



## ~Purple for Lent~

*“And [the Roman soldiers] clothed Jesus in a purple cloak;  
and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.  
And they began saluting him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’”*

~Mark 15:17

Dear Members and Friends,

The holy season of Lent begins with a special service of Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on February 22. The cloths at the front of the church will be changed to a rich purple, which is beautiful, but it can seem...odd. I mean, purple? In our culture you can use gray, green, brown or blue almost anywhere and anytime. Both white and black can seem formal, but they're versatile and not off limits. You can also use yellow, red, pink or orange for a little extra feeling. But purple is an outlier. You never see a purple street sign. You rarely see a purple car or house. I don't think I've ever owned a purple shirt. Some self-confident soul could get away with purple pants, but I could not. Mark tells us that Pilate had Jesus dressed in purple. This was presumably to mock his poverty, since Jesus was called “the King of the Jews,” and only the rich could afford clothes dyed purple. (Oddly, Matthew says the color was red, but when in doubt, I tend to trust Mark!) Purple had always been a symbol for royalty, wisdom, and power. It has since become a symbol for Jesus's reign, but also a symbol for his suffering—and a symbol for all suffering: his, yours, theirs, mine. And so, purple has a bit of an identity crisis. Is it magnificent or sad, majestic or mournful?

Lent is a little bit of both, I guess. Traditionally, it's been a time to grieve our sins and to strive to overcome them. But sin does not mean, “I'm evil and need to be punished.” Sin means, “I'm broken and need to be made whole.” Perhaps the best way to overcome brokenness and pain is not to focus on it, but instead to focus on all that is whole and right, in an effort to enhance those things. (A “strengths-based approach” to penitence?) Here's a bit of guidance as we journey into Lent.

Find something purple, and put that purple object in your daily field of vision to remind you that this is a special season. Then follow these rules, below. I'm going to call these eight commandments “The Purple Code”:

- 1) This Lenten season, whenever you feel burned out, read—something inspiring.
- 2) This Lenten season, whenever you feel sad, exercise.
- 3) This Lenten season, whenever you feel angry, listen to music.
- 4) This Lenten season, whenever you feel anxious, meditate or pray.
- 5) This Lenten season, whenever you feel lazy or listless, reduce screen time!
- 6) This Lenten season, whenever you overthink things, write.
- 7) This Lenten season, whenever you feel tired, go ahead and take a nap.
- 8) This Lenten season, whenever you feel stressed, go for a walk.

Of course, the whole purpose of changing our behaviors in Lent is so that we can build better habits that will remain with us throughout a lifetime. The church can only endure about six weeks of purple cloths per year. But we could happily spend the rest of our days with the Purple Code. By the way! “Lentflix” potlucks and movie discussion nights will be back this Lent, beginning in March! If you know of a thought-provoking movie that probes some important questions in life, we're open to suggestions.

In Christ's Peace,

~Brian



### **WORSHIP PLANS**

#### **February 5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Communion**

1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:13-20

#### **February 12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Scout Sunday**

1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

#### **February 19 Transfiguration of the Lord**

2 Peter  
Matthew 17:1-9

#### **February 22 Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes**

7:00 p.m.  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

#### **February 26 First Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-17  
Matthew 4:1-11

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 20, in observance of Presidents' Day.

**Upcoming Deadlines** - Article submissions for the March newsletter and Session reports for the February Session meeting are due into the church office by Wednesday, February 15.

### **FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

Do you have a young musician or singer in our household? We warmly invite them to participate in the following ensembles -

A **string** ensemble will rehearse *Abide With Me* in the sanctuary from 11-11:30 a.m. on 2/12, 2/26, and 3/5, and perform in worship on 3/12. Additional options - Ode to Joy and Wondrous Love.

**Cherubs** (singers K-2) will rehearse *Little Grey Donkey* in the choir room from 11-11:30 a.m. on 3/12, 3/19, and 3/26; and perform in worship on Palm Sunday - 4/2.

Unable to make the rehearsals/performance as listed? Complete the availability form at <https://bit.ly/philform3>, or scan the QR code to let Anne know when you're available. We will work with your schedule :)



Check out the full music calendar at <https://bit.ly/bhccmusic> or scan the QR code below. Email Anne at [Anne.smith@bowerhillchurch.org](mailto:Anne.smith@bowerhillchurch.org) for music parts.

### **CONGREGATION MEETING NOTICE**

By official call of the Session, the first 2023 regular meeting of the congregation of Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian U.S.A.) will be held on **Sunday, February 26, in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service, and via Hybrid.**

The agenda for the meeting includes a review of the 2022 year-end financial statement, presentation of the 2023 operating budget as adopted by Session, and approval of the pastor's revised terms of call.

~~Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session

### **PASTORAL PONDERINGS**

Following the decorations and excitement of the Christmas season there can be a time of sadness, depression and grayness. Even the church experiences a time of quiet leading up to the introspection of Lent. Many of us do not do well without activity and goals to enliven and challenge us. Sometimes it may feel like how my grandsons feel, when even though they have so many opportunities, they say, "I'm bored."

There are so many opportunities at Bower Hill Community Church to challenge us and engage our talents. Ushers, greeters, coffee hosts, youth workers, committee members, all are needs that are ongoing. If none of these interest you, think of some ability you have and ask how it can be used in ministry. A phone call a day to someone can not only benefit the person you call, but you as well. Turn these gray days into sunshine as you respond to God's call to community.

~ Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate

## Sanctuary Flowers/Donations 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: Amy Leasure at [amlea97@hotmail.com](mailto:amlea97@hotmail.com). MULTIPLE sponsors can share the SAME DATE.



## Adult Education Classes in February

Please plan to join us for Adult Education during BHCC's second hour from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM on Sunday mornings. We meet in-person in the Friendship Room and also over Zoom in a hybrid format. In February we will continue to explore issues and needs related to answering the call to servanthood.

February sessions will be as follows:

On February 5, Craig Grella, BHCC member and Mount Lebanon Commissioner, will talk about diversity and inclusion efforts in Mt Lebanon.

On February 12, BHCC member and Coordinator of the Table Ministry at Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community (HMBFC) Karl Casey and Lachan Russell, mental health therapist for HMBFC, will be presenting on HMBFC's work with Pittsburgh's unhoused population especially as it relates to mental health issues.

On February 19, the Rev. Janet Edwards and Theo Towns from the Pittsburgh Presbytery's Anti-Racism Transformation Team (ARTT) will be with us to discuss the campaign for reparations for the Bethel AME church, the oldest black church in Pittsburgh (founded 1808), whose building was seized and torn down in 1957 to make way for the Civic Arena.

On February 26, after our short semi-annual congregational meeting, Pastor Brian Snyder will introduce us to using Protestant prayer beads, a spiritual practice which can help ground us as we seek to be servants of God.

We hope you will set aside this hour to learn and grow with other BHCC members and friends.

~Sarah Neusius, Adult Education Committee

**UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MINISTRIES -- AMY GRELLA - 412-801-3723****Upcoming Youth Group Meet-ups**

The 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade group meet twice a month, typically on the first and third Sunday evenings. The senior high youth group meets after-church on the second Sunday of the month. Kids are welcome to bring friends or neighbors to join in the fun on any activity.

**February 5 – 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth group  
First Annual Pre-Superbowl Event (details forthcoming)!

**February 12 – 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Senior high brunch out; bring money to cover your meal at a local (TBD) eatery. Meet in Fellowship Hall.

**February 19 – 6:30-8:00 p.m.** 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth group

**March 5 – 6:30-8:00 p.m.** 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth group

**Youth Group Mission Updates****Hot Metal Bridge recap**

The youth groups worked together to make homemade Texas sheet cake and beef stew. Eight individuals (3 youth, 5 adults) served close to 60 meals at Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community. Thank you to all who donated food, and especially your time to help the youth be safe and productive in the kitchen!

**Philadelphia Hoops Fund**

Through your generosity, in December the youth group raised and sent a check for \$605 to Ruth Bennett Farms for the purchase of one portable basketball hoop. The farm contacted us to let us know that they secured funds for the additional hoop. Since both hoops have now been procured, the youth committee has decided to suspend future fundraising plans for this effort. Thanks to all who donated to make this improvement possible for the youth we connected with while serving last summer.



**UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MINISTRIES -- AMY GRELLA - 412-801-3723****Spring Retreats for Youth**

We are hard at work planning Spring retreat options for our youth groups. To help you decide if this opportunity is right for your child, please prayerfully consider **why we retreat**.

**WHY is it vitally important for youth to retreat?** Retreats allow youth to grow by taking them out of their norm and giving them a break from their day-to-day. Kids unplug, breaking their dependence on technology. They get to play outside and tune in with the natural world, instilling a deeper appreciation for the beauty of God's creation. Kids are given opportunities to make choices independent of parents and teachers, thus instilling important leadership skills for the future. Kids are encouraged to try new things, even if they are a little nervous about them, and once they see their accomplishment, their self-esteem soars. Sharing new experiences together as a group allows us to get to know each other better and in new and different ways, which makes lasting group memories. Youth retreats are all about empowering young people to experience God together and helping them grow.

Registration will be opening very soon for the following retreat opportunities.

**March 10-12 - Spring Retreat at Camp Ligonier**

Don't miss out this time... we will return to Camp Ligonier for a weekend retreat open to all middle school and high school students in grades 6-12. We will partner again with area youth from the six 319 / North Hills churches. We will help with an on-site work/service project on Saturday morning in exchange for (free) use of their adventure equipment in the afternoon.

**March 25-26 - Tweeners Retreat at Camp Crestfield**

The Tweeners retreat is a fun-filled overnight event, specifically designed for students in grades 3-6. The Next Generation Team of the Pittsburgh Presbytery is running this shortened retreat, with Crestfield hosting youth from churches across the region. We will leave early on Saturday morning and return by lunchtime on Sunday.

**SAVE THE DATE for these Upcoming Awesome Summer Events!**

**Join us for VBS the week of July 31 – August 4** as we go To Mars and Beyond. VBS will run mornings 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for kids in pre-school through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Kids 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up are invited to help lead in the morning, and then stay through 3 p.m. for lunch, games and activities.

**High School Puerto Rico Mission Trip July 1-7**

A team of high school youth and adult leaders will be traveling to Puerto Rico for a mission trip leaving July 1, 2023. Right now, we have 5 people committed to travel, and we are actively recruiting additional youth to get our number closer to 10. Please reach out if you have. Check your email for further details and information. **The first deadline to register for this trip is Sunday, January 8.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Camp at Crestfield July 9-14**

Join the youth group as we spend a week away at Crestfield! During the day, we will adventure through challenge activities including ropes courses, canoeing, swamp ball and more. There will be a chaplain on site who will be leading the campers in discovering God's Word and growing their spiritual life. Campers will enjoy evening activities such as Capture the Flag, Gold Rush (a Crestfield favorite similar to Capture the Flag), and Lip Sync Night. We will also enjoy some quiet moments of song and reflection in our beautiful outdoor chapel at the end of each day. Campers will be housed in the Cottages and Lodge, and weather permitting, will get to experience a camp out night under the stars. Check-in starts at 3 p.m. Sunday. Pick up is at 6 p.m. Friday.

# UPCOMING

## Fellowship Events

**Senior Men's Breakfast**  
**Tuesday, February 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](mailto:gstchild@yahoo.com).

**Hooks & Needles**  
**February 4 & 18**  
**10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Hooks and needles continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. We will meet in Room 110 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

**Koinonia**  
**Wednesdays**  
**9:00 a.m.**

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 at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge (Room 110). Contact Sarah Neusius ([sraahneusius@gmail.com](mailto:sraahneusius@gmail.com)) for more information or just come and join us.

**Get Outdoors**  
**Saturday, February 4**

Keep your eye out for the BHCC's E-Blast with more details on our January Get Outdoors hike.

**Bookworms**  
**Tuesday, February 21**  
**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.

**February 21:** Of One Blood All Nations: John Bingham: Ohio Congressman's Diplomatic Career in Meiji, Japan (1873 – 1885) ~By Sam Kidder



## 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.

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## UNITY FOOD PANTRY Collection Date - February 12

Unity Food Pantry's greatest needs are for boxed cereal, macaroni and cheese, and spaghetti sauce, although all non-perishable food items and paper products are welcome.



## HOT METAL BRIDGE DONATIONS

Coats, hoodies, socks, gloves can continue to be dropped off anytime throughout the winter. Please place them in a bag marked HOT METAL. Bags can be dropped off in the foyer outside the church office in the bins labeled for Hot Metal Bridge.

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## HARP DONATIONS

Donations are still being accepted.

- Hand towels or bath towels (without holes or frays)
- Blankets
- Phone Book
- Newspaper
- Cardboard: Egg Carton, Toilet Paper Roll, Paper Towel Roll, Tissue Box, Cereal Box

## FROM THE ECO-JUSTICE TEAM

One of the easier ways to live responsibly involves curbing food waste. It's already something we probably learned from our parents or grandparents, just because they lived a more frugal life than today's Americans. In this country, food waste is responsible for more than twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as commercial aviation. It could be considered low-hanging fruit in efforts to slow the speed of climate change. With that in mind, some cities and states have enacted regulations to mandate composting, and some have municipal, industrial-type composting systems that can even handle meat products. All residents have to do is sort. This, of course, can be expensive and, in some places, perceived as unwelcome government interference. The area around Columbus, Ohio, is trying a different approach.

In the region covered by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), nearly a million pounds of food is thrown into a landfill every day. Households in the United States account for 39% of the country's food waste, more than restaurants, grocery stores, or farms. It's not that we plan on wasting food, it just happens. Things migrate to the back of the refrigerator, and out of our consciousness, until we find a moldy mess. In an effort to extend the lifespan of its landfill, SWACO has embarked on a program of persuasion, and is one of the few agencies to have measured the effectiveness of its campaign. In 2021, 51% of the region's waste was diverted from the landfill, mainly by recycling and composting, a record for the agency. They blanketed the area with social media posts, email messages, and postcards. Rather than hammer on climate change, they got people's attention through pocketbook issues. They detailed hard costs, like the \$1500 annually the average family in central Ohio spends on food that is thrown away, and the 22 million gallons of gas used yearly to haul it away. They also provided tips: shop with a list, create meal plans, label and freeze leftovers.

Schools joined the effort, knowing the power of children to influence habits at home. Waste bins are placed in the center of the cafeteria, labeled "Landfill," "Recycle," and "Compost." There is a "share table" to place unopened items that can be taken by others. In the town of Hilliard, the elementary schools cut their trash pickups by 30% and their recycling pickups by 50%, saving the district \$22,000. They also diverted 100 tons of food from the landfill.

Successes like these give us all hope and inspiration. Through individual and group efforts, we can indeed make a difference.

## **FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE:**

Why do White Americans have on average 13 times more wealth than African Americans? There have been government policies after the Civil War that have led to this disparity. Bread for the World has documented some of these policies. Here is their Policy #7 contributing to the gap.

### **Minding the Gap: Policy #7 The G.I. Bill of 1944**

This was enacted to help World War II veterans adjust to civilian life by providing low-cost home mortgages, low-interest business loans, tuition assistance, and unemployment insurance. Unfortunately, black veterans were excluded from many of these benefits.

### **What was the G.I. bill?**

The G.I. Bill, formally known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, provided military veterans returning from World War II with many benefits,<sup>1</sup> including low-cost mortgages, high school or vocational education, college tuition and living expenses, unemployment insurance, and low-interest loans for veterans to start businesses. Although the G.I. Bill was considered a success, African American veterans were denied many of its benefits. This has contributed to many of the ongoing challenges in the African American community, including earning enough to support a family, putting food on the table, and saving for the future.

The difference between the G.I. Bill and some of the earlier policies we have seen is that the G.I. Bill did not *explicitly* exclude African American veterans. Rather, the legislation, by failing to take into account the effects of existing discriminatory laws and policies, significantly reduced the degree to which African American veterans were able to share in its benefits. The racial disparities in the benefits provided under the G.I. Bill could most likely have been reduced if it had specifically included provisions that *all* veterans were eligible to participate fully and equitably. In the absence of such provisions, discriminatory laws applied to African American veterans, the same as to other African Americans. For example, the G.I. Bill provided low-cost government-backed loans. But in the 1940s, African Americans remained ineligible for federally-backed loans under the Fair Housing Act, and banks would generally refuse to make mortgage loans in "Grade D" (primarily African American) neighborhoods. See policies 3 and 4. In addition, African Americans were effectively excluded from the suburbs by a combination of deed covenants and informal racism.

The ability of (white) veterans to use government-guaranteed mortgage loans was a pillar of the G.I. Bill. It enabled many to buy homes in the country's fast-growing suburbs. The values of these homes also increased significantly over the next few decades. This created vast new household wealth for whites during the postwar era—laying a foundation for the American middle class. Other discriminatory laws and practices also had the effect of reducing or eliminating benefits for African Americans under the G.I. Bill. Among the most significant were the Jim Crow segregation laws. The G.I. Bill contained provisions for unemployment insurance and benefits to help pay for higher education, but Jim Crow laws prevented their fair implementation.

The Veterans Administration (VA), whose purpose is to represent and serve the interests of military veterans, did not do so in the case of African American veterans. Instead, the agency participated in discrimination. For example, the VA helped prevent black veterans from obtaining unemployment benefits. Black veterans were often offered substantially lower wages than their white counterparts for the same work. But when these veterans took complaints about job and wage discrimination to the VA, the VA would terminate the unemployment insurance of those who were appealing to it, rather than investigating the discrimination. This made it nearly impossible for black veterans to refuse to work for unfair wages. At the same time, VA attorneys testified on behalf of many white military veterans to help them regain the same job, at the same pay, as they had before going off to war.

Segregated educational institutions also prevented veterans from receiving benefits they were due under the G.I. Bill. From 1940 until as recently as 1980, it was much more difficult for black veterans to get a higher education than it was for white veterans. This was true nationwide, but particularly in the south. In the 1940s, white colleges in both the north and south were largely closed to blacks. African American veterans' main options were Historically Black College or Universities (HBCUs). But all these schools were extremely overcrowded, with many applicants on waitlists. Black colleges were forced to deny admission altogether to nearly 20,000 black veterans.

In addition to Jim Crow discrimination at the universities, the VA also discriminated against African American veterans seeking higher education. When applying for tuition benefits under the G.I. Bill, black veterans were often steered toward vocational training instead of university courses. In some cases, VA job counselors explicitly told black applicants that they needed no further education.

A 1947 study found that of the 1,700 veterans employed by the VA, only seven were African American, despite the fact that one-third of all southern veterans at the time were African American. Perhaps a more diverse VA would have adopted more inclusive policies and fought for the rights of *all* veterans.

### **How did unequal benefits under the G.I. Bill contribute to the racial hunger, income, and wealth gaps?**

The G.I. Bill is credited with creating the American middle class by opening homeownership and higher education to millions of World War II veterans. Today's middle class would be larger and much more diverse—and the racial wealth gap would be narrower—if veterans regardless of race had benefited from the legislation. The rate of food insecurity among African Americans would most likely be significantly lower, since an inclusive G.I. Bill would have enabled the World War II generation to buy homes, develop businesses, and earn college degrees.



## Haiti Water Team disbands and disburses remaining funds:

Given the ongoing unrest in Haiti and the urgent humanitarian needs faced by the people of Haiti, the Water Team met on December 18, 2022, to decide how best to use the funds still in our account. (\$23,568.15). Seeing that the political situation in Haiti is unlikely to change for the better anytime soon, it is unlikely that any of us would be making a trip back to Haiti in the coming months or even years. It has now been over four years since any of us have been to Haiti in person.

As we hear of the very dire struggles for survival in Haiti, we thought it best to respond to the needs now rather than continue to hold funds for future work in the country. We also feel as though the team at Living Waters for the World has more direct contact with the Haitian partners and can more effectively attend to the most urgent needs related to the water systems and do it on a more timely basis. Consequently, the BHCC Team decided that we should disband and put to good use the remaining money in the Haiti account as follows:

\$1,000 - Harvest for Haiti (providing assistance to Haitian farmers)

\$2,000 - Orphanage in Vallere run by Pastor Daniel, where we have a water system

\$5,000 - Hearts United with Haiti, run by Crystal Funk

\$15,568.15 - Living Waters for the World - for the greatest water needs in Haiti, including repairs to systems we have installed (LWW's discretion)

This provides support for the four main groups we have associations with in the country while providing the majority of the money for water systems. (Our original mission) This will take our balance to \$0 and essentially remove us from hands-on ministry in Haiti. As a church we can still respond to future needs, if we desire, through individual gifts, Mission Facilitation, or future congregational fundraisers. We will certainly continue to stay in touch with those contacts we have in the country.

These decisions were made with a lot of prayerful discernment by our team. While it is somewhat bittersweet after 12 years to be making this move, we think it addresses the current realities and needs in Haiti and is the best way to move forward.

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## IRU Team (Immigration, Refugee, & Undocumented Persons Team) Update

The IRU Team met on January 18, 2023, to follow-up on the Borderlinks Training that a number of us took in October 2022. One of the issues discussed was how can we assist organizations in our area that work with immigrants. The organization that has recently asked for volunteers is Casa San Jose, however, another group that works with immigrants that Bower Hill is actively involved with is SHIM.

While not directly related to our work, we also discussed the need for volunteers within our church by helping with our youth (check with Amy Grella on the need).

No matter who you may be interested in volunteering with, you need to get clearances from the state. It is easier if you do it online. Below are the links to the Pa.Gov pages for the clearances you need for Casa San Jose and SHIM. Or you can go to their websites to find the links to the clearances by checking their information on volunteering.

If interested in working with our youth, check with Amy about which clearances are required.

There are some fees involved with getting the clearances. If you need help with the fees, Bower Hill can assist you through the Mission Facilitation Fund. Contact Jean Miewald for more details.

If you have any questions, check with any member of IRU Team (Linda James-chair, Betsy Hohlfelder, Darendia Lease, Sarah Neusius and Theresa Child). And if you sign up as a volunteer, please let us know which organization you are volunteering with. We would love to recognize our volunteers.

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/Criminal-Background-Check.aspx>

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/PA-Child-Abuse-History-Clearance.aspx>

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/FBI-Fingerprinting.aspx>

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/National-Sex-Offender-Registry.aspx>



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Please pray  
for Our Care List

**Bower Hill Church Members**

Jeff Carper, Georgia Gallo  
Joan McAnulty



February 4:	Nathan Gray	February 20:	Taylor Linaburg
February 8:	Susan Hicks	February 22:	LuAnn McNickle Mary Ryfun
February 10:	Lauren Kocher Beth Wilson	February 24:	Scott Olinger Val Watterson
February 11:	Brianna Brown Caroline Donahue	February 26:	Matthew Arner Chris Robbins
February 13:	Nate Ivey Glenn Williams	February 27:	Jean Barker Nick Gibbs Norma Grubb Chris May Tracy Riggle-Young
February 14:	Rachel McElroy	February 29:	Emily Chin
February 16:	Jim Kane		
February 18:	Karl Casey		

***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.

## FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:30am Children's Worship (PreK-5th gr.) 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Adult Education (FR & Online) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 2:30pm Compassionate Friends (101, 105, 110, FR)	<b>30</b> 8:00am Montessori School	<b>31</b> 8:00am Montessori School 11:00am Staff (101) 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 7:00pm BS Troop 28 (FH)	<b>1</b> 8:00am Montessori School 9:00am Koinonia (110) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>2</b> 8:00am Montessori School 10:00am Worship & Music (101) 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 6:00pm Bells 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH, 105, 110) 7:00pm Choir	<b>3</b> 8:00am Montessori School 7:00pm BHCC Choir at Temple Emanuel for Shabbat Shira	<b>4</b> Get Outdoors - See the weekly church announcements for details 10:00am Hooks & Needles (RM 110)
<b>5</b> 9:30am Children's Worship (PreK-5th gr.) 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Adult Education (FR & Online) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop (Rm 110 & Playground) 6:30pm 3rd-8th grade youth group - annual Pre-Superbowl Event	<b>6</b> 8:00am Montessori School	<b>7</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group - Denny's 8:00am Montessori School 11:00am Staff (101) 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 7:00pm BS Troop 28 (FH)	<b>8</b> 8:00am Montessori School 9:00am Koinonia (110) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>9</b> 8:00am Montessori School 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 6:00pm Bells 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH, 105, 110) 7:00pm Choir	<b>10</b> 8:00am Montessori School	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Scout Sunday 12:00am Senior High Brunch Out Unity Food Pantry Collection 9:30am Children's Worship (PreK-5th gr.) 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 10:30am Sr. High brunch out 11:00am Adult Education (FR & Online) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 11:00am String ensemble rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>13</b> 8:00am Montessori School 7:30pm Mission Comm. (Google Meet)	<b>14</b> 8:00am Montessori School 11:00am Staff (101) 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 7:00pm BS Troop 28 (FH) 7:00pm Communication Committee - (Rm 101 & Google Meet)	<b>15</b> Newsletter and Session Report Deadline 8:00am Montessori School 9:00am Koinonia (110) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>16</b> 8:00am Montessori School 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 6:00pm Bells 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH, 105, 110) 7:00pm Choir 8:00pm Eco-Justice Team (Hybrid/FR)	<b>17</b> 8:00am Montessori School	<b>18</b> 10:00am Hooks & Needles (RM 110)
<b>19</b> 9:30am Children's Worship (PreK-5th gr.) 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Adult Education (FR & Online) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 6:30pm Youth Group 3rd - 8th graders (RM 110)	<b>20</b> Montessori - No school Office Closed - Holiday	<b>21</b> 8:00am Montessori School 11:00am Staff (101) 1:30pm Bookworms (Zoom) 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 7:00pm BS Troop 28 (FH)	<b>22</b> 8:00am Montessori School 9:00am Koinonia (110) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>23</b> 8:00am Montessori School 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 6:00pm Bells 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH, 105, 110) 7:00pm Choir	<b>24</b> 8:00am Montessori School	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Congregation Meeting 9:30am Children's Worship (PreK-5th gr.) 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Adult Education (FR & Online) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 11:00am String ensemble rehearsal (Sanctuary) 2:30pm Compassionate Friends (101, 105, 110, FR)	<b>27</b> 8:00am Montessori School 7:00pm Session Meeting (ZOOM)	<b>28</b> 8:00am Montessori School 11:00am Staff (101) 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 7:00pm BS Troop 28 (FH)	<b>1</b> 8:00am Montessori School 9:00am Koinonia (110) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>2</b> 8:00am Montessori School 10:00am Worship & Music (101) 4:00pm Montessori (FH) 6:00pm Bells 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH, 105, 110) 7:00pm Choir	<b>3</b> 8:00am Montessori School	<b>4</b> Get Outdoors - See the weekly church announcements for details 10:00am Hooks & Needles (RM 110)