

~ On Being Needed ~

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion in the child of her womb?”

~ Isaiah 49:15

Dear Members and Friends,

It's nice to be needed, isn't it—to know that someone or something really depends on you to care for their needs? Being needed makes you want to do the best you can. I'm learning this anew since my younger daughter got a schnauzer puppy. It's cuter than an Ewok but so very needy. It needs constant affection, constant instruction, constant play, and walks, and feedings. I'm not a dog person, but raising a dog from puppyhood is very endearing. Parenthood teaches you what it means to be needed, too. An innocent baby comes into the world and looks to you for absolutely everything. Your children need you to love them, cuddle them, discipline them, and teach them to eat, and talk, and use the bathroom. They need you to protect them, provide for them, and prepare them for the wonders and sorrows of the world. It's humbling to be so needed; it's daunting and somehow profoundly joyful.

As the church attempts to respond to the times in which we live, we need you, too. We need you now more than ever. What for? Six things. In our faith tradition, there are six “Great Ends of the Church.” These are life-purposes that never change, but the way we accomplish them can and must change. They are: “1) the proclamation of the gospel; 2) the shelter, nurture, and fellowship of the children of God; 3) the maintenance of divine worship; 4) the preservation of the truth; 5) the promotion of social righteousness [i.e., social justice]; 6) and the exhibition of the kingdom of God in the world.”

We used to provide for the “fellowship of the children of God” by having church picnics with egg-and-spoon races. At one time, we provided for the “preservation of the truth” by giving out pins for Sunday school attendance. The six “ends” have been our task in every age, but the way we accomplish them changes all the time. Which of these six duties calls out to you? Which is most suited to your interests and abilities? Is it a beautiful worship service that you love? Music? Is it engaging in issues of social justice? Or is it the relationships that keep you coming back for more? Each of these “ends” needs to be carried out in new ways in our post-pandemic world. And we need your help doing it.

What are we looking for? We're looking for coffee hour hosts, as always, but not like before. We want hosts who keep the refreshments simple (maybe just store-bought cookies) but who try to get guests to mingle, making sure no one is left standing by themselves. We're looking for lectors, as always, but not like before. We want lectors who believe in the power of the Scriptures to inspire and guide us, whose reading will bring life to words on a page. We're looking for volunteer musicians, as always, but not like before. We want musicians who know that music is the best language to express the mystery, and the beauty, and the wonder of God. We're looking for greeters, as always, but not like before. We want greeters who know how hard it is to show up at church sometimes—especially alone or as a stranger. We want greeters who will extend genuine warmth and hospitality to any and all who choose to get dressed and come to church on a Sunday morning. We're looking for volunteers to work with the kids, as always, but not like before. We want people who love kids and understand their needs, people whose authenticity and respect for children comes through in their interactions. We're looking for people to join the audio-visual team—like never before! We need many more people to step up and help with the urgent task of maintaining our congregation's online presence. It's not hard, but it takes a much bigger crew than we currently have. Me? I could use an advisor who's under 30. Honestly!

The church needs you. Anyone who has taken the vows of church membership ought to be engaged one of these six tasks. How can you use your gifts and talents to respond to the needs of Christ's kingdom? Joy entails responsibility, but not to worry. It's nice to be needed.

In Christ's Peace,
~Brian

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MINISTRIES
Amy Grella — am@bhccml.com

NEW THIS SUMMER: Thankful Thursdays

We hope kids from preschool through 8th grade will join us for **Thankful Thursdays** for organized, outdoor fun at the following times:

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Preschool (must be potty-trained) through completed 2nd grade.

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Completed 3rd - 8th grades.

NOTE: We will not meet on Thursday, July 8 (due to the holiday week and our mission trip).

During each session, we will have a gathering time where a weekly theme and short Bible-based object lesson will be introduced. There will be time to explore the theme through planned crafts and activities, and we will end with free play time for all participants. The drop-in camps will be offered at no cost. An online RSVP will be sent each Sunday for the following Thursday to ensure enough materials are prepared.

A one-time Registration is required BY FAMILY (there are prompts for you to add each child in the form). This information will apply for the summer. [Here is the link to register.](#)

Weekly RSVP forms (one for each child attending) will be sent out each Sunday for the following Thursday. These RSVPs will help us ensure we have enough supplies ready each week and also to verify the COVID safety of all attendees.

Share this with friends, family and neighbors who may want to attend. Please contact me if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering on any week.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School is provided for children from preschool through 8th grade using the Summer Sunday School format, which focuses on fellowship (there are no prepared lessons), socialization and allowing kids to enjoy our playground. Our goal will be to remain outdoors on the playground as much as possible but have the indoor area (room 110) accessible for inclement weather. If enough approved adult volunteers are available and there are enough kids, we will move the 3rd-8th graders to the church front lawn for organized games during this time; otherwise we will all remain together on the church playground. Masks are required; please go to our church website for our [COVID procedures for children and youth](#) to see the safety precautions in place. Childcare for infants and toddlers will be available during the worship service in the nursery as usual.

Volunteer opportunities for working with children and youth

As we continue to return to in-person worship options for children and youth, we are in need of adult and older youth volunteers. Please see the different descriptions and links below. If you are able to lend a helping hand, it would be appreciated!

Summer Sunday School - volunteering alongside an approved adult, for about one hour on Sunday mornings during the worship service. Please [use this link](#) to sign up by date.

Thankful Thursdays - volunteering alongside an approved adult for 1.5 to 3 hours on Thursdays. Please use [this link](#) to sign up.

July and August

WORSHIP PLANS

July 4: Independence Day, Communion
Mark 6:1-13; II Corinthians 12:2-10

July 11: 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 18: 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56; Ephesians 2:11-22

July 25: 9th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Fred Leasure preaching
John 6:1-21; Ephesians 3:14-21

August 1: 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Communion
John 6:24-35; Ephesians 4:1-16

August 8: 11th Sunday after Pentecost
John 6:35, 41-51; Ephesians 4:25-5:2

August 15: 12th Sunday after Pentecost
John 6:51-58; Ephesians 5:15-20

August 22: 13th Sunday after Pentecost
John 6:56-69; Ephesians 6:10-20

August 29: 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Song of Songs 2:8-13; James 1:17-27

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Summer is a time of vacations. The tradition has been to take a break from the everyday routine and leave home for a relaxing time. However, often the journey to arrive at that relaxing place has been a bit tense. The escapade often begins with packing. The trick was to achieve at a balance between too much to take and not enough of the essentials.

As usually the driver, cramming everything in, including the kids, was enough to raise the blood pressure. Then before the days of GPS, reviewing the maps and the routes was also a challenge. Often the roads were not clearly marked and making U-turns only provided frustration. This was exacerbated by the need to arrive as soon as possible. Upon arrival it always took time to relax from the journey.

Our life's journey can mirror some of this experience. We become so goal-oriented that we miss the beauty and experiences along the path we have chosen. Whatever destination we have chosen becomes so paramount that we are never willing to take any side trips.

As followers of the Christ, perhaps we should really let him lead so we can fully enjoy and experience the beauty of the people and places along the path.

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate



LIGHTING THE STEEPLE

Dedications for July and August are as follows:

EVERY DAY IN 2021 – In prayer for **World Peace**, from Susan Hill Brown, former member

August 25 -- In loving memory of my mother, **Dorothy Earlandson**, with love from Kay 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: 1) The date(s) you would like to sponsor; 2) The reason you want to sponsor (in honor, in memory etc.); 3) The name of the person(s) or the event as you want it to appear in the bulletin; 4.) Your name. Email your request to: Amy Leasure at amlea97@hotmail.com

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE CAN BE MULTIPLE SPONSORS FOR THE SAME DATE.



JOIN THE IRU TEAM FOR AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE AT THE US/MEXICO BORDER

The Immigrant, Refugee, and Undocumented Persons Discovery (IRU) Team invites YOU to join the Bower Hill Church delegation to Borderlinks in the Tucson, Arizona area from February 16-22, 2022.

What is Borderlinks?

Established in 1987, Borderlinks has been facilitating educational immersion trips for delegations in the Arizona Sonoma Region and beyond the border to Chiapas.

Founding members and organizations include Rick Ufford-Chase, Former Moderator of General Assembly and New Sanctuary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

What is the Mission of Borderlinks?

Through dynamic educational experiences, Borderlinks connects divided communities, raises awareness about the impact of the border and immigration policies, and inspires action for social transformation.

What will we learn?

- Why do people migrate?
- What happens during the migrant journey?
- How do governmental policies impact people?
- We will speak with people directly affected by migration, including migrants, and others who live in borderlands, and with advocates for migrant justice.
- We will develop tools to take action for positive social change in our home community.

What are the details of the trip?

- The trip to Arizona will be February 16-22, 2022.
- The cost of the trip for each participant is approximately \$1000.00 plus airfare. We are working with the Mission Committee to fund part of these expenses.
- The delegation can be between 8-14 persons. We currently have eight individuals interested.
- Borderlinks website- [BorderLinks](https://borderlinks.org)
- If you are interested in going or just have questions, contact Linda James, Betsy Hohlfelder, Sarah Neusius, Darendia Lease, Theresa Child, or Brian Snyder. Any of us would welcome an **email**, **phone call** or an **in-person discussion** about the trip.



JUNE 2021 RESULTS

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2021 Spring Flea Market. We didn't break any records, and we don't have any unusual stories to share. That said, the June flea market was a huge success!

Including the Craigslist/Ebay sales that occurred between flea markets, our official total is above \$5,300! Considering that we held the flea market in June (when people are busy with school sports and starting to take vacations) and that we were at the tail end of the COVID-19 pandemic (fingers crossed), these results are fantastic. We were hoping for \$4,000, and we crushed that!!

The availability of the COVID vaccine made this flea market MUCH easier than the one we held in October 2020. We required masks, the snack bar seating was outside, and sanitation was a priority, but we were able to pull back on some of the other restrictions that were required in October (i.e., there were no temperature checks and no strict limits on the number of people in the building at one time).

My mother called me at about 6:00 p.m. on the day of the flea market and she asked me, "How did it go?" Being the smart aleck that I am, I said, "Everyone was complaining how disorganized it was and how rude the cashiers were." Of course, she didn't believe me. She knows better. Bower Hill has a reputation among the flea market circuit for being well organized and friendly.

The reason behind this great reputation is because of YOU. YOU donate great items; YOU work hard during set up making sure that everything is well organized and easy to find; YOU make soup and bake tasty treats and, most importantly, YOU are friendly to our customers.

Whether you donated items, helped with set-up, making soup, baking, cashiering, clean-up, or prayed for success, it all added up to great results and we **THANK YOU!!**

~ Theresa Child, Chairperson
Flea Market Committee



GET OUTDOORS SATURDAY, JULY 10

Since the first Saturday in July is part of the long Fourth of July weekend, **our first hike will be on the second Saturday—July 10.** Going forward, hikes will be scheduled on 1st Saturdays monthly.

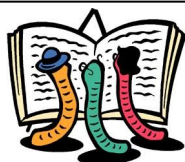
The hike selected for July 10 will be walking the trails in [Fairview Park](#). We ease into restarting our hiking with a park that is close and easy to hike. Most of the trails are wide open grass with a short, more traditional single track trail. But the park features a great view of the South Hills area that's not to be missed. Additionally, there is a Lost Souls cemetery, dedicated in 1986, for 27 Mayview patients that were originally buried in unmarked graves.

If it is raining, we will reschedule. Please email me at gstchild@yahoo.com, so I have a rough idea of who is coming and to make sure that we don't leave on Saturday before you get there.

We will meet in the main parking lot of the church at 9:00 a.m. and carpool to the hike. If you have concerns about carpooling, please feel free to drive your own car. The park is located near the old Mayview Hospital site. We should be back sometime before noon.

BOOKWORMS

The group continues to meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month and has changed their start time to 1:30 p.m., via Zoom.



July 27 - *You Never Forget Your First*
by Alexis Coe

August 24 - *Deacon King Kong*
by James McBride

September 28 - *The Engineer's Wife*
by Tracey Emerson Wood

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP IS BACK!

It seems like it is a good time to restart the Senior Men's breakfast group. While typically it is the senior men that are the ones who are available for the breakfast, **all men are welcome.**

Our first gathering will be on **Tuesday, August 3, 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 the month. Any questions or comments, contact Glenn Child.



SANCTUARY FLOWER / DONATION 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.

At this time, there are many upcoming Sunday dates available.

– **July 25, August 8, 22, 29, October 10, 17, 31**

UNITY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Upcoming Sunday collection dates are as follows:
July 11 and August 8.

Currently, the Pantry's greatest needs are for boxed cereal (preferably low sugar varieties), peanut butter, canned tuna, and feminine hygiene products of all types. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcomed.

Items can be brought to the church and placed in the collection bin located in the hallway outside the church office. You can also drop off your donations during regular business hours.

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.

Church Leadership (2022-2024)

Session Class of 2022

*Ben Boisvert
*Karl Casey
Rick Jacobs
Gordon Mitchell
Phil Neusius
Kiri Rising

Session Class of 2023

Jean Miewald
Sarah Neusius
Lynn Sirinek
Mary Beth Waine
Bryan Webler
Lynne Wohleber

Session Class of 2024

Matt Arner
Ed Hanke
Amy Leasure
Tracy Riggle-Young
Nate Rising

Deacons Class of 2022

Nancy Criswell
*Cynthia Gissin
Bri Ivey
Kathy Philson

Deacons Class of 2023

Sally Child
Allison Druckenbrod
Linda James
*Darenda Lease

Deacons Class of 2024

Nancy Andrews
Phyllis Madden
*Josie Sheldon
*Val Watterson

2022 Nominating Committee

To be determined

* = Second Term



July 1: D.J. Geis, Jr.
Katie Krol
Mary Laufer
Benjamin Robosky

July 2: Craig Frock

July 4: Glenn Child
Jennifer Gardner

July 5: Henry Carter

July 7: Alison Sehgal

July 12: Scott Bruce
Holly Smith

July 13: Debbie Seifert
Carolyn Westerhoff

July 16: Alison & Andrew Shwallon
Ella Siefken

July 18: Ray Henney, III

July 19: Adaline Gray
Ruby Siefken

July 20: Linda Johnson
Kristoffer Lansbery
Matthew Linaburg

July 22: Mandy Belardi

July 24: Wyatt Gray
Dave May
Phyllis Yohe

July 29: Karen Cooper
Matthew Dunfee
Jennifer Foster
Dawn Kane
Elaine Mackey
Ruth Robbins

July 30: Jim Burke

Aug. 3: Emmalyn Gray

Aug. 4: JoAnn Goode
Mary Beth Waine

Aug. 7: Peter Smith
Maya Williams
Art Thomas

Aug. 8: Kim Kennihan

Aug. 10: Amanda Gray

Aug. 13: Amber Grier

Aug. 14: Nancy Green
Craig Grella
Sage Williams

Aug. 15: Noelle Grella

Aug. 16: Monette Shuttleworth

Aug. 18: Emma Hicks

Aug. 21: Bill Cadwell

Aug. 23: Ella Belardi
Joan Bridges
Bob Ferrero

Aug. 28: Michela Robbins

Aug. 30: Andrew Smith

Aug. 31: Jean Miewald
Catherine Morgan

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.

Session Responsibilities (2021-2022)

Clerk of Session

Bill Cadwell

Church Treasurer

Gordon Mitchell

Commissioners to Presbytery

Jean Miewald and Phil Neusius

Administration and Personnel

Session Chair: Phil Neusius

Session Member: Mary Beth Waine

Adult Education

Session Chair: Sarah Neusius

Session Member: Rick Jacobs

Building and Grounds

Session Chair: Ben Boisvert

Session Member: Ed Hanke

Christian Education

Session Chair: Brian Webler

Session Member: Tracy Riggles-Young

Finance and Stewardship

Off-Session Chair: Christine Henney

Off-Session Member: Fred Leasure

Session Member: Gordon Mitchell

Mission

Session Chair: Jean Miewald

Session Member: Lynn Sirinek

Nominating

Session Chair: Ed Hanke

Session Member: Rick Jacobs

Outreach: Communication

Off-Session Chair: Glenn Child

Session Member: Lynne Wohleber

Outreach: Community

Session Chair: Matt Arner

Outreach: Parish Life

Off-Session Co-Chair: Andy Druckenbrod

Off-Session Co-Chair: Allison Druckenbrod

Session Member: Matt Arner

Worship and Music

Off-Session Chair: Sally Child

Session Member: Amy Leasure

Session Member: Lynne Wohleber

Youth Ministries

Session Chair: Kiri Rising

Session Member: Nate Rising



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

Parish Associate
Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure
fr@bhccml.com

Company of Pastors

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

Amy Grella
Director of Education Ministries
am@bhccml.com

Anne Smith, Director of Music Ministries
an@bhccml.com

Philip Engel, Financial Secretary
pe@bhccml.com

Karen Reynolds, Office Administrator
office@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

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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, Jean Dunfee,
Barbara Oram, Dottie Post, Donna Williams



IN MEMORY OF:

Daniel J. Carper (age 34), brother to
Anne Carper Smith, Director of Music Ministries,
who died unexpectedly on June 17, in Arizona.

Dennis J. Geis, Sr. -- 2/15/43 - 6/14/21

James McAnulty, Jr. -- 11/14/33 - 6/29/21

Dan Zabo -- 3/2/35 - 7/1/21

OPEN THE CHURCH TASK FORCE UPDATE

Rev. Fred Leasure presented the final report of the Open the Church Task Force to Session on June 28, who approved the following guidelines recommended in the report:

- Individuals should continue to honor their own comfort levels.
- Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks.
- Vaccinated adults working with children need not wear masks.
- Children need not wear masks outdoors.
- Mitigation measures regarding surface transmission should be discontinued.

The following Task Force members have been commended on a job well done during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Rev. Fred Leasure (Chair)
Dr. Bethany Gibbs
Dr. Leo Goode
Nate Ivey
Mike Riemer
Dr. Art Thomas