

# Bower Hill Community Church

JUN  
2022  
NEWSLETTER

## Sanctuary Flowers/Donation Dedications

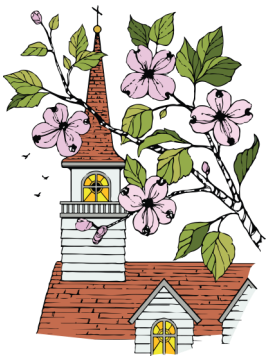
If you are interested in purchasing flowers or making a donation to the charity of your choice as a dedication in memory/honor of a loved one, please contact the church office to request a form or information. At this time, the following Sunday dates are available: July 3, 17. Please contact the church office if you would like to claim one of these dates.



## Lighting the Steeple

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](mailto:amlea97@hotmail.com). MULTIPLE sponsors can share the SAME DATE.



## Get Outdoors | June 4

The hike for this month will be the trails in Raccoon Creek State Park. Raccoon Creek State Park is one of Pennsylvania's largest and most visited state parks. It began as a Recreational Demonstration Area operated by the National Park Service in the 1930s during the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era. The park encompasses 7,572 acres and features the beautiful 101-acre Raccoon Lake. The park has 44 miles of trails to choose from. Raccoon Creek State Park Hiking Trails Raccoon Creek State Park Map

## Senior Men's Breakfast | June 7

Join us at 8:00 a.m. at the Denny's restaurant located at 2180 Greentree Road, near Swallow Hill Road. **All men are welcome.** Contact Glenn Child at [gstchild@yahoo.com](mailto:gstchild@yahoo.com) with any questions

## Hooks and Needles | June 4 & 18

Hooks and needles will continue meeting on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. We will meet in Room 110 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

New Members and needle workers of all skills welcome! Hope to see you there!

**Bookworms | June 28** Join us via Zoom at 1:30 p.m.

The Lincoln Highway

*By Amor Towles*

## Pastoral Ponderings

Sometimes people offer to help us in many ways. Not wanting to put anyone out, we often decline their help and do it ourselves. I have often not only observed this in others, but admittedly have been the one to stubbornly reject any assistance. We act this way in an effort to not be a burden to others. However, do we ever consider how it may feel to have help rejected.

As we struggle to be more of a community rather than individuals, we need to be mindful of the gift it is to allow others into our lives. There is an incredible joy in being able to help another as minor an act as it may be.

My then four-year-old grandson wanted to help me fix a step. Initially I rejected his offer and I could see his little lip begin to tremble. I offered him an opportunity to hand me the screws I needed. His smile broadened and I knew I had given him a gift beyond words.

As Brian leaves on his sabbatical, he was reluctant to "burden me" with duties while he was gone. It was only after we discussed this openly that he realized the gift he had given me. I hope in the next three months you will continue to allow me the gift of giving!

~Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate

# U p c o m i n g   Y o u t h   E v e n t s

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

Are your kids ready to



**GROW IN FAITH,  
HAVE FUN, and  
CHANGE THE WORLD?**

Get ready for the ReNew: The Green VBS™!

Did you know...Kids can lead the way as stewards of the earth? This summer, we invite kids from preschool through completed 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to participate in ReNew: The Green VBS. ReNew is about hope, opportunity, and service – kids will serve their community and demonstrate that being green can be easy, faithful, and fun! ReNew VBS will run daily the week of August 1-5, from 9:30 a.m. - noon. During the week, kids will explore God's Word through Jesus' Parable of the Sower, learn about God's Creation and what we can do to care for it, meet members of our community who are stewards of the environment, make new friends and have a great time! See the flier included in the newsletter for full details on how to register. If you would like to help plan this ministry event, please contact Amy Grella at [amysmiley3@gmail.com](mailto:amysmiley3@gmail.com).

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## Spring Plant Sale

Bower Hill Youth thank you for supporting our spring plant fundraiser. It was a big success, earning over \$1,200 profit! This money will be used to cover transportation costs for the Philadelphia mission trip in June.

thank you

## Summer Sunday School and Nursery Coverage

In-person options are now available for children from preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade on Sunday mornings using the Summer Sunday School format. Children will meet directly downstairs in room 110 before worship begins at 9:30 a.m. We will lead a modified program which focuses on fellowship. Kids will hear a short children's sermon/story and then have time to socialize and enjoy our playground. Older youth are invited to help lead activities like chalk, crafting, or bubbles.

Childcare in the nursery for infants and toddlers will be available during the worship service as usual, but there will be no second hour coverage.

## Mission Trip Update

A team of 10 people, 7 youth and 3 adults, leave on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> for a week-long mission trip to Philadelphia through YouthWorks. We invite you to join us in worship on Sunday morning for a special blessing and sendoff. The mission team plans to share their insights from the experience in a short presentation following coffee hour on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.



## Youth Group to host Hot Metal Bridge meal in July

Save the date! Bower Hill Youth will host the meal at The Table ministry at Hot Metal Bridge on Tuesday, July 19. Look for full details on how you can help in the coming weeks.



## 2022 ReNew VBS

### Mon, August 1 – Fri, August 5

- WHEN:** August 1-5
- WHO:** Completed pre-school (must be potty trained) – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- TIME:** 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- COST:** \$25 per child
- WHERE:** Bower Hill Community Church  
70 Moffett St, Pittsburgh, 15243

#### **How to reserve your spot**

1. Register on-line here: <https://forms.gle/sxhrijpsp4uiz3B28> and send payment via PayPal using the QR code below, or log into PayPal and send payment to [office@bhccml.com](mailto:office@bhccml.com). Or,
  - a. Fill in the attached registration form.
  - b. Attach check made out to Bower Hill Community Church, "Re-New VBS" in the memo line.
  - c. Return form and payment to the church office.
2. Detailed info will be emailed in mid-July.

Registration closes after July 15.





## RENEW REGISTRATION FORM

Camper's Name      Age      Last Grade Completed

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Total number \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 per camper = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total amount due**

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to Bower Hill Community Church**

**Mail check and registration form to: 70 Moffett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15243**

**Please write "ReNew VBS" in memo line.**



# NEWS FROM

## MISSION MATTERS

Bower Hill has supported Bread for the World for many years. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. In the past we have written letters to our congresspersons to advocate for legislation supporting food assistance. At the beginning of May, the Adult Ed and Mission Committees sponsored a Racial Wealth Gap Simulation event that was developed by Bread for the World. This newsletter and future newsletters will include information from this simulation we will call Minding the Gap. We will also include a section called Mending the Gap where we will suggest possible things we can do to mend the racial wealth gap in our country.

### Minding the Gap: Andrew Johnson's Land Policies and Sharecropping (1865-1880)

After the Civil War, only 30,000 African Americans owned small plots of land, compared to 4 million who did not because an 1865 federal law rescinded the government's promise of 40 acres of land for former slaves. These 4 million blacks largely resorted to renting the farmland of their previous master in exchange for a "share" of their crop. This system of "sharecropping" tied farmers to their former master because they were legally obligated to BUY all farming materials (usually at higher prices) and SELL their farming crops solely to their former master (usually at lower prices).

Rescinding the 40-acre promise to recently freed slaves prevented them from becoming fully independent from their former masters. They were legally free, but they were prevented from becoming financially free. If the 4 million people forced into sharecropping had owned their land, they could have started earning income and eventually would have been able to put aside assets for the future. But sharecropping's continual debt cycle made it nearly impossible to get enough to eat, let alone earn money. Sharecropping continued for three generations. These families were often hungry and/or poorly nourished, far more likely to live in poverty than white people, and far less able to accumulate wealth.

### Mending the Gap: Where can I get more information?

1. O'Brien Wagner, Nancy. "Slavery by Another Name: History Background." PBS. Twin Cities Public Television, Inc, 2012. [https://bento.cdn.pbs.org/hostedbento-prod/filer\\_public/SBAN/Images/Classrooms/Slavery%20by%20Another%20Name%20History%20Background\\_Final.pdf](https://bento.cdn.pbs.org/hostedbento-prod/filer_public/SBAN/Images/Classrooms/Slavery%20by%20Another%20Name%20History%20Background_Final.pdf)
2. History Channel. "Sharecropping." *History.com*. A E Networks, 2010. <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/sharecropping>

### What can we do now to help Black farmers?

There is an NPR story (4 mins long) from 2021 about debt relief for black farmers <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/04/1003313657/the-usda-is-set-to-give-black-farmers-debt-relief-theyve-heard-that-one-before> and a *New York Times* article on how this debt relief has been blocked/ tied up since 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/21/us/politics/black-farmers-debt-relief.html>

There is also the National Black Farmer's Association website where you can learn more and donate. [National Black Farmers Association](https://www.nbfarmers.org/)

# ADULT EDUCATION and MISSION LEARNING GAP

On the evening of May 1, approximately twenty-eight BHCC members and friends including both adults and youth attended a joint Adult Education and Mission event. We gathered for dinner together and for a chance to learn how the 13:1 racial wealth gap in the United States developed. It was a time for both fellowship and learning, although our topic was not an easy one. As we participated in the Bread for the World's Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation (<https://www.bread.org/library/racial-wealth-gap-learning-simulation>) led by the Reverend Liddy Barlow of Southwest Pennsylvania Christian Associates, we were variously surprised, frustrated, and outraged. As we learned about government policies from the nineteenth century to the present and their different impacts on black and white Americans, we began to understand in a more concrete way why accumulating generational wealth has been impossible for so many hardworking black people in our country. We could see more clearly that, even as people of goodwill and love for our neighbors, not to mention people with our own struggles and difficulties, we have benefitted, while others have been systematically left out.

This insight was worthwhile in itself, but it also led us, in typically BHCC fashion, to ask, "How can we make things different?" We know that loving our neighbors requires us to seek justice, but how is it that we, both as individual Christians and as a congregation, can do this in this case? We know that we cannot change a system built over more than a century and a half quickly, but we also know that there are both individual and group actions we can take to bring about small changes, and that many small changes will compound into a system which is more fundamentally just. What this kind of change takes is sustained awareness and commitment, so let us begin with these goals: greater awareness and small actions. At the end of our time together we did brainstorm some ideas in groups focused on the topics of housing, education, incarceration, voting rights, and jobs and employment. There were a surprising number of interesting ideas raised. Amy Grella has started a Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall where you can see some of these ideas about action. We hope all BHCC members will read these ideas, propose other actions, and take action as you feel called. Most of all let's commit to learning about the racial wealth gap in America because this too is meaningful. Don't forget to check out this bulletin board during coffee hour and add your actions. Also, please read and pay attention to the Mission's "Mind the Gap, Mend the Gap" feature which will appear in BHCC monthly newsletters. Finally, let's pray this summer and beyond that this meaningful evening will not be a one and done event, but that we at BHCC will continue to find ways to be a loving force for justice in the face of such a crushingly disparate system.

# NEWS FROM SESSION

## Church Leadership (2023-2025)

### 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

### Session Class of 2025

Alan Hohlfelder  
\*Phil Neusius  
Mike Riemer  
\*Kiri Rising

### Deacons Class of 2023

Sally Child  
Allison Druckenbrod  
Linda James  
\*Darenda Lease

### Deacons Class of 2024

Nancy Andrews  
Phyllis Madden  
\*Josie Sheldon  
\*Val Watterson

### Deacons Class of 2025

JoAnn Goode  
Christine Henney  
\*Bri Ivey  
Cindy Kelly

### 2023 Nominating Committee

Theresa Child  
Amber Grier  
Nate Ivey  
Ruth Robbins

\* = Second Term

# NEWS FROM SESSION

## Session Responsibilities (2022-2023)

### Clerk of Session

Bill Cadwell

### Church Treasurer

Gordon Mitchell

### Commissioners to Presbytery

Jean Miewald and Phil Neusius

#### Administration and Personnel

##### Session Liaisons:

Phil Neusius  
Mary Beth Waine

#### Community Life

##### Session Liaisons:

Matt Arner, Outreach  
Lynn Sirinek, Events  
Lynne Wohleber, Communications

#### Facilities

##### Session Liaisons:

Ed Hanke  
Fred Leasure  
Mike Riemer

#### Faith Formation

##### Session Liaisons:

Sarah Neusius, Adults  
Tracy Riggle-Young, Children  
Kiri Rising, Youth  
Nate Rising, Youth  
Bryan Webler, Children

#### Finance and Stewardship

##### Session Liaisons:

Alan Hohlfelder

#### Mission

##### Session Liaisons:

Jean Miewald  
Sarah Neusius  
Lynn Sirinek

#### Nominating

##### Session Liaisons:

Matt Arner  
Ed Hanke

#### Worship

##### Session Liaisons:

Amy Leasure  
Lynne Wohleber

### COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING

Our committees look a little different this year. For many years, we've had a session of 18 members who headed up 12 committees. This served us well for a time, but new realities in church life—and in the nature of volunteerism!—have caused us to streamline. Now, we have eight committees. Six of them are largely the same as they have always been, even if some of their names have been shortened. These are: Administration & Personnel, Nominating, Mission, Finance & Stewardship, Facilities (aka, "Building & Grounds") and Worship (formerly known as "Worship and Music"). Other committees have been consolidated. The old Communications, Outreach, and Parish Life committees have been rolled into a new Community Life Committee, which has individuals assigned to each aspect of the new committee's work. Similarly, the former Adult Education, Children's Education, and Youth committees are now the Faith Formation Committee with individuals assigned to each of the three different target groups. Instead of "committee chairs," we have "session liaisons" to represent the committees to the session of the church. We hope these committee structures will help us work more closely with each other across generations to identify and accomplish shared goals.





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

**Parish Associate**

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure  
fr@bhccml.com

**Company of Pastors**

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**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

**Bower Hill Church Members**

**Joan Bridges, Jeff Carper  
Jean Dunfee, Georgia Gallo  
Linda James, Cindy Kelley  
Gordon Mitchell, Dottie Post  
Mike Reimer, Donna Williams**



June 1: Carolyn Boisvert  
Kirsten Rising

June 2: Andy Druckenbrod  
Richard Junker  
Charlie Webler

June 3: Judith Linaburg  
Steve Grier

June 4: Robert Foster  
Amy Donahue

June 5: Nina Helbling

June 6: Laura Philson

June 11: Lily Philson

June 12: Bill Gardner, III  
Nancy Salvante

June 14: Jeffrey Criswell  
Leah Smith

June 17: Emmitt McElroy

June 18: Dylan Lease

June 19: Katelyn Cole  
Lucy Ivey

June 20: Tim Lease

June 22: Gloria Julian  
Rick Jacobs, Jr.

June 23: Mary Good

June 25: Coleman Child  
Alfie Watterson

June 26: Linda James

June 27: Nicholas Kane

June 28: Melanie Cole

June 30: Kirk Ketchum

**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.

# June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:30am Summer Sunday School (PreK-5th grade) - Rm 110 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 1:00pm Compassionate Friends (110,105,101)	<b>30</b> Memorial Day	<b>31</b> 11:00am Staff (101) 7:30pm BS Troop 28 (FH)	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)	<b>2</b> 6:30pm CS Pack 28 (FH,105,110)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Get Outdoors - See the weekly church announcements for details 10:00am Hooks & Needles (RM 110)
<b>5</b> <b>Pentecost</b> 9:30am Summer Sunday School (PreK-5th grade) - Rm 110 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 3:00pm GS Troop #50587 (Rm. 110, Playground)	<b>6</b> 7:00pm A & P Comm. via Zoom	<b>7</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group - Denny's 7:00pm Worship & Music (Zoom) 7:30pm BS Troop 28 (FH)	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)	<b>9</b> 8:00pm Eco-Justice Team (Conf. Rm. 101)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b> Unity Food Pantry 9:30am Summer Sunday School (PreK-5th grade) - Rm 110 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Building & Grounds (101) 7:30pm Mission Comm. (ZOOM)	<b>14</b> 10:00am Adult Ed Committee - Zoom 7:00pm Communication Committee - (Rm 101 & Zoom) 7:30pm BS Troop 28 (FH)	<b>15</b> Newsletter and Session Report Deadline 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00am Hooks & Needles (RM 110)
<b>19</b> <b>Father's Day</b> Senior High Mission Trip to Philadelphia 9:30am Summer Sunday School (PreK-5th grade) - Rm 110 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship	<b>20</b> Senior High Mission Trip to Philadelphia 7:00pm Deacons (Lounge 101)	<b>21</b> Senior High Mission Trip to Philadelphia 7:30pm BS Troop 28 (FH) 7:30pm Finance Meeting - Zoom	<b>22</b> Senior High Mission Trip to Philadelphia 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)	<b>23</b> Senior High Mission Trip to Philadelphia	<b>24</b> Senior High Mission Trip to Philadelphia	<b>25</b> Senior High Mission Trip to Philadelphia
<b>26</b> 9:30am Summer Sunday School (PreK-5th grade) - Rm 110 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 1:00pm Compassionate Friends (110,105,101)	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Session Mtg. (ZOOM)	<b>28</b> 1:30pm Bookworms - Zoom 7:30pm BS Troop 28 (FH)	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110,105)	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Get Outdoors - See the weekly church announcements for details 10:00am Hooks & Needles (RM 110)