

## ~ Confirmation 2020 ~



### CONFIRMATION CLASS of 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

It's fashionable to call things "a journey." Your education, your closest relationships, your career, your personal faith—all of these are described as a journey, perhaps because they're always changing and growing. At some point, I've even spoken about "the confirmation journey" in reference to our biennial confirmation class. I use that language mostly out of habit, but in 2020, confirmation actually felt like a bit of an expedition. Confirmation Sunday was originally scheduled for March 29, the week before Palm Sunday. The service was supposed to be led by the students, two of whom even volunteered to preach! Confirmation Sunday took place instead on October 18, and no one preached but the usual guy. In September 2019, we began meeting in the church conference room with donuts and coffee each week. We ended, thirteen months later, meeting in the brick courtyard just outside the narthex, wearing masks and shivering in the autumn chill. We started with ten kids and finished with seven; one dropped out, and two chose not to confirm—which is a decision we respect. We had a talkative group this year, and they did a lot of good thinking about God, faith, the Scriptures, and life in general. Confirmation means that a child is adopting the faith into which he or she was baptized, making a personal profession of faith. For that reason, we ask students to write a personal statement of faith at the end of the class. With each child's permission, those statements are included as an attachment to this newsletter. Of course, faith is a journey, and confirmation is an important landmark along the way, but not the final destination. Like all living things, faith changes and grows. Although these personal statements will end up in their new membership files in the church office, the faith in the hearts of these young people will never quit evolving, maturing, gaining new insights, and yes, perhaps at times abandoning old ones. As members of this congregation, you and I are called to walk alongside them on the journey of life and discipleship. Thank you for your part in making this the kind of church that a fifteen-year-old would join!

In Christ's Peace  
~Brian

## Online Worship Service



Those who watch the worship service online know we have had many technical surprises that have challenged us in October. We have made changes that we hope will make the November online worship services go more smoothly. In November, we will be continuing to train on the equipment needed to bring you the online and in-house worship service. The team consists of Glenn Child, Theresa Child, Alan Hohlfelder, Nate Ivey, Jean Miewald, and Peter Morgan. Patience and prayers are welcome as we venture into the brave new world.

~Glenn Child

### Director of Christian Education and Youth Programs -- Amy Grella

#### Children's Worship (Preschool through Second Grade)

Weekly children's worship stories using the Godly Play format will continue to be pre-recorded and posted on the church website. For this age group, the CE committee felt it was important to provide parents content in order to engage in Children's Worship together with their child. We will host a monthly Zoom meeting for children to share and visit with each other.

#### Combined Programming (Third through Eighth Grade)

Kids in 3rd - 8th grade are invited to attend a combined Sunday School class during worship. Beginning Sunday, November 8, we will resume meeting indoors in room 105 at 9:30 a.m. The Sparkhouse curriculum, *Whirl All Kids*, will be used and modified for our combined classroom. Click [here](#) to learn more about it. Please be sure to dress warmly, as windows will be open for fresh air. There will be no organized programming after worship. **For those families wishing to remain at home, your 3rd-8th grader can join us live via Zoom.** Check your email for detailed info on how to join.



## Pies

#### The Pie Place Pies for Thanksgiving

Senior high youth are selling goodies and gift cards from **The Pie Place** to raise money for the outdoor seating area they are building in the church playground. The seating area will include a portable fire pit and will be a useful group meeting place for years to come. The pie sale is to fund the materials needed to build the benches. Thank you for supporting Bower Hill Youth!

#### **Deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 8.**

Pies will be available for pickup at the church on Sunday, November 22. You can mail or drop off your check (payable to Bower Hill Community Church) by November 8. Be sure to write "pie sale" in the memo line. There are three ways for you to place an order to make it easy for you:

1. Enter your order onto a shared document [using this link here](#). Once you enter your order, it will total the amount due.
2. Call any member of our youth group, and they will record your order for you.
3. Print the .pdf order form attached to the newsletter. Send it along with your payment to the church office. Copies of the printed order form and envelopes will be available outside the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, so you can place your order at that time as well. Please contact Amy if you have any questions.

#### Senior High Weekly Meetup

Beginning November 22, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will begin a new weekly meetup immediately following worship service and lasting 30 minutes. We will meet in the downstairs lounge (room 110).

#### Senior High Youth Group Meetups

We will continue to schedule outdoor meetups for youth in grades 9-12. During the month of November, we will focus on building the outdoor seating area. Look for more information from Amy once schedules are set.

## PASTORAL PONDERINGS



This month will be different for many. Though the whole year has been quite different, the month of November will be most unlike previous years. Turkey farmers are seeking to harvest smaller birds, and even grocery stores are cutting back on the staples that are usually in high demand.

With the virus still dominating our daily routines, the celebration of Thanksgiving will not be as robust as in the past. There will be people missing from our table. It will be a potential time of sadness if we focus on what we do not have. Unfortunately, most of the unfulfilled wishes are beyond our control.

Why not try something new this year that is in keeping with the season? If we would pause each day in November to be thankful for a different person in our life, think what a blessing it would be. We could offer a prayer of thanksgiving, send a “thinking of you” card or call them on the phone. At the end of the month, we would have accumulated at least thirty affirmations of people that we are so grateful to call friends. Even better if you could do more than one a day!

I am grateful for each of you as Bower Hill Community Church has been such a blessing for me and my family. I miss each one of you, but am so thankful I have come to know you on our mutual path to follow the Christ!

~Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate

## November

No-

### WORSHIP PLANS

#### November 1: All Saints' Day Communion

\* Please bring your own communion elements: bread & grape juice.

Rev. 7:9-17; Matthew 5:1-12

#### November 8: Pentecost 23A

Amos 5:18-24; Matthew 25:1-13

#### November 15: Pentecost 24A

Matthew 25:14-30;

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

#### November 22: Reign of Christ Sunday

Matthew 25:31-46;

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

#### November 29: Advent 1B

Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

## NEWS FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

During the month of November, we will be collecting for our neighbors in Beechview for Casa San Jose. Items to be collected include diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products, cleaning products, paper towels, and toilet paper. If you are attending the Sunday services, you can drop them off in the Pack 'n Play located outside of the Nursery. If you are not attending the services, items can be dropped off during the week inside the portico entrance (outside the office).

Pick up a couple of extra items when you go shopping, and help us make this drive as much of a success as the one held during the summer. Your help with this collection is appreciated!

## BOWER HILL AUTHOR GAINS ATTENTION:

Sam Kidder's book, *Of One Blood All Nations*, continues to make a stir at the national level! The Presbyterian Historical Society just published another article about it, the second in a two-part series.

You can find that article by clicking here:

<https://www.history.pcusa.org/blog/2020/10/john-bingham-ohio-congressmans-diplomatic-career-meiji-japan>

This book is available for loan from the church library and for purchase in the church office for \$15 cash—of which \$5 is given back to the church.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- Nov. 1:** Kate Junker  
 Anna Kocher  
 Bennett Kocher  
**Nov. 3:** Josie Sheldon  
**Nov. 6:** Kara May  
 Madelyn Salvante  
**Nov. 8:** Georgia Gallo  
**Nov. 9:** Andy Hicks  
**Nov. 10:** Greta Snyder  
**Nov. 13:** Jim Corbett  
 Jason May  
 Ellie Rising  
**Nov. 14:** Jim McAnulty, Jr.  
**Nov. 20:** Allison Schlesinger  
**Nov. 21:** Cassandra Gibbons  
 Melanie May  
**Nov. 24:** Vickie Bruce  
 Allison Lease  
**Nov. 25:** Lisa Shwallon  
 Michelle Snyder  
**Nov. 28:** Gloria Child  
 Clint Kelley  
 Chuck Laufer  
**Nov. 29:** Sam Kidder

### THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING

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](mailto:office@bhccml.com).

## PREPARING TO CELEBRATE

As we approach Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, we will all be seeking new ways to celebrate in this era of COVID 19. At Bower Hill, we are trying to get creative as well.

### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:

This study will be done via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, beginning December 2, at 7:30 p.m. Though we are not sure what the format will be, the theme this year will be: ***"Making Room: Sharing the Love of Christmas"***



This is a small-group offering that will explore the warmth of welcome at Christmas following interactions with Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi. Just as Jesus made room in God's kingdom for those on the margins of society, we too should be asking ourselves who we can make room for this Christmas season.

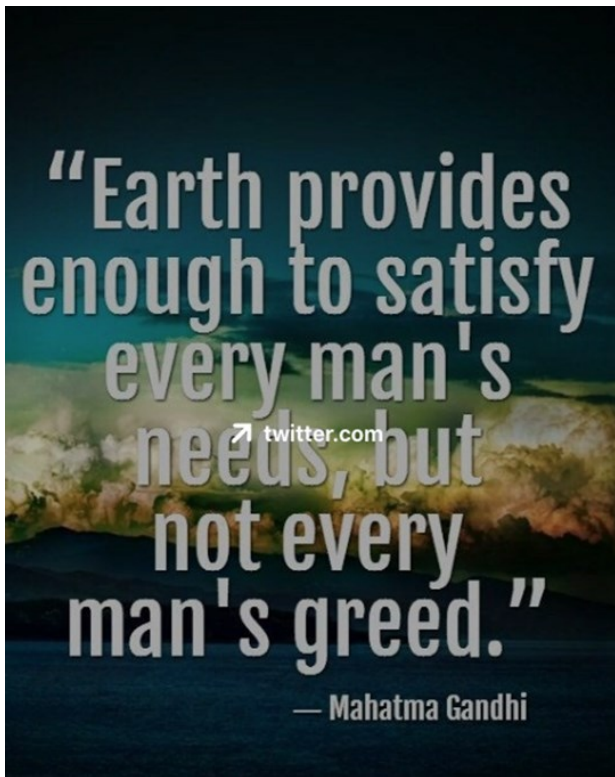
**This four session study will be led by our Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Frederick Leasure**

### TRADITION SHARING:

In an attempt to bridge the gap from distancing to community fellowship, our Parish Associate (aka. Fred) is seeking to gather a compendium of family stories, traditions and experiences that have punctuated your holiday season over the years. It may be a recollection of a toy you received, a scripture you always read, a special meal that was shared or something else. You are asked to take a few minutes to write it down, or video it and send it to Fred Leasure at [fhlea97@gmail.com](mailto:fhlea97@gmail.com). He will attempt to collate it with others and have it available on the church website to be shared. In our isolation, this has the potential to enliven our thoughts and share some oft forgotten joys of the community. Please take a few moments to make our celebration more special this year.





**ECO-JUSTICE TEAM NEWS**

An issue as serious and large as climate change can make us feel overwhelmed and helpless. The Eco-Justice team will periodically highlight examples of ingenuity, determination and hope that can strengthen us in the effort. Here's one example:

Long ago, people who lived in warm climates got ice from the heavens. Desert dwellers in North Africa, India, and Iran used a physics phenomenon called radiative cooling to make ice, even though the air temperature never got below freezing. At sunset, they would pour water into shallow clay trays or earthen pits lined with reeds. On a clear, starry night, the earth, giving up heat from all objects on it, would radiate that heat out of the atmosphere itself, leaving behind the absence of heat, which is coldness.

Scientists have long known about that effect, but assumed it was too difficult to capture it in the daytime, when the earth is absorbing heat from the sun. Then a materials scientist at UCLA named Aaswath Raman found a loophole in the greenhouse effect.

The visible light we see comes from electromagnetic waves in the short violet to longer red range, while the radiant heat we feel comes from the even longer, infrared part of the spectrum. There are "windows" in the atmosphere where electromagnetic waves of just the right length can slip through. Raman's task was to find objects that would emit only those waves of the right length to slip through. With colleagues in Stanford's engineering department, led by professor Shanhui Fan, he began developing a film made from many microscopic layers. The composition and thickness of these layers were designed to interfere with the way different wavelengths of light travel. This involved manipulating their materials, molecule by molecule.

After years of work the team had a prototype, but they still had to figure out how to make it useful in the world outside the lab. Their goal was to make it both inexpensive and able to integrate into existing air-conditioning units. They formed a company called SkyCool Systems. The company produces SkyCool panels in which water, cooled by the film, cools the refrigerant in an existing cooling system.

Last spring, Jesus Valenzuela, store manager of the Stockton, Calif., Grocery Outlet, agreed to test the panels. Over the summer they saved him \$3,000. He doesn't quite understand how the panels use outer space to help cool his grocery store, but he isn't concerned. "All I know," Valenzuela says, "is that it's saving me money."

caring for  
**GOD'S**  
earth



The church office will be closed on the following dates:

**VETERANS' DAY --November 11**

**THANKSGIVING -- November 28 and 29**

### UPCOMING DEADLINES

**The article submission for the December newsletter, AND reports for the December Session meeting are due into the church office by Tuesday, November 17.**

**Charlyn Balentine**  
June 7, 1947 - April 19, 2020

**June G. Schriber**  
1921 - September 18, 2020

**Mary Louise Gorski**  
October 4, 1948 - October 15, 2020



### BHCC Information

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor

Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure

#### Company of Pastors

Rev. Tami Hooker

Rev. Phil Jamison

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure

Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes

Amy Grella, Director  
Christian Education and Youth Programs

Anne Smith  
Director of Music Ministries

Philip Engel  
Financial Secretary

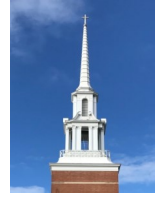
Karen Reynolds  
Office Administrator

### THE CHURCH OFFICE

(412) 561-4114  
office@bhccml.com  
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.  
[www.BowerHillChurch.org](http://www.BowerHillChurch.org)

### LIGHTING THE STEEPLE

The opportunity to light the steeple of Bower Hill Community Church continues to be successful. Many have sponsored a night in memory or in honor of a person or a special occasion. 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.



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; 4) your name. Email your request to: Amy Leasure at [amlea97@hotmail.com](mailto:amlea97@hotmail.com).

MULTIPLE SPONSORS can share the SAME DATE.

### Dedication for November 30

In loving memory of my father,  
Ralph Earlandson,  
with love from Kay Earlandson.

### Bookworms

The group continues to meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

**November 24 -- *Giver of Stars*, by JoJo Moyes**

**December -- no meeting**

**January -- *American Dirt*, by Jeanne Cummins**



### BHCC Care List

**Jeff Carper, Dennis Geis, Sr., Nancy Geis,  
Dave and Nancy Green,  
Jim McAnulty**

**Rev. Glenn Loper, 1st Baptist Church  
LuAnne Pattison, former member**

