



~A Sense of Past and Future~

*"God has put a sense of past and future into their minds,
yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end."
~Ecclesiastes 3:11*

Dear Members and Friends,

Another summer winds down, another school year begins, another harvest season is upon us—though few of us know much about that. September afternoons feel much the same as August, blazing and bright. It's the morning and evening air that foretells a bittersweet truth: winter is not far off. It's not just the cooler temperatures, bearing hints of impending snow. It's also that crisp, fresh aroma in the late and early air. There are still tomatoes on the vine, but it smells like the start of autumn. I'm grateful to live in a place where the ever-changing seasons remind us of the cyclical nature of all life.

Any life has its seasons, which in turn are ordered by regular cycles. Infancy, childhood, teenage years, stasis, old age. In each of these seasons, you've got regular cycles of holidays, and the various months with their different kinds of weather and skies, birthdays and anniversaries. And each day of the week has its own style as well. (Remember Rain Man? "Fish sticks on Wednesdays.") Sundays just keep a-coming. My life (probably unlike yours) is largely spent in a weekly cycle of preparing for Sunday. Churches go through cycles, too. We journey each year through lazy summers to Kickoff Sunday, Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter.

What I'm trying to say is that the rhythm of church life enriches our individual lives with a sense of past and future, but most importantly with a sense of the present moment. The act of gathering with our chosen community on a weekly basis is good for us, whether we feel its redemptive power or not. Weekly corporate worship is a lot like physical exercise: You don't know how much better it's making you until something unexpected arises and you find you've got the strength to handle it.

We hope to see you back at church in this fall season. Kickoff Sunday will be a little bit different this year. On Sunday, September 13, instead of our usual breakfast before worship, we'll be holding a brunch after worship. At that time, we'll have guided discussions at our tables about what we learned at our 75th anniversary Speaker Series, what we envision for our church, and how we might lean into the social changes as a congregation. Don't worry. You don't need to have attended the Speaker Series to take part in the discussion.

As we start the cycle again, I'm grateful to be making this journey with you.

Christ's Peace,
~Brian



Worship Plans

September 6

No Communion

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 13

Kickoff Sunday

Communion

Matthew 18:21-35

Exodus 14:19-31

Brunch at 10:30

September 20

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32



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. MULTIPLE sponsors can share the SAME DATE.



September 11

In honor of all who have served, by Susan Watson

September 24

In memory and in honor of Jim and Joan McAnulty on their wedding anniversary, with love from their family.

September 26

In loving memory of my husband, Roger Allen, by Kay Allen.

Mission & EJT News

With a rousing celebration of our 75 years, and a new session year starting, it's a good time to think of our future and how we can grow spiritually and in showing love. To that end, the Eco-Justice team has been folded back into Mission, from whence it came. This does not mean that BHCC is abandoning efforts to deal with the environment and associated problems. After all, environmental disasters lead to humanitarian needs such as those traditionally addressed by our commitment to mission.

For instance, the recent *Children's Climate Risk Report* issued by UNICEF found that almost every child around the world, including those from high-income countries, is now exposed to at least one hazard, while "half of the world's children are now living with at least three overlapping climate threats shaping their daily lives." We have seen it in dangers to our friends at Hekima and in Haiti, as well as our neighbors in Bridgeville and Carnegie.

Let this be the season you volunteer for one of our mission projects, such as the Carnegie Free Fridge, the Carnegie Carryout Dinners, the Hope House in Charleroi (serving the Haitian community there), or our new food delivery project with Casa San Jose. You've read about them in bulletins, newsletters, and heard about them in Minutes for Mission. Now's the time to get involved! Also, look for our soon-to-be updated newsletter.

Unity Food Pantry Collection September 13

The food pantry's greatest need in September continues to be for boxed cereal, as well as dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, canned peaches, and canned tuna. 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.

Update from the Director of Education Ministries – Amy Grella

Join us for Kick-off Sunday, September 13

Join us as we kick-off the new program year. Regular Sunday school classes for kids preK through 12th grade resume at 9:30 a.m., followed by an all-church brunch.

Children & Youth Programming Begins on Sunday, September 13

Bower Hill provides opportunities for children and youth to belong and experience the simple fact that they are loved and wonderfully made! It takes time and space for youth to wonder, listen and grow in their understanding of how to live God's purpose for their lives in our world. It is our prayer that you prioritize the importance of these opportunities for your child as they develop through adolescence and beyond.

Sunday Morning Classes

Sunday morning options are offered during worship and engage kids to think about how learnings from the Bible can be applied to their world.

All youth will begin in worship, which will include a new format for a Time with Children called *A Thought To Carry*. Youth will remain in their seats to hear a short reflection designed to give young people a meaningful thought, question, or faith connection to carry into their week, followed by Passing the Peace. Youth are invited downstairs afterward to participate in one of the following Sunday school options.

Holy Moly for Pre-K to 5th grade in room 105.

Children preschool through 5th grade will start in worship with their families. After a Time with Children, kids will be escorted downstairs to room 105, where they will explore the Old and New Testaments using Holy Moly. They will hear and see a video and participate in activities to deepen their thinking around the story. Parents may pick up their children in room 105 after worship ends.

***NEW* Bible Study for youth in 6th – 12th grade in room 110**

All youth in middle and high school are invited to join in an all-new Bible Study during worship in room 110. Youth will start out in worship, and head downstairs after Passing the Peace. The youth will read and discuss theme-based Bible studies.



Sunday Evening Youth Group Meetups

New this year, Bower Hill will offer weekly youth group meetings for students in grades 6-12. This weekly meetup opportunity is designed to foster small group fellowship, where youth will discuss current topics, and what biblical teachings tell us about how to live in this world. These meetups are ideal places for students to invite friends to join!

2026-2027 YOUTH RETREATS

Why do we offer retreats? Retreats give young people a unique opportunity to grow in faith by focusing time together and away from everyday distractions. Retreats also create space for fun, adventure, friendship, and lasting memories while helping youth feel connected and grounded in the church community. Even Jesus took time to retreat and pray (Luke 5:16). So, while we know youth are busy, please save these dates and encourage your youth to participate!

Youth Winter Retreat December 4-6, 2026 – Registration Now Open

Bower Hill is heading to Crestfield for our annual winter retreat for youth in grades 6-12. Registration details to follow, but plan to leave Friday around 5:30 p.m. and return on Sunday by noon. This is a fun, faith-filled event that you don't want to miss! [Click here to add your name](#) and see who else is going!

Tweener Retreat February 27-28, 2027

This is a special one-night retreat designed to introduce youth in grades 3-6 to the retreat experience at Crestfield.

Youth Spring Retreat March 5-7, 2027

This retreat is open to youth in grades 6-12 at Crestfield.

UPCOMING

Fellowship Events

Get Outdoors September 5

September 5 – Friendship Hill National Historic Site

Friendship Hill is a National Historic Site located on the Monongahela River near Point Marion. It was the country estate of Albert Gallatin. Albert Gallatin is best remembered for his thirteen-year tenure as Secretary of the Treasury during the Jefferson and Madison administrations. In that time, he reduced the national debt, purchased the Louisiana Territory and funded the Lewis & Clark exploration. Gallatin's accomplishments and contributions are highlighted at Friendship Hill. We will hike some of the 10 miles of trails on the 661-acre park. If the group wishes, we can take the self-guided tour of the house.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the main parking lot and carpool to the hike. The trailhead should be about an 80-minute drive. The hike should be about 2 hours. So, we will be home around 2:00 p.m. If it rains, we will reschedule. Please email me at gstchild@yahoo.com or call so we don't leave without you.

Hooks & Needles September 5 & 19 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.

Koinonia Wednesdays starting September 16 9:15 a.m. Room 110

All women are welcome to join Koinonia, BHCC's women's Bible study group, and to explore and share in faith and fellowship with other women. This group meets on Wednesdays, fully in-person in the lounge (Room 110). Contact Sarah Neusius (sraahneusius@gmail.com) for more information or just come and join us.

Senior Men's Breakfast September 1 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.

Bookworms September 22 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.

September - *The President's Wife* by Tracey Enerson Wood



Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor
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Company of Pastors
 Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes

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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



September 2:	Calvin Kocher	September 19:	Jonathan May
September 3:	Davis Gray Emily Lansbery	September 23:	Henry Druckenbrod Bryan Webler
September 7:	Ashley Dickey Gus Watterson	September 25:	Amy Grella
September 9:	Aiden Belardi	September 27:	Sam Webler
September 10:	Phil Neusius	September 28:	Gordon Mitchell
September 12:	Doris Olinger	September 29:	Barret Bruce Ruth Foltz Ellena Gibbs
September 18:	Chloe Snyder		

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.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 11:30am Compassionate Friends - Butterfly Release (Sanctuary, Kitchen, FH) 4:00pm Youth Group Fall Kickoff (Bird Park)	31 8:00am Montessori	1 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group - Denny's 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	2 8:00am Montessori 4:00pm Montessori Year Kick-Off Event (FH) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	3 8:00am Montessori 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)	4 8:00am Montessori	5 Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)
6 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am First Baptist Worship	7 Labor Day	8 Cable Electric fixture install 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:00pm Communications (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	9 8:00am Montessori 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	10 8:00am Montessori	11 8:00am Montessori	12 Mt. Lebo HS Choir flower sale (South End Parking Lot)
13 Unity Food Pantry Collection 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship	14 8:00am Montessori 7:00pm B&G Meeting (Rm 101) 7:30pm Worship Committee (Pastor's office)	15 Newsletter and Session Report Deadline 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Finance Meeting (Virtual) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	16 8:00am Montessori 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	17 8:00am Montessori 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)	18 8:00am Montessori	19 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)
20 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship	21 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (Room 110)	22 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 1:30pm Bookworms (Zoom) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	23 8:00am Montessori 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	24 8:00am Montessori 9:45am Jefferson Evacuation Drill (Rm 110, 105, FH, Sanctuary, Balcony)	25 8:00am Montessori	26
27 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (Coffee) 11:00am Faithful Conversations (FR) 11:00am First Baptist Worship 12:30pm Compassionate Friends (Rm 101, 105, 110, FR) 2:00pm Carnegie Carryout Dinners Mission Project (Kitchen)	28 8:00am Montessori 7:00pm Session Meeting (FR)	29 8:00am Montessori 10:00am Staff Meeting (Rm 101) 7:15pm OA Meeting (Rm 105) 7:30pm Troop 28 & 9028 (FH)	30 8:00am Montessori 9:15am Koinonia (Rm 110) 7:00pm Mayfair on Moffett (110, 105)	1 8:00am Montessori 9:45am Jefferson Evacuation Drill Backup Date (Rm 110, 105, FH, Sanctuary, Balcony) 5:00pm Events & Outreach Committee (Zoom) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 28 (FH)	2 8:00am Montessori	3 Get Outdoors - See weekly E-Blast 1:00pm Hooks & Needles (FR)