



~To All Generations~

*“For the Lord is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever,
and God’s faithfulness to all generations.”*

~Psalm 100:5

Dear Members and Friends,

Surely, the church’s task in every age is to interpret God’s goodness and love for a new generation. The message doesn’t change, but how we understand and communicate it does. What is the message? I’m glad you asked. Our message is that we see and know God in the person of Jesus; that God is all mercy, and justice, and peace, and joy, and generosity, and love; and that God calls us to make sacrifices for the sake of all these things, especially love. The message of Jesus’s life is that if we live as we are called to live, the world will sometimes beat us down, but there is new life on the other side of suffering and pain. It’s a simple message, but people often have difficulty hearing it over the noise of the world...and the unloving character of so many “Christians.”

As we celebrate our 75th anniversary as a congregation, part of our job is to examine the ways we’re sharing this life-changing message with our generation. The churchly stuff that worked in 1951 (Sunday school picnics, knocking on doors, attendance pins, bring-a-friend-to-church Sundays, etc.)...these don’t necessarily work today. People’s attention spans are shorter; people’s time commitments are more limited; people have a plethora of other ways to find community and meaning. Most of all, religions have behaved so badly that many people are just done with them altogether.

How can the church meet people “where they are” with our message of hope and new life? If our goal is just to survive as an institution, then we’ve got the cart ahead of the horse. Our goal must be to sow our kind of faith into the world around us, a faith that is gentle, accepting, and loving. If we’re actually doing that, then we surely won’t need to worry about the survival of the church because people do want what we’re offering.

Our speaker series, “Faith Forward: The Future of Congregational Life,” is helping us think about all of that. The series was launched as a forward-looking element of our anniversary celebrations. Thus far, we’ve brought in two very well-known experts on religious trends in 21st century America: Ryan Burge and Andrew Root. While Burge dwelled on helpful (if discouraging) statistics, Root offered a few thoughts for the road ahead. Essentially this: *“Stop flailing,”* as Jean Miewald put it. *Come up with a watchword to rally around. Love each other deeply. Be a place where people can think about, and talk about, and live into their spirituality.* (Strange that churches are declining because they’re not spiritual enough!) There’s one more event left in our speaker series. On May 13, we will be hearing from a panel of faith leaders who have pioneered some ways forward. This event is at Cefalo’s in Carnegie. For a mere \$35, you get dinner and a presentation about new ways of being the church today. Please sign up!

Also, be sure to reserve your spot at our 75th anniversary banquet on Saturday, May 16 at Nevillewood Country Club! All ages are welcome. There, we will be hearing from some former pastors of our church, including Bob Heppenstall, Jack Hodges, Dan Rift, and Laurie and Leonard Sponaule. They will be leading worship the following day and attending the Strawberry Festival on Sunday afternoon. God has been good to us, and “God’s faithfulness is to all generations.” Our task is to get the message out.

Christ’s Peace,
~Brian



Worship Plans

May 3

**Fifth Sunday of
Easter Communion**

I Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 10

**Sixth Sunday of Easter
Youth Sunday, Mother's Day**

May 17

75th Anniversary Worship
Previous Pastors Returning
to Lead Worship

May 24

Pentecost Day
Acts 2:1-21

May 31

Trinity Sunday
Joint Worship
with the Baptists

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.

May 3 - The National Black Presbyterian Caucus

May 10 - Sojourner House

Faithful Conversations will resume in September.



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.

May 10, 2026

In memory of Betty Mancini, by her family

In honor of Joan McAnulty on Mother's Day with immense gratitude for her love, faith, guidance, and support, with love from her family

May 11, 2026

In honor of all who have served by, Susan Watson

Intergenerational Opportunities

Twin Hill Park Update

A large cadre of volunteers from Bower Hill Church joined a that planted 45 new trees, 147 shrubs, and 164 perennials in the riparian area of Twin Hills. In addition, a seed mix spread on raked soil contains 29 species of native grasses and perennials. These new plants represented 58 new native species in an area that previously was dominated by three invasive non-native specie (Japanese honeysuckle, privet and double-file viburnum). [Click here](#) to learn more about this project from the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy.



Youth Sunday – Save the Date

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

SHIM Pepper Garden

Our pepper garden will return this spring, and with it, the summer harvests of hot pepper varieties that the SHIM food pantry families greatly enjoy! 124 pepper plants have been ordered through Dean's Greenhouse which will benefit the youth group mission projects. Stop by the table in the Narthex in the next few Sundays to donate toward purchase of these plants. Plants cost \$2 each, and you can donate a flat amount or sponsor per plant.

From the Eco-Justice Team:

We on the EJ Team hope you enjoyed Earth Day, and renewed your commitment to aim for a more sustainable life.

As promised, here are the two remaining ideas from the Associated Press on ways small changes can add up:

Buy second-hand. You've heard it before, and indeed, consignment and thrift stores are becoming ever more popular. Part of that is due to economic stress, which is expected to continue, and possibly worsen. If 1 in 10 Americans in a year would substitute buying a new pair of jeans with a second-hand one, it would save roughly 1.5 billion pounds of carbon dioxide, or the emissions of about 150,000 gasoline cars.

Their other idea is much less practical, and involves replacing a gas furnace with an eclectic heat pump. If one in 10 households did that, it would be the equivalent of taking 1 million cars off the road.

While few of us will actually do that, even replacing an old furnace with a more efficient one would result in some savings.

Mission Committee Launches New Initiative with Casa San Jose

The week of June 16th will be our first week to provide support for a new Casa San Jose effort that provides food to immigrant families who are currently staying indoors rather than venturing out to grocery shop for their families. At present, nearly 30 families are participating in this program. Bower Hill will be ordering groceries included on a list provided by Casa, picking up the grocery order, sorting and packing the groceries, and delivering the items to Casa. Casa San Jose will then add perishable items to the order for each family (meat, milk, other items that are not shelf-stable) and deliver them to the families in need.

Volunteers will be needed to assist with various tasks in the process. Bower Hill will be on the schedule to provide this support to needy immigrant families on a 5-week rotating basis. Watch for more details in the next few weeks and consider whether you might be able to lend a hand.

Unity Food Pantry Collection

May 10

As we prepare to give families with children more food for the summer since kids won't be having school breakfast and lunches, our greatest need right now is for jelly, boxes of mac & cheese, and pouches of tuna fish. But as always all non-perishable food items are welcome!

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

Combined Middle school & high school youth groups

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- May 3 – 6:30 p.m. – Youth Group grades 6 and up in room 110.
- May 10 – 9:30 a.m. YOUTH SUNDAY
- May 17 – 9:30 a.m. Special 75th Anniversary worship service and Strawberry Festival.
- May 19 – Plant Delivery Day. Volunteers welcome - article below for details.

Youth Sunday

Be sure to join us in worship on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10. Bower Hill youth will lead the service and share their thoughts on how they experience God in nature. Stay for cake in coffee hour afterward.

Bower Hill Spring Plant Sale Pickup – May 19

Volunteers from our two partner organizations - Mt. Lebanon Montessori and MLAC - will be on hand on May 19, starting at 10:00 a.m., to unload and sort plants into orders. The good news – all three organizations had successful sales and are very appreciate of the opportunity to arrange volunteers to make this sale possible for all of us, which means we don't need as many youth volunteers as we have in previous years. If your youth is off school that day and would like to help, they are welcome – please let Amy know. If you ordered plants, be sure to stop by to pick them up that day from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Summer Sunday School – Volunteers Needed

The Summer Sunday School format begins on Sunday, May 24. All kids, preschool through 5th grade will be combined in room 110 to hear a short Bible-based lesson and then have time to socialize and enjoy our playground. Older youth are invited to help lead activities like chalk, crafting, or bubbles. Adult volunteers are needed each week to oversee the kids. [*Here is the link to sign-up.*](#)

Update from the Director of Education Ministries – Amy Grella

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for these Awesome Summer Events!

3rd – 8th Grade Crestfield Classic Overnight Camp June 28 - July 2

Join Bower Hill Youth Group for a week away at Crestfield. [Please use this link](#) to indicate your interest and to see who else is going. [Click here](#) to watch last year's highlight video to see what the week will look like!

6th – 11th Grade Crestfield Service Adventure Camp July 20-25

This camp is for kids in grades 6th - 11th. Youth go off site during the day to do service projects in the local community, then return to Crestfield to have free time at the pool followed by dinner. In the evenings campers do camp activities and participate in a lively club time. [Please use this link](#) to indicate your interest and to see who else is going from our church.

Register now for our ALL NEW KIDS CAMP - July 27 - 31

Our annual VBS is getting an exciting makeover! In the half-day Jr. Camp for Pre-K (potty-trained) through 2nd grade will experience **Weird Animals**, where kids will discover that Jesus' love is one of a kind. Our habitat will be filled with incredible learning experiences for kids to see, hear, touch and even taste! [Click here to register](#). (Special thanks to Craig Grella for developing a brand-new registration website!)



Jr. Day Camp \$25 for completed Grades: Preschool - 2nd 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. A half-day of music, crafts, games, stories and snacks for our youngest campers. First time attending? Little ones can come for free!

Day Camp \$75 for Completed Grades: 3rd - 5th. 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Big kids love to help! Full-day campers will participate in a service-learning track. During the morning, kids will learn about and complete a tactile mission project for local non-profit organizations. Kids bring their own lunch, and then spend the afternoon doing structured games, crafts and activities just for them. Cost includes snacks and supplies for the daily mission projects. If your child only plans to stay for the morning, you can opt out of the afternoon session.

Youth Volunteer \$25 for completed grades 6 and up 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Older youth registers as volunteers. Youth will be assigned to help in the morning with one of the camp tracks and spend the afternoon doing structured games, crafts and activities.

ALL NEW DAY CAMP PLANNING MEETING

We will meet after church on Sunday, May 10, to continue planning of our all-new day camp. Even if you can't attend the camp during the week in July, your help is needed! There are MANY tasks, decisions, and planning activities that can be done on your own time, and flexibility before the summer begins. If you can't attend May 10, but would like to help, please let Amy know.

UPCOMING

Fellowship Events

Get Outdoors May 2

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 May 2 & 16 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 May 5 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 May 26 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.

May 26 - Memorial Days by Geraldine Brooks



Let Our Light Shine



Saturday May 16
Nevillewood Country Club
1000 Neville Wood Drive
Presto, Pennsylvania 15142

5:00 p.m. Hor d'oeuvres & Cash Bar
6:15 p.m. Dinner

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour followed by dinner and a program featuring a video about our history and remarks from former pastors.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by May 1. You can register online, use the RSVP card that was included with the invitation, get an RSVP card from the Narthex or go to bowerhillcommunitychurch.org/RSVP.

Please let us know about any issues that may prevent you from attending. All gluten free items on the buffet will be clearly marked, if you have any other dietary restrictions, please note them when you RSVP. Need a ride? Please note that on the RSVP. Monetary concerns please contact Kim in the office.

Sunday May 17
9:30 a.m. Special Worship Service
Featuring former pastors



Following the worship service:
Strawberry Shortcake with Ice Cream and other toppings
Food trucks
Live Music from The Allegheny Passage
(Nate Ivey's family's band)
AND
The Bridgeville Male Ensemble

Fun surprises all weekend!

Spring Flea Market Results and Thank You's

The spring flea market was held on Saturday, March 28, and was a huge success making **\$7,860.09!**

And why did that happen? Of course, it's because of the support that our members continue to show for the flea market!

- It's because of the fantastic merchandise that you bring for us to sell!
- It's because of the care the members who unpack the boxes and set up for the flea market that makes the flea market so appealing to our customers that they want to come back year after year!
- It's because of the friendliness our cashiers and other sale day helpers demonstrate that makes our customers feel welcome!
- It's because of the people that contribute to the snack bar. The snack bar doesn't bring in a lot of "revenue," but it is one of the special touches that our customers enjoy and make it a flea market not to be missed.
- It's because of the people who help us pack up after the flea market making sure that items get put into the correct boxes-either to be sold at a future flea market, or to be given away to other organizations.

Fun story from the flea market - When we sent the emails out to remind our regular customers that the 2025 Fall Flea Market was approaching, one woman reached out to us and said if we could give her notice, she could make stuffed cabbage for the spring flea market to sell at the snack bar. We took her up on that offer. She went above and beyond, also providing potato salad and rolls, so that we could also sell cabbage roll platters. The cabbage rolls were a huge hit and sold out by noon!

Long story short, the spring flea market was a success that did not break any records but went beyond expectations and it's all due to the members of BHCC!!

2026 SPEAKER SERIES EVENTS

Two down. One to go...

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

Company of Pastors
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



May 2: Barbara Oram

May 19: Carol Petti

May 10: Ben Boisvert
Lynn Foltz

May 20: Evelyn Lansbery

May 12: Cal McElroy

May 22: Nancy Andrews
Jennifer Webler

May 13: Connie May

May 23: Allison Bruder

May 14: Debbie Boisvert

May 29: Caroline Barone
Jacob Geis

May 16: Maddox Dickey

May 31: Brad Young

May 17: Richard Baumhammers
Caroline Smith

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.

MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 12:00pm Mt. Lebo Earth Day Booth (Main Park) 12:00pm First Baptist Church Family Day (FH) 12:30pm Compassionate Friends (Rm 101, 105, 110, FR) 2:00pm Mission Project with Carnegie Presbyterian (Kitchen & FH)</p>	<p>27 8:00am Montessori School 7:00pm 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 8:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 6:15pm Belis 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>
<p>3 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 10:45am Faith Formation, Committee Meeting (Nursery) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) - The National Black Presbyterian Caucus 11:00am First Baptist Worship 6:30pm Middle and High School Youth Group (Room 110)</p>	<p>4 8:00am Montessori School 7:00pm Worship Committee (Rm 101)</p>	<p>5 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group - Denny's 10:00am Montessori School 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>6 8:00am Montessori School 8:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 6:00pm Belis Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>7 8:00am Montessori School 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)</p>	<p>8 8:00am Montessori School</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day Unity Food Pantry Collection Youth Sunday 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Day Camp/Jr. Day Camp planning meeting 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) - Sojourner House 11:00am First Baptist Worship</p>	<p>11 8:00am Montessori School 7:00pm B&G Meeting (Rm 101)</p>	<p>12 8:00am Montessori School 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:00pm Communications (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>13 8:00am Montessori School 8:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 4:00pm Speaker Series (Cefalo's) 6:00pm Belis Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>14 8:00am Montessori School</p>	<p>15 Newsletter and Session Report Deadline 8:00am Montessori School</p>	<p>16 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR) 5:00pm 75th Anniversary Banquet</p>
<p>17 9:30am 75th Anniversary Worship 9:30am Children's Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am 75th Anniversary Strawberry Festival 11:00am First Baptist Worship</p>	<p>18 8:00am Montessori School 7:00pm Deacons Meeting (Rm 110) 7:30pm Session Meeting (FR)</p>	<p>19 Plant Sale Delivery 8:00am Montessori School 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Finance Meeting (Virtual) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>20 8:00am Montessori School 8:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 6:00pm Belis Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>21 8:00am Montessori School 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Second Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 2:00pm Mission Project with Carnegie Presbyterian (Kitchen & FH)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 1:30pm Bookworms (Zoom) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>27 8:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 5:00pm Matros (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>28 BHCC Music Field Trip - Back Alley Brewing</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 10:00am Joint Worship with First Baptist Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Fellowship (Coffee) 12:30pm Compassionate Friends (Rm 101, 105, 110, FR)</p>	<p>1 7:00pm Worship Committee (Rm 101)</p>	<p>2 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group - Denny's 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)</p>	<p>3 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)</p>	<p>4 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast Session Retreat 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)</p>