

~ Marching Orders ~

*“In the spring of the year, the time when kings go forth to battle,
David sent his servants...and besieged Rabbah.
But David remained at Jerusalem.”*

~II Samuel 11:1

Dear Members and Friends,

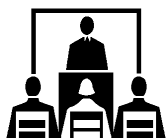
The month of March is named for Mars, the Roman god of war. (See the quote at the top of the page to understand why.) Ancient kings spent their long, dull winters just wringing their hands, pacing their marble floors, dreaming of the glorious conquests they would inflict upon the world, come spring. When the second half of March came sweeping in at last, with its breezy first hints of springtime, those monarchs of old were on the move, sacking, killing, pillaging, and doing all the contemptible things that made kingship so much fun for them—and so miserable for everyone else. You might call it the original March Madness. Imagine naming a month for the fact that it kicked off the kings’ annual wartime shenanigans. But technology gives today’s wanna-be-kings the capacity for warfare all year round. We moderns can beware any old day of any old month—not just the “ides” (middle day) of the third month. March is no longer especially violent.

And yet, for us the month of March always means Lent—a season not for literal battles, but for the inner struggles of the soul. In Lent, we endeavor to subdue the many subtle forms of selfishness and fear that keep us chasing our spiritual tails, and that deprive our spirits of the abundant life that Easter promises. Lent is a time to renew our attempts at a deeper, richer, more fulfilling, peaceful, and productive life in God. How shall we go about it? By means of worship and mission, of course!

Worship opportunities: Our annual Lenten vespers services kick off with communion on **Ash Wednesday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Then there will be a **service of evening worship—“vespers”—each Wednesday in Lent at the same time and place: 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, March 13, 20, 27, and April 3 & 10.** These will follow the same very popular format as last year. Each service is drawn from the 1946 version *Book of Common Worship*—the only Presbyterian service book that has stood the test of time. (Despite having been replaced three times over—in 1972, 1993, 2018—the wisdom, insight, and poetry of the 1946 version have kept it in print.) Instead of a sermon, one church member each week will be asked to choose the hymns and Bible readings for the evening. That person will then be interviewed about his or her faith journey. Come hear what God is doing in the lives of people you see but whose stories you may not know. Also, in order to enhance your private worship in Lent, a forty-day devotional will be made available to you in the narthex. New this year: Bower Hill Church staff have written a devotional guide for Holy Week based on the Stations of the Cross! It will be made available in April.

Mission opportunities: Pittsburgh Presbytery is sponsoring an all-youth “pilgrimage” to Malawi in July! Bower Hill is sending four young people—Kemp Carter, Coleman Child, Chloe Snyder and Greta Snyder—and one adult chaperone, Michelle Snyder, to represent us in Malawi. Please be in prayer for this new international mission venture, and stay tuned to see ways the kids interpret their mission experience to us upon their return. It is our hope that every child who passes through this church will experience at least one local and one cross-cultural mission trip. Also be in prayer for our mission partners in Haiti, where a new wave of violence and civil unrest is making it hard for people to get food and water. Go to www.papillonempowerment.kindful.com to learn how you can help Haitians in need. In this Lenten season, continue to support the food and diaper collections here at the church. And be generous! Give to beggars. Give to those in need. Take time to listen to the troubled and the distressed. These are a few ways to open your spirit to God’s presence in new ways in this season of March.

In Christ’s Peace,
~Brian



ADULT EDUCATION
—Linda James, Committee Chair

Please join us when Adult Education meets on Sunday mornings following worship, from 11:00-12:00 p.m., in the Friendship Room.

This year's theme is **Year of Justice**. Our Biblical focus is Micah 6: 8 "*And what does the Lord require of you? To do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.*"

March 3: Brian Snyder will continue the DVD Study, "*Living the Questions—Countering Pharaoh's Production—Consumption Society Today*".

March 10: Michelle Snyder will discuss race relations by leading a discussion of the book, *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. There are copies available in the Friendship Room for anyone who has not yet read the book.

March 17: Brian Snyder will lead Adult Education with a topic to be determined.

March 24: Kate Fletcher will speak about one of the missions that we support, Hekima Place (a girl's home near Nairobi, Kenya).

March 31: NO Adult Education
— *Talking About Tomorrow* discussion and luncheon



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Anne Carper Smith—an@bhccml.com

Cherub choir for youngsters in preschool through 2nd grade will meet in the choir room from 10:45-11:15 a.m. on March 10, 17, 24, and 31. We will rehearse in the sanctuary from 10:45-11:15 a.m. on April 7, and we will sing during Palm Sunday worship on April 14.

Bower Hill is blessed to join with the Shalom Singers, a South Hills Jewish choir, to form the Sacred Bridge Choir. The Sacred Bridge Choir will perform at the SHIM Holocaust Memorial on Sunday, April 14, from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park. All are invited to rehearse and perform with us under the co-direction of Anne Smith and Cantor Rena Shapiro. Chancel choir membership (although we would love to have you!) is not required to participate. Join us as we come together in community with our Jewish friends to sing music of remembrance and unity.



Remember to turn your clocks
AHEAD one hour for Daylight Savings Time, which begins on Sunday, March 10.



March 3

Transfiguration — Communion
Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36
"Shining Faces"

March 6

Ash Wednesday Service—7:30 p.m.
Communion in the Sanctuary

March 10

First Sunday in Lent
Luke 4:1-13; Deuteronomy 26:1-11
"Doing Just Enough"

March 13

Lenten Vespers—7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 17

Second Sunday in Lent
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
"Jerusalem, Jerusalem"

March 20

Lenten Vespers—7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 24

Third Sunday in Lent
Luke 13:1-9; Isaiah 55:1-9
"Everyone Who Thirsts"

March 27

Lenten Vespers—7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 31

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Luke 15:11b-19; Luke 15:20-32
"Jealousy"

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS — Amy Grella — am@bhccml.com



WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

The Mt. Lebanon School District, Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Repair the World Pittsburgh and the South Hills JCC have joined forces for "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" a free, four-part series focused on learning how to make a difference in three areas that are challenges to building equitable communities.

Attendees will learn about local organizations and individuals that are actively making a difference in our region. They will also have the opportunity to connect with organizations and learn themselves how to become actively engaged participants.

The first part, *Equity in the Community*, takes place February 24, 5:00-7:30 p.m., at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library. The additional dates are: March 24, April 24 and May 19.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS - MARCH

Middle School SNL - March 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Tweener Retreat — March 16-17
Grades 3-5 at Camp Crestfield

Retreat for grades 6 -12 — March 22-24
at Windy Ridge.

HOAGIE SALE TO SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION TRIPS

Beginning in March, Bower Hill youth will be selling hoagies to raise money for our mission work trip to North Carolina. Orders will be taken after worship on March 3, 10, and 17. Hoagies will be delivered on Sunday, March 31.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR EXCITING SUMMER EVENTS!

Youth Mission Trip to North Carolina - June 23-29

Bower Hill is joining Hiland Presbytery Church on a mission trip to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Florence. This trip is available for all youth grades 6-12.

Day Camp / Jr. Day Camp - July 29-August 2

Mark your calendars for Day Camp and Junior Day Camp the week of July 29. Bower Hill will partner with Crestfield again to offer Day Camp for completed 1st – 5th graders. Junior Day Camp is for completed pre-school – Kindergarten. Details with how you can volunteer to help and/or contribute supplies will be sent in the coming weeks. Our middle and high school youth are needed to volunteer to help that week as well.

NEW EXPERIENCES

AT CRESTFIELD CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Bower Hill - Young Families at Crestfield - June 18-21

Crestfield Camp and Conference Center has added new camping experiences during a partial-week camp designed specifically for elementary-age children and their families. There are two camp experiences from June 18-21, and we hope several Bower Hill families and kids will participate. Amy will be attending along with Autumn and Noelle, so it's a perfect time to either join us or send your elementary-aged child to camp when there will be familiar faces and friends alongside them.

1) LITTLE ONES LOVED ONES (FOR ADULT + CHILD 3-7 YRS OLD)

Parents, grandparents, or relatives and their children will grow in God's Word together as they explore the Bible, enjoy the beauty of Crestfield, and experience all the fun that camp has to offer. Participants stay in comfortable Scott Lodge. This is a great opportunity to have an older child attend Genesis Camp while you are on the grounds with a younger child. Be sure to register early--SPACE IS LIMITED!

2) GENESIS CAMP (GRADES 1-5)

There's no better way to be introduced to the wonders of Summer Camp! Genesis is a shortened week of camp that compresses the thrills of Crestfield into three days. This program is offered to encourage younger campers to experience intentional Christian community that is built upon having fun, being safe and growing in your faith. For more information, go to www.crestfieldcc.org and click on summer camps. Registration is now open, and runs directly through Crestfield. There are early registration discounts if paid in full before April 30. The full summer camp brochure is posted on the Youth bulletin board outside the kitchen.



PONDERINGS FROM THE PA

Reflection. This is an interesting word. What do you think of when you hear it? Probably most commonly the image of you that stares back at you every morning in the mirror. In my case it can cause me to wonder where all my hair went, how did I get to be this old, and I really can't see too clearly without my glasses.

Reflection can also be something absolutely beautiful. Have you ever looked across a pond in the fall and seen the beautiful colors reflected in a mirror image of what was on the distant shore. Amazing how absolutely wonderful the view.

When people who know me have met my oldest son, they often say he is quite the reflection of me, both in looks and in temperament. Poor Josh, I hope it doesn't bother him too much.

As we enter this season of Lent, reflection can cause us to look back on decisions we have made in life. We are very content to know many of them. Yet other choices haunt us and cause us sadness. In the called-out community of Bower Hill Church, we are encouraged to reflect not so much on what has been, but on what can be. We have unlimited potential to be a part of something larger than any of us, something that can cause those who encounter us to reflect on being a Christian.

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate

FLEA MARKET NEWS

We continue to collect items for this year's spring flea market, which will be held on **April 6**. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday during office hours or Sunday before or after worship. If you are able, please take all items directly upstairs to the loft; otherwise leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall. PLEASE do not include clothes or old TVs. All items must be clean and in working condition.

If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519 or at treetoowon@yahoo.com.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The office has sent an electronic copy of the 2018 Annual Report to all members with an email address on file in the church office. Printed copies will be made available to members during office hours. If you are unable to pick up a copy, call 412-561-4114 to request that it be mailed.

SANDI'S GARDEN NEEDS A NEW GARDEN COORDINATOR



As spring approaches and Sandi's Garden enters its seventh year as one of the original SHIM satellite community gardens, she needs a new coordinator or team of coordinators. BHCC has been very supportive of this mission project, supplying funding to start and sustain the garden, providing plants and seeds, helping deliver our bounty to SHIM's Food Pantry, and signing up for a week of watering. For the past six years, I have been the coordinator and contact point for Sandi's Garden. I find that I am no longer able to continue in this capacity. If this mission project is to continue, a volunteer, or team of volunteers, to be the new coordinator(s) will need to step up.

Coordinating the garden involves being the contact between BHCC and SHIM. In addition, he or she (or they) will manage spring and fall prep/clean up, planting, harvesting, and delivery to SHIM on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the growing season. Over the years members of the congregation have donated plants, watered the garden for a week during growing season, helped with harvesting and delivery of our produce. At this time, to make the transition easier, only one crop—peppers—is planned for the 2019 season. A smaller area, the fenced in garden next to the South parking lot could be planted. It would be advantageous to have at least two volunteers co-coordinate.

If this ministry appeals to you, either individually or as a team, please contact me at sdboisvert@gmail.com or see me before or after worship to find out more. If you know of someone who is not a member of BHCC, but might be interested, please have that person get in touch with me. It has been a rewarding mission project, but it's time for me to pass it on.

Blessings,
Steve Boisvert

COMMUNITY NOTES

Want to be included on this page? Submissions are due the 15th of every month for the next month's publication. 412-561-4114 or office@bhccml.com

WESTERN PA DIAPER BANK

Our next quarterly collection date for disposable diapers will be **Sunday, March 17**. Sizes 4, 5 and 6 are most in need for babies. XL diapers are needed for the geriatric population. Donations of feminine hygiene products are also accepted—primarily sanitary napkins. The collection container is the Pack'N Play, which is located in the hallway directly outside of the Nursery.

To make a tax-deductible monetary donation, please make your check payable to Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank and mail it to **WPA Diaper Bank, 201 N. Braddock Ave., Ste. 124, Pgh., 15208**. Please note our church name on the memo line. Your donation is appreciated!

Please save coupons for disposable diapers that you collect but don't use, and place them in the envelope near the Pack'N Play.

UNITY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Our next collection date will be Sunday, March 10. The pantry's most urgent needs are for boxed, low-sugar cereals and canned soups. In addition, for Easter dinner for pantry clients, all-in-one packaged dessert mixes (i.e., that do not require separate icing) and specialty potato mixes (such as mashed potatoes, scalloped potatoes, etc.) are needed.

Donations of any non-perishable food items are also welcomed. Collection bins are located in the hallways outside the church office and the narthex.

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Boy Scout Troop 28 is holding a spaghetti dinner in **Fellowship Hall** on **Saturday, March 30, 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12, and they will be sold in the narthex following the worship service for three Sundays **beginning on March 10**. They will also be available to purchase at the door on the day of the dinner. All are welcome!

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

This group will meet on **Tuesday, March 5, at 8:00 a.m.** The meeting location recently changed to Denny's restaurant at 2180 Greentree Road, near Swallow Hill Road. All senior men are welcome. No reservation is required. Conversation is spontaneous.

BOOKWORMS

Our ladies' book discussion group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103 for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Everyone is welcome to read the book for the month and join the discussion.

March 26—*In the Garden of Beasts*, by Erik Larson

April 23—*The Opposite of Hate*, by Sally Kohn

May 28—*Still Life*, by Louise Penny

REACHING OUT TO SAY "THANK YOU"

Our prayers have been answered. On March 9, 2019, I will celebrate the first anniversary of my very successful kidney transplant, donated by Tim Lease. Also, as of December 3, 2018, I was declared "in remission" from a post transplant issue with Lymphoma that required chemotherapy. After Tim's successful donation, he went through a recovery period as long as mine and is also celebrating the successful completion of his donation.

It is my belief that the prayers offered from the listing in our weekly service program were answered for Tim and me. It's great to be able to be back among you on a more regular basis. Let's never forget the power of our "Community." We wish there were better words, but "Thank you" to one and all for your support.

—Jim Burke and Tim Lease

2019 EASTER FLOWER SALE INFO

The BHCC Deacons will hold their annual **Easter Flower Sale from Sunday, March 24, through Sunday, April 7**. You may order directly from the Deacons following the worship service on March 24, 31, and April 7, or fill out the form inside this newsletter and mail/deliver directly to the church office no later than April 7. Tulips, Daffodils and Lilies will be available for sale, and you may indicate your dedication "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" to be listed in a special bulletin insert at Easter. All purchased flowers will be on display in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 21. Please pick up your flower(s) immediately following the worship service. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Harman at MelissaRHarman@gmail.com.

2019 EASTER FLOWER SALE

Orders will also be taken following worship on March 24, 31, and April 7.



**Easter
Flowers**

	Quantity	Total Cost
Tulip—\$8 each		
Daffodil—\$8 each		
Lily—\$10		

TOTALS: # of Flowers _____ Cost _____

For Office Use Only

Cash _____

Check Amount _____

Check Number _____

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email _____

Please use a separate form for each dedication.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Order deadline is Sunday, April 7. Make checks payable to Bower Hill Community Church.

PLEASE NOTE: PLANTS MUST BE PICKED UP FOLLOWING EASTER WORSHIP ON APRIL 21.

MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNION SERVERS

March 3: Nancy Andrews, Mary Good
Alan and Betsy Hohlfelder

LECTORS

March 3: TBD
March 10: Brianne Ivey
March 17: Alan Hohlfelder
March 24: Dave Hicks
March 31: Kara Pepicelli

USHER CAPTAIN—Andy Druckenbrod

GREETERS

March 3: Caroline Barone
March 10: Phyllis/John Yohe, Bill Cadwell
March 17: Nancy/Bill Andrews, Ruth Robbins
March 24: Carolyn/Ben and Steve Boisvert
March 31: Mandy/Matt Belardi, Karl Casey

ACOLYTES

March 3: Aiden Belardi, Chris and Allie Bruder
March 10: Bea Watterson, Helen Carter, Greta Snyder
March 17: Michela Robbins, Teagan Bruce, Jacob Geis
March 24: Chris Bruder, Michela Robbins, Greta Snyder
March 31: Ellena Gibbs, Greta Snyder, Allie Bruder

COFFEE HOUR

March 3: Saba Family
March 10: Geis Family
March 17: Salvante Family
March 24: Gibbs Family
March 31: *Talking About Tomorrow* (Rising Family)

FLOWER DEACONS

March 3: Doris Olinger
March 10: Josie Sheldon
March 17: Val Watterson
March 24: Nancy Green
March 31: Phyllis Madden

SEXTONS

March 3: Bill Cadwell
March 10: Dave Hicks
March 17: Tim Lease
March 24: Dick Headley
March 31: Glenn Child

SOUNDBOARD

March 3: Peter Morgan
March 10: Bill Andrews
March 17: Glenn Child
March 24: Rob Mackey
March 31: Nathan Ivey

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

Davis Gray

Lauren Kocher

Betty Mancini, Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk St., #507, Pgh., PA 15201

LuAnne Pattison (former member)

SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION

Need a ride to worship? The deacons would like to provide a ride to worship for members who need one. Please contact the church office several days before Sunday worship, and someone will help schedule your ride.

ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE A RIDE?

The deacons are compiling a list of people who might be **willing to give rides** to church. There are several people who do not drive who might come to church if they had a ride. If you would be willing to offer rides, please call the church office at 412-561-4114.

