

## ~ Wall of Remembrance ~

*"I thank God in all my remembrance of you"*

~ Philippians 1:3

Dear Members and Friends,

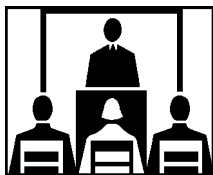
November 7 is "All Saints' Sunday," and we have something special planned. But before we get into that, let's talk about this: Don't you love the smell of a furnace kicking on for the first time in the fall—the dust burning off the long-unused heating element? When do you finally give in and switch on the furnace in autumn? My rule is Halloween. The furnace stays off until the last day in October. (In all truth, I have not enforced that rule since I got married; I can't stand the sight of My Three Ladies shivering and walking around the house in coats and gloves and fuzzy socks.) Little did I know until recently that my rule about lighting up the furnace on Halloween is an ancient one. The early inhabitants of Britain and Ireland saw October 31 as the last day of summer; November 1 was the beginning of winter. They marked the arrival of winter by lighting great bonfires so that everyone in the village could take some flames and embers home to light their own hearths for the season. October 31 was also a night of great movement between the world of the living and the dead. It was on this night that all those who had died in the preceding year were allowed to travel on to the spirit world. Also, the dead were given a few hours to return to their earthly haunts and homes. The bonfires were needed to heat people's homes, but also to light the way for the many spirits who were in transit on that night.

In the 700s, the Church christened these pagan rites and made of them a now-forgotten season called "Allhallowtide." It consisted of three consecutive days: 1) Halloween, when the dead commuted back and forth and hearths were lit against the cold. 2) All Saints' Day, when all those who had lived the life in faith, whether known or unknown, great or small, remembered or forgotten, were celebrated and honored. 3) All Souls' Day, when all the souls that ever lived were commended back to God and tucked back into bed for another year in their eternal rest. Traditions surrounding death and remembrance are among the oldest, most universal practices of human societies.

Which brings us to November 7, 2021, "All Saints' Sunday." COVID has disrupted so much of our lives that we thought a new ritual was in order. We would like to celebrate All Saints' this year by paying a delayed tribute to members of our church who departed from among us during COVID. A church member said to me, "I wish I could just see their faces again. We didn't even get to go to their funerals." And so the idea to create a Wall of Remembrance was born: a place inside the church where you can go to see the faces of those sixteen members of our community who died during COVID. There, you will read a few words about them and, if you want, light a candle in their memory. Gaze on their familiar faces once again. Share memories. Write a few words of your own on a post-it note, and stick it beside the photo of one you love—maybe a prayer, or a memory, or a blessing. The Wall of Remembrance will be unveiled on All Saints' Sunday on the bulletin board just outside the Friendship Room.

In this season of Thanksgiving and remembrance, we hope you'll take an opportunity to give thanks for the many blessings of your life, but also for the people who have helped you along in your journey through this world. Let's not take each other for granted. I'm glad to be making this journey beside you. In Christ's Peace,

~Brian



## ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education classes are continuing at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday both in-person in the Friendship Room and online via Zoom. This year we are learning about the wide variety of our neighbors we have locally, nationally, and globally by looking at programs that help these neighbors. We also are exploring how to grow spiritually, increasing our empathy and our understanding of the many needs our neighbors have. Please consider joining us as often as you can.

~Sarah Neusius, Chair, Adult Education Committee

Our next sessions will be:

October 31 – Crystal Funk, Founding Director of Hearts United with Haiti, will talk about Haiti and opportunities to help support people there.

November 7 – In conjunction with All Saints Day and BHCC's Wall of Remembrance, Phil Jamison will explore community rituals to deal with grief and loss.

November 14 – Dr. Abigail Adams, IUP Anthropology, will talk about her work with the Indiana, PA Police Department exploring diversity as well as community and police safety issues.

November 21 – Pastor Brian Snyder will explore with us how poetry can help us see the world and our neighbors differently and with more empathy.

**Look for more details and Zoom links in your weekly E-Blasts**



### November 7

All Saints Sunday

Communion

Isaiah 25:6-9

Mark 12:28-34

### November 14

25th Sunday after Pentecost

I Samuel 1:4-20

Mark 13:1-8

### November 21

Reign of Christ Sunday

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

### November 28

1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Luke 21:25-36



An opportunity to study a broad range of Biblical passages and advent themes of preparation will be provided on Wednesday evenings. Beginning on December 1st, the four week study will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Rev. Fred Leasure. This will be a wonderful opportunity for a time of fellowship in a festive setting. Pre-registration is not required but encouraged.

For registration or questions please send email to [fhlea97@gmail.com](mailto:fhlea97@gmail.com).



The group continues to meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 1:30 p.m., via Zoom.

**November 23 -- *The Four Winds*, by Kristen Hannah**

-A story from the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl

Bower Hill supports SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement) both as a congregation and as individuals. As a congregation we donate \$8500 per year. It is the Mission Committee's single largest budget item. We also participate in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Before COVID, members of BHCC tutored students, worked in the food pantry, and participated in their Back to School event. For more information about SHIM go to [Home - SHIM \(shimcares.org\)](http://shimcares.org)

**MISSION**  
**Matters**

Stay tuned to this publication in future newsletters to learn about the other local organizations we support.



The church office will be closed on the following dates:

**VETERANS' DAY --November 11**

**THANKSGIVING -- November 25 and 26**



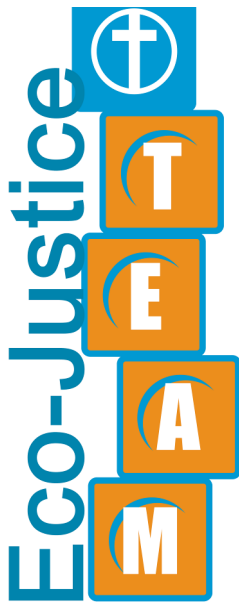
### PONDERINGS FROM THE PA

The month of November is packed full of so many themes and images. We immediately think of Thanksgiving and a time of harvest. Years ago the theme of "In Gathering" meant a time to bring to church nonperishables to distribute to nursing homes and the less fortunate. It was also a time to can vegetables and stockpile items for a cold winter ahead.

For the church, it was the end of the church year. It was time to look forward to the beginning of a new year that would start with advent. Seemingly every committee and group ramped up for special events and activities.

It was also a time to celebrate All Saints' Day: the time to remember the people we loved that had passed on to the church triumphant. Hopefully, those remembrances included an acknowledgement of the way those individuals had helped to shape our faith.

In November 2021 let us look forward to opportunities to enhance our relationships with others, to give thanks for the gift of memory and share our abundance



While recent studies estimate that 85% of the world's population has experienced some effect of climate change, we can see many innovative minds working on the many and varied ways there may be to deal with it.

In Kansas, at the heart of the nation's farming country, scientists at the nonprofit Land Institute have developed a grain that is fundamentally different from all other wheat humans grow. Kernza (from "kernel" plus "Kansas") is a domesticated form of wheatgrass that is a perennial. A single seed will grow into a plant that provides grain year after year. Its roots grow deep and store carbon in the soil, and also act to prevent erosion. It can be planted alongside other crops to reduce the need for fertilizer and provide habitat for wildlife. Proponents say that it can potentially transform farming from a cause of environmental degradation into a solution by mimicking the workings of a natural ecosystem. Kernza, of course, has a long road from test farms to the kitchen table, and it is unlikely to make an angel food cake. Modern farming, however, is extremely carbon intensive, while at the same time is threatened by the prolonged droughts and catastrophic floods we have seen. The Land Institute has been working for two decades on Kernza. It is currently found in some cereals, baked goods, and beers. However, these products can be pricey. Let's hope it won't be long before we can mix some with our whole wheat or bread flours!

In the meantime, you can find a quick look at your own climate footprint by checking out this website: <https://coolclimate.org/calculator>

### **Reflections . . from Eco Justice field trip to Construction Junction and Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse**

If you didn't make it on the field trip, you missed a really good time! Eight of us from Bower Hill trekked to the East End in September to visit two nonprofit organizations that do a terrific job of diverting re-usable materials from area landfills.

Our first stop was at Construction Junction (CJ). Founded in 1999 by the Pennsylvania Resources Council, CJ collects construction materials from individuals, small companies, government, universities, restaurants, and even churches. More than 75% of the organization's annual budget is raised from the sale of these recycled materials. They recycle metal, doors, furniture, plumbing supplies -- even paint! Looking for a glass doorknob for a wooden door? CJ is your place. TV and movie productions are big purchasers of period material. They are great customers, as they generally donate the items back as they head out of town. Stained glass windows recovered from a Pittsburgh area church were sold to Disney for a film made locally. The tour was fascinating, and it was inspiring to see how much material can be re-purposed.

Next door at the Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse (PCCR) we had the opportunity to peruse aisles, shelves and bins of artwork, fabric, old family photos, tiny toys, Legos, vintage board games, decorative containers, wine corks, packing peanuts, glitter, craft kits, jewelry, old media including computer boards, pieces, and wires, and old electric typewriters. All these materials are sorted, organized and priced for individuals to purchase. Artists, crafters, and educators make up a sizable portion of the Center's shoppers. The organization's goal is to make these materials available and accessible, and keep them out of the landfills. PCCR was established 14 years ago and sub-leases space from CJ. As it was described to us, PCCR offers a combination of what you might find at Michael's craft stores, the local Goodwill, your grandparent's attic, and your cousin's art studio!

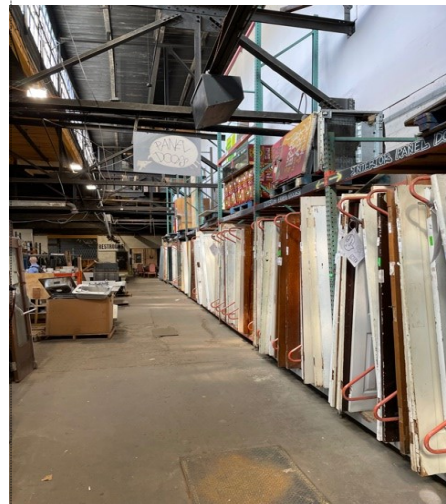
Perhaps Judy Delestienne said it best as she recounted, "It is so easy and mindless to buy manufactured products for our gratification. At both Construction Junction and the Center for Creative Reuse, we can see collections of what people have cast-off, and thoughtful employees and volunteers doing their best to keep lots of stuff from going into landfills. It made me think about what we believe we have to acquire, framing the idea as needs versus wants. We probably don't need much but our wants can be endless." Well said, Judy!



**Our group starts off with our guide at Construction Junction**



**Need a door?**



**A sports bar in Minneapolis called to purchase 100 used trophies. Yes! There is a buyer for everything!**



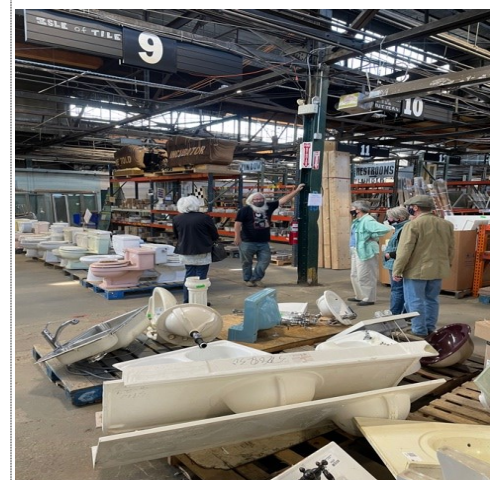
**Drawers of framing hardware, glass stones, foam shapes and more**



**PCCR's collection of reusable items including fabric, DIY craft kits, crayons galore**



**A new pink toilet perhaps?**



### **FLEA MARKET HELP NEEDED**

Despite the challenges of Covid and due to the dedication of our members, Bower Hill has been able to pull off two “safe as humanly possible” flea markets for our customers: one in the fall of 2020 and one in the late spring of 2021. We are hopeful that as we weave our way back to a new normal, the Fall Flea Market to be held on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> will be just as successful. With the worries about rising prices, our flea market may be the way for some of our customers to buy some Christmas gifts or even necessities they might not otherwise be able to afford.



As always, there will be many opportunities to help.

#### **Here's the scoop:**

**Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> - Final Collection**

**Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.-???**

Unpacking the Boxes-Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a workout-typically we're done between 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. Snacks will be provided, but if you're planning on staying all day you may want to bring a bagged lunch.

**Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> -8:15 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.-Sale Day**

The Flea Market opens at 8:30 a.m. and we usually have shoppers arriving early. We usually need the most help the first two or three hours, but with four total rooms, help in the afternoon is important as well.

**Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

Packing up-If you have some time following worship, we can always use help packing up boxes to take back upstairs for the next flea market or for donation. (The Boy Scouts take up the boxes-all we need help with is packing.)

#### **SOUP COOKS AND BAKERS NEEDED, TOO:**

Most likely we'll do a grab and go snack bar like we did for fall 2020. We're looking for bakers to make items for the snack bar such as mini muffins, cookies, and brownies. Baked goods can be dropped off in the Kitchen on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> sometime between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We're also looking for 1-2 gallons of each soup; Chicken Noodle, Potato and Chili-containers can be provided-soup can be dropped off in the kitchen on Friday from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or brought to the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. on the day of the Flea Market.

Tentative plans for safety measures:

- Masks will be worn by workers and customers
- During the initial rush, we will let in groups of about 20 people at a time and assess how crowded it gets-if necessary, we will hold off on letting more people in, until other customers leave
- Frequent sanitation of high traffic tables
- Additional measures as directed by the Open the Church Task Force

If you can help, we'll have sign-ups for soup cooks, bakers, and day of sale help outside the Sanctuary after the worship service on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> or contact Theresa Child at 412-429-9519 or at [treetoowon@yahoo.com](mailto:treetoowon@yahoo.com).

Thanks in advance for all your help to make this year's fall flea market a success.



**Usher captains and greeters** continue to be needed for weekly worship.

Please reply by emailing Sally Child directly at [sa.child@yahoo.com](mailto:sa.child@yahoo.com) or

### 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.

### SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Our next gathering will be on **Tuesday, November 2, at 8:00 a.m.** The meeting location is the Denny's restaurant at 2180 Greentree Road, near Swallow Hill Road. No reservation is required, and conversation is spontaneous. The regular meeting date will be the first Tuesday of each month.

**All men are welcome.**

Any questions or comments, contact Glenn Child at [gstchild@yahoo.com](mailto:gstchild@yahoo.com).

### UNITY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 14, is the next collection date.

As the holidays approach, Unity Food Pantry's greatest need is for cake mix and icing, canned yams, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, and packets of gravy mix. Unity Food Pantry is grateful for Bower Hill Community Church's partnership in our ministry to feed our neighbors in need!

Items can be brought to the church on Sundays and on weekdays during regular business hours. They may be placed in the collection bin located in the hallway outside the church office.



### LIGHTING THE STEEPLE -- Dedications for November are as follows:



**November 14** -- In celebration of Jim McAnulty.

**November 30** -- In loving memory of my father, Ralph Earlandson, with love Kay Earlandson Allen.

The opportunity to light the steeple of Bower Hill Community Church continues. Many have sponsored a night in honor of a person or a special occasion. It has also been lit as a way to memorialize a special person who has passed away. Notice of the lighting and the person, event, or date that it commemorates, will appear in the weekly bulletin. The cost of this is \$10 a day and can be sent directly to the church. (You will not be billed for this.)

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](mailto:amlea97@hotmail.com).



**UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MINISTRIES -- Amy Grella - 412-801-3723****Godly Play: Investing in the Spiritual Development of our Children**

Bower Hill introduced Godly Play in Sunday School for children almost a decade ago. The time that our children spend downstairs during worship is SO much more than learning Bible stories and doing crafts! As our traditional Sunday school format continues to transform into a meaningful worship experience, we are seeking adult volunteers to serve as worship leaders. What is the difference between a Sunday school teacher and a Children's worship leader? The Rev. Sharon Stewart will lead a training event where we explore this question and learn more about Godly Play. We strongly encourage all adult volunteers who work with our kids as well as parents to attend. This special on-line zoom training will be held on Thursday, October 28 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Use [this zoom link](#) to join. The training will be recorded and shared afterward if you are not able to attend.

**Save the Date - Acolyte Training on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**

An important rite of passage for our tweens and middle schoolers at Bower Hill is serving as acolytes during the worship service. We are happy to plan for the return of this tradition beginning in Advent! Pastor Brian will lead a short (15-20 minute) training in the sanctuary immediately following worship on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. This training will be for all new acolytes (3rd graders) as well as any other kids (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) who want to attend for a refresher on what to do. We hope families and youth join us afterward as we Deck the Halls.

**Deck the Halls - Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**

Many hands make light work! Please join us immediately following coffee hour on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> to help prepare the church for advent and Christmas. There will be no second hour classes that day so everyone can help. Childcare will be available in room 110.

**Christmas Wreath and Greens Sale**

Bower Hill Youth will be selling Christmas wreaths and swags to raise funds for our summer mission trip. The deluxe mixed green wreaths will be made by JB Tree Farms and will contain three or more various fresh greens that are grown on their Alexandria, PA farm: Fraser Fir, Southwestern White Pine, Scotch Pine, Arbor Vitae, Spruce, and Douglas Fir. Multiple wreath sizes and swags will be available for sale after church on Sunday October 24, 31<sup>st</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>. Wreaths will be available for pickup on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. You may also enter your order online. [Click here for the order form](#). Thank you for supporting Bower Hill Youth!

**Nativity Wonderland Coming to Fellowship Hall - Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

There is something wonderful each year as your nativity set is carefully unpacked to display for the holiday season. Nativity sets can invoke cherished memories and instill hope for the advent season ahead. Do you have a nativity with a story to share? In leu of a children's pageant this year, we are inviting the congregation to share and enjoy a Nativity Wonderland. You will setup your nativity in fellowship hall the morning of Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> for a festive Open House that afternoon from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served. We will leave the nativity sets up through coffee hour the following day December 5<sup>th</sup>, and then you can take them home again. Look for more details to join in the fun.

**Fall Youth Group Retreats**

Registration is open for our two fall retreats for the middle and high school youth groups. We decided this year to sponsor separate retreats for each group. Both retreats are with other churches. The same COVID policy is in place (requiring proof of vaccine or negative COVID test just before the trip), which you will see and read in the registration links below. Please reach out to Amy if you have any questions.

**High School Retreat at Crestfield**

Dates: Friday, Nov. 12 - Sunday, Nov. 14

Location: Crestfield Camp and Conference Center

Partnering with: Sunset Hills United Presbyterian

Chaperones: Amy Grella, Jeremiah Wagner

Cost: \$90, includes all meals (all 3 on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday) - catered by Crestfield.

[Please click here to register for High School Retreat.](#)



**Middle School Retreat at Ligonier**

Dates: Friday, Nov. 19 - Sunday, Nov. 21

Location: Ligonier Camp and Conference Center

Partnering with: Hiland, Northmont, Tarentum, Wexford, Ben Avon, and Crossroads

Chaperones: Amy Grella, Chad Johnson (Hiland's youth director)

Cost: \$90, includes all meals (all 3 on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday) - provided by Ligonier, and a t-shirt.

Registration deadline (for t-shirt order): October 28<sup>th</sup> Registrations after that will not include a t-shirt.

[Please click here to register for the Middle School Retreat.](#)

**November Youth Group Activities**

New groups for kids and youth from 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade have formed. There are separate youth group options for the following three age groups: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades (aka our tweens), middle school, high school. Led by Miss Amy and other volunteers, these groups will meet once a month on Sunday evenings. As the weather is turning cooler, meetings will be held indoors in room 110 adjacent to the playground. Because each group is only meeting once a month, it is vital that you make every effort to have your child participate during their appropriate night, so we have enough kids to make it meaningful. Kids are welcome to bring friends or neighbors to join us.

**Tweens (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades) meetups at the church**

November 7<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

December 5<sup>th</sup> - 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades) meetups**

November 14<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the church

November 19-21 - **Middle School Retreat at Camp Ligonier**

December 12<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. - White Elephant Christmas Party combined with senior high

**High School (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades) meetups**

November 12-14 - **High School Retreat at Crestfield**

November 21<sup>st</sup> - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the church

December 12<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. - White Elephant Christmas Party combined with junior high

**Fall Sunday Morning Options for Children, Youth and Families**

In-person options continue for all ages. Our nursery is open for babies and toddlers during worship. During second hour, childcare will be provided in room 110. Please look below for details on the plan by each age group. Complete COVID safety procedures can be found on the church website under the Children & Youth tab. In general, masks are required for everyone 3 years and older who are working with children, and we practice social distancing during seated activities.

**Children's Worship (Preschool - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)**

Children preschool (potty trained) up to second grade will start in worship with their families. After the Children's Sermon, kids will be escorted downstairs to room 103, our Children's Worship Space. Children will have their very own worship experience using Godly Play, learning Bible stories through seeing, hearing, and hands-on activities. Parents may pick up their children in the classroom after worship ends.

**Tweens (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders will meet during worship in our newly refreshed room 105 using the Sparkhouse Holy Moly curriculum. This class begins at 9:30 a.m. so kids should go directly to room 105 on Sunday morning. Parents may pick up their children in the classroom after worship ends.

**Middle & High School (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade) with parents - New 2<sup>nd</sup> hour option**

Older youth in 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to remain in worship at 9:30 with their families and join us for **Journey Together**, a new second hour option **for families to do together** with their youth in grades six through twelve and led by Amy Grella. It is a series of planned activities focused on exploring the Bible, the Spirit, being Disciples, our Church, and our World. It is NOT a straight Bible study. Think of it to experience spiritual growth through engaging, fun activities. The class is now meeting in room 105 at 11:00 a.m. Childcare is available in room 110 during this time.



Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor  
br@bhccml.com

**Parish Associate**

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure  
fr@bhccml.com

**Company of Pastors**

Rev. Dr. Tami Hooker  
Rev. Phil Jamison  
Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure  
Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes

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**THE CHURCH OFFICE**

70 Moffett St., Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
(412) 561-4114

office@bhccml.com

Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

**www.BowerHillChurch.org**



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR  
CARE LIST**

**Bower Hill Church Members**

Jeff Carper, Sally Child  
Dan Duffy, Jean Dunfee  
Georgia Gallo, Nancy Green  
Nina Helbling, Barbara Oram  
Dottie Post, Donna Williams

Chuck Laufer

**NOVEMBER**



**Nov. 1:** Kate Junker  
Anna Kocher  
Bennett Kocher  
Michael Simpson-

Hunt

**Nov. 3:** Josie Sheldon

**Nov. 6:** Kara May  
Madelyn Salvante

**Nov. 8:** Georgia Gallo

**Nov. 9:** Andy Hicks

**Nov. 10:** Greta Snyder

**Nov. 13:** Jason May

Ellie Rising

**Nov. 20:** Allison Druckenbrod

**Nov. 21:** Cassandra  
Gibbons

Melanie

May

**Nov. 24:** Vickie Bruce

Allison

Lease

**Nov. 25:** Lisa Shwallon

Michelle

Snyder

**Nov. 28:** Gloria Child

Clint Kelley

**Nov. 29:** Sam Kidder

***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.