



~~Getting Gathered to the Ancestors~~

*"Abraham died in a good old age, an old man and full of years,
and was gathered to his ancestors."*

~Genesis 25:8

Dear Members and Friends,

In October, we celebrate the Protestant Reformation, which has me thinking about history. Indulge me for just a few paragraphs. While Bower Hill "Community" Church is broadly ecumenical, we do have historic and ongoing connections to Presbyterianism and to Scotland, where the official state church is Presbyterian. The Church of Scotland (unlike the flashier Church of England) values simplicity. So much so that when John Knox brought the Protestant Reformation to Scotland, in the 1500s, they demolished many of the grand medieval churches and built simple ones to replace them. The newer churches have a stark elegance and beauty about them, but none of the frou-frou. (I think that's the architectural term...) This preference for simplicity extended to worship liturgies and traditions surrounding baptism and marriage and death. When John Knox himself died, in 1572, at the tender age of 57, he gave strict instructions that he should be buried in an unmarked grave. He didn't want anyone making his grave a place of pilgrimage. To this day, in the parking lot outside St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh (a grand church that survived the Reformation), at parking space #23, you'll see a humble marker in the pavement suggesting that this might be the spot where the great reformer is buried. No one minds if you park your car on top of him.

Nowadays, American Presbyterians embrace a lot of the things that our faith-forebears rejected, like celebrating Christmas and having big funerals. All of which is a roundabout way of asking, Did you know you can plan your funeral or memorial service in advance? You can designate a location for the service and for the burial. You can tell us whether you want a green burial or cremation. You can pick the hymns, readings and music, too. Imagine the scenario: You're going through life, and you hear a song, or a poem, or a Bible reading, or a great quote. Maybe it's one that you've always loved, or maybe it's one that you're hearing for the first time. You like it so much that you want it read or sung at your funeral. How are you going to make that happen? Simple. When you joined this church, we created a file on you. Most of those files don't have much in them aside from the paperwork you filled out upon joining the church—though some members have confided personal documents to us. Simply write down your funeral wishes, give it to the church office or me, and we'll put it in your file. If you want, I could even send you the template we use for memorial services, so you can think about it, make your selections, and get it back to me.

Me? Yes, I've had my whole funeral planned for years! I've got each detail ironed out: the prelude music, hymns, readings, prayers, postlude and overall flow. The only thing I don't have is a preacher, but I might prerecord myself. Anyhow, there's no need to be buried under the parking lot. Make a plan. I hope we won't have to use it for a long time.

~Brian



Worship Plans

October 4

World Communion

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Philippians 3:4b-14

October 11

Exodus 32:1-14

Philippians 4:1-9

October 18

Exodus 33:12-23

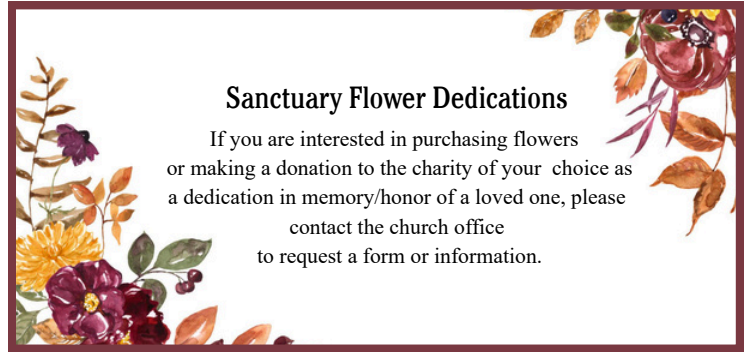
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

Reformation

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Matthew 22:34-46



Sanctuary Flower 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.

Lighting the Steeple

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: Kim Digman at office@bowerhillchurch.org. MULTIPLE sponsors can share the SAME DATE.



October 11

In honor of all who have served,
by Susan Watson

October 25

In honor of the birthday of Vivian Thomas
and the marriage of
Linda McElroy and Robert Thomas

FAITHFUL CONVERSATIONS

All high school youth and adults are invited to join us as we learn together and engage in meaningful conversations about issues of faith.

Upcoming Conversations:

October 4 – Rev. Don Dawson: What Happened to Global Mission in the PC(USA)?

October 11 – Chloe Snyder: Reflections on Her Summer Internship

October 18 – Rev. Sharon Woomer: Haitians in Charleroi

October 25 – Crystal Funk: Hearts United With Haiti

November 1 – Topic TBD

November 8 – The Boisverts: Faith and Food

CLERK'S CORNER

Due to popular demand, Session has asked me, as the newly appointed Clerk of Session, to provide a monthly summary of Session actions. Since I am new to this job, please bear with me as I attempt to fill the large shoes of Bill Cadwell, who served as our Clerk of Session for 17 years.

First, let me point out that I will continue with Bill's practice of posting all approved minutes from our meetings on the church website. All members have access to these minutes. Since we can only post "approved" minutes, there will always be a one-month delay in posting these minutes. The minutes from the April and June meetings were approved at the August Session meeting and have recently been posted. The minutes for the August Session meeting will be approved at the September meeting and posted soon after.

The minutes for each regular meeting of the Session include a statistical report of the congregation's membership. The minutes also list the action items from the Clerk, the Pastor, and each Session committee and whether the item was approved, rejected, or tabled. Occasionally, a new motion is presented during the meeting. You will not find any general information or general discussion of motions or other business. If you would like more specific information on any motions, you can contact the Elder, Pastor, or Clerk submitting that item or making a motion.

The minutes for the special meeting of Session on June 6 details the organizational structure approved for the year, such as when meetings occur and when communion will be celebrated. This also lists all approved appointments for the year. This year, the following appointments were made: Clerk of Session: Phil Neusius; Treasurer: Alan Hohlfelder; Presbytery Commissioner: Val Watterson; Alternates: Jen Webler and Vic Colaiaco. Session Committee Assignments were approved. The full list can be found in the minutes on our website. Approval was given to baptize Westly Thompson Kunkel on June 14, 2026.

As noted above, the minutes for the Session meeting on August 24, 2026, will be posted after they are approved at the September Session meeting. I can note that two task forces were approved. The first was to review and reassign, as appropriate, the responsibilities of the Community Life Committee, which was dissolved at the June 6 meeting. The second was to move forward with the Speaker Series from Spring 2026. Both task forces will be reporting at the September meeting.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Dr. Phillip D. Neusius, Clerk of Session
(phun50@verizon.net)

MISSION & EJTB NEWS

Update on Carnegie Carryout Dinners

In the summer of 2025 we began planning with the Carnegie Presbyterian Church to provide free carryout dinners to people in the Carnegie area using their church as the distribution point and the Bower Hill kitchen as the place where the dinners were cooked.

The leaders at the Carnegie Church had long wanted to provide a feeding ministry but their store-front worship space did not have a kitchen. Bower Hill was able to provide that along with financial support for things like utensils and carryout boxes.

We decided to have this event on the 4th Sunday of every month and hosted our first dinner in August of 2025, providing about 50 dinners. Since then, three additional Carnegie churches have joined this ministry; St John Lutheran, The Church of the Atonement, and Greater Hope Ministries.

Because Bower Hill only needs to provide the meal once every 5 months, we decided to add the 2nd Sunday of the month to the schedule over the summer. Because this was successful, Bower Hill is going to continue to provide the meals on the 2nd Sunday of every month. The Gibbs family has found this to be a meaningful way to spend a Sunday afternoon together, cooking and distributing these meals. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, either on the 2nd Sunday or helping with our next assigned 4th Sunday in November, please see either Jean Miewald or Bethany Gibbs.

Green Grocer Volunteers Needed

For more than 30 years, our church's Green Grocer program has been an important part of our mission efforts. Each Sunday, a volunteer picks up usable produce from Giant Eagle near South Hills Village and delivers it to SHIM in Bethel Park, helping provide fresh food to neighbors in need.

We are currently looking for additional volunteers! The commitment is about one hour, once a month, and volunteers will need access to an SUV, van, or pickup truck. Some boxes may be somewhat heavy, but this is a simple and meaningful way to serve our community.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Dave Hicks at 412-427-6606 or davehhicks@yahoo.com.

Unity Food Pantry Collection October 11

The food pantry's greatest need in October is for boxed cereal as always, cornbread stuffing mix, mashed potato mix, and packets of turkey gravy.

All non-perishable food items are welcome!

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.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Program Volunteer Training – October 25 & November 1

Do you have a heart for young people? Our next generation needs you! Current and potential new Sunday School and youth ministry volunteers should plan to attend one of the following sessions on Sunday, October 25 or November 1. We will meet at 10:45 a.m. in room 101 for about 45 minutes.

If you are interested but unable to attend either session, please reach out to Amy.

Sunday School Teaching Schedule

The new schedule for Sunday School teacher coverage is posted. Volunteers are needed to lead Holy Moly for our elementary group, aged PreK - 5th grade during worship. Content is available electronically, and training will be provided. [Click here](#) to select a Sunday that works for you.

New Presbytery-wide Training Event: Church Growth in a Post-Everything World

On November 14, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at Beulah Presbyterian Church. Pittsburgh Presbytery is sponsoring a training event for churches, designed for both staff and volunteers: pastors, elders, deacons, church lay leadership. This event will feature several workshops to equip and encourage leaders.

Registration is \$20, and covers a grab-and-go breakfast and lunch. Our goal is to bring at least one carload from Bower Hill. Each church only needs to pay for the first five registrants; after the first 5 registrants, it's only \$100 to bring as many people from your church as want to attend!

Register here: <https://airtable.com/appnjANkwZDw7.../pagutOKxgCfpGLdgs/form>

Update from the Director of Education Ministries – Amy Grella

Sunday Mornings for Children & Youth

Sunday Mornings for Children & Youth

Sunday morning options during worship engage kids to think about how the Bible can be applied to their world today. All youth will begin in worship, stay through *A Thought To Carry*, then head downstairs.

Please look below for details on the plan by each age group.

Holy Moly for Pre-K to 5th grade in room 105.

Kids will explore the Old and New Testaments using Holy Moly. They will hear and see a video and participate in activities to deepen their thinking around the story.

NEW Bible Study for youth in 6th – 12th grade in room 110

All youth in middle and high school are invited to join in an all-new Bible Study during worship in room 110. The youth will read and discuss theme-based Bible studies.

The nursery is open for babies and toddlers during worship in room 103.



Sunday Evening Youth Group Meetups

Bower Hill youth group meets weekly for students in grades 6-12 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in room 110. Join in the fun as we foster small group fellowship and discuss current topics. These meetups are ideal places for students to invite friends to join!

Youth Winter Retreat ~ December 4 - 6, 2026 – Registration Now Open

Bower Hill is heading to Crestfield for our annual winter retreat for youth in grades 6-12. This weekend retreat is a fun, faith-filled event that you don't want to miss! [Click here](#) for details and to add your name and see who else is going.

Youth Mission and Service Opportunities

Be sure to read in this newsletter for on-going service opportunities organized by the mission committee that you and your family can do together. Help to cook and serve a meal for Carnegie Carryout Dinners, on the second and fourth Sundays each month. Support Casa San Jose with ER Food Packing, shopping and sorting food the fourth Sunday of every month in Fellowship Hall after worship.

Saturday, November 7, at 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – We will head to Saints John and Paul Church in Sewickley to participate in Amen 2 Actions' Food Packing event. [Please signup using this link.](#)

Tweener Youth Group Updates for Grades 3-6

Sunday, November 8, at 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Join us and bring a friend. Optional pizza dinner with the 6th-12th grade youth group afterward. If staying for pizza, [please RSVP](#) so we can plan food accordingly.

Tweener Retreat February 27-28, 2027 – This is a special one-night retreat designed to introduce youth in 3rd - 6th grade to the retreat experience at Crestfield. Save the date... registration opens in January.

UPCOMING

Fellowship Events

Get Outdoors October 10

Friendship Hill National Historic Site

Friendship Hill is a National Historic Site located on the Monongahela River near Point Marion. It was the country estate of Albert Gallatin. Albert Gallatin is best remembered for his thirteen-year tenure as Secretary of the Treasury during the Jefferson and Madison administrations. In that time, he reduced the national debt, purchased the Louisiana Territory and funded the Lewis & Clark exploration. Gallatin's accomplishments and contributions are highlighted at Friendship Hill. We will hike some of the 10 miles of trails on the 661-acre park. If the group wishes, we can take the self-guided tour of the house.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the main parking lot and carpool to the hike. The trailhead should be about an 80-minute drive. The hike should be about 2 hours. So, we will be home around 2:00 p.m. If it rains, we will reschedule. Please email me at gstchild@yahoo.com or call so we don't leave without you.

Hooks & Needles October 17 Friendship Room

Hooks & Needles meet at the church in the Friendship Room. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We would like to have more members, so if you enjoy any kind of needlework, please feel free to join us. Just park in the handicapped parking lot and come in the kitchen door and down the hall.

Koinonia Wednesdays 9:15 a.m. Room 110

All women are welcome to join Koinonia, BHCC's women's Bible study group, and to explore and share in faith and fellowship with other women. This group meets on Wednesdays, fully in-person in the lounge (Room 110). Contact Sarah Neusius (sraahneusius@gmail.com) for more information or just come and join us.

Senior Men's Breakfast October 6 8:00 a.m.

Join us at Denny's restaurant at 2180 Greentree Road, near Swallow Hill Road. No reservation is required, and conversation is spontaneous. The regular meeting date is on the first Tuesday of each month. All men are welcome. Any questions or comments, contact Glenn Child at gstchild@yahoo.com.

Bookworms October 27 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

This is an open invitation to anyone attending Bower Hill Community Church, friends and family members, to join Bookworms, the Church Book Club. Reading and discussing books since 2001, members have enjoyed the variety of perspectives readers bring: from 'loved it', to 'yuk', to everything in between.

The group reads fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, biographies, really anything the group suggests. The conversation is assisted by online reader guides. Different perspectives create great discussions. All opinions are welcome. A list of the books read by the group is available on the church website. (<https://www.bowerhillchurch.org/books-read>). Check out the variety!

The group currently meets by Zoom on the fourth Tuesday, January through November, at 1:30 p.m. We met in the evening at the church until Covid made meeting in-person impossible. Virtual contact is still comfortable for most attendees, although that could change in the future.

Please consider joining the group to discuss any book that interests you. Reading every book and attending all the discussions is not mandatory to be a member. Come try us out. We may 'worm our way' into your reading routine. To join the group for the next meeting, send your requests to Sally Child at sa.child@yahoo.com.

October's Book - *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi



Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor
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Company of Pastors
 Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes

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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
 Nancy Green, Barb Oram



October 1: Alex Gorski
 Brianna Ivey

October 2: Anne Mitchell

October 3: Rachelle Robosky

October 5: Tyler Kane

October 11: Helen Carter
 Jason Rising

October 12: Andy Baumhammers

October 13: Harrison Ehrensberg
 Vanessa Grey

October 17: Lesley Olinger
 Ella Watterson

October 18: Autumn Grella
 Hugh Marsteller
 William Young

October 24: Dave Stewart

October 27: Brad Gray

October 30: Curt Philson

October 31: Lucius Cunningham

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.

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations - Sermon Discussion (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 12:30pm Compassionate Friends (Rm 101, 105, 110, FR) 2:00pm Carnegie Carryout Dinners Mission Project (Kitchen) 6:30pm Youth Group (Room 110)	28 8:00am Montessori 7:00pm Session Meeting (FR)	29 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	30 8:00am Montessori 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 8:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsals (Choir Room) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	1 8:00am Montessori 9:45am Jefferson Evacuation Drill Backup Date (Rm 110, 105, FH, Sanctuary, Balcony) 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)	2 8:00am Montessori 4:00pm Joan McAnulty Family & Friends Visitation (FR)	3 Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast 10:30am Joan McAnulty Celebration of Life 2:00pm First Baptist Church Installation (Sanctuary, Kitchen, FH)
4 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations - Rev Don Dawson, What Happened to Global Mission in the PCUSA? (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 6:30pm Youth Group (Room 110)	5 8:00am Montessori 7:00pm Worship Committee (Rm 101)	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group - Denny's 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	7 8:00am Montessori 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 5:30pm Montessori Parent Meeting (FH) 8:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsals (Choir Room) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	8 8:00am Montessori	9 8:00am Montessori	10
11 Unity Food Pantry Collection 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations - Chloe Snyder talks about her summer internship (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 2:30pm Carnegie Carryout Dinners Mission Project (Kitchen) 6:30pm Youth Group (Room 110)	12 8:00am Montessori 7:00pm B&G Meeting (Rm 101)	13 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:00pm Communications (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	14 8:00am Montessori 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 8:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsals (Choir Room) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	15 Newsletter and Session Report Deadline 8:00am Montessori	16 8:00am Montessori	17 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)
18 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations - Rev Sharon Woerner, Haitians in Charleroi (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 6:30pm Youth Group (Room 110)	19 8:00am Montessori 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (Room 110)	20 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:00pm Finance Meeting (Virtual) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	21 8:00am Montessori 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 8:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsals (Choir Room) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	22 8:00am Montessori	23 8:00am Montessori	24
25 Casa ER Food Packing 9:30am Children's Worship 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 10:45am Youth Volunteer Training (Room 101)	26 8:00am Montessori 7:00pm Session Meeting (FR)	27 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105)	28 8:00am Montessori 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 8:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsals (Choir Room) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	29 8:00am Montessori	30 8:00am Montessori	31