of Duquesne University (also a member of First Baptist Church of Bridgeville). Details TBA.

HOW ARE WE CELEBRATING?

See below! Look inside this newsletter for the events that occur on February 1 and the grand weekend of May 16-17, when former BHC pastors and members will be present.

The life of faith is a grateful response to the grace God lavishes on us. We have much to be grateful for at Bower Hill Church and much to share with our world. Let’s shine that light into the next 75 years.

Christ’s Peace,

~Brian



WORSHIP PLANS

September 7
Launch Off Sunday
Wear Window Colors!
Stay for Lunch.
 Matthew 5:13-16

September 14
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Communion
 Luke 15:1-10
 “99 Mad Sheep”

September 21
Jean Barker Sunday
 Luke 16:1-13
 “Faithful in Little,
 Faithful in Much”

September 28
16th Sunday after Pentecost
 Luke 16:19-31

The church office will
 be closed on Monday,
 September 1.



Dear BHCC Family,

Thank you so very much for reaching out for the loss of my father. What an incredible person he was, and I feel so lucky to have called him MY Dad! I will say one true bonus to moving from Pittsburgh to Virginia allowed me to be closer to my parents and afford me many opportunities to spend time with them and especially be with my dad in his last few months. I truly appreciate your calls, cards and prayers. I felt your hugs from afar and kind soothing words in my heart.

Darenda Lease

Join us for Jean Barker Celebration Sunday on Sunday, September 21. After the service, there will be a reception featuring finger foods and refreshments.

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

We are in the midst of great feelings of nostalgia for all that Bower Hill Community Church has been over 75 years. We remember many moments in our life when the ministry and fellowship has been so very real to us. But now the question is what is ahead of us? What will be remembered when our 100th or 150th anniversaries are celebrated?

We must actively be engaged in mapping out a future that is strong enough to represent the Christ and our undying commitment. Yet, we must also be open and flexible so as to adapt our communication to challenging and different times. As old traditions languish, we must not be depressed or sad, but let us see the opportunity to minister to need and concerns that did not exist 75 years ago,

~ Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you are interested in purchasing flowers or making a donation to the charity of your choice as a dedication in memory/honor of a loved one, please contact the church office to request a form or information.

LIGHTING THE STEEPLE

Requests should include: the date(s) you would like to sponsor, the reason you want to sponsor (in honor, in memory, etc.), the name of the person(s) or the event as you want it to appear in the bulletin, and your name. Email your request to: Amy Leasure at amlea97@hotmail.com. MULTIPLE sponsors can share the SAME DATE.

September 22

In memory and in honor of Jim and Joan McAnulty on their wedding anniversary,
with love from their family.



Sunday School Leaders Needed!

Do you have a heart for young people, and want to share your time with our children and youth? While the time commitment is small (usually adult volunteers are only needed about 4-5 Sundays over the course of the school year), the reward of connecting with our children and youth is great. Please look on Page 5 for more information!

Faithful Conversations

“Adult Ed” will become “Faithful Conversations” in our new program year. We welcome everyone high school age and older to join us as we learn about and discuss issues of faith. Our first series of discussions will be about dealing with conflict, starting with a video and discussion guide developed by the Pittsburgh Presbytery. We also will be hearing a report from our youth about the mission trips taken this past summer and are hoping to hear from Chloe Snyder about her internship with the PCUSA Office of Public Witness.

We are open to suggestions for other topics to explore, either with outside speakers or issues that are important to you. If you have ideas for topics, please contact Jean Miewald at miewaldmac@gmail.com.

FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE:**Backpacks -- for Back to School!**

Bower Hill Community Church got back in gear to fill 75 backpacks for children in Crafton and Carnegie elementary schools. We donated \$750 to purchase supplies for backpacks provided by the Salvation Army. In addition to school supplies, we provided books from our Flea Market stash and items donated by the Mt. Lebanon Public Library. Books for slightly older elementary children were used to supply the "Book Nooks" outside the respective schools. This was a joint mission activity of Bower Hill and the New Hope Worship Center of Carnegie Presbyterian. Volunteers from both churches participated. The backpacks were dedicated recently at New Hope before an excited group of kids!

We are also working with New Hope Worship Center in helping stock the Carnegie Free Fridge, an activity in which six Bower Hill families have already participated. Stay tuned as well for a possibly monthly carry out dinner program the two congregations are envisioning. More to come . . .

**Unity Food Pantry Collection
September 14**

The Unity Food Pantry's greatest need is for boxed cereal, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, and canned chicken or tuna.

Western PA Diaper Bank

Remember to save coupons for disposable diapers and feminine hygiene products that you collect. You can drop them off at the church office during regular business hours or send them with your weekly offering.

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MINISTRIES – AMY GRELLA

Join us for Launch-Off Sunday, September 7

Join us as we kick-off the new program year. Regular Sunday school classes for kids Pre-K through 8th grade resume at 9:30 a.m., followed by an all-church meal (bring nothing but your appetite) and an intergenerational program celebrating the first worship service at Bower Hill. Childcare will be available, and festivities will conclude by noon.

Children & Youth Programming Begins on Sunday, September 7

Bower Hill provides opportunities for children and youth to belong, learn about the Bible, explore their beliefs, and build friendships with others. It takes time and space for youth to wonder, listen and grow in their understanding of how to live out God's mission in our world. It is our prayer that you continue to prioritize the importance of these opportunities for your child as they develop.

Sunday morning options run concurrently to worship and focus on learning Bible stories and engaging kids to think about how these learnings can be applied in their world. Sunday evening youth group opportunities lean more heavily into fellowship, and small group discussions around current topics that interest youth and what biblical teachings tell us.

Sunday Morning Classes

Three classes will be offered for kids from Pre-k through eighth grade during worship. The nursery will still be open for babies and toddlers during worship. Please look below for details on the plan by each age group.

Wonder for Pre-K to 2nd grade

Children preschool through 2nd grade will start in worship with their families. After a Time with Children, kids will be escorted downstairs to room 103, the Children's Worship Room, to hear a Godly Play story. Kids will see, hear, and wonder as they learn from and with each other. Parents may pick-up their children in room 103 after worship ends.

Holy Moly for 3rd-5th grade in Room 110

Kids in third through fifth grade will start in worship with their families. After a Time with Children, kids will be escorted to room 110, where they will explore the Old and New Testaments using Holy Moly Sunday school. They will hear and see a video and participate in activities to deepen their thinking around the story. Parents may pick-up their children in the classroom after worship ends. Do you speak Holy Moly? [Click here to find out!!!](#)

Connect for 6th – 8th graders in room 105

Kids in sixth through eighth grader will meet during the entirety of worship, so youth should go directly to room 105 on Sunday morning to Connect. With Connect, kids see how individual Bible stories connect into larger themes that span the whole Bible. Parents may pick-up their children in the classroom after worship ends.

Sunday School Leader Trainings – October 19 & 26

We are forming this year's pool of adults to lead one of three Sunday school classrooms that run during worship, and we hope you'll consider joining us! We have a great need for both older youth (mature Middle schoolers and high schoolers) and adults to share their gifts and talents with the children. Do you have a heart for young people, and want to share your time with our children and youth? While the time commitment is small (usually adult volunteers are only needed about 4-5 Sundays over the course of the school year), the reward of connecting with our children and youth is great.

Following worship, grab a coffee and then join us to learn more about this volunteer opportunity, meet with current teachers, and see samples of the lesson plans. Two sessions are planned, each a bit different; plan to attend the one that makes the most sense for you.

Sunday, October 19, in room 101 – we will briefly talk about all 3 classes and review the older classroom curriculums in more detail (Holy Moly and Connect).

Children and Youth – Volunteering at Bower Hill

As our children and youth grow in their faith, it is a joy to provide opportunities for them to discover and use their gifts at Bower Hill. There are a number of ways to involve your kids in the worship services each week! Please prayerfully encourage your youth to serve in one of these capacities.

Acolytes - Training September 21 and 28

Bringing the Light of God's presence into the sanctuary is one important way kids in grades 3-7 are involved in the worship service. Acolytes are scheduled starting in September. Pastor Brian will lead a short (10-15 minute) training IMMEDIATELY following worship on two Sundays, September 22 and 29. This training is open to both new and experienced acolytes. We will walk together from Sunday school class to meet Pastor Brian in the sanctuary in front of the communion table immediately following worship.

Leading Wonder for Preschool -2nd graders

Does your older youth (8th grade and up) love to work with younger kids? Consider having them try to lead a Sunday school class just for younger children. The kids begin in worship; you meet them after Time with Children and go to room 103, where you will share a short Godly Play story (it's scripted so you know exactly what to say) and response activities. This qualifies for service hour credits needed for high school. If you are interested, plan to attend the leader training on Sunday, October 26 after worship.

Youth Group Meetups

This year Bower Hill will offer a combined youth group for students in grades 6-12. Youth group will typically on the 2nd Sunday night of each month from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. In addition, there will be a monthly service opportunity. Youth Group meets on the following Sundays from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: September 14, October 12, and December 14. There is no meeting in November so kids can attend the fall youth group retreat November 14-16.

Sunday, Oct. 26th in room 103 – this will be a more detailed training just focused on leading Children's Worship for Pre-K – 2nd graders. If you are interested in helping but unable to attend these trainings, please reach out to Amy.

2025-2026 YOUTH RETREATS

As a parent with two active kids, I sometimes am asked why we schedule retreats for our youth. Youth group retreats are vital to a young person's faith development. They offer a unique opportunity for spiritual growth, helping young people deepen their relationship with God through worship, prayer, and Bible study in a focused and supportive environment. Even Jesus took time to retreat and pray, often withdrawing to quiet places to connect with the Father (Luke 5:16), setting an example for us to follow. Retreats create space for fun, adventure, and shared experiences that make lasting memories. Most importantly, they foster strong group bonding, encourage friendships rooted in faith and provide a sense of belonging within the church community. So, while all youth are busy, please save these dates, and begin encouraging your youth to go!

Youth Fall Retreat this November – More information to come. Stay tuned!

Tweener Retreat February 28 - March 1, 2026 – This is a special one-night retreat designed to introduce youth in grades 3-6 to the retreat experience at Crestfield.

Youth Spring Retreat March 20-22, 2026 – This retreat is open to youth in grades 6-12 at Crestfield.



Let Our Light Shine

JOIN US FOR LAUNCH OFF SUNDAY -September 7th

The first celebration for the 75th Anniversary of Bower Hill Community Church will be held on September 7.

Kick Off Sunday is being replaced with Launch Off Sunday. The day will begin with worship at 9:30 a.m. (no breakfast). The service will be loosely modeled after the first worship service held at Bower Hill in our original building at the corner of Bower Hill Road and Parkview on September 10, 1950. Worship will be followed by a meal and fun activities.

THE COLORS IN THE GLASS

at
Bower Hill
Community Church



Did you know that the colors in the stained-glass window represent the colors of the liturgical year?

The colors of the liturgical year are BLUE for Advent, WHITE for Christmastime and Eastertime (represented by YELLOW in the windows), GREEN for “ordinary time,” PURPLE for Lent, and RED for Pentecost.

To learn more about the spiritual meaning behind the colors in the glass visit the [75th Anniversary page](#) on the church website.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Birthday Sunday, February 1, 2026

Special worship service
commemorating Bower Hill's chartering on
February 4, 1951
Followed by a meal and fun activities

Grand Finale Weekend
May 16-17, 2026

Saturday Evening
Celebratory Banquet

Sunday
Special Worship Service which will include
former pastors and members

Followed by a Strawberry Festival
on the church lawn

WHAT YOU WEAR ON SEPTEMBER 7 MATTERS

An anonymous donor will contribute money towards the 75th Anniversary Celebration funds for every member that wears at least one of the colors in the stained-glass windows. The donation will be doubled for any children that wear at least two of the colors.

Those colors are blue, white, yellow, green, purple and red.

FROM THE ECO-JUSTICE TEAM:

Scholar and activist Joanne Macy recently died at 96. She spent her career working to change the popular view of how to solve the urgent environmental issues of our time, and to help us understand that we are not free-floating individuals, but part of a larger whole that contains all of life. She believed that we will not solve the climate issue with technology and policy alone, but a spiritual renewal is necessary. Her views influenced Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, "Laudate Si'."

As reported in the Washington Post, this view was recently echoed by prominent environmental scientist Gus Speth. The co-founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council and founder of the World Resources Institute, he once thought the century's biggest challenges were "biodiversity loss, eco-system collapse, and climate change." He now says, "I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy. . . and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation, and we lawyers and scientists don't know how to do that."

Perhaps we at BHCC can be a small part of that spiritual revival. On Aug. 10, we heard a sermon about imagination and hope as part of faith. "Selfishness, greed, and apathy" seem to be at the heart of the chaos and cruelty that surround us. As we embark on a new program year, we can keep imagining the world it was created to be, and the people God wants us to be.

Buildings and Grounds Narthex Patio Work Party

On September 13, at 9:00 a.m., we are going to work on the bricks in front of the Narthex door. The weeds have already been pulled but we need to remove the top layer of sand and replace it with the proper grouting. This will be accomplished by a combination of pressure washing and good old fashion manual labor. If you are available and able to kneel, please join us. Bring something to kneel on and gloves. We will supply tools to remove the layer of sand between the bricks that the pressure washer cannot get out. For questions, contact Mike Riemer.



UPCOMING

Fellowship Events

Get Outdoors September 6

This month we will hike the trails in [White Oak Park](#). Located in McKeesport, White Oak Park sits on 810 acres and offers a wealth of amenities including a multi-purpose athletic field, shelters, a wedding garden, playgrounds, a dog park, bocce courts, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, and trails for walking and hiking. Unique to the park, White Oak Park is home to many unique plant species that exist nowhere else in Pennsylvania. These rare species include trillium, wildflowers, and specific types of groundcover. We will hike the [green trail](#), which is a loop trail around the perimeter of the main section of the park. The guide lists it as moderately difficult. I have not hiked the trail, but I suspect that regular walking shoes will work. But hiking boots are always a safe bet especially if there was recent rain.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the main parking lot and carpool to the hike. The trailhead should be less than a 30-minute drive. The hike should be about 2 hours. So, we will be home around 12:00 p.m. If it rains, we will reschedule. Please email me at gstchild@yahoo.com or call so we don't leave without you.

Hooks & Needles September 6 & 20

Hooks and Needles continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. We will meet at Phyllis Yohe's house from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

New Members and needle workers of all skills welcome! Hope to see you there!

Koinonia Wednesdays, starting September 17 9:15 a.m. Room 110

All women are welcome to join Koinonia, BHCC's women's Bible study group, and to explore and share in faith and fellowship with other women. This group meets on Wednesdays, fully in-person in the lounge (Room 110). Contact Sarah Neusius (sraahneusius@gmail.com) for more information or just come and join us.

Senior Men's Breakfast September 2 8:00 a.m.

Join us at Denny's restaurant at 2180 Greentree Road, near Swallow Hill Road. No reservation is required, and conversation is spontaneous. The regular meeting date is on the first Tuesday of each month. **All men are welcome.** Any questions or comments, contact Glenn Child at gstchild@yahoo.com.

Bookworms September 23 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

This is an open invitation to anyone attending Bower Hill Community Church, friends and family members, to join Bookworms, the Church Book Club. Reading and discussing books since 2001, members have enjoyed the variety of perspectives readers bring: from 'loved it', to 'yuk', to everything in between.

The group reads fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, biographies, really anything the group suggests. The conversation is assisted by online reader guides. Different perspectives create great discussions. All opinions are welcome. A list of the books read by the group is available on the church website. (<https://www.bowerhillchurch.org/books-read>). Check out the variety!

The group currently meets by Zoom on the fourth Tuesday, January through November, at 1:30 p.m. We met in the evening at the church until Covid made meeting in-person impossible. Virtual contact is still comfortable for most attendees, although that could change in the future.

Please consider joining the group to discuss any book that interests you. Reading every book and attending all the discussions is not mandatory to be a member. Come try us out. We may 'worm our way' into your reading routine. To join the group for the next meeting, send your requests to Sally Child at sa.child@yahoo.com.

September 23 – Mercury by Amy Jo Burns



Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor
brian.snyder@bowerhillchurch.org

Parish Associate

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure
fred.leasure@bowerhillchurch.org

Company of Pastors

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure
Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes

Amy Grella

Director of Education Ministries
amy.grella@bowerhillchurch.org

Anne Smith

Director of Music Ministries
anne.smith@bowerhillchurch.org

Kim Digman

Church Administrator
office@bowerhillchurch.org

THE CHURCH OFFICE

70 Moffett St., Pittsburgh. PA 15243

(412) 561-4114

office@bowerhillchurch.org

Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

www.BowerHillChurch.org



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

Bower Hill Church Members

Cindy Arner, Nancy Green
Joan McAnulty, Lynne Wohleber



September 2:	Calvin Kocher	September 19:	Jonathan May
September 3:	Davis Gray Emily Lansbery	September 23:	Henry Druckenbrod Bryan Webler
September 7:	Ashley Dickey Gus Watterson	September 25:	Amy Grella
September 9:	Aiden Belardi	September 27:	Ashley Brown Sam Webler
September 10:	Phil Neusius	September 28:	Gordon Mitchell
September 12:	Doris Olinger	September 29:	Barret Bruce Ruth Foltz Ellena Gibbs
September 14:	Paul Siefken		
September 18:	Chloe Snyder		

THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING:

Please take a moment to read through the names, pray for them, and offer them your best wishes!

Have we missed YOUR birthday? If your name is not listed, it is because the church office does not have your information.

Please call the office administrator at 412-561-4114 with updated information.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00am Joint Worship with First Baptist 10:00am Summer Sunday School (PreK-5th grade) - Rm 110	1 Office Closed - Labor Day	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group - Denny's 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	3 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	4 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom)	5	6 Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (Phyllis Yohe's residence)
7 Launch Off Sunday 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee)	8 7:00pm B&G Meeting (Rm 101) 7:00pm Worship Committee (Rm 101)	9 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	10 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 10:30am Mission & Carnegie Pres. Meeting (Rm 110) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	11	12	13 9:00am Patio Work Party
14 Unity Food Pantry Collection 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am CE/YC Meeting (Nursery) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 6:30pm Youth Group (Room 110)	15 Newsletter and Session Report Deadline 7:00pm Deacons Meeting (Rm 110)	16 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Finance Meeting (Virtual) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	17 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 6:00pm Bells Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	18	19	20 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (Phyllis Yohe's residence)
21 Jean Barker Service 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Acolyte Training (Narthex) 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship	22 7:00pm Session Meeting (FR)	23 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 1:30pm Bookworms (Zoom) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	24 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 6:00pm Bells Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	25 9:42am Mt. Lebo Evacuation Drill (throughout the church)	26	27 2:00pm Deacon Ray Wedding (FH, Kitchen, Sanctuary)
28 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Acolyte Training (Narthex) 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 12:30pm Compassionate Friends (Rm 101, 105, 110, FR) 3:00pm Mission Project with Carnegie Presbyterian (Kitchen) 6:30pm Confirmation Class (Rm. 105)	29	30 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	1 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 6:00pm Bells Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	2 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom)	3	4 Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (Phyllis Yohe's residence)