

~New Things in Lent~

*“And he was in the wilderness forty days,
tempted by Satan,
and he was with the wild beasts, and the
angels ministered to him.”*

~Mark 1:13



~The Easter Flower~

“But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.”

~Luke 24:12

Dear Members and Friends,

A blessed Holy Week and a very joyful Easter to you! Resurrection, rebirth, new life after suffering and loss, these are at the heart of the Christian faith. Our whole message is that one must die to oneself and to the old ways in order to be born as the person God always intended us to be. Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing. It's been our custom in the Easter newsletter to republish someone else's words about resurrection, some poem or long quote from someone other than me. Here's "The Easter Flower," a poem about the deep desire to believe, by Claude McKay (1889-1948), a Jamaican-American writer of the Harlem Renaissance.

Far from this foreign Easter damp and chilly
My soul steals to a pear-shaped plot of ground,
Where gleamed the lilac-tinted Easter lily
Soft-scented in the air for yards around;

Alone, without a hint of guardian leaf!
Just like a fragile bell of silver rime,
It burst the tomb for freedom sweet and brief
In the young pregnant year at Eastertime;

And many thought it was a sacred sign,
And some called it the resurrection flower;
And I, a pagan, worshiped at its shrine,
Yielding my heart unto its perfumed power.

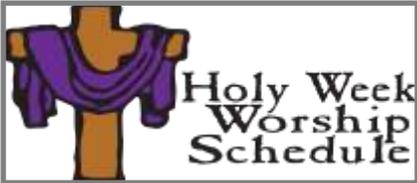
Whatever Easter means to you in these strange and troubled times, yield your heart to its power and allow it move you with joy. I do have a few "housekeeping" items to mention. Before rushing on to Easter, let us linger in the truths of Holy Week. The week before Easter acknowledges the suffering and the loss that life entails. On Palm Sunday, we explore Jesus's quick and short-lived celebrity, followed by his passion and death. On Maundy Thursday, we celebrate communion together in Fellowship Hall and focus on the night of his arrest. The community Good Friday service will return next year, we hope. But our Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil continues. The church will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for personal prayer and reflection. Please park in the kitchen lot and enter by way of the handicap entrance. Prayer guides will be available.

Finally, I made a serious blunder at the February meeting of the congregation. I stated that we had lost 35 pledges in the course of one year. Several people corrected me later; we lost 35 pledges since 2015 - mostly due to member deaths. I'm very sorry for the alarming mistake!

With Resurrection Joy,

~Brian

PS: Come to our Awakening Breakfast on Easter Day at 8:30, and bring nothing but your appetite!



Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 10

Palm Sunday ~ Passion Sunday

Luke 19:28-40

Luke 22:14-23:56

April 14

Maundy Thursday

7pm in Fellowship Hall

April 16

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil

Open Church 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

April 17

Easter Day

Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

Communion

John 20:1-18

Acts 5:27-22

SANCTUARY FLOWERS / 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, the following Sunday dates are available: April 3, and May 1, 8.



For information on BHCC's music department, please visit us at our newly designed [website](https://www.bowerhillchurch.org/getting-involved-music). Thank you!

<https://www.bowerhillchurch.org/getting-involved-music>



April WORSHIP PLANS

April 3

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Communion

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 24

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

Revelation 1:4-8

LIGHTING THE STEEPLE

Dedications for April are as follows:

April 17 -- In memory of Betty B. Mancini by her family, Ann Morrison and Bob Hendricks, Rick and Andrea Morrison.

April 22-- In memory of Betty B. Mancini on the two year anniversary of her passing, and for Earth Day, by her family, Ann Morrison and Bob Hendricks, Rick and Andrea Morrison.



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. MULTIPLE sponsors can share the SAME DATE.

FLEA MARKET HELP NEEDED

The spring flea market will be held on Saturday April 9! There are still many churches in the area not holding flea markets, so we're hoping for a successful sale!

As always, there will be many opportunities to help. If you can help, we will have signup tables following the worship services on Sunday, March 27, and Sunday, April 3, or you can contact Theresa Child at treetoowon@yahoo.com.



Here's the scoop:

Sunday April 3 - Final collection

Wednesday, April 6 and Thursday, April 7 - 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. and 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 April 9 - 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 during the first two or three hours, but with 4 total rooms, help in the afternoon is important as well.

Sunday, April 10 and Monday, April 11 - Packing up

If you have some time following worship or on Monday, 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 all the boxes. All we need help with is packing.

SOUP COOKS AND BAKERS NEEDED, TOO

We're going back to our traditional eat-in snack bar! 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, April 8, 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.

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

NEXT COLLECTION SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Unity Food Pantry will be needing items for Easter, including boxed dessert mixes (and icing, if cake mix is being donated) and boxed potato mixes (such as au gratin or scalloped potatoes). They also need canned tuna, peanut butter, and canned soups.



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 MENS BREAKFAST

Our next gathering will be on **Tuesday, April 5, 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.



Get Outdoors – April 23 Hike Duff Park Trails

Due to other activities at the church, this month's hike has been changed from the normal first Saturday of the month to April 23.

The hike for this month will be the trails in Duff Park. Duff Park is a 220 acre community park located in Murrysville. Turtle Creek runs along one side of the park. The park has been designated a Wild Plant Sanctuary by Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. It is an excellent destination to see and photograph wildflowers, especially in the spring. Duff Park also holds one of the few remaining deciduous old-growth forest areas in Pennsylvania. Hiking boots or sturdy tennis shoes are best. Be prepared as some parts of the trail may be muddy if there has been recent rain. Duff Park History

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the main parking lot and carpool to the hike. The trailhead is about a 45 minute drive. We will hike a loop that should take under 2 hours. So, it will about 12:30 p.m. when we return. If it rains, we will reschedule. **Please email me at gstchild@yahoo.com or call so we don't leave without you.**



Saturday, April 2
Starting at 9 a.m.
 Come help us spread
 playground chips and other
 spring clean-up duties.

BOOKWORMS

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

April 26-- The Leavers
 by *Lisa Ko*



ADULT EDUCATION

Please join us for Adult Education classes on Sunday mornings after Coffee Hour from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Upcoming classes will introduce us to various neighbors and inform us about them as well as help us think about how the Gospel calls us to treat others.

On Sunday, April 3, Pastor Brian Snyder will lead us in discussion of Jewish/Christian relations both as a follow-up on our Muslim/Christian study and in preparation for the pulpit exchange coming up in May.

On Sunday, April 10, we will have a presentation from Three Rivers Adaptive Sports led by Mark Kulzer and BHCC member Kathy Philson. This organization's mission is to promote access to quality year-round sports and recreation opportunities for people with disabilities, their families and friends.

Sunday, April 17 is **EASTER!** - No Adult Ed

On Sunday, April 24, Pastor Brian Snyder will help us explore the Role of Faith in the Ukrainian war, focusing on how splits between the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox churches may be related.

Also mark your calendars for BHCC's Racial Wealth Gap Simulation on May 1 from 5:30 p.m. to approximately 7:30 p.m. Please see additional information on page 8 of this newsletter about this all-church event sponsored by the Adult Education and Mission committees. There will be no second-hour Adult Education class on May 1, because of this event.

You can join Adult Education in the Friendship room or on Zoom at the following link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81146833934?pwd=N0R4U2FhaEY3K2pzdkRjOkJjeTNMQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 4683 3934

~Sarah Neusius, Chair, Adult Education

PASTORAL PONDERINGS FROM THE PA

It seems to this pastor that *PEACE* in some form is on our minds and haunting us each day. Regardless of political perspective we long for the end of the devaluation of human life. The nightly video of suffering numbs us to the point of disbelief. We seem frozen as to a way to respond.

The Old Testament has no lack of conflict and violence. Peace seems to come only when the people begin to obey God. Yet, it has become obvious in our recent history that national conflict can not be attributed to any act of the Almighty!

There is that hymn that has the words, "let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." Regardless of how minor a response this seems to be, it is the basis of our faith. Jesus calls us to love each other. In acting out this command there are no exceptions or extenuating circumstances! *PEACE* is not the absence of war, but the commitment to love even the unlovely.

~ Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate

From the Eco-Justice Team

The Eco-Justice team is planning an event in May, in partnership with the Center for Creative Reuse. It will be during Coffee Hour. We are hoping for outdoor weather, so we can set up on the lawn for our first ever all-ages Craft Fest! Let your creativity flow with the array of things we'll have for you!



Stay tuned for the date and theme. In the meantime, the Center's website is: <https://pccr.org>. You may note that our own Lynn Sirinek is on the Board of Directors.

April is the month for Earth Day, which will be on Friday, the 22nd. As always, Pittsburgh's Green Voice will celebrate with city-wide events, including live music, eco-friendly activities, vendors, wellness, and more. Find details at: <https://pittsburghearthday.org/go-green-at-market-square-2022/>

A bit closer to home, Mt. Lebanon will be having a celebration in the Main Park, <https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/earth-day-2022-in-mt-lebanon/Event?oid=21146435>

This month, celebrate spring and enjoy nature!

Borderlinks Trip Rescheduled

The Immigrant, Refugee and Undocumented Discovery (IRU) Team in conjunction with the Mission Committee is sponsoring a delegation to Borderlinks on October 5 – 11, 2022. This trip was originally scheduled in February; however we rescheduled it because of COVID. The number of spaces available is between 8 -14, and currently we have 8 individuals signed up to go. Therefore we have a few spaces available and we would like to offer them to our Bower Hill Community before we offer them to any one else who may be interested in going.

Through dynamic educational experiences, Borderlinks connects divided communities, raises awareness about the border and immigration policies, and inspires action for social transformation. We will learn why people migrate, what happens during the migration journey, and how governmental policies impact people. We will speak to people directly affected by migration including migrants, and others who live in borderlands, and with advocates for migrant justice.

The cost of the trip is approximately \$1000.00 plus airfare. If you are interested in going or have questions about the trip, you can contact any member of the IRU Team including Theresa Child, Betsy Hohlfelder, Linda James, Darendra Lease, or Sarah Neusius.

Mission Matters

The Mission Committee has been a supporter of Brother's Brother Foundation for a number of years. This is a Pittsburgh-based aid organization that helps bridge the gap between aid and sustainability by supporting localized programs and providing essential resources in the areas of Healthcare, Infrastructure, Disaster Response, and Education (H.I.D.E). They organize medical mission trips and send supplies all over the world. They do not utilize professional fundraisers and say that 100% of donations go to further their mission. Here is their website if you would like to learn more.



[Non Profit Organization For World Relief, Health And Education \(brothersbrother.org\)](https://brothersbrother.org)

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MINISTRIES -- Amy Grella - 412-801-3723

Upcoming Youth Events.

All events are for youth 3rd - 12th grade unless otherwise specified.

Earth Day is celebrated in April, so our monthly events will be focused on that theme.

Saturday, April 2 at 9:00 a.m. - Mulch spreading- We will meet on the church playground to help replenish the ground covering by spreading mulch around the playground equipment. Please bring your own work gloves and a shovel if you have it so we have enough on hand.

Sunday, April 24 at 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. MOVIE NIGHT. Join us to watch a unique and inspiring documentary, YOUTH v. GOV. It is the story of America's youth taking on the world's most powerful government. In 2015, twenty one young plaintiffs, ages 8 to 19, filed the lawsuit Juliana vs. United States, asserting a willful violation of their constitutional rights in creating our climate crisis. If they're successful, they'll not only make history, they'll change the future! This movie night is jointly hosted by our Ecojustice Team and will be open to both adults and kids.

High School Youth Lenten Panera lunches. We will meet on April 3 and April 10 immediately following worship. During the season of Lent, youth will head to Panera at the Galleria after worship each Sunday for fellowship and faith building. Meet after church in the Fellowship Hall. Bring money to cover your own food/drinks.

May 1st - Racial Wealth Gap Simulation 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Look for details about this event in on page 8 of this newsletter. This simulation is for older youth and adults. Childcare will be provided for younger kids - but please register if you need it, so we know. We are asking all youth who are going on this summer, Mission Trip to Philadelphia to attend this event as a pre-requisite. The event is limited to 60 participants, so be sure to RSVP to save your spot. The event is appropriate for high school-aged youth. Childcare will be provided but must be reserved in advance when you RSVP.

Spring Plant Sale Coming in April

Bower Hill Youth Group will be selling spring plants from Dean's Greenhouse again this year to raise funds for our summer mission trip. Order deadline will be mid-April, with delivery on Tuesday, May 17. We will need helpers that morning to unload the truck, sort and separate flower orders. Orders will be taken on-line, but paper forms will be available as well. Look for full details and volunteer signups soon.

Hot Metal Bridge Mission Results

Thanks to everyone who donated food and to the adults who helped the youth prepare and serve dinner at the Hot Metal Bridge's Open Table ministry in March. We lost count, but we served at least 81 meals. When we ran out of our prepared food, we quickly made more pasta and veggies to cover so no one went home hungry. Special thanks for the teams who served the meal. In the kitchen we had Julian and Madelyn Salvante, Ruth Robbins, and Nate Ivey. Running the food orders outside were Addie Ivey, Drake Robbins and Autumn Grella. This doesn't include the 20 youth and parent volunteers that cooked the meal on Sunday. Bower Hill will continue to host meals at Hot Metal, so be on the lookout for more information if you'd like to be involved the next time we serve.



Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation Coming to BHCC

The Mission and Adult Education Committees are hard at work planning an all-church Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation on May 1 from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. A light dinner of sandwiches, salads, and dessert will be provided. Then youth and adults will be invited to participate in this simulation from Bread for the World (<https://www.bread.org/>), which will be led by the Rev. Liddy Barlow of Southwest Pennsylvania Christian Associates. The simulation is like a game in which participants take the role of either a white or Black American, gaining land or money, or missing opportunities as various legislation is passed. In this way participants learn how U.S. laws and government policies, since the Civil War, have differentially affected wealth among us. The simulation takes about an hour and will be followed by discussion about what we have learned, and about what we might do as individuals and as a church, to support more equitable laws and policies. We hope this simulation can inform both understanding and action as we all continue to grapple with the topic of racial disparity in our country. All are welcome, so make a plan to bring your family and friends. There are no more than 60 spaces for this simulation. See the announcement below for a link to register.

If you need childcare for younger children, you must indicate it when you register.



Announcing a BHCC Event Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation

May 1, 2022, 5:30-7:30 PM

Led by Rev. Liddy Barlow, Southwest Pennsylvania
Christian Associates

Join us for dinner and a chance to learn about the ways U.S. government policies have caused racial inequities in our country. Adults and youth are invited to participate in this Bread for the World simulation and discuss ways we can respond to this history as individuals and as a church.

A simple dinner will be provided but registration is required by April 25 using this link: <https://forms.gle/zmcoMhctmpNoViZW7>
Register early as no more than 60 participants can be accommodated.

Did you know that in the US whites have about \$13 of net worth for every \$1 blacks have? How did this 13:1 ratio develop? Find out as you do this simulation.



Make a
plan to
bring your
family.
Friends are
welcome!



Sponsored by the
BHCC Adult
Education and
Mission
Committees.



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Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

www.BowerHillChurch.org



Please pray for Our
Care List

Bower Hill Church Members

**Joan Bridges, Jeff Carper
Jean Dunfee, Georgia Gallo
Barbara Oram, Dottie Post
Donna Williams**



April 4: Elise Gibbs

April 6: Mark Mezyk

April 7: Christie Cole

April 11: Theresa Child
Scott Ryfun

April 13: Mimi Starr

April 16: Charlotte Young

April 20: Theodore Grier

April 21: Bea Watterson

April 22: Owen Geis

April 23: Kirsten Bruder
Tegan Bruce

April 24: Margaret Zabo

April 25: Benjamin Carter
Alan Hohlfelder

April 26: Barb Hughes

April 27: Ed Hanke

April 29: Clara Druckenbrod

THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING:

Please take a moment to read through the names, pray for them, and offer them your best wishes!

Have we missed YOUR birthday? If your name is not listed, it is because the church office does not have your information. Please call the office administrator at 412-561-4114 with updated information.