

~ The Kingdom Within ~

“The kingdom of God is within you.”

~ Luke 17:21

Dear Members and Friends,

“The kingdom of God is within you,” Jesus tells the people of his day. It’s not coming with a toppled regime or a bloodless coup. No one will say, “Look, it’s here!” or, “No, it’s over there!” There will be no inauguration addresses and parades. There will not be a whole new kind of coinage with Jesus’ profile on the silver dollars—or denarii. The kingdom comes within you. It grows silently, unwatched, like leaven in a loaf, like a seed sprouting into life. It happens without fanfare, but its coming changes everything.

That’s how a lot of things come, isn’t it? Things that endure tend to come on us slowly, over time, perhaps with a lot of intentional or unintentional practice. This is how habits form and attitudes develop. It’s how a distinct atmosphere is created in a family’s home—one of love and playfulness or one of silence and reserve. This is how our bodies change and grow, not usually in an observable way, but in a way that we see best when we revisit old photos. Children become young adults. Middle-aged adults become elderly. One becomes more stooped, another gains weight, another gains muscle, but it only happens when no one is looking.

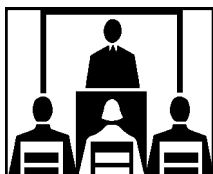
I wonder what has been developing in us, unnoticed, in these pandemic times. We all went into this thing, back in March of 2020, thinking it would be over in a month or two and we’d just do things a little differently in the meantime—relax our standards a little, cut out anything that wasn’t necessary, indulge a little more in the interest of self-care. But then the pandemic dragged on and on, and some of those temporary measures have become our new norm. For example, I used to carry a briefcase into the office and never would have thought of wearing jeans. But during the pandemic, the church office was closed, so there was little need to make myself presentable while I was there. So I didn’t. Now? Even now that the office has long-since reopened, the briefcase has been replaced by a backpack, and you’ll occasionally even see denim—which was unthinkable prior to the pandemic.

October is lovely in its changefulness. I wish I could say the autumn leaves will change ever so slowly and share their beauty with us until Christmas. But leaves are a powerful symbol for transience. Things that endure tend to develop slowly. Allegiances, affections, enmities, kingdoms! They all grow within us over the course of time, depending on how we spend the long-but-far-from-endless trickle of moments that is allotted to us. Surely some unhealthy or unholy kingdoms have found fertile ground in our pandemic lives, too. With acts of kindness, simplicity, mercy, and peace let us attend daily to the kingdom’s coming within us. Let us practice the disciplines of that kingdom, attending to its commandments and taking part in its worship, its vision, its great dream for humankind. Let us take time to invite its coming with regular moments of silence, or meditation, or prayer. Someone once said that calamity doesn’t change us; it reveals us. We don’t know what the future holds for ourselves or our world, but there is a kingdom within that can bear us through any joy or ill in this life. Cultivate the kingdom within you.

~Brian

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR!

Please join us in welcoming Kim Digman to our church offices. Kim started on-the-job training in mid-September and will be flying solo in early October. Find an opportunity to introduce yourself and wish her well.



ADULT EDUCATION RETURNS TO BHCC

Adult Education resumed meetings during second hour at 11:00 a.m. beginning on Sunday, September 19. The theme selected for this year is "Who is My Neighbor? How Do I Love My Neighbor?"

Pending any changes in guidance from the BHCC Task Force, we are planning to hold Adult Education sessions in a hybrid manner. Some of us will be meeting in person in the Friendship Room with masking and distancing according to our Church Task Force and CDC recommendations. In addition, we will be linking into a Zoom session using a laptop, screen-sharing, and a special microphone that should improve interactive discussion.

We encourage all members and all friends of BHCC to join us for one or more of the sessions listed below.

Let's make Adult Education a habit this Fall!

~Sarah Neusius, Chair, Adult Education Committee

October 3 - We will have a presentation by Kate Fletcher and Maggie Wambui about Hekima Place and our neighbors in Kenya.

October 10 - We will host Kathy Hrobosky of the ecojustice organization Interfaith Power and Light, which is working to organize a chapter here in Southwest Pennsylvania (co-sponsored with the Eco-Justice Team which is considering joining IPL).

October 17 - Pastor Brian Snyder will lead a session on how poetry can help us see the world and our neighbors differently and become more empathetic.

October 24 - Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates of SWPA will speak on the subject of empathy.

Saturday, October 16th - 9:00a.m. to noon

Please help us spruce up the church grounds - mainly the beds outside the narthex doors. You can wear your gardening gloves, and we'll bring the bagels, donuts and coffee.



-- Building & Grounds Committee



WORSHIP PLANS

October 3

World Communion Sunday
Kate Fletcher
Hekima Place Presentation
Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Mark 10:2-16

October 10

20th Sunday after Pentecost
Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Mark 10:17-31

October 17

21st Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:1-7, 34-41
Mark 10:35-45

October 24

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Mark 10:46-52

October 31

Reformation Sunday
Mark 12:28-34
Ruth 1:1-18

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 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 nine 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, Darenda Lease, Theresa Child, or Brian Snyder. Any of us would welcome an **email, phone call** or an **in-person discussion** about the trip.



I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone for their generous thoughts and gifts since announcing my retirement.

The generosity of spirit of the Bower Hill Church family that I've been blessed to work with and serve over the past seven years has made my time here truly special and is why my leaving--though exciting, as Tom and I set out on a new chapter of our lives together--is bittersweet.

Peace and Blessings to all, and I look forward to our paths crossing in the future... *Karen Reynolds*

Veterans Leadership Program

Saturday, October 9th --- 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

at VLP's Pittsburgh Office

2934 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

FREE SERVICES FOR VETERANS INCLUDE:

Food Pantry - Clothing - Personal Hygiene/Care Items - Haircuts - Eye Care - General Health Care - Flu Shots - Legal Assistance - ID Cards - Access to Veteran Benefits and Eligibility - Housing, Employment, Education Resources - Counseling referrals and more!

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Transportation and Parking Available. No RSVP or pre-registration required.

StandDown@vlpwpa.org

PONDERINGS FROM THE PA



In Matthew's gospel Jesus proclaims, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Do you ever wonder what he was trying to tell us? I doubt if he was hinting that we should measure devotion by the attendance at church. Yet, there is a concept that we maybe have escaped during our experience with the pandemic.

We are social creatures. From the Genesis account of creation onward, the Biblical record affirms our need for community and relatedness.

I am not minimizing the concern for health and our need for caution related to the spread of the virus. However, we have seen an unnatural growing quest for privacy and the rights of the individual. In some cases this has led to fear and deep sadness.

The word "Community" is part of our church's name. Let us again reaffirm our need for connectedness and needs of others so that indeed the Christ may be felt to be in our midst.

~ Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate

FROM THE ECO-JUSTICE TEAM

This past summer brought climate change to the fore in this country (even though other human-caused disasters required plenty of press). In the West, raging fires continue to devour forests, farms, ranches, and towns, as a Biblical-style drought dries up the Colorado River and causes restrictions never before imposed. Not to mention searing and deadly heat in the Northwest, a region quite unprepared to deal with it. In the East, fierce storms and floods left horrible destruction in their wake. It is becoming more and more evident that we must come to grips with the consequences and how we will deal with them on a national level. Will we continue to subsidize building in dangerous areas, using programs such as the national flood insurance program, or the water allotments in the West? How much money can we devote to FEMA every year?

As Christians, though, we are called to consider even more. The call to justice and compassion echo down from the earliest books of the Bible. We may feel compelled to donate to disaster relief, but God's call is for more. The EPA released an analysis on Sept. 2 examining the negative health and environmental impacts from a warming planet, including deaths from extreme heat and property loss from flooding in the wake of sea-level rise. The study examines particular effects on low-income and minority citizens. A rise in global temperature of 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to preindustrial levels would lead to expectations that American Indians and Alaska Natives are 48% more likely than other groups to live in areas inundated by flooding from sea-level rise, Latinos are 43% more likely to live in places where they will be losing work hours due to intense heat, and Blacks will suffer significantly higher mortality rates. The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees since the Industrial Revolution began. Extreme heat puts the United States on track to lose an average of \$100 billion a year from lost productivity, a figure expected to rise to \$200 billion by 2030.

The BHCC Eco-Justice Team has taken into account the fact that individual efforts at conservation are not enough. We are studying the possibility of joining the Pennsylvania affiliate of Interfaith Power and Light, a faith-based initiative with a bigger reach than an individual congregation. With the cooperation of the Adult Ed. Committee, we have invited a Mt. Lebanon resident who represents this organization to talk to us on Oct. 10 during the Adult Ed. hour. Please join us then as we examine what this organization can do to further our commitment to God's will.

The photo accompanying this report is from a climate protest in London, where senior citizens, admitting that older generations have contributed thoughtlessly to the situation, took a stand on the issue. Known as "Gray Greens," they frequently explained, "I'd do anything to protect my grandchildren." Amen!



UNITY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Sunday, October 10, is the next collection date.

As the holidays approach, Unity Food Pantry's greatest need is for cake mix and icing, canned yams, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, and packets of gravy mix. Unity Food Pantry is grateful for Bower Hill Community Church's partnership in our ministry to feed our neighbors in need!

Items can be brought to the church on Sundays and on weekdays during regular business hours. They may be placed in the collection bin located in the hallway outside the church office.

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.

GET OUTDOORS – OCTOBER - TWO OUTINGS



October 2, 2021 – South Park Connector Trail

This hike will include a short time on the Montour Trail near Library, then hiking the South Park Connector Trail, and the majority of time on a loop of some less used South Park trails. The hike should be about two hours. There will be a fair number of hills. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the main parking lot and carpool to the hike, or you can drive your own vehicle. The trailhead is a 30-minute drive, so it will be about 12:00 p.m. when we return. If it rains, we will reschedule. **Please email me at gstchild@yahoo.com or call so that I have a rough idea of who is coming.**

October 9, 2021 – Southern Beltway -- [PA Turnpike Website Community Day Information](#)

The Pennsylvania Turnpike is celebrating completing a section of the Southern Beltway with a community day on **Saturday, October 9, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Plan to **ride or walk the 5-mile open section** from a perspective you may not get to experience again! The location is in South Fayette Township, PA Turnpike 576 westbound entrance ramp. Walk/bike a five-mile section of the Southern Beltway between South Fayette Way and the McDonald/Midway exits. Being a highway, there will not be any shade so bring water, sunscreen and hat.

Use the link below to find entrance on Google Maps. Note: Change type of map to satellite view to see new roadways. The rough directions appear to be to take route 50 out of Bridgeville toward Cecil. Turn right on South Fayette Way (stop light). At intersection with Cecil Reissing Rd, turn left (still South Fayette Way, take right onto 576 Westbound ramp. PA turnpike maintenance employees will direct traffic to park on the Southern Beltway. Should be about 20 minutes from the church. [West bound ramp 576 near South Fayette Way](#)

Interested? If you want to have maximum freedom as to time to go, please use the information above to plan your own trip. Want to go as a group? Let me know gstchild@yahoo.com or call, if you plan on going and if you want to bike or hike, would be willing to drive and if you have a bike rack. I will try to figure out the logistics based on the response. There could be a limited amount of space for bikes. I can take 3 bikes besides my bike. We can meet around 8:30 a.m. at the church, drive and arrive at the start around 9 a.m. Ideally, bikers and hikers would be in separate cars so they will get back at the same time. But even if we need to mix the bikers and hikers in one car, we can still pick an ending time to meet back at the car.

BOOKWORMS



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

October 26 -- *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies*
by Deesha Philyaw

-Group of short stories about Black Women and Girls.

November 23 -- *The Four Winds*, by Kristen Hannah
-A story from the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Our next gathering will be on **Tuesday, October 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.

LIGHTING THE STEEPLE -- Dedications for October are as follows:



October 3 -- In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Betty Sykes, by her children, Sally, David, and Andy

Every Day in 2021 – In prayer for **World Peace**, from Susan Hill Brown, former member

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.

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

Fall Sunday Morning Options for Children, Youth and Families

We are thrilled to have our church family back in the building for new in-person options. Our nursery is open for babies and toddlers during worship. During second hour, childcare will be provided in room 110. Please look below for details on the plan by each age group. Complete COVID safety procedures can be found on the church website under the Children & Youth tab. In general, masks are required for everyone 3 years and older who are working with children, and we practice social distancing during seated activities.

Children's Worship (Preschool - 2nd grade)

Children preschool (potty-trained) up to second grade will start in worship with their families. After the Children's Sermon, kids will be escorted downstairs to room 103, our Children's Worship Space. Children will have their very own worship experience using Godly Play, learning Bible stories through seeing, hearing, and hands-on activities. Parents may pick-up their children in the classroom after worship ends.



Tweens (3rd - 5th grade)

The 3rd – 5th graders will meet during worship in our newly refreshed room 105 using the ever-popular Sparkhouse Holy Moly curriculum. This class will still take place during the entirety of worship service, so kids should go directly to room 105 on Sunday morning. Parents may pick-up their children in the classroom after worship ends.

Middle & High School (6th - 12th grade) with parents - New 2nd hour option

Older youth in 6th - 12th grades are invited to remain in worship with their families at 9:30 a.m., and join us for **Journey Together**, a new second hour option **for families to do together** with their youth in grades six through twelve, led by Amy Grella. It is a series of planned activities focused on exploring the Bible, the Spirit, being Disciples, our Church, and our World. It is NOT a straight Bible study. Think of it to experience spiritual growth through engaging, fun activities. The class will meet in Fellowship Hall during second hour at 11:00 a.m. Childcare will be available for elementary aged kids downstairs in room 110 during this time.



New groups for kids and youth from 3rd through 12th grade have formed. There are separate youth group options for the following three age groups: 3rd-5th grades (aka our tweens), middle school, high school. Led by Miss Amy and other volunteers, these groups will meet once a month on Sunday evenings. Weather permitting, all meetings will be held outdoors when we are able, or inside if needed. Because each group is only meeting once a month, it is vital that you make every effort to have your child participate during their appropriate night, so we have enough kids to make it meaningful. Kids are welcome to bring friends or neighbors to join us. → →

Tweens (3rd - 5th grades) meet the 1st Sunday each month.

October 3rd - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the church

November 7th - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the church

Middle School (6th - 8th grades) meet the 2nd Sunday each month.

October 10th - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the church

November 14th - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the church

SAVE THE DATE: Middle School Retreat at Camp Ligonier November 19-21

**High School (9th - 12th grades) meet the 3rd Sunday each month.**

September 19th - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the church

October 17th - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the church

SAVE THE DATE: High School Retreat at Crestfield, November 12-14

Combined Youth Group Event at Simmons Farm - October 3rd 1:00 p.m.

Bower Hill Youth Groups (3rd through 12th grades) are invited to enjoy an afternoon at Simmons Farms together. The cost to attend is \$12.50 per person; this includes a hayride to the fall fest, most fall fest activities, and one pumpkin to bring home. Snacks will be provided, but bring spending money if you want food from the concessions, market store, or to do apple slinging. RSVP is required so tickets may be purchased in advance. Adult chaperones are needed - please let Amy know if you are interested in helping at this event.

Remembering our Graduates

Below is the contact information for three of our recent graduates who left home in August for college. Whether you or your family can drop a note, share your child's artwork, or send a package, please keep them in your prayers as they meet new friends, adjust to life away from home and acclimate to their school schedules.



Our Church's Graduates

Ellie Rising

Foster Quad, Harper #C825

1000 N. Fee Lane

Bloomington, IN 47406

Miles Coleman Child

129 Hemenway St #104

Boston, MA 02115-4102

Madelyn Salvante

953 Danby Rd.

Hool Hall, Room 304

Ithaca, NY 14850



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

Parish Associate

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure
fr@bhccml.com

Company of Pastors

Rev. Dr. 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

Kim Digman, Office Administrator
office@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

70 Moffett St., Pittsburgh. PA 15243
(412) 561-4114

office@bhccml.com

Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

www.BowerHillChurch.org

Usher captains and greeters
continue to be needed for weekly
worship.

Please reply by emailing Sally
Child directly at
sa.child@yahoo.com or texting
her at 412-418-9507.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST



Bower Hill Church Members

**Jeff Carper, Sally Child, Dan Duffy
Jean Dunfee, Georgia Gallo
Nancy Green, Nina Helbling
Barbara Oram, Dottie Post
Donna Williams**

- Oct. 1: Alex Gorski
Brianna Ivey
- Oct. 2: Anne Mitchell
- Oct. 3: Rachel Robosky
- Oct. 5: Tyler Kane
- Oct. 11: Helen Carter
Jason Rising
- Oct. 12: Andy Baumhammers
Vanessa Shwallon
Sara Waller
- Oct. 17: Lesley Olinger
Eliza Watterson
- Oct. 18: Autumn Grella
William Young
- Oct. 19: Mary Ketchum
- Oct. 22: Allison Gibbons
- Oct. 24: Dave Stewart
- Oct. 25: Lori Rothschild
- Oct. 26: Dorothy Post
- Oct. 27: Brad Gray
- Oct. 29: Robert Balentine
Grace Foster
- Oct. 30: Curt Philson



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.