

~A Time to Speak~

*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every matter under heaven...
a time to keep silence and a time to speak."*

~Ecclesiastes 3:7

Dear Members and Friends,

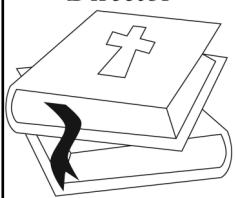
The trouble with Christmas is that it just comes too early in the season. By the time you're taking down the tree, the winter pregame show is just getting started. Winter is still in the locker room doing its stretches. It's in February that we really need the emotional support of tinsel. Strings of lights would help to buttress our spirits as March draws on and winter goes into overtime. The church feels so sparse and bare—with its red ribbons and green garlands long since packed away. But take courage! Lent is drawing near! Lent is one of my favorite times to be your pastor. Why? Well, let's just say that the theatrical textures of Lent suit my temperament. But more than that, I always love the evening services that we have at the church during Lent. Be sure not to miss them this year. They will begin on Ash Wednesday—February 26—with a service of communion and ashes at 7:30 p.m. Each Wednesday evening in Lent (March 4 – April 1), we will hold a vespers service in the sanctuary, using the majestic "evening services" from the 1946 Book of Common Worship. A different church member will select the hymns each week, and then, instead of a sermon, that same church member will be interviewed about his or her faith journey. Would you be willing to pick the hymns and allow yourself to be interviewed? I need five volunteers! Don't be shy. This has been a very successful event in the past. Telling your own story can be intimidating, but people really do want to hear it, and the telling of it will give you a new kind of perspective on your life. Contact me if it just might be your time to speak.

Also in February, we're going to hold a fun event in fellowship hall. Do you recall that a web series called "To Be Me" was filmed largely at our church in December 2018? (I played the part of the pastor, and—no joke!—found my name listed as a cast member on the famous entertainment website IMBD.com!) "To Be Me" shines a spotlight on the plight of many gay teens in America. About twenty kids from an LGBTQ support group in Beaver County came to our church to serve as "extras" in the filming of the show. This group is named PRISM, and it provides support for teens whose communities and families are not always sympathetic. Kelli Dunham, an old college friend of mine who is now a successful stand-up comedian, has offered to do a free (and clean!) comedy routine at our church. She will pass a hat at the end, and all donated proceeds will go to PRISM of Beaver County! (Look her up: www.kellidunham.com, "Really funny person, really serious subjects.") The PRISM youth will be in attendance at the event, and the Kelli—who is "gender non-binary" herself—has offered to stay and do a Q&A with them after the show. It will be "a time to speak" for these kids, too, and for us to express our unspoken love for them just by welcoming them here and donating to their cause. Plan to make a night of it! It's a wonderful way to support a group of kids who need to know that Christian people do care about them. And you'll have a few laughs in the process on Saturday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m. Come prepared to drop a few bucks in the hat for PRISM. Nonalcoholic refreshments will be served.

All blessings to you as we inch toward the Lenten journey together. There's no one I'd rather be journeying beside than you.

In Christ's Peace,
~Brian

Christian
Education
Director



Amy Grella —
am@bhccml.com

TWEENER EVENTS (FOR 3RD - 6TH GRADERS)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 -- 6:00 - 7:30 P.M. -- GAME NIGHT AT BOWER HILL

We will meet at the church for group games and mixers. A snack will be provided, but not a full meal.

MARCH 14-15 -- TWEENER RETREAT AT CAMP CRESTFIELD

Youth in grades 3th-6th are invited to travel as a group for an overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield. We leave Bower Hill on Saturday, March 14, around 9:00 a.m., and return on Sunday before noon. This event is a TON of fun and designed specifically to introduce campers to the retreat experience. We will meet up with tweens from churches across the greater Pittsburgh area, to experience worship, games, music, and fun exploring the awesome activities available at Crestfield. Cost of the trip is \$85 per person. Make checks payable to BHCC. Deadline to register is Sunday, February 9. If you are interested in chaperoning, please let Amy know.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS (FOR 8TH-12TH GRADES)

Our youth calendar is full of special events for youth grades 8 and up. Here are the events planned in February. You can pick up a copy of the full calendar of events in Amy's office.

Sunday, February 2 -- 6:30-9:00 p.m. - Super Bowl Party at Bower Hill

Sunday, February 16 -- 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. - The Event 3.0 at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church

The Event 3.0 is our third annual youth group for the whole Presbytery. All youth, grades 8-12, are welcome to join us for an evening of games, worship, a message, and fellowship with their peers from around the Presbytery. Held at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, this is sure to be a great night for all who attend.

April 17-19 - 2nd Annual Spring Retreat with Sunset Hills at Camp Ligonier.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP UPDATE - JULY 5-10, 2020

Due to changes from YouthWorks, our youth mission team will now be traveling to Charleston, WV. In this more urban location, our youth will serve and build relationships with a variety of people in Charleston through the Boys & Girls Club, Union Mission and local senior centers, as well as partnering with a local church through facilitating children's programming. We still have room for additional youth and chaperones, so if you are interested, please see Amy.

SAVE THE DATE -- JR. DAY CAMP & DAY CAMP

It may not feel like summer, but summer will be here before we know it. Bower Hill's Day Camp / Jr. Day Camp will be the week of July 27-31.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Anne Carper Smith—an@bhccml.com



The music department warmly welcomes Britney Yauger as our soprano section leader. Britney is a first-year vocal performance major at CMU and grew up in the North Hills. Welcome, Britney!

Chorister Choir (grades 3-6) will rehearse from 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. on February 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 1. They will sing in worship on March 8.

Cherub Choir (Pre K - 2nd grade) rehearsals will take place from 11:00 - 11:20 a.m. on March 8, 15, 22, and 29. They will sing in worship on Palm Sunday, April 5. Please consider making your child's rehearsal and performance attendance a priority. See Anne with questions.



ADULT EDUCATION

—Sam Kidder, Committee Chair

Join us in the Friendship Room from 11:00 a.m. until noon on Sunday mornings following worship and a time for fellowship. The February schedule is as follows::

February 2: We will continue the DVD Violence Divine, led by John Dominic Crossen.

February 9: Our speaker will be Dr. Ketyer of the Environmental Health Network. **(See description below.)**

February 16: In recent decades, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has provided essential guidelines for reading and interpretation of Scripture. We will take a look at the 1983 paper on "Biblical Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture." This later became a position paper adopted by the Church.

February 23: To be determined

Whether you're old enough to remember a young Dustin Hoffman's character in the 1967 movie, *The Graduate*, being told that a successful career path would be in "One word: Plastics," or young enough to notice everything plastic in our daily lives, you'll do yourself a favor by coming to **Adult Ed on Sunday, February 9**. You're going to learn, be surprised, and get information about two words: Fracking and Plastics!

We're excited to have Dr. Ned Ketyer, a Pittsburgh-area pediatrician with special interests in developmental pediatrics, preventative medicine, and environmental health. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont and his medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School. After completing his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Dr. Ketyer enjoyed 26 years in private practice before retiring from patient care in 2017. He continues to write and edit his practice's popular blog, The Pedia-Blog, and remains a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Environmental Health. Dr. Ketyer is a consultant for the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project, bringing attention to the health impacts of shale gas development in the Marcellus Shale gas patch, a board member of Physicians for Social Responsibility - Pennsylvania, and a Climate Reality Project Leader. In all these roles, Dr. Ketyer connects the vast petro-frack expansion underway in SW Pennsylvania with the local and regional health impacts currently experienced by residents, and the global ecologic and public health catastrophes resulting from plastic pollution and climate change that threaten the health and well-being of all passengers on this shining ball of blue.



WORSHIP PLANS

FEBRUARY

February 2

Communion

Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

"Blessed Are You"

February 9

Scout Sunday

I Corinthians 1:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

"You Are the Light"

February 16

I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37t

"What Is Hell?"

February 23

Transfiguration Sunday

Matthew 17:1-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21

"The Same, But Different"

February 26

Ash Wednesday

Communion and

Service of Ashes -- 7:30 p.m.

CONGREGATION MEETING NOTICE



By official call of the Session, the first 2020 regular meeting of the congregation of Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian U.S.A.) will be held on **Sunday, February 23**,

in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service.

The agenda for the meeting includes review of the 2019 annual report and year-end financial statement, presentation of the 2020 operating budget as adopted by Session, and approval of the pastor's revised terms of call.

Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session



A friend of ours welcomed her first grandchild in July. Just before Thanksgiving, her 100 year old mother died. At Christmas she sent a beautiful card that had a picture of her mother on one side and a picture of her granddaughter on the flip side. The caption was from Ecclesiastes 3:

for everything there is a season, a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted.

What a wonderful statement of faith! Too often we get stuck in only one season. In the frigid temperatures of winter and the grey skies, our focus can be only on the sad and miserable. When we only think about today and don't look to the future, we can be easily depressed.

My friend not only looked to the future for her but also to the future of the infant welcomed into the family. It was an affirmation not only of the love she had for her mother, but also the hope she had for a new tomorrow. In our coming time of reflection, let us fully appreciate all the seasons and remember the ultimate season of hope brought to us by the Christ.

~ Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate

LIGHTING THE STEEPLE



The opportunity to light the steeple of Bower Hill Community Church has been a great success! 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; and 4.) your name.

Email your request to: Amy Leasure at am-lea97@hotmail.com

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE CAN BE MULTIPLE SPONSORS FOR THE SAME DATE.

There are currently no steeple dedications for the month of February. Let's keep the program going!



ECO-JUSTICE TEAM

How are you doing on the electricity challenge? As promised, we will be providing tips throughout the year. You can also find many tips on the Duquesne Light website. Here are a few about laundry:

- Only run full loads.
- Wash in cold or cool water (even if you have a gas water heater, you'll still be saving energy).
- Make sure to clean out your dryer lint filter.
- Use dryer balls or add a dry towel to your loads.

When we began these monthly tips, it was with the old-time motto, "Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without." This year, we're adding a new motto, "Buy less, buy better, use longer." The idea is that spending more up-front can result in far less trash and avoid the aggravation of poor-quality products. More about this, especially clothing, will be coming in the future.

In the meantime, think about sustainability on Valentine's Day. Give a live plant instead of flowers that have been shipped a long distance. Buy local chocolate, and patronize neighborhood restaurants. It will be just as romantic!



Alma Johnson

11 June 1923 -- 26 December 2019

Mary Lou Frock

24 January 1931 -- 5 January 2020

A Letter to Members and Friends of Cal and Beth Wilson is printed on the opposite side of your calendar insert.



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

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST

This group will be meeting on **Tuesday, February 4, at 8:00 a.m.** The meeting location is the Denny's restaurant at 2180 Greentree Road near Swallow Hill Road. All senior men are welcome. No reservation is required. Conversation is spontaneous.

WESTERN PA DIAPER BANK

Collections will be made at each 5th Sunday Joint Worship/Potluck Brunch. The next projected collection date will be March 29.

Tax-deductible monetary donations are accepted at any time by making your check payable to **Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank and mailing it to 201 N. Brad-dock Ave., Suite 124, Pittsburgh, PA 15208.** Please note our church name in the memo line.

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

UNITY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



The next collection date will be **Sunday, February 9.**

Currently, the Pantry's greatest need is for boxed cereal--preferably low sugar varieties. In anticipation of providing side dishes for their clients' Easter Dinners, potato mixes, dessert mixes, and containers of frosting are requested. Remember that donations of any non-perishable food items are always welcomed. The Pantry is grateful to the Bower Hill Church congregation for the constant, faithful support of Unity Food Pantry!

The collection bins are located in the hallways outside the church office and the narthex.

The March newsletter deadline for article submission is **February 15.**

The church office will be **CLOSED on Monday, February 17,** in observance of President's Day.

BOOKWORMS



Our ladies' book discussion group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room 101 for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Everyone is welcome to read the book for the month and join the discussion.

February 25--*Finding Dorothy*, by Elizabeth Letts

SHIM COMMUNITY GARDENS 2019 PROGRAM WRAP-UP

It's hard to believe that 2020 will be the 9th growing season for the SHIM Community Gardens Program. What started as a pilot program in 2012 here at the SHIM offices yielding 1,571 pounds of produce, has grown to a program that last year provided 15,702 pounds of nutrient-dense choices to the families that SHIM serves. Credit for this accomplishment goes to each of you, our steadfast partners, and your crew of volunteers who plan, plant and tend your gardens. Our partnership is a perfect example of "many hands make light work."

The produce that is donated through our Community Gardens Program allows SHIM to distribute fresh vegetables to those who utilize our food pantries, and also provides an opportunity to continue our education programs related to nutrition and healthy choices by offering cooking demonstrations and recipes utilizing the produce that is donated. We also work directly with the children who attend SHIM's after-school and summer camp programs, teaching them about gardening and cooking with vegetables and giving them opportunities to taste vegetables they may have never tried.

Winter in Pittsburgh brings well-deserved rest not only for the garden, but for the gardener as well. Hope for warmer days ahead can be found in the final line of Shelley's poem "Ode to the West Wind" -- "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" We'll be planning and planting soon!

Thank you again for being a critical component of our successful garden program!

Gratefully,

Becky Henninger
Community Gardens Manager
South Hills Interfaith Movement



February 1—Nancy Geis
 February 3—Jaime Lease
 February 4—Nathan Gray
 February 8—Susan Hicks
 February 10—Lauren Kocher
 Maggie Weblor
 Beth Wilson
 February 11—Brianna Brown
 Caroline Donahue
 February 13—Nathan Ivey
 Glenn Williams
 February 14—Rachel McElroy
 February 15—Dennis Geis Sr.
 February 16—Jim Kane
 February 18—Karl Casey
 February 20—Taylor Linaburg
 February 22—LuAnn McNickle
 Mary Ryfun
 February 24—Scott Olinger
 Val Watterson
 February 26—Matthew Arner
 Chris Robbins
 February 27—Jean Barker
 Nick Gibbs
 Norma Grubb
 Chris May
 Tracy Riggle-Young
 February 29—Emily Chin

THE BIRTHDAY BLESS- ING

Please take a moment to read through the names, pray for them, and offer them your best wishes! If your name is not listed, it is because the church office does not have your information. Please call 412-561-4114 or email office@bhccml.com..

"NOT THE GYM TEACHER" COMEDY NIGHT FEBRUARY 22 AT 7:00 P.M.



Rev. Brian Snyder and Parish Life invite you to join us for a fun night of laughs from a comedian, ex-nun and college friend of Brian's who gives a humorous take on some serious issues. Look for more details in upcoming bulletins and email blasts. For information on the comedian, Kelli Durham, **see the Pastor's Letter on the cover of this newsletter.**



KIDS NIGHT OUT - PARENTS NIGHT OFF

*Hosted by Mt. Lebanon High School Girl Scouts
at Bower Hill Community Church*

Enjoy time for a date night out for Valentine's Day! Parents are invited to pack dinners for their children and drop them off with some enthusiastic teenage Girl Scouts and adult leaders. Kids enjoy games, crafts, a snack, songs and fun!

DATE: Friday, February 14 / 5:30—9:00 p.m.

Children who are potty-trained through age 12 are invited!

Cost: \$20/first child and \$15/additional children

Online registration is available and encouraged: <https://goo.gl/forms/LdUSIWe3Pr2xB6042> or, if questions, you can call Laura Teufel, Troop Leader, at 412-370-7144 or teufels@verizon.net. Space is limited. Reservations required.

Girl Scout Troop 50287 is working toward a trip to Chicago in the spring.

FLEA MARKET COLLECTION

Was your New Year's resolution to get rid of items you have hanging around that you're not using? Remember that we collect for the flea market year round!

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

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree program during the Christmas holiday season and also to those who participated in the BHCC Holiday Bazaar.

Family Promise



FAMILY PROMISE INFO

BHCC hosting weeks for Family Promise in 2020 are as follows:

February 9-16; February 23-March 1; May 3-10

July 12-19; September 20-27; December 20-27

The host week always starts on a Sunday afternoon and ends the following Sunday by 8:00 a.m.

Many volunteers are needed to prepare meals, serve as evening and overnight hosts, drive, coordinate activities, purchase and organize supplies, and assist in many other ways. Although most hosts are adults, youth can participate as well by arranging activities for young children and socializing with older kids. Volunteering together as a family is a great way to teach your own children generosity of spirit. We are always excited to welcome new volunteers! If you would like to help, please contact our **Family Promise Coordinator, Jean Miewald**: Phone: 412-221-2114; MiewaldJM@upmc.edu. To volunteer or to learn more, contact our **additional Family Promise contacts**:

Dinner Host—**Darenda Lease**, 412-854-4481 or dlease109@comcast.net

- Consists of preparing a meal for 14 people or less (plus the hosts!). An estimated number of guests and information is usually confirmed / communicated the week before hosting. Meals should be simple; a meat, veggie, starch, dessert. The dinner host stays until the overnight host arrives.

Overnight Hosts—**Betsy Hohlfelder**, 412-341-1029 or betsyho@verizon.net

- Overnight Hosts arrive between 8:00 and 8:15 p.m., interact with the guests until bedtime and then sleep in the chapel. After the guests leave in the morning, the overnight hosts make sure windows are shut, lights are turned off and doors are locked.

Drivers—**Linda James**, lindajames1624@comcast.net

- Takes approximately an hour of your time daily and provides you with an opportunity to meet and talk with new people.
- Involves driving the 14 passenger van from BHCC to the Crafton house in the afternoon, picking up our guests, and driving them back to BHCC (and vice versa in the morning). The times for leaving BHCC are usually 6:00 a.m. on weekdays, 7:00 a.m. on weekends, and 4:30 p.m. every afternoon.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNION SERVERS

Ben Boisvert, Bill Cadwell
Alan and Betsy Hohlfelder

USHER CAPTAIN—Sam Kidder

LECTORS

Feb. 2: Carolyn Boisvert
Feb. 9 Allie Bruder
Feb. 16: Nate Ivey
Feb. 23: Shelly Saba

GREETERS

Feb. 2: Ed Hanke, Barb Hughes
Feb. 9 Dick and Kate Junker
Feb. 16: Mary Gorski
Dawn Kane
Feb. 23: Kim Kennihan
Morgan Kohler

ACOLYTES

Feb. 2: Henry & Helen Carter
Feb. 9 Bea Watterson
Leah Smith

ACOLYTES (CONT'D)

Feb. 16: Aiden Belardi
Ellena Gibbs
Feb. 23: Teagan Bruce
Michela Robbins

COFFEE HOUR

Feb. 2: Saba
Feb. 9 Child (cake)
Boy Scout Sunday
Feb. 16: Young
Feb. 23: Geis

FLOWER DEACONS

Feb. 2: Darenda Lease
Feb. 9 Phyllis Madden
Feb. 16: Cynthia Gissin
Feb. 23: Mary Gorski

SEXTONS

Feb. 2: Bill Cadwell
Feb. 9 Glenn Child
Feb. 16: Alan Hohlfelder
Feb. 23: Tim Lease

SOUNDBOARD

Feb. 2: Rob Mackey
Feb. 9 Nathan Ivey
Feb. 16: Peter Morgan
Feb. 23: Bill Andrews

DISHWASHERS

Feb. 2: Mackey
Feb. 9 McElroy
Feb. 16: Carter
Feb. 23: Rising



LEAP YEAR

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

70 Moffett Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



Phone: 412-561-4114
E-mail: office@bhccml.com
www.BowerHillChurch.org

OUR CHURCH STAFF

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

Parish Associate
Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure
fr@bhccml.com

Company of Pastors
Rev. Tami Hooker
Rev. Phil Jamison
Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure
Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes

Amy Grella
Director of Christian Education
and Youth Programs
am@bhccml.com

Anne Smith, Director of Music Ministries
an@bhccml.com

Philip Engel, Financial Secretary
pe@bhccml.com

Karen Reynolds, Office Administrator
office@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2335
Pittsburgh, PA

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

Andrew Astarita, cousin to Michael Riemer, who is suffering from polycystic kidney disease and is in need of a kidney transplant.

Tommie DeSantis, friend of Kiri Rising, battling neuroblastoma

Dennis Geis, Sr. / Lauren Kocher

Betty Mancini, Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk St., #130, Pgh., PA 15201

Brian McFeeley, Principal of Mt. Lebo HS, as he battles pancreatic cancer.

LuAnne Pattison (former member)

Virginia Reinstadtler, mother-in-law to Mike Riemer

Sarah Stovall, friend of Andy and Jill Hicks, who is battling breast cancer

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.