



~ A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals your diseases, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

~Psalm 103:2-5

Dear Members and Friends,

The task of saying the grand Thanksgiving prayer at mealtime usually falls to the oldest adult, a matriarch or patriarch, or any family member who attends church more than twice a year. It's nice to have that kind of clarity about the job. But things aren't quite so simple when the extended Snyder Clan gets together for holidays. First of all, we've got way too many clergy representing way too many denominations. And secondly, saying grace is the honor that nobody wants. It always has been.

Being appointed to say the prayer at mealtime always felt like a minor punishment when we were kids. Imagine the scene: You're eight years old, and you've just been chosen to "return thanks," as my parents always called it—a phrase I've never completely understood. Both parents have their eyes reverently shut, and your four siblings are making faces at you around the table. Your words must satisfy three criteria: 1) impress God; 2) impress your parents; and 3) give your brothers and sister nothing to snicker at. The fumbling, the stammering, the panicked silences! Of course, whenever the mealtime prayer task was visited on one of my siblings, I mocked them just as mercilessly as they did me. But the sad result is that still today, when the extended family gets together for Thanksgiving, nobody wants to say the prayer. After all these years, it still feels like a surprise math quiz at the blackboard. That's why I literally like to "have one in my pocket," like this wonderful prayer by Walter Rauschenbusch, an early leader of the Social Gospel Movement.

Thanksgiving Day Prayer

For the wide sky and the blessed sun,
For the salt sea and the running water,
For the everlasting hills
And the never-resting winds,
For trees and the common grass underfoot, we thank you.
We thank you for our senses
By which we hear the songs of birds,
And see the splendor of the summer fields,
And taste of the autumn fruits,
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,
And smell the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
And save our souls from being so blind
That we pass unseeing
When even the common thornbush
Is aflame with your glory,
O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

~Walter Rauschenbusch (1861–1918)

Now that you've got it in writing, maybe you can use this prayer for your Thanksgiving feast, too. Whatever you do, in this season of gratitude, take time to give thanks. And don't forget that it's the 50th Anniversary of our **Inter-faith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 22, 7:30 p.m.**, at Good Shepherd Lutheran!

In Christ's Peace,

Brian

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



SENIOR MEN'S GROUP

The senior men's breakfast group will meet on **Wednesday, November 2**, and will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month until the spring. 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!

WESTERN PA DIAPER BANK

Our next collection date for disposable diapers will be **Sunday, November 20**. Sizes 4, 5 and 6 are most in need for babies. XL diapers are needed for the geriatric population. The collection container is the Pack'N Play located in the hallway directly outside of the Nursery.

Tax-deductible monetary donations can be made by a check payable to Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank and mailed to 2546 Centre Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Please note our church name on the Memo line of your check.

SHIM will distribute coupons for disposable diapers to the families they support. Please save coupons that you collect but don't use, and place them in the envelope near the Pack'N Play.

BOOKWORMS

Bookworms meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room (201) for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Everyone is welcome to read the book for the month and join the discussion. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, please note the date change.

November 29—*When Breath Becomes Air*
by Paul Kalanithi

No meeting in December.



COFFEE, CAKE & CONVERSATION meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The next gathering will be on **Tuesday, November 22**.

WALLACE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

(The next collection date is **Sunday, November 13**. The greatest need at the Food Pantry is for soups, canned dinners, and boxed cereal, although all non-perishable food items are gratefully received. Collection bins are located in the hallways outside the church office and the narthex.

LGBTQ INFORMATIONAL SERIES

BHCC is partnering with the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hill to host an educational series on LGBTQ topics and issues with the intent of becoming more welcoming to members of the LGBTQ community. Members of both congregations are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no charge to attend. The third and final session in the series will be held in BHCC Sanctuary on

Monday, November 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Topic: PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

LGBTQ WORKSHOP

Monday, December 5, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
BHCC Friendship Room (201)

The UU Church of the South Hills Interweave Group will present a workshop entitled "Transaction," best described as a transgender curriculum for churches and religious institutions. The curriculum is designed to help churches address the issue of understanding and welcoming by providing step-by-step training about the needs, apprehensions and fears of transgender people, as well as the wealth of gifts and graces they bring, while responding to the concerns of the church or religious institution. Participation is limited to 30 individuals, and an RSVP is required. Questions and RSVP to Interweave@Sunnyhill.org

**SHIP****WOR-
PLANS**

November 6: All Saints Day
Communion
Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Luke 20:27-38

November 13: 26th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 21:5-19

November 20: Christ the King Sunday
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 1:68-79

November 27: First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14

**ADULT EDUCATION**

Cathy Morgan, Chair
Adult Education Committee

Adult Education meets in the Friendship Room from 10:45—11:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings after worship and a time for fellowship. If you've never attended a session, give it a try. This is not your traditional "class," but an opportunity to explore what it means to be people of faith in this ever-challenging world. Our schedule for the month of November is shown below.

November 6: The **Rev. Fred Leasure**, Parish Associate, will lead the following discussion: *Giving Has Roots, But Fewer Branches - From Wise Men to Go Fund Me...what has changed?*

November 13: **Cathy Niebel**, Director of Program Effectiveness, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will lead a discussion on the issues facing immigrants in Pittsburgh and how her organization is assisting this group.

November 20: The **Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder** will continue his series on spirituality and theology in our lives and the life of the church.

November 27: Thanksgiving Weekend
No Adult Ed — Deck the Halls!

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Anne Carper Smith
an@bhccml.com



Fundraising for the organ project is underway! Please remember to submit your music sponsorship form ASAP!

Cherub Choir will meet in the choir room from **10:45-11:15 a.m.** on the following Sundays: **November 6, 13, 20, 27 and December 4 & 11.** The Cherubs will share their music with the congregation on **Sunday, December 18.** We can't wait to get started!

If you can speak, you can sing! Our **adult choir** cordially invites the congregation to join us for the Christmas season. **Rehearsals** will be held from **7:00-8:30 p.m. every Thursday**, and we have openings in all voice parts. Novice singers and non-music readers are welcome to participate! See Anne Smith for more details, or email her at an@bhccml.com. Hope to see you there!

The **Three Rivers Ringers** will present their Christmas Concert in our sanctuary at **8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2.** All are invited to attend this free concert! Donations are welcome. For more information, go to www.threeriversringers.org.

The **Yinzer Singers** will present a concert filled with Christmas favorites on **Sunday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. A portion of the offering will be applied toward our new organ! For more information, please see www.yinzersingers.com.

HEKIMA PLACE CELEBRATES !

Supporters of Hekima Place are invited to attend a reception to honor Jane Wanjiru—one of their first university graduates. It will be held at the St. Thomas More Family Life Center in Bethel Park on **Saturday, November 5, at 6:15 p.m.**

Jane was just one of six young women in a graduating class of 45 students. She said that this means a lot to her and that "Hekima Place is the best family you'd ever think to be associated with."



DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Amy Grella — am@bhccml.com

Please welcome Bower Hill's new children/youth interns, Jeremiah Wagner and Katie Thwaite. They are part of Crestfield Camp and Conference Center's Young Adult program. The program is designed to help young people discern if they are being called into ministry. Jeremiah and Katie will be assisting with Sunday morning children's worship and youth programming, along with helping at bi-monthly Sunday evening Eat and Meets.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

The deadline is November 1 to register students in grades 6-8 to join us on the Middle School Retreat at Crestfield. Complete details can be found on the youth bulletin board by the kitchen.

EAT AND MEET NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

Grades five through eight are invited to Eat and Meet on **Sunday, November 13 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Hope to see you all there!

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there is **NO MEETING** on Sunday, November 27.

RAISING MONEY-SMART KIDS

Amid the joys and frustrations of rearing children is a desire to pass along a healthy attitude toward money and the ability to manage it. Starting **Sunday, November 13**, we will offer a four-week seminar to assist parents of children of all ages to tackle this awesome task. The material is excerpted from Janet Bodnar's books *Money-Smart Kids* and *Mommy Can I Have That*. Ms. Bodnar has been a staff writer for the Kiplinger group and is well known for her helpful tips.

The sessions will be held at 10:45 a.m. following coffee hour in Room 103 and will coincide with the time for the Cherub Choir.



**NOVEMBER 9 is the deadline
for the December Newsletter.**

**All weekly bulletin submissions
are due on Tuesdays.**

November

**COM-
MUNION
SERV-**

ERS

Dave & Nancy Green, Kirsten Bruder, Lynn Foltz

LECTORS

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| November 6: | Steve Boisvert |
| November 13: | Lisa Shwallon |
| November 20: | Nate Rising (or Kiri) |
| November 27: | Sydney Saba |

USHER CAPTAIN:

Peter Morgan

GREETERS

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| November 6: | Ruth & Chris Robbins |
| November 13: | Jim & Sarah Cannon |
| November 20: | The Child Family |
| November 27: | Monette Shuttleworth, Keith Mason |

ACOLYTES

| | |
|--------------|---|
| November 6: | Hayden Jones, Ruby Siefken Estelle Smith |
| November 13: | Jacob & Leo Geis |
| November 20: | Allie Bruder, Ellie Rising |
| November 27: | Greta & Chloe Snyder |

COFFEE HOUR

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| November 6: | Gibbs Family |
| November 13: | Waine / Henney Families |
| November 20: | Burke Family |
| November 27: | Snyder Family |

FLOWER DEACONS

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| November 6: | Nancy Green |
| November 13: | Kathy Philson |
| November 20: | Doris Olinger |
| November 27: | Sally Child |

The
Church
Office



Will Be
Closed:

VETERANS DAY

Friday, November 11

THANKSGIVING

**Thursday/Friday
November 24 & 25**

THE BHCC FLEA MARKET NEEDS HELPERS !

The Flea Market will be held on Saturday November 19, and there are many opportunities to help. Here's the scoop:

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 items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, November 17, at 9:00 a.m. to ?? — UNPACKING BOXES

Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a workout! Typically, we're finished between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. We've got lots of stuff, so we'll need lots of help to unpack it all. Snacks will be provided but if you're planning to stay all day, you may want to bring a bagged lunch.

Saturday, November 19, 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. — SALE DAY

The Flea Market opens at 8:30 a.m., and we usually have shoppers arriving early. We're hoping to do the extra room for children's items again, so we'll need extra help throughout the day, but as always we'll need the most help the first two or three hours.

SOUP COOKS AND BAKERS NEEDED, TOO. We're looking for bakers to make items for the snack bar such as mini muffins, cookies, and brownies. Baked goods can be dropped off at the cart outside of the office on Friday, November 18, sometime between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We're also looking for a gallon of each of the following soups — Chicken Noodle, Potato and Chili—containers can be provided. Soup may be dropped off in the office refrigerator also on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or brought to the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. on the day of the Flea Market.

SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE IN THE NARTHEX FOR "DAY OF THE SALE" HELP AS WELL AS FOR SOUP COOKS AND BAKERS (or just let Theresa know where and when you can help).

If you have any questions, contact Theresa Child at 412-429-9519 or at treetoowon@yahoo.com.

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

Flea Market



Saturday, November 19

8:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Questions?
Contact Theresa Child
412-429-9519
treetoowon@yahoo.com

SANDI'S GARDEN WRAP-UP



After a productive run, Sandi's Garden has succumbed to the cold weather. Not, however, before having another intensely productive season. Our final tally was over 450 pounds of fresh, organic produce. This is even more impressive when you realize that this year we grew large amounts of lighter swiss chard, beans and over 150 pounds of hot peppers instead of tomatoes. As our youth will attest, it takes between 200 and 300 hot peppers per pound! SHIM reports that the Food Pantry clients were very appreciative of our produce, especially the hot peppers.

SHIM's Boaz Fields project, which now includes 13 satellite projects, helps its food pantry provide food insecure families with one of the most expensive items in a food budget; fresh, organic produce. BHCC once again, from the youngest on up, was an important part of this ministry to our brothers and sisters in the South Hills who depend on it to feed their families. A small plot of land made an important contribution to SHIM's Food Pantry efforts. Thank you to all who answered the call to serve others in many ways.

GREAT COFFEE, TEA, AND COCOA FOR A GREAT CAUSE



For over a decade Bower Hill Community Church has served Fair Trade coffee and tea during Fellowship Time and other church events. Congregation members are also able to purchase coffee, tea, and cocoa. Our coffee, teas, and cocoa are all from Equal Exchange worker cooperatives. Through Equal Exchange, small scale farmers not only receive a significantly larger share of the profits, they also have a say in how the organization is run and the cooperative profits are returned to their communities. Communities decide whether their share of the profits will help build a school, a community health center or another community need. PCUSA's Enough for Everyone Program has collaborated with Equal Exchange since 2001.

If you haven't been supporting this program, please consider purchasing some of our Fair Trade products. Coffee is \$8.00 per 12 ounce bag or box of 12 single serve cups. Teas are \$4.00 for a box of 20 tea bags and cocoa is \$6.00 per can. Each Sunday the Equal Exchange cart is located on the way from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall. We operate on the honor system for payment. Pick up your coffee, tea, or cocoa and place your check or cash in the offering plate marked "Coffee/Tea/Cocoa" or drop it off in the office if you happen to be at church during the week. Many thanks to all who have supported this project! Fair Trade products are a great way to help small scale farmers around the world support their families with pride and dignity.

- Nov. 1: Kate Junker
Anna Kocher
Bennett Kocher
- Nov. 3: Kelly Harvey-Jones
Josie Sheldon
- Nov. 6: Kara Pepicelli
Madelyn Salvante
- Nov. 9: Andy Hicks
- Nov. 10: Greta Snyder
- Nov. 13: Jim Corbett
Jason May
Ellie Rising
Joann Vosburgh
- Nov. 14: Jim McAnulty, Jr.
- Nov. 20: Allison Schlesinger
- Nov. 21: Cassandra Gibbons
Melanie May
- Nov. 24: Allison Lease
- Nov. 25: Lisa Shwallon
Michelle Snyder
- Nov. 28: Gloria Child
Chuck Laufer
- Nov. 29: Sam Kidder
- Nov. 30: Bob Mason



THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Please take a moment to read through the names, pray for them, and offer them your best wishes!

Please call
412-561-4114.

BOWER HILL YOUTH "FALL GIVING TREE" FOR SHIM

This year SHIM is doing something different with their Angel Tree giving. They are collecting cash/check donations or \$25 gift cards instead of specific gifts. Their idea is that donations of gift cards will allow SHIM families to purchase gifts and thus participate themselves in the joy of Christmas shopping for their loved ones.



Our youth have prepared a "Fall Giving Tree" to raise funds to purchase gift cards for SHIM before their distribution date in early December. You can see the "Fall Giving Tree" in the hallway outside the Friendship Room. Pick a leaf and make a donation for a \$25 gift card, or donate one of the designated gift cards to bring Christmas joy to South Hills families in need.

The Visa gift cards being providing to SHIM families are **Giant Eagle, Walmart, Target, Amazon, Visa** and **MasterCard**. Your cash/check donations will be used to purchase Giant Eagle gift cards which can be used to buy a variety of other gift cards and, if bought through Bower Hill, have the added benefit of providing additional funds for Bower Hill Church.

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

70 Moffett Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



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OUR CHURCH STAFF

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

Parish Associate
Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure

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

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Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
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Karen Reynolds, Office Administrator
office@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

Matt Dunfee, 966 Worthington Woods Blvd, Worthington, OH, 43085
Ethel La Barbera, 50 Vanadium Road, #130, Bridgeville, PA 15017
Alma Johnson, 13 Charles Street, Dravosburg, PA 15034

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.

