

~ **Life to the World** ~

“The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

~John 6:33

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Lent to you. I suppose Lent is more about obedience than happiness, but even the solemnest roads on the Christian journey are meant to bring us joy, in time. One of my favorite children’s books is *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak. I still keep the ragged old copy that I used to read to my children, and I pull it off the shelf sometimes and thumb through it. Like many children’s books, it’s got a simple wisdom to it, if a bit dark. A young reader once made a charming little drawing for Sendak and mailed it to him. Sendak says this: “I loved it. I drew a picture of a Wild Thing on a postcard and sent it to him. His mother wrote back: ‘Jim loved your card so much he ate it.’ The little boy didn’t care that it was an original drawing. He saw it, he loved it, he ate it. That was one of the highest compliments I’ve ever received.” In fact, as I recall, there is a line about such behavior in *Where the Wild Things Are*. When Max gets into his boat to return home, the Wild Things grieve and wail, and they say, “Oh, please don’t go! We’ll eat you up, we love you so!”

A group in the church recently asked me why Holy Communion isn’t a more joyful occasion. I had to admit that the words to the Communion service are not especially joyous. They begin by saying, “Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God.” But then they go on to make a fairly wordy recap of the whole Bible, dwelling mostly on majesty and suffering. Where’s the joy? Isn’t the sacrament meant to be a love feast, Christ’s welcome banquet for all people? Joy seems in order. When God’s grace and presence are offered to us in physical form, with all the colors, and textures, and smells, and flavors of grapes and bread, then the desire to pop it into our mouths is not entirely off the wall. Our human longings run deep. Our yearning for the Holy is so profound, so primal, that we just might want to eat it up when we find it.

Sadly, Jesus’s joyful feast sometimes has a stuffy feel to it, slow and sad. Many a faithful soul manages to keep alert during the sermon, from start to finish, but drifts into a brief coma for Communion. Faces go blank. Thoughts wander. The Lord’s Supper is the ritual whose meanings we learned at confirmation but no longer recall. And yet, this ritual meal has always been central to Christian life. The early Christians celebrated it each time they gathered, and our denomination is encouraging us now to do the same. (I know better than to bleed on that hill...for now.) But as the Lenten season reaches its climax, we will celebrate Communion three times in eight days: April 5, April 9, and April 12: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. Allow me to suggest some ways we can deepen the experience and make it into a true “celebration” of Communion. First, let’s treat the silences as sacred time, a time to meditate not on our guilt, but on the many things that bring us hope and joy. Second, let’s imagine the bread and wine to be medicine for all that sickens our soul and breaks our heart, the divine presence in edible form. Third, let’s think about Sendak’s young friend who loved his original drawing so much that he stuffed it in his mouth and ate it. The drawing, for him, was a token of something more: the place of the Wild Things, a world that had captured his heart and imagination. Is that not what the bread and the wine are for us, tokens of our far off home, smells, and textures, and tastes from a realm that has captured our hearts? God chooses to offer Godself to us in this form, as the most essential thing of life: a meal. In our Lenten journey, let us notice and celebrate the many ways that God gives life to the world. The “Bread of God” is one of them.

In Christ’s Peace,
~Brian



ADULT EDUCATION
—Sam Kidder, Committee Chair

JOIN US in the Friendship Room for **Adult Education** from 11:00 a.m. until noon on Sunday mornings following worship and a time for fellowship.

March 1: In the last twenty years, the volume of clothes Americans throw away has doubled-- from 7 million to 14 million tons. That equals 80 pounds per person per year. The costs to the environment and to human rights continue to grow, as well. **Deb Boisvert of the Eco-Justice Committee will present, "The High Cost of Cheap Clothes."** Please join us for an introduction to this important topic."

March 8: The Violence Divine DVD series with John Dominic Crossan will continue.

March 15: Dr. Sarah Neusius' topic is *A Primer on Native American Religion and Spirituality*.

Popular fascination with Native American beliefs and spiritual practices often treat these as unitary and practiced by all Indians, but actually there were many distinct cultures and beliefs among the Native peoples of North America at European contact, and this is reflected in a variety of traditions recognizable today. A more accurate understanding appreciates this diversity and recognizes the cultural context of particular beliefs and practices. In addition, a variety of fascinating religious or spiritual responses to the oppression caused by European settler colonialism are worth noting as is the importance of Pentecostalism and other Christian beliefs among many contemporary Native American tribes.

March 22: Sam Kidder will do a session on his series on John Bingham from the Presbyterian Historical Society website.

March 29: Youth Sunday and 5th Sunday of the month; no Adult Ed.

Coming Up: The Adult Ed Committee expects to use the DVD *ProFuture Faith* by the Reverend Michael Dowd, which addresses "Eco-theism" (more later for the curious) after the Violence Divine series is concluded this spring.

ANNUAL REPORT DISTRIBUTION

The office has sent an electronic copy of the **2019 Annual Report** to all members with an email address on file in the church records. Printed copies will be made available to members during office hours. If you are unable to pick up a copy, call 412-561-4114 to request that it be mailed.



March 1

1st Sunday in Lent — Communion
Matthew 4:1-11; Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

March 4

Lenten Vespers—7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 8

2nd Sunday in Lent
John 3:1-18; Genesis 12:1-4

March 11

Lenten Vespers—7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 15

3rd Sunday in Lent
John 4:5-29; Romans 5:1-11

March 18

Lenten Vespers—7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 22

4th Sunday in Lent
John 9:1-17; John 9:18-41

March 25

Lenten Vespers—7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Joint Worship with First Baptist
Youth Sunday
Confirmation

April 1

Lenten Vespers--7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Remember to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour for Daylight Savings Time, which begins on **Sunday, March 8.**



DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS — Amy Grella — am@bhccml.com

SAVE THESE DATES FOR EXCITING SUMMER EVENTS!

Children's Spring Pageant

The CE committee is pleased to share that planning is underway for a spring children's pageant based on the Fruits of the Spirit. We will work with children during their regular Sunday school classes in April and perform the pageant on Mother's Day, May 10, during worship. If you are interested in helping with rehearsals or directing the pageant, please let Amy Grella know. More detailed information will be sent to families in the coming weeks.

A summer of service and connecting

As a parent, give your child a reason to lose focus on electronics at least for a week! Join us at Camp Crestfield where we will provide a fun and safe place for kids to challenge themselves, connect with others, and grow in their faith.

June 21-26 Tweener "Mission Possible" at Crestfield

New this year, Crestfield is offering "Mission Possible" for tweens in completed grades 3-6. This week-long mission program allows our youth to experience the wonder and beauty of Crestfield in the summer and grow in faith through service, fellowship and fun. Participants will work side by side with partners in Christ's service, and work to fulfill Christ's great commission to make disciples. The cost for the week is \$200. Amy Grella will serve as a chaperone for the week, and Jeremiah Wagner will be there as well. It is my hope that all of our tweens who are able will go for this incredible week of service and team-building.

June 21-23 or 24-26 "Little Ones Loved Ones" Camp at Crestfield

Grandparents (or other loved ones) and children aged 4-8 will enjoy the beauty of Crestfield together and experience all the fun that camp has to offer. Participants stay in comfortable Scott Lodge and join all other Crestfield campers for Morning Watch and meals. This is a great opportunity to have a younger child see what happens at camp during Mission Possible while some of the church's older tweens are there.

July 27 -31 Day Camp / Jr. Day Camp at Bower Hill

Mark your calendars for Day Camp and Junior Day Camp the week of July 27. Bower Hill will partner with Crestfield again to offer Day Camp for completed 1st – 5th graders. Junior Day Camp is for completed pre-school – Kindergarten. Look for additional details in the coming weeks on ways you can help through contributing supplies and volunteering your time. This week is made possible by the generous support from our congregation and older youth who volunteer their time and talents to make a great experience for our community.

Upcoming Events for Youth in 8th-12th grades

NOTE: Sunset Hills youth are participating in all listed events
 Sunday, March 8 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Sunday Night Live at Bower Hill.
 Sunday, March 22 - 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Youth Group at Sunset Hills.
 April 17-19 - Retreat at Camp Ligonier. RSVP due March 1.

HELP WANTED



Do you enjoy taking pictures with your camera or camera phone? The **Communication Committee needs a member - or several members** - to take photos of upcoming services and events for the website, Facebook page and Instagram. If you are interested, please contact Connie May (maze3909@aol.com) or Glenn Child (gstchild@yahoo.com).

PASTORAL PONDERINGS:

Have you ever had a conversation when you reflected on things your parents said? Phrases like “quit crying or I will give you something to cry for” or “you can just stay at the table till you finish all your vegetables.” Perhaps we have even caught ourselves using the same phrases with our children or grandchildren. One of my father’s favorites when reviewing my report card was “if you don’t bring these grades up you will end up being a garbage collector.” Little did he realize that today there is real money to be made in garbage.

Almost all these phrases are in the same form, “if you don’t then this will happen.” Sadly, it was motivation by fear. Though it may have worked, it was not a pleasant experience at the time. When we read the Old Testament we find that many of the prophetic writings seems to be of the same format...if...then.

Once we get to the New Testament things change. It is not fear but unconditional love. The new covenant is positive, “I will be your God and you will be my people.” Romans affirms, “nothing can separate us from the love of God.” You can be who you are and God will still love you!

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure, Parish Associate

**TEAM UPDATE**

In recent years, the popularity of consignment and resale shops has become evident, as they often offer thrift and quality. We’d like to compile a list of such stores, and are asking all of you to help. The list could include clothing and accessories, but much more: furniture, children’s toys, tools, and anything else. We’d also like to include pop-up sales that last only for a weekend (our own flea market!) and children’s clothing sales. If you know of any of these, or have favorites, please email the office (office@bchhml.com) or Deb Boisvert (sdboisvert@gmail.com).

Along these lines, in the last twenty years, the volume of clothes Americans throw away has doubled: from 7 million to 14 million tons. That equals 80 pounds per person per year. The costs to the environment and to human rights continue to grow, as well. On March 1, Deb Boisvert will present "**The High Cost of Cheap Clothes**" during Adult Ed. Please join us as we explore ways to keep more out of our ever-expanding landfills.

Following Dr. Ketyher’s presentation on February 9, many of us are thinking and working harder to avoid single-use plastics. Let’s all refuse to use single-use water bottles. Keep them out of the church, out of our lives, out of our landfills, and out of God’s oceans!

Electricity tip of the month – If you are a Duquesne Light customer, check out this website: www.duquesnelight.com/energy-money-savings/watt-choices/residential.

Pay special attention to the “Online Energy Audit,” as a few minutes online will yield you a box of LED light bulbs and other items to improve your home’s efficiency.

Coming in April: Earth Week at BHCC! Stay tuned.

LIGHTING THE STEEPLE

The opportunity to light the steeple of Bower Hill Community Church continues to be successful.

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; 4.) Your name.

Email your request to: Amy Leasure at amlea97@hotmail.com

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

Dedications for March are as follows:

March 4 -- In honor of Rev. Brian Snyder on the 13th Anniversary of his ordination, by an anonymous donor.

March 10 -- In memory of Sophie Goode, mother of Leo Goode.

March 14 -- In memory of son, Noah James Geis, by parents Jim and Jennifer Geis.

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

UNITY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The next collection date will be **Sunday, March 8.**

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.

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. Sizes 4, 5, and 6 are most in need for babies. XL diapers are needed for our geriatric population. Donations of feminine hygiene products are also welcomed, primarily sanitary napkins. The collection container is the **Pack 'N Play**, which will be placed in **Fellowship Hall** on the 5th Sunday dates.

Tax-deductible monetary donations are accepted by making your check payable to **Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank and mailing it to 201 N. Braddock 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.



Spaghetti Dinner

FUNDRAISER

Boy Scout Troop 28 is holding a spaghetti dinner in **Fellowship Hall** on **Saturday, March 21, 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12, and they will be sold

in the narthex following the worship service for three Sundays **beginning on March 1.** They will also be available to purchase at the door on the day of the dinner. All are welcome!

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

This group will meet on **Tuesday, March 3, at 8:00 a.m.** The meeting location recently changed to Denny's restaurant at 2180 Greentree Road, near Swallow Hill Road. All senior men are welcome. No reservation is required. Conversation is spontaneous.

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.

March 24—*Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott

April 28—*Team of Rivals*

-- *the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Sally Kohn



Easter Flowers

2020 EASTER FLOWER SALE AND DEDICATION

The Bower Hill Deacons will hold their annual Easter Flower Sale from Sunday, March 15, through Sunday, March 29. Sales will be held during coffee hour at a table set up outside of Fellowship Hall. You can also use the order form inserted in this newsletter and drop it off, with payment, in the church office.

Flowers include potted tulips, daffodils and lilies. You may indicate your dedication "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" on the order form. They will be listed in a special bulletin insert at Easter. All purchased flowers will be on display in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 12, and you are asked to pick up your flower(s) immediately following that service. Deadline to order flowers is Sunday, March 29. Please contact Melissa Harman with questions at 614-406-0061.

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Flea Market

LECTION

We continue to collect items for this year's spring flea market, which will be held on **Saturday, April 4.** 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.



March 1 Phil Johnson
Jay Reisinger

March 2 Dan Zabo

March 5 Daniel Boisvert
Anna Mezyk

March 6 Betty Jonosy

March 7 Deborah Carter
Leo Goode
Brielle Gray

March 11 Betty Mancini

March 12 Megan Henney
Addie Ivey

March 13 Ronald Linaburg

March 14 Beth Ruh
F. Spangenberg

March 16 Lynne Wohleber

March 18 Christopher Bruder
Megan Gardner
Cindy Waller

March 21 Lucille Heckman
Christopher Kelley

March 25 William Ewing
Gavin Salvante

March 26 Cynthia Gissin

March 27 Matt Belardi
Darenda Lease
Mike Riemer
Bob Winnett

March 28 Gabriel Mezyk
Peter Morgan

March 29 Donna Williams

March 30 Jody Nagel

March 31 Judy Delestienne

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 let us know at 412-561-4114 or at office@bhccml.com.



MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNION SERVERS

March 1: Mary Gorski
Nancy Andrews
Westerhoff Family

USHER CAPTAIN—Morgan Kohler

LECTOR

March 1: Chloe Snyder
March 8: Mike Riemer
March 15: D.J. Geis
March 22: TBD
March 29: Confirmation Class

GREETERS

March 1: Barb Hughes
JoAnn Goode

March 8: Eric / Emily Lansbery

March 15: Kristen / Rob Mackey

March 22: Darenda and Tim Lease

March 29: Alex / Rachel McElroy

ACOLYTES

March 1: A. Grella, G. Salvante
March 8: J. Donahue, C. Bruder
March 15: C. McElroy, M. Harman
March 22: Henry and Helen Carter
March 29: L. Smith, B. Watterson

COFFEE HOUR

March 1: Kocher Family
March 8: Webler Family
March 15: Salvante Family
March 22: Boisvert Family
March 29: Joint Worship and
Potluck (Host TBD)

FLOWER DEACONS

March 1: Melissa Harman
March 8: Bri Ivey
March 15: Doris Olinger
March 22: Val Watterson
March 29: Kathy Philson

SEXTONS

March 1: Bill Cadwell
March 8: Dick Headley
March 15: Glenn Child
March 22: Tim Lease
March 29: Alan Hohlfelder

SOUNDBOARD

March 1: Glenn Child
March 8: Rob Mackey
March 15: Nathan Ivey
March 22: Peter Morgan
March 29: Bill Andrews

DISHWASHERS

March 1: Robbins
March 8: Neusius
March 15: Boisvert
March 22: Delestienne
March 29: Hohlfelder

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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OUR CHURCH STAFF

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THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

Jeff Carper

Dennis Geis, Sr.

Nancy Geis

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

LuAnne Pattison (former member)

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.