

~Blessed Are Those...~

“Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

~John 20:29

Dear Members and Friends,

My April newsletter article to you is usually an Easter poem, and this year is no exception. Below is a poem by the Anglican clergyman, Malcolm Guite. I'd liken Guite to a religious Burl Ives. He looks just like him and has a similar “energy”—an older fellow with a warm and gentle air about him. (Either one of them would make a superb mall-Santa...) He's a songwriter, poet, singer and minister. Guite bases this poem on the famous scene in the Gospel of John where “Doubting Thomas” misses Jesus's first resurrection appearance to the disciples. Understandably, Thomas has his doubts, which he expresses. As a result, Jesus comes back a second time, just for Thomas's sake. Jesus tells him, “Here, touch my wounds and see that I'm alive and real.” Then, at last, Thomas believes—proving the thing we all kind of suspect: There's no genuine faith without doubt.

“We do not know... how can we know the way?”

Courageous master of the awkward question,
You spoke the words the others dared not say
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.
Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,
You put your finger on the nub of things.
We cannot love some disembodied wraith,
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,
Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.
Because He loved your awkward counter-point
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.
Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.
~Malcolm Guite

Too often, Thomas is depicted as a sort of lesser disciple because he experienced doubt. But you know what? Certainty is not faith, it's...certainty. Real faith always contains an element of doubt and nary a shred of certainty. Happy Easter to you. May the joy of resurrection and new life surprise you every day. Your faith may not feel ironclad or unwavering, but I assure you...it is enough.

Christ's Peace,
~Brian



Worship Plans

April 2

Maundy Thursday

Communion in Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m.

April 3

Good Friday

Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.

April 4

Holy Saturday

Church is open for private prayer, handicap entrance
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

April 5

Easter Day

Communion

Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Worship at 9:30 a.m.
Matthew 28:1-10

April 12

2nd Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

April 19

3rd Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

April 26

4th Sunday of Easter

Seminary Student
Brian Vertz preaches



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

April is a season of new birth. We celebrate Easter and the resurrection, as well as flowers coming to bloom. A seminary professor characterized the Biblical record as a series of events turning brown to green. From a time of distress to joy.

After our winter freeze, we are saddened by the brown of the trees and shrubs that have been decimated. Authorities have cautioned not to dig up, trim or abandon these remains of the winter. Rather we are told to be patient and many will grow again and return to their beauty. The goal for us is to have patient hope.

I believe this is one of the important roles of the church. Its message is to celebrate the green and not to abandon the brown. By your continued stewardship, you are helping bring this hope and bring strength to those that are in the brown zone of their life.

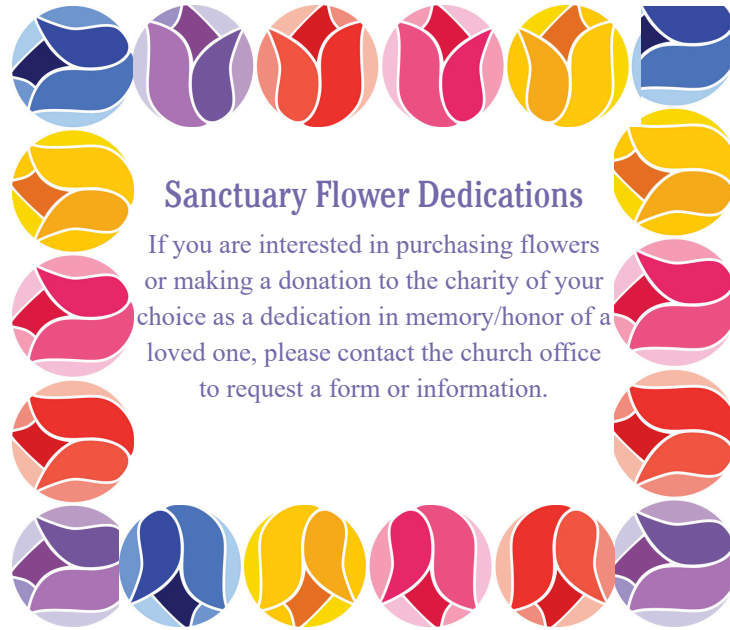
~ Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate

Faithful Conversations

“Faithful Conversations” are held most Sundays after worship beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Friendship Room. We welcome everyone High School age and older to join us as we learn about and discuss issues of Faith. Our discussions thus far have been well attended and received a positive response. Join us in the Friendship Room or by Zoom.

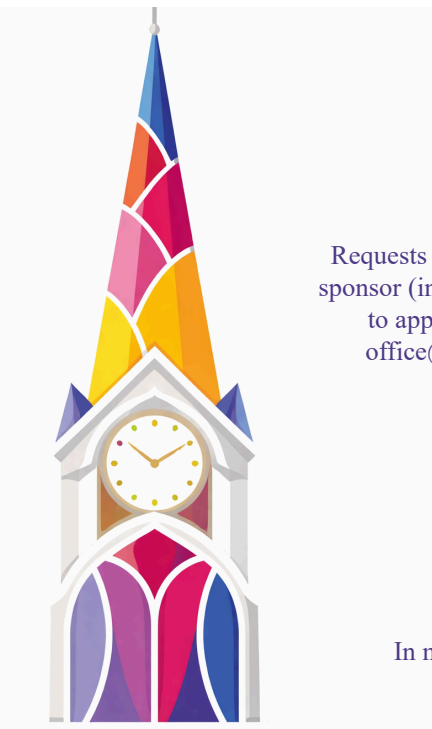
April 19 - Street Dog Coalition/Harmony Rescue

We invite you to share your thoughts on what topics you would like to explore.



Sanctuary Flower Dedications

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: Kim Digman at office@bowerhillchurch.org. MULTIPLE sponsors can share the SAME DATE.

April 5, 2026

In memory of Betty Mancini on Easter by her family

April 11, 2026

In honor of all who have served by Susan Watson

April 22, 2026

In memory of Betty Mancini on the sixth year of her passing by her family

Intergenerational Opportunities

Souper Bowl of Caring – Thank you

The Bower Hill Youth food drive collected 476-pounds of food for Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Additionally, a large box of food in glass containers was taken to the Unity Food Pantry. Special thank you to Mt. Lebanon Montessori students for sorting the food for delivery.

Earth Day Fair

April brings warmer weather and a family opportunity to focus on caring for God's creation. Join us on Saturday, April 18th - 9 a.m. - noon. We will work with Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy in Twin Hills Park to plant native trees, shrubs and perennials. Meet at the Twin Hills Drive entrance. Bring a shovel and gloves if you have them. [Click here to RSVP](#). While open to all, we ask an adult to accompany any children 4th grade and under.

Service
PROJECT
Opportunity!

Youth Sunday – Save the Date

Be sure to join us in worship on Sunday, May 10. Bower Hill youth will lead the service. Children and youth will be working on it during Sunday School in the coming weeks.

Bower Hill Spring Plant Sale

Bower Hill Youth Group is selling spring plants from Dean's Greenhouse to raise funds for our summer mission trips and projects. Orders will be taken mostly on-line; [here is the link to order](#). Paper order forms will be available in the Narthex beginning in early April.

The order deadline is April 19, with plant delivery on Tuesday, May 19.



From the Eco-Justice Team:

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 26, for this year's Earth Day celebration in Mt. Lebanon Park. Once again, BHCC will have a booth at the event, which runs from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As last year, we will have a pot-a-plant station, always popular with children. We hope to have it staffed with our own youth.

We are excited to unveil the proposed plan for our expanded SHIM garden. It will be more visible, as well as beautiful and accessible, so you can enjoy it even if you're not working there. Funds from the capital campaign, help from the Montessori school, and donations from local businesses will make it happen.

The remaining two items from the AP article promised last month are postponed until next month's newsletter.

See you the 26th!

Unity Food Pantry Collection

April 12

Unity Food Pantry's greatest need is for canned fruit, non-meat pasta sauce in plastic or glass bottles, tuna or chicken in pouches, and any size of diapers.

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.



The Bower Hill Music Department took a field trip to Back Alley Brewing to hear Nate Ivey sing and play guitar. A wonderful time was had by all.



Update from the Director of Education Ministries – Amy Grella

Registration is Open for Summer Overnight Camps

Bower Hill will attend all of these as a group.

- June 28 - July 2 Crestfield Elementary Overnight Camp (completed 3rd-5th).
- July 19-24 Crestfield Service Adventure Camp for kids ages 12-17.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Crestfield Service Adventure Camp – July 19-24, 2026

Don't miss out on the best week of summer at Crestfield. This camp is for completed 6th – 8th graders. Registration is now open – [click here](#) to add your name to the list and see who's in.

Crestfield Elementary Overnight Camp June 28- July 2

Join Bower Hill Youth Group for a week away at Crestfield. Because we are going as a group, each youth will receive \$100 off the cost of registration!! [Please use this link](#) to indicate your interest and to see who else is going. [Click here](#) to see last year's highlight video to see what the week will look like.

Bower Hill's Jr. Day & Day Camp Returns

Save the date, July 27-31, for Bower Hill's week-long camp, where kids discover that Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind. *Weird Animals* is a habitat filled with incredible learning experiences kids see, hear, touch and even taste! Some cool upgrades are planned for the best week of summer – including multiple tracks for kids in 4th – 8th grade.

We need your help inviting younger friends. First-year registrants that have completed third grade and under can attend for FREE. Registration will open soon... stay tuned!

Combined Middle school & high school youth groups



Be sure to check out our monthly service and fellowship opportunities for youth in grades 6-12.

- **Sunday, April 5 – 9:00 a.m.** Easter Egg hunt & game fair. Youth 6th and up will help hide eggs and then run games during worship for the younger kids.
- **Sunday, April 12 - 9:30 a.m.** Help guide younger kids in Sunday School to prepare seed packets to use as handouts at our Earth Day booth to advertise Bower Hill's VBS.
- **Sunday, April 12 - 5:30 p.m.** Pizza dinner for Combined Youth Group & Confirmation in Fellowship Hall – Bring a friend! We'll have pizza, a panel discussion with older youth about their faith perspective looking back on confirmation. [RSVP here](#) so food can be planned.
- **Saturday, April 18 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** [Please RSVP here so I know who to expect.](#) We will work with Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy in Twin Hill Park. We will help to plant native trees, shrubs and perennials. Meet at the Chatham Park Drive entrance. Bring a shovel and gloves if you have them. Dress for the weather.
- **Sunday, April 26 - 11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Bower Hill's Eco Justice team will be sponsoring a booth at the Mt. Lebanon Earth Day fair in Main Park. Parents and youth are encouraged to volunteer together for one-hour time slots. We also need 1-2 adults that morning to help setup - load pop-up tent, table, chairs at church, deliver and setup at the park. [Click here for details and to sign up.](#)
- **Sunday, May 3 – 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Youth Group in room 110 – Bring a friend!

UPCOMING

Fellowship Events

Get Outdoors April 11

Since the first Saturday in April falls on the day before Easter, we will reschedule the April hike to April 11. Previously, we had done trails in Hartwood by the stables and by the amphitheater. On this hike, we will do different trails. We will hike the Orange, While and/or the Blue trails. Most of the trails will be wooded with hills. Depending on the previous day's weather conditions, the trails could be wet.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the main parking lot and carpool to the hike. The trailhead should be about a 45-minute drive. The hike should be about 2 hours. So, we will be home around 12:30 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 April 4 & 18 Friendship Room

Hooks 'n Needles meet at the church in the Friendship Room. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We would like to have more members, so if you enjoy any kind of needlework, please feel free to join us. Just park in the handicapped parking lot and come in the kitchen door and down the hall.

Koinonia Wednesdays 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 April 7 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 April 28 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.

April 28 - The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club by Helen Simonson.



Let Our Light Shine

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Grand Finale Weekend May 16-17, 2026

Saturday Evening-Celebratory Banquet at Nevillewood

Sunday-Special Worship Service which will include former pastors and members followed by a Strawberry Festival on the church lawn

Former Pastors Bob Heppenstall, Jack Hodges, and Leonard Sponaugle as well as former Associate Pastors Dan Rift (on Saturday only) and Tracy Keenan will be joining us for the fun.



DETAILS ABOUT THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Following the worship service - end time TBD

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE WITH ICE CREAM AND FOOD TRUCKS

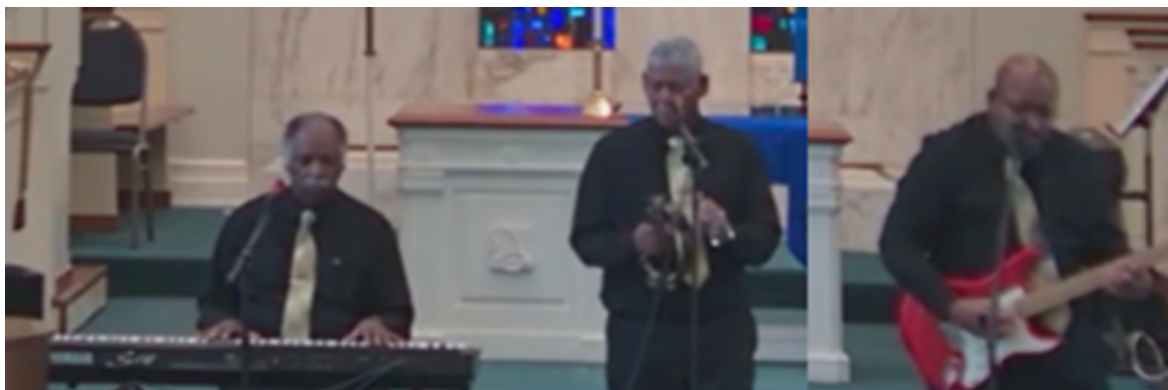


MUSIC FROM

The Allegheny Passage
(Nate Ivey's family's band)

AND

The Bridgeville Male Ensemble



2026 SPEAKER SERIES EVENTS

April 22 ~ Andrew Root

May 13 ~ Liddy Barlow, Greg Jones, Tracy Keenan, Eric Schaffer



4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Dinner Included
Cefalo's Banquet and Event Center
Carnegie, PA

\$35 per person per event

To register, scan the QR Code or go to
<https://www.bowerhillchurch.org/speakerseries>



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

Nancy Green, Joan McAnulty

Barb Oram, Chloe Snyder



- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| April 4: | Nancy Criswell
Elise Gibbs | April 22: | Owen Geis |
| April 5: | Mark Ehrensberger | April 23: | Tegan Bruce
Kirsten Bruder |
| April 11: | Theresa Child | April 24: | Margaret Zabo |
| April 13: | Mim Starr
Samuel Wetzel | April 25: | Benjamin Carter
Alan Hohlfelder |
| April 16: | Charlotte Young | April 26: | Barb Hughes |
| April 20: | Theodore Grier | April 27: | Ed Hanke |
| April 21: | Bea Watterson | April 29: | Clara Druckenbrod |

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.

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Palm Sunday Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 12:30pm Compassionate Friends (Rm 101,105,110,ER)</p>	<p>30 Flea Market Breakdown (ER,EH) Montessori School - No School</p>	<p>31 Flea Market Breakdown (ER,EH) Montessori School - No School 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:00pm Lenten Series (FR) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>1 Flea Market Breakdown (ER,EH) Montessori School - No School 9:15am Kolonia (Rm 110) 6:00pm Bells Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>2 Montessori School - No School 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom) 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service (FH)</p>	<p>3 Montessori School - No School 7:00pm Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>4 Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast 11:30am Holy Saturday (Sanctuary) 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)</p>
<p>5 8:30am Easter Breakfast (FH) 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Easter Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship</p>	<p>6 Montessori School - No School 7:00pm A & P Comm. (Google Meet) 7:00pm Worship Committee (Rm 101)</p>	<p>7 Montessori School - No School 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group - Danny's 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 4:00pm Montessori After School Program (FH) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>8 Montessori School - No School 9:15am Kolonia (Rm 110) 6:00pm Bells Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>9 Montessori School - No School 4:00pm Montessori After School Program (FH) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)</p>	<p>10 Montessori School - No School</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Unity Food Pantry Collection 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 4:00pm Anne's Student Recital (Sanctuary) 6:30pm Confirmation Class (Rm. FH) 6:30pm Middle and High School Youth Group (Room 110)</p>	<p>13 8:00am Montessori School 7:30pm B&G Meeting (Rm 101)</p>	<p>14 8:00am Montessori School 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 4:00pm Montessori After School Program (FH) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>15 Newsletter and Session Report Deadline 8:00am Montessori School 9:15am Kolonia (Rm 110) 6:00pm Bells Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>16 8:00am Montessori School 4:00pm Montessori After School Program (FH) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)</p>	<p>17 8:00am Montessori School</p>	<p>18 8:00am Mt. Lebo Nature Conservancy (Twin Hill Park) 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)</p>
<p>19 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) - Street Dog Coalition/Harmony Rescue 11:00am First Baptist Worship 1:00pm Anne Smith Music Student Recital (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>20 8:00am Montessori School 7:00pm Deacons Meeting (Rm 110)</p>	<p>21 8:00am Montessori School 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 4:00pm Montessori After School Program (FH) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Finance Meeting (Virtual) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>22 8:00am Montessori School 9:15am Kolonia (Rm 110) 1:00pm Room 110 Reserved 4:00pm Speaker Series (Cefalo's) 6:00pm Bells Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>23 8:00am Montessori School 4:00pm Montessori After School Program (FH)</p>	<p>24 8:00am Montessori School</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 12:00pm First Baptist Church Family Day (FH) 12:30pm Compassionate Friends (Rm 101,105,110,ER) 2:00pm Mission Project with Carnegie Presbyterian (Kitchen & FH)</p>	<p>27 8:00am Montessori School 7:30pm Session Meeting (FR)</p>	<p>28 8:00am Montessori School 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 1:30pm Bookworms (Zoom) 4:00pm Montessori After School Program (FH) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>29 8:00am Montessori School 9:15am Kolonia (Rm 110) 6:00pm Bells Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>30 8:00am Montessori School 4:00pm Montessori After School Program (FH)</p>	<p>1 8:00am Montessori School</p>	<p>2 Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)</p>