

~Seasons of Darkness, Seasons of Light~

*My soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.”~Psalm 130:6*

Dear Friends,

How many songs from the 1980s bemoan the long, lonely hours of the night and the restless wait for morning? I can think of at least two. It seems to me that there are probably a few country songs that echo that sentiment, too, though I couldn't say for sure. And to step even further away from my field of knowledge, I believe there's an old Broadway song in which a lonely cat sings heart-wrenching words about "memories, all alone in the moonlight," and waiting for the morning. Nighttime seems to amplify any illness or unrest that we're carrying around. It's always in these late winter nights that my daughters develop the most painful, incessant coughs. And there are certain thoughts that only occur to me at night, in those twilight moments just before sleep, or when sleep refuses to come: Are the doors locked? Are the burners off? News articles from the *Post-Gazette* will come to mind, causing me to wonder, "If I'm really so opposed to gun proliferation, why do I take secret comfort in having inherited my grandpa's double barrel?" Some memories, too, only sneak up on us at night. Words and deeds that our daytime selves have forgotten; our nighttime selves cannot let them go.

In a dense and rambling book about spiritual lethargy, Kathleen Norris writes:

*Both mental and physical pain are often worse at night, and sometimes it is the waiting for dawn that is worst of all. The theologian Dorothee Soëlle, in her book *Suffering*, quotes the letters of a young Danish soldier who knew that he would soon be put to death by the Gestapo. He had already been tortured, and this led him to identify with the agonies of Jesus on the cross. But it was Gethsemane that drew him into 'a new understanding of the figure of Jesus. The time of waiting, that is the ordeal.'*

*We do not know what will happen. Disasters will strike, and great blessings will come. Our difficult and glorious task is to live through it all. In Gethsemane...in that interminable night, waiting revealed itself as a true ally, a bulwark against fear. And Jesus became the most radically free and dangerous man of all, the one who embodies hope in the face of death. (*Acedia & Me*, Penguin Books, 2008)*

I've been savoring those two beautiful sentences: "Disasters will strike, and great blessings will come. Our difficult and glorious task is to live through it all." The Season of Lent is a pensive, introspective time. In Lent, we admit to the inevitable Gethsemanes of the soul, those nighttime seasons of uncertainty, apprehension, anxious waiting. But Lent offers rich hope to those who embrace its uncomfortable truths. The secret joy of Easter is that it only holds meaning for those who've been "to dark Gethsemane."

And how many of the world's peoples today are waiting fretfully for the dawn of justice, or freedom, or peace to break upon them after long and restless years of night? And how many of our own number find themselves in some Gethsemane of the soul? Easter is silliness and folly to any but those who've spent a long night in the Garden. Whatever season you are called to traverse, remember that in time, all the weary world rolls back round into the light. Light! It's already drawing the daffodil's leaves up through the snow. Nothing can resist it.

Christ's peace,
~Brian

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

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 11:** All Church Bowling
March 17: Haiti Fundraiser and Tea
April 8: Easter Breakfast
April 22: Youth Spaghetti Dinner
April 29: SHIM Holocaust Observance Service
May 5: Cinco D'Mayo Party
June 9: Scavenger Hunt!

MARCH COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- March 4:** Geis Family
March 11: Glenn Child
March 18: Bill & Nancy Andrews
March 25: Curt & Kathy Philson

SENIOR MEN'S GROUP: FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Senior men's breakfast will meet on Wednesday, March 7. The group convenes at 8:00 a.m. at Kings Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike near the end of Greentree Road, in Scott. The meeting day will continue to be the first Wednesday of each month until April. We normally have eight to twelve men attend. There is no agenda other than good fellowship and interesting conversation. No invitation or reservation is needed. We meet in the room to the left of the cashier.

BOOKWORMS

Bookworms is our ladies' book discussion group. It meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room at BHCC, for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Look to the bulletin for information on upcoming hostesses. Come and join a lively discussion.

March 20: *The Art of Racing In the Rain* by Garth Stein

April 17: *Unbroken : a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand.

PAPER RECYCLING AT BHCC

A paper recycling bin has been placed in our north parking lot. This is a project of our Cub Scout Pack 28, who will promote the bin in the area and share any proceeds from the recycled paper with the church. Please bring your recyclable newspapers, magazines, mail and office papers to our own recycling bin.

FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, March 11, we will have our regular collection for the Wallace Food Pantry. High-protein foods like peanut butter and tuna, baby items of all types (diapers, formula, food), are always deeply appreciated.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: SAVE THE DATES

Bower Hill Community Church will offer Vacation Bible School June 18th through June 22nd from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The Christian Education committee has selected a new curriculum for this year's Vacation Bible School. We will be using the "Living Waters for the World" curriculum. It comes from the same company that trained our members for the Haiti Water Project. We are very excited about working closely with the Hohlfelders, Leases and Jacobs as our children learn about water, the world's water crisis and our responsibility to care for others.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY Pittsburgh Presbytery needs the help of many volunteers to host the 2012 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) here June 28 through July 7.

Information is available on the Committee On Local Arrangement's website, COLA2012.org. Beginning March 1, the web site will include a link to "Volunteers." Dave Green, 412-531-2205, is our church's contact with the committee, and will be available to discuss volunteer opportunities after March 16. Dave is specifically working on a hospitality information center that will be located in the David Lawrence Convention Center, the location of the General Assembly.

HANDBELL FESTIVAL

The Handbell Choir will participate in the Western PA Handbell Festival on Saturday, April 14, at Robert Morris College in Moon Township. We will be rehearsing throughout the day, as well as participating in classes given by the Three Rivers Ringers, who regularly perform in our sanctuary. There will be a public concert, free of charge, at 5:30 p.m. that evening. Please come to support the Bower Hill Handbell Choir!

LAST CALL FOR FLEA MARKET ITEMS

Please bring any donations for the flea market to the church by Sunday, March 25th. PLEASE do not include clothes. All items must be clean and in working condition. 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. The Flea Market will be held Saturday, March 31st, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

FLEA MARKET HELPERS NEEDED

There will be lots of opportunities to help out with the set-up of the flea market as well as on the day of the sale. Here's what's happening:

BAKERS NEEDED

We need a few bakers to make some items for the snack bar. We're looking for mini muffins, cookies, brownies or rice krispie treats. Please sign up in the Narthex or let Theresa know what you are making. Please bring all baked goods to the kitchen Friday, March 30th, sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

FLEA MARKET STAFF NEEDED

Sunday, March 18th and Sunday March 25th: Final pricing days
 Stop by the loft after coffee hour or after adult ed. Snacks will be provided.

Wednesday, March 28th 7:00 p.m.: Bringing Down the Boxes
 We'll bring the boxes down from the loft to Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, March 29th 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. :Unpacking the Boxes
 Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a workout. 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.

Friday, March 30th 9:00 a.m. -?
 Typically we get most of the unpacking done on Thursday, so Friday will probably be an early day.

Saturday, March 31st 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Sale Day
 The Flea Market opens at 8:30 a.m. and we usually have some shoppers arriving early. We'll need the most help the first two or three hours.

DON'T FORGET FLEA MARKET HELPERS GET FIRST CRACK AT ALL MERCHANDISE!



Flea Market

SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST
FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT THERESA CHILD
412-429-9519
TREETOOWON@YAHOO.COM.

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.



**LOOK
 WHO WAS
 BORN
 THIS MONTH**

March 01	Phil Johnson	March 19	Everett Good
	Jay Reisinger		Todd Westerhoff, Jr.
March 02	Dan Zabo		
March 05	Anna Mezyk	March 22	Moody Johnson
March 06	Betty Jonosy	March 23	Alice Cantalupo
March 09	Chuck Blumenschein	March 25	Bill Ewing
March 11	Betty Mancini		Gavin Salvante
March 12	Ed Steinmark	March 26	Cynthia Gissin
	Megan Henney	March 27	Bob Winnett
March 13	Ronald Linaburg		Darenda Lease
March 14	Florence Spangenberg	March 28	Carly Lunoe
	Beth Ruh		Gabriel Mezyk
March 16	Lynne Wohleber	March 29	Donna Williams
March 18	Cindy Waller	March 31	Judy Delestienne
	Megan Gardner		
	Christopher Bruder		

MARCH WORSHIP PLANS

March 4: 2nd Sunday of Lent, Communion, Mark 8:31-38
Rev. Dr. Grafton Eliason, preaching.

March 11: 3rd Sunday of Lent, John 2:13-22
Rev. Brian Snyder, preaching

March 18: 4th Sunday of Lent, John 12:20-33
Rev. Brian Snyder, preaching

March 25: 5th Sunday of Lent, John 3:14-21
Rev. Brian Snyder, preaching

COMMUNION SERVERS

Marian Brannan, Jim & Bev Burke, Mary Good,
Choir: Anne & Gordon Mitchell

LECTORS

March 4: Dick Westerhoff

March 11: Cynthia Gissin

March 18: Mary Beth Waine

March 25: Phil Johnson

GREETERS

March 4: Dottie Carter, Maria & Geoffrey Sherman

March 11: Mary Lou Frock, Carolyn & Dick Westerhoff

March 18: Donna Williams, Todd & Christie Westerhoff

March 25: Betty Mancini, John Yohe

ACOLYTES

March 4: Graceann Foster, Evie Harris

March 11: Sage Williams, Sydney Saba

March 18: Madelyn Salvante, Ellie Rising

March 25: Todd Westerhoff, Lindsay Bruder

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The third quarter of the Christian Education Curriculum begins on March 4th. The monthly themes for March through May are *Hosanna*, *Jesus Lives*, and the *Disciples After Easter*. Each Sunday, children from ages 3-12 may go to their respective classrooms for a Bible story, craft, games and prayer. All children are invited to leave the sanctuary with the Sunday School teachers after the Time With the Children.

Note: On Easter Sunday, a combined class for ages 3-12 will be offered. Alternatively, children may remain with their families for the worship service.

NEW ADULT CLASS: *The Basics of Faith*

This group will meet *every other week* to discuss belief and the life of faith in light of the readings.

Stay tuned for details.

MARCH ADULT EDUCATION

We will return to our series of discussion on Living the Questions, a series of videos on contemporary Christianity. The Rev. Susan Nilsen, of our Company of Pastors, will lead a discussion on "Stories of Creation" on March 4.

Popular Pittsburgh Theological Seminary professor, Dr. John Wilson, will return on March 11 to provide a Christian viewpoint on the Mormon Faith.

A local coalition of churches and organizations committed to organizing people of faith around issues of social justice, The Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network, will present its program on March 18.

A Christian missionary from Bethlehem, Palestine, Tina Whitehead, will be with us on March 25 to provide another report on the situation involving Israel and the Palestinians.

Pastor Brian Snyder will lead a discussion on "Practicing Resurrection" from the Living the Questions video series on April 1, Palm Sunday. There will be no adult education on Easter Sunday.

Adult education sessions are held in the church library at 10:45 a.m. each Sunday unless otherwise announced. Dave Green is chair of the adult education committee. Phone 412-531-2205. Email davegreenpgh@aol.com.

**MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER**

je@bhccml.com

Office Hours**Sunday:** 7:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.**Monday:** 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.**Wednesday:** 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
and 4:30 p.m. -9:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship (April 5, 7:00 p.m.) will begin in the Fellowship Hall, with Communion and a meditation. Following this, we will silently make our way into the candle-lit Sanctuary, to have special music by the Chancel Choir and readings of the Passion of Christ. (This service will last only one hour despite the fact that it has two parts and two locations.)

The Chancel Choir will be singing a cantata for the second half of the Maundy Thursday Service entitled "*Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness*." The cantata, written by Hal H. Hopson, will feature both contemporary and traditional selections. Several readings accompanied by the extinguishing of candles bring this service to a meditative conclusion shrouded in darkness.

The "service of darkness," or Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness"), dates back to the 4th century, according to some sources. Traditionally observed during Holy Week, it focuses on the final hours of Jesus' life and crucifixion.

For shadows to exist there must be light. In the case of the Passion story of our Lord, that light, as the gospel of John tells us, "was the light of all people." (John 1:4). *Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness* walks us through the final hours of Jesus' life including His crucifixion. But as John affirms, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

In its original form, the cross was a tool of execution, or death. But in the eyes of faith, it symbolizes victory and life eternal! In a day when the powers of evil threaten to destroy our optimism for a brighter tomorrow, the cross stands as a reminder that love is stronger than hate, and that hope prevails in times of despair. Standing in the shadow of the cross, we find comfort and courage in knowing that we can live in a future that is ultimately of God's making! (Lloyd Larson)

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land...
I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place...
~Elizabeth C. Clephane*

LENT AT BOWER HILL

"Lent" is the Old English word for spring. It's related to the modern word "lengthen," since it is in late February that daylight hours begin to lengthen noticeably. Lent is a season to meditate on the life and the way of Jesus as he journeyed toward the cross. Special Lenten activities at Bower Hill Church include the following:

LENTEN POTLUCK DINNERS AND WORSHIP

Thursdays in the month of March
from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Lounge

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

April 5, 7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist
12:00—3:00 p.m. with Bower Hill leading at 2:35 p.m.

Please watch your weekly bulletin
for details as they develop.

LENTEN POTLUCK DINNERS AND WORSHIP

We will share a simple supper as we come together
in the weeks leading up to Easter.

All are welcome each Thursday in March
from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Lounge

For each dinner, we ask for volunteers to sign up the week prior to either set-up, provide a suggested food item or clean-up. Please contact Carolyn Westerhoff to sign-up or with any questions.

The suggested menu is as follows:

March 1: Soup, bread, crackers, cookies

March 8: "Loaded" baked potatoes,
green salad, cookies

March 15: Pastas, casseroles

March 22: International dishes

March 29: Ham barbeque, salad, cookies

BE A PART OF THE HOOKS AND NEEDLES PROJECT

For those of you who enjoy knitting and/or crocheting, but cannot make it to our "meetings" on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, you are invited to take part in a charitable project in which we are involved.

Michael's Craft Store sponsors a program called "Warm Up America." Anyone who wants to can knit or crochet rectangles that will be made into blankets for the homeless. We will have a collection box outside the office door, near the table containing the pastor's sermons. As you finish a few rectangles, just deposit them in the box and they will eventually be taken to Michael's. The instructions for completing the rectangles are as follows:

Any color yarn is acceptable. The only stipulation is that you use acrylic yarn - **NO WOOL.**

Knitting: Two Stitches to Choose From

Garter stitch: Using a size 8 needle, cast on enough stitches to make a width of 7 inches. Knit every stitch and every row until piece measures 9 inches. Bind off. (Or use whatever size needle you want -- they suggest a gauge of 5 stitches to an inch.) Just so it measures 7 inches wide.

Stockinette stitch: Cast on enough stitches to make a width of 7 inches. **Row 1:** Knit all stitches. **Row 2:** Purl all stitches. Repeat these 2 rows until piece measures 9 inches. Bind off.

Crocheting: Two Stitches to Choose From

Single Stitch: Chain 30 for foundation chain. (7 inches width) **Row 1:** Single crochet in 2nd chain from hook, and in every chain in foundation row. Chain 1 and turn in your work. **Row 2:** Working under 2 top loops of each stitch in previous row, single crochet across row. Chain 1 and turn. Repeat Row 2 until piece measures 9 inches. Fasten off.

Double stitch: Chain 27 for foundation chain. (7 inches width) **Row 1:** Double crochet in 3rd chain from hook and in each chain of foundation row. Chain 2 and turn in your work. **Row 2:** Double crochet in each stitch across row. Chain 2 and turn. Repeat Row 2 until piece measures 9 inches.



Easter

Easter flowers\$9

Proceeds support the Youth Work Trip.

Flowers are to be taken home after the service on Easter.

Deadline for orders is NOON on Monday, March 26.

For Office Use Only	
Cash	_____
Check Amount	_____
Check Number	_____

Name: _____

___ I will take my flowers home

Phone: (____) ____ - _____

___ Please deliver my flowers as a gift to those who cannot attend church

Please use a separate form for each dedication

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Mail with payment to: 70 Moffett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 152143

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Communication Committee plans to utilize video and pictures in the social media world. So, what are other churches doing? Various church Facebook pages contain videos of sermons, stewardship campaign information, member testimonials, church activities, etc. The Communication Committee conducted a brainstorming session to come up with additional ideas.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE IDEAS:

- Younger children – Sunday school, children's sermon
- Youth Work trip – Work performed and testimonials
- Groups such as Choir, Bell Choir, Bookworms, Kononia, etc. – Each group could explain their program and invite others to join
- Christmas Pageant, Vacation Bible School
- Visitor information to make attending Sunday worship service easier
- Info on outside groups – Braillists, Scouts, etc.
- Fellowship Activities
- Special Projects – Haiti, Produce to People, etc.

Nothing beats a one-on-one conversation to effectively communicate the value a person receives from being involved in an activity. But watching a video of a member who is passionate about their involvement in an activity comes close. We are looking to build up a library of videos to put on Youtube with links from Facebook and our website. There is still a need for regular pictures that can be used on the web site and may be used as background for creating a narrated video.

The committee's first step will be to create a video of Brian giving an overview of Bower Hill with emphasis on those things that differentiate us from other churches.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Do you have a camera or phone that takes decent video and are you willing to shoot preplanned videos or videos at church activities? Remember, in the world of social media, it doesn't need to be professional quality. A good steady picture is all that is needed. Content is the key ingredient.
- Do you have video editing software and would you be willing to do some editing of the video? Our needs will be fairly simple. Most videos will be only a few minutes long.
- Got an idea for your committee or group? You don't need to wait for us. Get a camera, go ahead and film it. If you need some guidance on length or assistance in filming, contact the committee. For all activities, consider taking some pictures or video. A few short clips maybe all that's needed to encourage others to join in your group or activity.
- Send us your ideas that would make a good video.

Please contact Glenn Child to volunteer, submit pictures/videos or ask any questions regarding the video/pictures.

Also, for those of you who are Facebook users, we encourage you to visit Bower Hill's page and make comments about events, sermons or postings. Our hope is that over time, our Facebook page will become a place where good discussion will take place via comments on the postings.

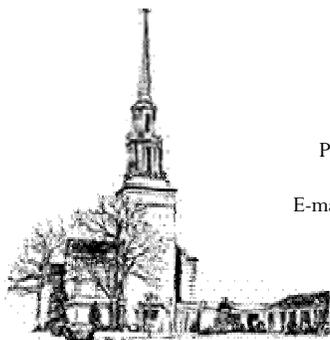
*The Communication Committee consists of Jim Burke, Glenn Child, Theresa Child,
Cynthia Gissin, Dave Green, Phil Johnson, LuAnn McNickle,
Chuck Prine and Brian Snyder.*

Please feel free to give them any of your suggestions.

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

70 Moffett Street
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OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Brian Snyder, Pastor
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Company of Pastors
Rev. Grafton Eliason
Rev. Susan Shira Nilsen
Rev. Betty Sykes
Rev. Calvin C. Wilson
Rev. John Yohe

Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries
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Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
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Jim Askins, Custodian

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

Margie Beatty, 1300 Bower Hill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Peggy Craig, 714 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Matt Dunfee, 966 Worthington Woods Blvd, Worthington, OH, 43085

Ethel La Barbera, 50 Vanadium Road, #130, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Velma Noonan, 50 Vanadium Road, #1119, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Jeanne Olsen, 1001 Ajay Drive, South Park, PA 15129

Barbara Prunchak, c/o Crestwood Commons, 100 Crestwood Court #223, Wheatfield, NY 14304

Tooie Sharkey, Asbury Place, 760 Bower Hill Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243