

~ North Winds, South Winds ~

*“The wind [Spirit] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

~ John 3:8

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Easter season to you! Though Easter Day—like all days—lasts only twenty-four hours, the season of Easter stretches on for seven lovely weeks. “Eastertide” in the Northern Hemisphere is designed to coincide with the growing light of spring, and the greening earth and the blooming gardens. It’s nice when the living world all around echoes the message of new life. I did spend five Easters on the equator, in a land of endless summer. Easter was good there, too—though admittedly less dramatic. But I do wonder what Easter is like in the Southern Hemisphere, where it comes with the first chilly breath of autumn. Would we celebrate Easter with quite the same joy if it was accompanied by a misty nip in the morning air, if the green leaves of summer were newly touched with just a tint of fading yellow? I hope we would. The joy of Easter defies all props, and it depends not on daffodils and tender buds. It’s a mysterious truth that we have all sometimes encountered deep in the quiet of our souls: Death is strong, but life is stronger. In God’s wise and wondrous economy, nothing good is finally lost, and even death is not forever. No matter how old, or tired, or bored, or uninspired we may feel, the God we know in Christ makes all things new. The winds of new life blow where they will.

I’ll be spending the second and third Sundays of Easter (April 8 & 15) on the equator once again, in the African nation of Malawi. Pittsburgh Presbytery has a longstanding relationship with the Blantyre Synod of a denomination called “The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian.” I’ll be one of two pastors representing our presbytery at talks with Malawian and Sudanese church leaders. Most Americans just assume that our African friends are the “junior partners” in this relationship, but pause to compare the numbers. Bower Hill belongs to the Synod of the Trinity, which covers a large geographic area: all of Pennsylvania, most of West Virginia, and a small part of Ohio. Ever since colonial times, this has been the venerable old homeland of American Presbyterianism, with a current church membership of about 225,000. Blantyre Synod in Malawi—which is one of three synods in that country—is about the size of New Jersey, and it has 1.2 million church members! Pittsburgh Presbytery is partnered with an African synod that’s almost as big as our entire American denomination. Of course, African countries have three factors contributing to the growth of their churches, one of which we share: 1) high birthrates, 2) social prestige attached to church membership, and 3) the unpredictable movement of the Spirit, which John calls describes as a wind. That Spirit of new life blows where it will. When the flame of faith burned brighter in our part of the world, it was dim in Malawi. The flame of faith burns less bright in our materialistic society today, but it burns brighter there. That’s fine, and as it should be. The Spirit comes unexpected, usually uninvited. It meets us where we are—as Anne Lamott says—but never leaves us where it finds us. In this season of Easter, pause to consider it. How are the winds of the Spirit stirring in your life and in the life of Bower Hill?

In Christ’s Peace,  
~Brian

**TALKING ABOUT TOMORROW:** Whenever a month has five Sundays, we gather during second hour on that day for an intergenerational potluck and to talk about our vision for Bower Hill Church. We call these events “Talking about Tomorrow.” At past events, we’ve discussed our unique identity as a congregation and the values that drive us. Please bring a dish to share and join us on April 29, as we discuss the ways that our identity and values ought to shape our worship, education, and mission. This is always a fun event, and children are welcome!



### **MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE**

Our annual observance of Maundy Thursday will take place on **March 29 at 7:30 p.m.** We will gather in the Friendship Room (due to Family Promise), just opposite the nursery. This communion service relives the events that took place in the Upper Room on the night of Jesus' arrest. As Jesus and the disciples moved from the table to the garden, the service will move from the Friendship Room to the sanctuary, where it will conclude. Children are welcome to take part.

### **GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Good Friday falls on **March 30**. An afternoon service at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church continues a longstanding tradition in our community. Instead of the three-hour service of previous years, this event now lasts from **12:00-1:00 p.m.** Pastor Snyder and ministers from four other congregations will each share a five-minute sermon on the passion of Christ. A community "super choir" will sing.

### **HOLY SATURDAY PRAYER VIGIL**

The sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation on **Saturday, March 31**, from **12:00 noon until 7:00 p.m.** Prayer guides will be available in the Narthex, and the older children will prepare "prayer stations" in the sanctuary. Please park in the kitchen parking lot (the handicap lot). Enter and exit the building only via the handicap door.

### **EASTER SUNDAY — APRIL 1**

Our annual Easter breakfast and children's Easter Egg Hunt takes place at **8:30 a.m.** Everyone is welcome—bring nothing but your appetite!



The Egg Hunt is for preschool through second grade and takes place on the front lawn. Third and 4th graders will help the younger children hunt for eggs, and the 5th and 6th graders will hide the eggs.

Our Easter worship service follows at **9:30 a.m.** with a **joyful celebration** of resurrection with strings and horns. The **nursery will be open** during the service, and our normal Children's Worship will be held for preschool through grade four.

### **FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Amy Grella — am@bhccml.com

**Please refer to the Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday details regarding children and youth participation.**

### **NOW RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FOR DAY & JR. DAY CAMP JULY 23-27**

This summer we will continue to offer two different camps for our vacation bible school. The theme for both is **Beyond Belief-The Universe of God**. Day Camp, led by Crestfield staff, is an all-day faith-building experience for elementary youth in completed 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Jr. Day Camp happens from 9am-12pm, and is for children in preschool (must be potty-trained) up to completed Kindergarten. Jr. Day Camp is run by Bower Hill Church staff and volunteers.



The CE committee envisions using this week-long summer ministry as a tool to reach out into our community to invite friends and family to Bower Hill. We are excited to be preparing for an increased number of youth in both camps and we need your help! Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the Friendship room. Complete details on the volunteer opportunities are there as well.

All adults helping with Jr. Day Camp must be Approved Adults. Approved adult application forms are on the bulletin board by the Friendship Room. This is an easy (and free) process that can be accomplished from any computer. If you already have your clearances through a school or another organization, you don't need to repeat the process; you can use copies of that information. Lastly, in a few weeks look for a "WISH" tree, filled with the supplies and monetary donations needed to support Jr. Day Camp. Thanks for your help in supporting Bower Hill youth!

### **UPCOMING SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE PLANS**

We've got some special events in store for youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up during SNL. Save the following dates—

**April 8** — We will be painting our blocks on the wall in the Youth Lounge.

**April 22** — Game night

**May 20** — Special guest speaker (Ed Sutter) talks about suicide prevention.



**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Anne Carper Smith—[an@bhccml.com](mailto:an@bhccml.com)

Thank you to all who made the Palm Sunday worship so special! Especially members (and their parents) of the Cherub and Chorister Choirs, the Chancel Choir, Chris Robbins, and Jason Robosky. A very special 'Thank you!' to Margaret Zabo, who graciously played at Compline Services throughout Lent. She did a magnificent job!

Many thanks to Deb Carter, who graciously volunteered to lead our Chorister Choir during Lent. Thank you!

The Cherub and Chorister Choirs will rehearse again beginning in November.



**ADULT EDUCATION**  
Linda James, Committee Chair

There are two options for adult education:

**Faith Formation and Spiritual Development**

This class is different each week. The class is held in Room 208. For April the classes will be as follows:

4/1/18 – There will be no Adult Education.

4/8/18 – Mike Reimer will be the guest speaker. He will speak on the Salvation Army Disaster Response for Humanitarian Relief covering the 2017 Hurricane Season. They did responses to Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria.

4/15/18 – DVD Presentation (*Painting the Stars – Session 7 An Evolving Spirituality*) Linda James will lead the discussion of the impact of science on our faith and how they connect.

4/22/18 – For this class, Peter Smith will lead a discussion of the lectionary verses of the week.

4/29/18 – There will be no Adult Education due to the fact all of the members will be meeting together for further discussion about the future.

**Progressive Theology** – This class is intended for those members who have not attended adult education in the past. This class is held in Room 206. The class is being taught by Michelle Snyder and Tracy Riggle-Young. They will be using a DVD course, *Living the Question*. The course will discuss subjects that seem to make Christians angry – like homosexuality, evolution, other faiths, and “end times”.

There will be no classes on April 1, due to Easter, and again on April 29 due to *Talking About Tomorrow*.

# APRIL

## WORSHIP PLANS

**April 1: Easter Day  
Communion**

John 20: 1-18; I Corinthians 15: 1-11  
Rev. Snyder preaching

**April 8: 2nd Sunday of Easter**  
Matthew 7: 1-6; Galatians 5: 16-25  
Rev. John Yohe preaching

**April 15: 3rd Sunday of Easter**  
Luke 4: 14-21  
Rev. John Yohe preaching

**April 22: 4rd Sunday of Easter**  
I John 3: 16-24; John 10: 11-18  
**Confirmation Sunday**  
Rev. Snyder preaching

**April 29: 5th Sunday of Easter**  
John 15: 1-8; I John 4: 7-21  
Rev. Snyder preaching

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS



Would you like to purchase sanctuary flowers or make a donation to the charity of your choice in memory or honor of a loved one?

**The dates of June 10, 17 and 24 are currently available for dedications.**

The cost is \$35 to make a donation and \$45 for LIVE flowers. Please call the office if you have any questions.

## APRIL WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

### COMMUNION SERVERS—EASTER

Steve Boisvert, Karl Casey  
Tim and Darendra Lease  
Nancy Andrews, Cynthia Gissin  
Jim and Joan McAnulty

### LECTORS

Easter: Cathy Morgan  
April 8: Keith Mason  
April 15: Keith Mason  
April 22: Brian Harman (tentative)  
April 29: Cynthia Gissin (tentative)

USHER CAPTAIN — Andy Druckenbrod

### GREETERS

Easter: Druckenbrod family  
April 8: Bob and Jennifer Foster  
Linda James  
April 15: Geis family  
April 22: Cathy and Peter Morgan  
Craig Grella  
April 29: Lisa Shwallon, Cindy Waller  
(Jeff Carper greets each week.)

### ACOLYTES

Easter: Henry and Clara Druckenbrod  
April 8: Graceann Foster and Ruby Siefken  
April 15: Kemp and Helen Carter  
April 22: Hayden Jones and Nate Rising  
April 29: Owen and Jacob Geis

### COFFEE HOUR

Easter: N/A  
April 8: Lease  
April 15: Philson  
April 22: Families of Confirmands  
**April 29:** Leasure  
*Talking About Tomorrow*—Potluck Brunch

### FLOWER DEACONS

Easter: Mary Gorski  
April 8: Melissa Harman  
April 15: Anne Mitchell  
April 22: Doris Olinger  
April 29: Nancy Green

### SEXTONS

Easter: Dick Headley  
April 8: Jean Miewald  
April 15: Tim Lease  
April 22: Bill Cadwell  
April 29: TDB

### SOUNDBOARD

Easter: Glenn Child  
April 8: Rob Mackey  
April 15: Nathan Ivey  
April 22: Bill Andrews  
April 29: Bill Andrews

**Need to switch or reschedule? Contact:**

Communion Servers: Josie Sheldon

Greeters: Andy Druckenbrod

Lectors: Brian Snyder

Acolytes: Jean Miewald

Coffee Hour: Theresa Child

Flower Deacons: Cynthia Gissin

Sextons: Bill Cadwell

Soundboard: Glenn Child

It's time for the **Spring Flea Market** and there are many opportunities to participate. Here's the scoop:

### Items will be collected from now through Sunday, April 8.

All items must be clean and in working condition. PLEASE do not include clothes.

If you are able, please take all items directly upstairs to the loft, otherwise leave them on the benches outside Fellowship Hall.

FINAL PRICING — **Sunday, April 8**, from 10:45 a.m. until ???

UNPACKING THE BOXES — **Wednesday and Thursday, April 11-12**, from 9:00 a.m. until ???.

Since it worked out so well the last time, we are going to unpack both days again. There is not as much stuff as the Fall flea market, so the work days won't be as strenuous a workout as the last time!

- Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a workout. We are typically done between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. Snacks will be provided, but if you plan to stay all day, you may want to bring a bagged lunch.

SALE DAY — **Saturday April 14**, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The Flea Market opens at 8:30 a.m., and we usually have shoppers arriving early, so the most help is needed during the first few hours.

SOUP COOKS AND BAKERS NEEDED. We are 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 13, sometime between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We are also looking for two gallons of each of the following soups: Chicken Noodle, Potato and Chili. Soup can be dropped off in the kitchen on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. or by 9:30 a.m. on the day of the Flea Market. Containers can be provided.

Don't forget that flea market helpers get first crack at all merchandise!!

If you have any questions, contact Theresa Child at 412-429-9519 or at [treeoowon@yahoo.com](mailto:treeoowon@yahoo.com).

Thanks in advance for all your help to make this year's spring flea market a huge success.



## COMMUNITY NOTES

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



### THE SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The senior men's breakfast group will meet again on **Wednesday, April 4**. The meeting time is **8:00 a.m.**, and the location is the Kings Restaurant on Route 50 near the end of Greentree Road, in Scott. The group meets in the room to the left of the cashier, and no reservation is necessary. Usually 6-10 church members attend and are welcome to an unstructured discussion of any topic that comes to mind. Join us!

### UNITY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Our next collection date will be **Sunday, April 8**. The pantry's needs are primarily for boxed cereal (especially Cheerios, which is the only cereal some clients are able to eat), canned soups, and vegetable-only or fruit-only baby food. Donations of any non-perishable food items are always welcomed. Collection bins are located in the hallways outside the church office and the narthex.

### WESTERN PA DIAPER BANK

The collection of disposable baby and adult diapers has resumed on a quarterly basis. The next collection date is **Sunday, June 17**.

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

### BOOKWORMS



BHCC's ladies' book discussion group meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday 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.

**April 24**—*Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amor Towles

### *A Box of Crosses*

#### **Book written by BHCC's own C. Coolidge Wilson**

On February 15, 2018, Wipf and Stock Publishers released a new novel titled *A Box of Crosses* by C. Coolidge Wilson—our own Cal Wilson, who served as Interim Pastor at our church in 1993–1994 and 2009–2010.

*A Box of Crosses* features the Reverend Stirling McCutcheon, a Scottish Presbyterian Minister who has been called to serve as Senior Pastor at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in Albany, New York. As one who has placed in juxtaposition Dostoyevsky's notion that "there is nothing lovelier than the Savior" alongside Grünewald's grotesque portrayal of the Crucified Christ, McCutcheon defines his own identity as a *devotee of fractured beauty*, an identity that rivets him to the beauty of his parishioners fractured by misfortune and tragedy. A variety of crosses—icons that come to him in various ways—represents the suffering of his people, each cross possessing its unique story. In addition to dealing with the age-old question of a loving God that allows inexplicable suffering in his beautiful world, McCutcheon wrestles with the unnerving query whether God is expendable.

McCutcheon's predecessor apparently hanged himself in front of his congregation during a Good Friday dramatic presentation of Paul Claudel's *Death of Judas*. Was it an accident, or did his disillusionment cause him to identify too closely with Judas? In contrast to his predecessor, McCutcheon holds fast to his ordination vows as a shepherd of his flock, even at his own personal expense and that of his family.

*A Box of Crosses* is available on Amazon.com or may be ordered directly from the publisher by calling (541) 344-1528 or emailing [orders@wipfandstock.com](mailto:orders@wipfandstock.com). Please consider posting a review on Amazon.

### SHIM'S 39TH HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

**Sunday, April 15 — 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Temple Emanuel of the South Hills  
1250 Bower Hill Road**

All are invited to attend this annual interfaith remembrance of the Holocaust. The Clarion Quartet will perform a meaningful musical program.

## **SANDI'S GARDEN**

In spite of the ups and downs we experienced this winter, spring will be here soon and BHCC will once again be participating in SHIM's efforts to provide fresh, organic produce to the families who participate in its Food Pantry.



Sandi's Garden provides opportunities for all members of the congregation to participate. Members can help make this year even more successful than last year by:

Donating seed packets of swiss chard, spinach, kale, bush beans, pole beans, sweet and hot peppers, squash, zucchini, and by request new for this year, bok choy and pak choy.

Donating sweet and hot pepper plants.

Donating regular or Thai basil plants. Fresh herbs are always welcome at the Food Pantry.

Signing up to water the garden beds for a week.

Helping with harvesting produce.

Volunteering to deliver the produce on delivery days, typically Monday or Tuesday mornings.

Setting aside a small portion of your home garden for SHIM. Simply bring your donation of produce to church and leave it in the kitchen refrigerator marked "SHIM Garden."

Our hope is to have the garden ready to plant in early April. Be on the lookout for an email blast requesting help on a Saturday to refresh the garden soil. We are blessed to be part of a congregation that is committed to the call to serve others in so many ways. Sandi's Garden provides an opportunity to enjoy the long awaited warm sunny days of spring and summer knowing that our little plot of land is part of a wonderful mission. Many thanks to all who have been part of this mission project in the past and who continue to support it.

## **PONDERINGS FROM THE PA**



Resurrection is an interesting word. As Christians we associate it the season of Easter. The image is one of the Christ rising from the dead. It is the affirmation of a transformation from death to new life.

In 325 The Council of Nicaea determined how the date of Easter would be chosen. It was roughly to coincide with the vernal equinox. This meant that from that day forward we would be getting more and more daylight and the beginning of Spring! Setting the date at this time of the year allowed the season itself to proclaim the resurrection of the landscape from the dull brown of winter to the bright green and vibrant colors of a new growing season.

Perhaps as we enter this season of new birth we too can allow it to permeate our daily living by a change in our perspective. Resurrect relationships that have been forgotten. Engage in an activity that we have allowed to forget. Reach out to those that seem to be stuck in the dullness of winter and awaken them to the sunshine of a new day and a new season!

*Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate*



# BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

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## OUR CHURCH STAFF

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## THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

## 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)

**Ginny Starr**

**Ethel LaBarbera**, \_\_\_\_\_, Bridgeville, PA 15017

## 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.