



~Pressing On~

*“But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind  
and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on...”*

*~Philippians 3:13-14*

Dear Members and Friends,

Well, our 75th anniversary celebrations are behind us, and they were every bit as joyful and energizing as we'd hoped. Now I have about two dozen thank-you cards to write to all the folks who made the festivities such a success: donors, musicians, volunteers, church members, former pastors who traveled great distances to be with us... Who am I forgetting? If you invite me back for the 100th anniversary, in 25 years, I'll be happy to come, assuming I'm still on this side of the turf... I'll show up, eat, talk, and leave, and I'll be very glad that I'm not in charge of any of it! Anniversaries are joyful but exhausting.

The main question on our minds at this point is, What now? We've just celebrated the uniqueness of our congregation. It was a boost for morale and a reminder of our identity and calling. Groups have personalities, just as individuals do. Bower Hill Church really is a special place, with a long history of working to heal the world and a culture of acceptance, generosity, and mission.

An ancient Jewish proverb says, "Memory and hope abide together." That's to say, when we cast a backward glance at God's goodness in our lives, it gives us hope because God also holds our future. Paul, in the verse at the top of this page, seems to be telling us to forget the past. But he's speaking specifically about the life he lived before coming to faith. His point is that we must press on toward the future. We included some forward-looking elements in our 75th anniversary celebrations, most especially our speaker series, "Faith Forward: The Future of Congregational Life." An Episcopalian who attended all three events in the series said, "Most churches celebrate their anniversaries in the parish hall. You've made your anniversary into a gift to the community." That was our intention because that's the kind of church we are.

And so, I pose the question again: What now? It's time for Bower Hill Church to get creative about how we engage with our community. It's time for us to focus, to name the things that drive us, and to try some new approaches to mission and ministry. It's time to get in a huddle and come up with a plan. Videos of the speaker series will soon be available on our website. We'll let you know when they appear because we're hoping that everyone who was unable to attend the series will watch them. We'll be setting up times to gather and respond to the things we've learned. Stay tuned for more about that. But in the meantime, let's talk. What are your thoughts? What did the anniversary celebrations do for you? What did you enjoy about them? What did you learn? How are we going to press on?

Christ's Peace,

~Brian



**Worship Plans**

**June 7**

**Communion**

**Ordain & Install New Officers**

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

“Mercy, Not Sacrifice”

**June 14**

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

Matthew 9:35-10:8

“Callings”

**June 21**

Genesis 21:8-21

Matthew 10:24-39

“Many Sparrows”

**June 28**

Genesis 22:1-14

Matthew 10:40-42

“The Binding of Isaac”



**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](mailto:office@bowerhillchurch.org). MULTIPLE sponsors can share the SAME DATE.

**June 3**

In honor of all the Graduates of the Mt. Lebanon High School Class of 2026, by the Wetzel Family

**June 11**

In honor of all who have served, by Susan Watson

**June 16**

In honor of Eli by Susan Watson

**June 22**

In honor of Gloria Julian on her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday, by her family



## Mission Opportunities

### **New opportunity for mission: Casa San Jose Emergency Food Program**

We have a new opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus by grocery shopping for our neighbors who are clients of Casa San Jose and who are afraid to do it themselves. Every 5 weeks we will be ordering food from Aldi, delivering it to Bower Hill, repacking it into individual bags, and delivering it to the Casa San Jose offices. Casa will deliver these bags to their clients.

This project will involve food for over 25 families; between 40 and 50 cases of nonperishables. Because of the quantities, we are going to need younger and stronger folks than is our usual cohort of volunteers.

Here is how you can help.

- Volunteer to be trained and on the team for placing the Instacart order with Aldi.
- Volunteer to be one of our grocery couriers who would arrive at Aldi on Friday or Saturday of our assigned week with enough vehicle space and muscle to load up and deliver 40 to 50 cases of food to Bower Hill Church. We may need more than 1 vehicle to do this.
- Volunteer to be at Bower Hill Church when the food arrives to stack it ready for putting into individual grocery bags.
- Volunteer to be trained to be part of the team that puts the groceries into individual bags using Casa's packing schema. We need between 6 and 8 people for this. We will probably do this after church on our assigned Sunday.
- Volunteer to take the filled grocery bags to the Casa headquarters (currently on Pioneer Avenue) by about 1:30 p.m. on our assigned Sunday. We may need multiple vehicles for this or someone with a big truck.

Our first week for doing this starts on June 15 with the food packed and delivered on June 21. If you are interested in helping with this, please see Jean Miewald or email her at [miewaldmac@gmail.com](mailto:miewaldmac@gmail.com)

#### **Unity Food Pantry Collection**

**June 14**

As we prepare to give families with children more food for the summer since kids won't be having school breakfasts and lunches, our greatest need right now is for jelly, boxes of mac & cheese, and pouches of tuna fish. But as always 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.

## Stay Connected This Summer

As school lets out and we head into the routines of summer, there are several opportunities to continue to serve and connect.

### Summer Sunday School – Volunteers Needed Select Days

The Summer Sunday school format began on Sunday, May 24. This summer, kids' preschool through 5th grade will begin in worship and then head to room 110 directly after Passing the Peace for a short Bible-based lesson and then have time to socialize and enjoy our playground. Older youth are invited to help lead activities like chalk, crafting, or bubbles. Adult volunteers are needed the few weeks that Amy is out in order to share the lesson and then oversee the kids. Here is the link to sign-up.

### Seeking Small Jobs & Fellowship Visits

We are seeking opportunities throughout the summer for youth and families to be in service with and for our congregation. Do you have a project that might be overwhelming to tackle by yourself, or work that would be easier with a few helping hands? Bower Hill Youth would love to connect with you! Simply call the office, or use this link to tell us about your request, and we will contact you to schedule a visit. Thank you in advance for helping us find ways we can serve and connect this summer!

Also, if you are an adult with time to spare this summer, we'd love to have you join or organize a service team. Please email Amy at [amy.grella@bowerhillchurch.org](mailto:amy.grella@bowerhillchurch.org) to be added to the mailing list when jobs and visits are scheduled.

### SHIM Pepper Garden

Our pepper garden will return this spring, and with it, the summer harvests of hot pepper varieties that the SHIM food pantry families greatly enjoy! 124 pepper plants have been ordered through Dean's Greenhouse which will benefit the youth group mission projects. Stop by the table in the Narthex in the next few Sundays to donate money toward purchase of these plants. Plants cost \$2 each, and you can donate a flat amount or sponsor per plant. There is also an on-line option – [click here](#).

### Volunteer at Day Camp July 27 - 31

This summer, our Day Camp has been reimagined into an exciting, hands-on experience for kids—and it is also a wonderful opportunity for outreach and hospitality within our community. As we welcome new children and families into our church, we are looking for adult volunteers who can help create a warm, joyful, and faith-filled experience throughout the week. We need leaders and helpers for games, play-act storytelling, crafts, and mission activities, all designed to help children feel connected, valued, and loved. Whether you enjoy working directly with kids, using your creativity behind the scenes, or simply offering a friendly and welcoming presence, there is a meaningful place for you at Day Camp. Your time, energy, and encouragement can help build relationships, strengthen our outreach to families, and share.

## Update from the Director of Education Ministries – Amy Grella

### Register now for our ALL-NEW KIDS CAMP - July 27 - 31

Our annual VBS is getting an exciting makeover as a community outreach opportunity — creating a fun and welcoming place for kids to grow in faith, friendship, and service. The registration experience has been upgraded to a brand-new website... check it out! [Click here](#) to register.



### Jr. Day Camp \$25 for completed preschool - 2nd graders from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Campers will explore a fun “weird animals” theme and learn how Jesus’ love is one of a kind through games, crafts, music, and stories. First-year campers in this age group attend FREE, a great reason to invite a friend.

### Day Camp \$75 for completed 3rd - 5th graders from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Big kids love to help! Full-day campers will participate in a service-learning track. During the morning, campers learn compassion and service through real community impact. Kids will do hands-on mission projects led on-site by outside organizations like the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and SHIM. Kids bring their own lunch, and then spend the afternoon doing group games, crafts and activities just for them. Cost includes snacks and supplies for the daily mission projects. If your child only plans to stay for the morning, you can opt out of the afternoon session.

### Youth Volunteer \$25 for Completed 6th – 12th graders from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Students entering grades 6 and up can earn service hours in our Youth Leader Track, helping mentor younger campers while building leadership and teamwork skills with one of the camp tracks and have the option to stay in the afternoon doing structured games, crafts and activities.

### Day Camp Decorating Days

Bower Hill's summer day camps will follow a youth-leader model again this year; with pre-school through 2nd grade attending from 9:30-noon each day. Older youth serve as helpers in the morning, then stay through 3:00 pm each day for more in-depth activities just for them. All youth volunteering to lead VBS must attend at least one training/decorating session. Training dates are on Tuesdays or Sundays as follows:

Sunday, May 31, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 14, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 16, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 21, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 7, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 12, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 26, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### REGISTRATION IS OPEN for these Awesome Summer Events!

#### 3rd - 8th Grade Crestfield Classic Overnight Camp June 28 - July 2

Join Bower Hill Youth Group for a week away at Crestfield. Please use this link to indicate your interest and to see who else is going. [Click here](#) to watch last year’s highlight video to see what the week will look like!

#### 6th - 11th Grade Crestfield Service Adventure Camp July 20 - 25

This camp is for kids in grades 6th - 11th . Youth go off site during the day to do service projects in the local community, then return to Crestfield to have free time at the pool followed by dinner. In the evenings campers do camp activities and participate in a lively club time. Please use this link to indicate your interest and to see who else is going from our church.

# UPCOMING

## Fellowship Events

### Get Outdoors June 6

#### Moraine State Park – Hilltop Loop

On the South Shore of Lake Arthur, the Hilltop Loop trail in Moraine State Park passes by different stages of forest regeneration, cavity-nesting bird boxes, and the remains of a springhouse. The trail includes flat grassy areas and gradual inclines that lead to fields high above the highway and lake. This trail is labeled as more difficult which probably implies some hills to deal with. Depending on the time spent on Hilltop Loop, we will probably add Pleasant Valley or Sunken Garden Trail.

#### Moraine Trail Map

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the main parking lot and carpool to the hike. The trailhead should be about a 60-minute drive. The hike should be about 2 hours. So, we will be home around 1:00 p.m. If it rains, we will reschedule. Please email me at [gstchild@yahoo.com](mailto:gstchild@yahoo.com) or call so we don't leave without you.

### Hooks & Needles June 6 & 20 Friendship Room

Hooks 'n 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.

### Senior Men's Breakfast June 2 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](mailto:gstchild@yahoo.com).

### Bookworms June 23 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](mailto:sa.child@yahoo.com).

**June 23 - *Isola* by Allegra Goodman**



Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor  
brian.snyder@bowerhillchurch.org

Company of Pastors  
Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes

Amy Grella  
Director of Education Ministries  
amy.grella@bowerhillchurch.org

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THE CHURCH OFFICE  
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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, Joan McAnulty  
Barb Oram



June 1: Carolyn Boisvert  
Kiri Rising

June 2: Andy Druckenbrod  
Richard Junker  
Charlie Webler

June 3: Steve Grier  
Judith Linaburg

June 6: Laura Philson

June 11: Lilly Philson

June 12: Nancy Salvante

June 14: Leah Smith

June 15: Jamison Stazer

June 17: Emmit McElroy

June 19: Lucy Ivey

June 22: Rick Jacobs Jr.  
Gloria Julian

June 23: David Dickey  
Mary Good

June 25: Coleman Child  
Alfie Watterson

June 26: Linda James

June 27: Nicholas Kane

**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 2026

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b>	10:00am Joint Worship with First Baptist 11:00am Fellowship (Coffee) 12:30pm Compassionate Friends (Rm 101, 105, 110, FR)	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Worship Committee (Rm 101)	<b>2</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group - Denny's 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>4</b> 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast 9:00am Session Retreat 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)
<b>7</b>	9:00am Session Retreat (Rm 110) 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship	<b>8</b> 7:00pm B&G Meeting (Rm 101)	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Communications (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	Unity Food Pantry Collection 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship	<b>15</b> Newsletter and Session Report Deadline	<b>16</b> 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Finance Meeting (Virtual) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)
<b>21</b>	9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Session Meeting (FR)	<b>23</b> 1:30pm Bookworms (Zoom) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	Cresfield Elementary Overnight Camp 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 12:30pm Compassionate Friends (Rm 101, 105, 110, FR) 2:00pm Mission Project with Carnegie Presbyterian (Kitchen & FH)	<b>29</b> Cresfield Elementary Overnight Camp	<b>30</b> Cresfield Elementary Overnight Camp 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	<b>1</b> Cresfield Elementary Overnight Camp 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	<b>2</b> Cresfield Elementary Overnight Camp 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)