



This Week at St. Brendan's

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship, via live streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
Monday	8:30 a.m.	Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom Zoom website https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4796201105
	11:00 a.m.	Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom Zoom website https://zoom.us/j/4575423762 .
Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	AA meeting, via zoom Dial in 312-626-6799 Meeting Id: 345 892 252
	9:00 a.m.	Staff meeting, via zoom Zoom website https://zoom.us/j/4575423762
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study, via zoom Zoom website https://zoom.us/j/4575423762 .
Friday	4:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer, via zoom
	7:30 p.m.	Game Night, via zoom Zoom website https://zoom.us/j/4575423762
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Sacristans

Sunday, July 12, 2020

Celebrant: The Rev. Julie Smith

Participating and representing St. Brendan's in prayer and worship and receiving Holy Eucharist for all members and friends of St. Brendan's.

The Priest's Corner

Welcome to the lazy, hazy days of summer. The temperature has gone up and Regis is away for a well needed vacation. While he is gone, I have the joy of writing the Priest's Corner.

In this week after having finished our *Kneeling with Giants* series, and as we continue to have Morning Prayer via Zoom, as we finished our discussion of *White Trash*, as the 9-Day Challenge group is both winding up and preparing new activities, and as I prepared for a sermon for Sunday – what has been rolling around in my head is the power, the need, and our desire for prayer. Sometimes we pray a lot and sometimes we laugh and that is another kind of prayer, and sometimes we struggle with the meaning of a book, our history, or understanding and that too is prayer. And sometimes we use the words given to us by the Book of Common prayer or recite the Lord's Prayer – and these too are prayer. So it sounds like I'm trying to make everything we do prayer. But that's not quite what I mean.

In this Sunday's prayers you will hear two lines that jumped out to me but aren't what I'm preaching on:

- The first is in the opening collect – “O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them.” – a call for God to hear us as we pray, both in our hearts and with our mouths, and help us to understand what we ought to do and then have the grace to follow that direction.
- The second is in the Psalm for this week – “Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.” If God's word is our lantern, then prayer must be our batteries. That thing that charges our words and helps us to ask for direction and assistance; the words that we offer in praise and thanks giving.

So, what is prayer? Very simply – prayer is communicating with God. Prayers can take several forms – praise, thanksgiving, or requests. There is no right way to pray or perfect prayer. In some ways, prayers are like other conversations. Prayers are the communication pathway – the more we pray, the better we communicate, the richer, the better our prayer life is and in this way our prayer life just keeps getting better.

For me, prayer is a very intimate act that we do collectively and in public. When we first joined the Episcopal Church we were in North Carolina and the people at Trinity would pray at the drop of a hat. At some point in our time at Trinity, every person in the congregation said to me, “I will pray for you.” The first time someone said this to me, I cried just thinking about how cared for and loved I was by God and by this congregation. This phrase humbles me as I realize it is a promise made between two people to seek God's help. Moreover, entering into another's prayer life is an intimate act that unites people with each other in a manner that is implicit and explicit. Implicitly, the one making the promise is helping the other, but in reality, we are helping each other. Explicitly, the one receiving the promise is being held in a defined and unreserved act of faith.

In addition to your own prayers for those on our prayer list, or for those you know, the St. Brendan's Pastoral Care Ministry prays for those who request prayers. This ministry unites the people of God by lifting up those who ask and those asking for God's

assistance. Typically, when we are in church, we can make prayer requests using the prayer cards near Fr. Regis' office. While we are separated, we can make prayer requests by emailing the church, or Ruth Horton, and the Pastoral Care Ministry will add you to the prayer list. You can request your name be added to the prayer list for Sundays, used privately within the group or know that God knows who you are. However you ask, know that I will pray for you.

Peace,
Julie+

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE

The Speaker Series is moving to an online format. Since we can't meet in person we are putting the series online. The first event will be a 2 part series on Reconstruction — **After the Civil War: America's failure to make Black Lives Matter** will be presented by Michael Waseleski on Thursday 8/13 and Friday 8/14 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.



Our book discussion group meets on Tuesday at 4:30 via zoom. For our next meeting, we will begin reading - *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, 2018. by DiAngelo, Robin & Michael Eric Dyson (Foreword) New York: Beacon Press. ISBN-10: 0807047414/ISBN-13: 978-0807047415
The book is available via Kindle for immediate download.

We read a chapter or two at a time - not the whole book - so our discussions can go a bit deeper. For Tuesday, I recommend reading the forward and introduction - but if you haven't received your copy yet and would like to join us or if you need assistance getting the book, please let me know at jsphone1@gmail.com.

Senior Warden's Corner

I write this week with some good news: the Bishop has accepted the plan for re-opening St. Brendan's for in-person worship. I'll repeat what I said in this space last week: every successful step towards this goal is due to the efforts of our Working Group. They prepared a thorough and thoughtful proposal for the Diocese to review ... so all kudos to them!

Ironically, of course, this development coincides with an alarming spike in the coronavirus infection statistics for our part of the state—and even worse news from neighboring West Virginia. Fr. Regis and I will keep in touch with one another and with the Vestry regularly but I am afraid that the “earliest possible date” for in-person worship (which I once projected to be July 19!) is currently receding rather than approaching.

Let us all pray that our leaders at the national, state and local levels may have the insight and the courage to take the measures needed to turn the current trend around.

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin

CRIES Advocacy May and June Distribution

Brother's Brother Foundation	\$175.00
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$175.00
Bukit Bail Bond Fund	\$1,310.00
Minnesota Freedom Fund	\$470.00
Brighton Rehab & Wellness Facility	\$600.00
Total Distribution	\$3,490.00

Kid's Corner

Buoyed by Faith

Have you ever noticed when we read the Gospel that Jesus rarely, if ever, says “this is exactly what I mean.” Instead he tells us a story, or a parable – a story which sounds one way and means something else. For example, in this week's Gospel, we have the “Parable of the Sower” but it really is a story about dirt and it's really, really about our hearts. “Say what?!?” So what is it about – seeds, dirt, or hearts?

Well, if you are a gardener, or you just like to eat or have flowers, or watch things grow, it is about all three. You see, I'm a gardener. And I like to play in the dirt. And I like to watch flowers grow. And I like to eat. So I'm kind of all three.

So what is this story about? Well, Jesus tells the story of the sower (someone who puts seeds in the ground) and different places that seeds might fall. Some seeds fell on a path (kind of like a road) and the birds came and ate the seeds – they must have thought it was a great bird feeder! The second set of seeds fell on rocky ground and the plants started to grow, but without deep roots when

the sun got too hot, the plants died. Some seeds fell in with thorns and weeds and got so mixed up that the plants were useless and then got chocked out by the weeds. But one set of seeds fell on rich, fertile soil, took root, and flourished.

But Jesus wasn't giving farmers advice about how to plant, he was telling us a story about our hearts. And you still might think I'm a bit crazy, especially if you had seen me in March and April. Back then, I was preparing my soil, raking up the mulch from the winter, trimming and hoeing around plants, and getting my seed packs ready to plant. We fertilized the ground, we loosened the soil, and then we waited until the time was right – when the nights weren't too cold and the weather forecast said no more snow, and no frost. Then we put our seeds in the ground. But we still weren't finished. We needed to water the seeds, but not too much. As the new sprouts started, we needed to know which were our plants and which were "invaders." And we needed to keep weeding so that dandelions and wild flowers, and weeds didn't overtake our plants. But now, we are watching our tomatoes, carrots, onions, peppers, zucchini, and squash all grow and get strong. We've already had some onions and carrots. Over the next few weeks, we'll have fresh tomatoes, and in the fall, we'll have squash.

But what does this have to do with our hearts? Well, when we get angry, it feels like our heart has hardened – like rocky ground. And when we get frustrated or too busy our hearts are like a path or road that is just keeping up with all of the coming and going and nothing can get into. And when we are bad, it's like our hearts have too many weeds – things distracting us from what God wants us to do. But when we are open and loving, then God's words stay in our hearts, take root, and grow.

Julie+



St. Brendan's Justice Committee Facilitated Discussions Anti-Racism/Black Lives Matter

When asked to coordinate this education I went through a lot of material and saw some established curriculum. I chose a different path which in part is inspired by two authors, Dr. Robin DiAngelo who wrote *White Fragility* and Ibram X. Kendi who wrote *How to be an Antiracist*.

I was fortunate to hear Dr. Kendi speak in person in Pittsburgh. He helped me understand that saying or thinking I am not racist isn't enough. Also, although we, white people, should seek and graciously accept feedback from people of color, we must do the work of educating ourselves.





Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, it points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. Instead of working with the policies and system already in place, Kendi asks us to think bigger about what an antiracist society might look like. More importantly, he asks us to ask ourselves how we can play an active role in building it.

Dr. DiAngelo's concept is one that whites have to ask themselves not whether they are racist but how have I been shaped by being born into a society in which racism is in the foundation. Whites should ask "What does it mean to be white?" How have I been shaped by that and what does it mean to change the paradigm?

At this time, we can help each other expand our knowledge of racism and what people of color encounter in our society and our institutions. We would like to offer facilitated discussions based upon shared, articles, books, podcasts, poems, movies etc. that teach us a different, more inclusive, history of our country, but also discussions about individual unconscious bias, how we use language and definitions of words and ideas currently being used. i.e. "defunding the police".

Discussions will be facilitated by fellow parishioners who were touched or enlightened by such a learning. We are all in different places in that knowledge, growth, and life of being actively anti-racist. If you have such an experience, please contact me to facilitate a discussion.

This is a human rights issue that we all should make the time and intention to address. Let's get started on our journeys. Look for a schedule in the coming days.

COMFORT		GROWTH AND COURAGE
I don't know where to start or what to say		I will listen, read, watch and learn so I can speak against injustice.
I don't want to get it wrong.		I will make mistakes and be grateful for the learnings
I can't make a difference.		Things happen when I take risks and become part of something bigger.

Ginny Volponi
For the Social Justice Committee

Please fill out [this survey](#) indicating your interest, and times available to participate.

Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following parishioners and friends or family of parishioners. Each is a medical professional or an emergency first responder who is helping people cope with the Coronavirus outbreak. They are using their skills and risking their own well-being by tending to those whose health has been threatened.

We are grateful for their selfless dedication and ask that God watch over them, keep them safe and give them both strength and rest. We hope that you will join the church in thanking and praying for:

Kimberly Becker	Maddie Bell	Kate Burnett	Frank Casey	Bob Cerra
Brenna Conroy	Adele Cotter	James Cotter	Laura Dugan Demers	Nicholas Demers
Andrea Dickerson	Franklin Park Police Department		Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department	
Rebecca Donadee	Amanda Gagnon	Jeff Gagnon	Shelley Gagnon	Betsy Gentile
Lynne Gloor	Ann Hockenberry	Beth Lutz Hoffman	Eric Hood	John Jacobs and staff
Kerri Jensen	Dr. Ken	Luke O'Neill	Kim Pierce	Becca Sands
Warren Sands	Andrew Smith	Justin Zeigler	Cindy	Jennifer
Julie	Lane	Mike	Patrick	

Prayer for our medical personnel and first responders.

Lord, please bless and care for all healthcare workers and first responders. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, skill and compassion so that they may be instruments of Your healing power for those they serve and care for. Give them strength and support. May they be able to do their work in a spirit of love and kindness and mercy. Keep them safe and well as they make personal sacrifices on behalf of Your community. Amen.



St. Brendan's Scholarships. The parish invites young church members who will be enrolled in post-secondary education (college, technical school, etc.) in the fall of 2020 to apply for a St. Brendan's Scholarship. Grants are awarded on the basis of a person's years of participation and attendance in parish services and activities. Guidelines and applications, which must be received by the church no later than Monday, July 13, are available by contacting the office. Launched in 1996 by a parishioner, the late Dorsey Dodroe, the scholarship fund has awarded 76 grants to 29 students. The program is sustained by the generosity of St. Brendan's members, and donations may be made to the fund at any time.



Need food? We can help. We now have a cabinet filled with non-perishable food items ready for people in need. If you or someone you know has a food shortage, please come by and take what you need. This cabinet is placed outside the front doors to the left. There is no need sign up or even enter the building; this is on the honor system and no one will be there to monitor what you take.

Want to donate? We also have tubs outside to the right of the front doors for any food donations. Or, if you wish, checks can be sent to St. Brendan's and we will convert them into grocery gift cards. If you are able to bring any donations, know that you are bringing more than food that feeds the body, you are bringing hope and caring to those who need. Any over-abundance of donations will be distributed to the North Hills Food Bank and the North Hills Community Outreach.



Do you have a special prayer request? Contact Ruth Horton. Pastoral Care Ministry members will include those persons in daily prayers or send out a prayer via text or email to someone if requested. All prayers and requests are kept confidential.



ST. BRENDAN'S MISSION

Jesus said, "I have come to give life – life in all its fullness." John 10:10.
Our mission is the realization of fullness through:
the worship of God; service to the world;
active concern for each other;
and education to expand mind and spirit.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Pat Carl
Brendan's Boots: Tom Waseleski
Dinner Group: Janice Moore
Finance Chair: Eric Helmsen
Green Thumb Gang: Dan Moore
Historian: Ellen Groves
Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale: Karen Dennis
Memorial Garden: Dan Moore
Merry Meal Makers (M&M's): Saundy Waseleski
Parish Profile: Inactive
Reiki Ministry: Melanie Popovich
Rental: George Snyder
Scholarship: Tom Waseleski
Sticks & Strings: Joni Reis
Debbie Jennings
Web Site: Kelli Cerra

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
English as a Second Language: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Linda Schneider
Garden of Hope: Tim Michael
Miryam's: Julia Wick
Rob & George Latta
North Hills Food Bank Ministry: Larry Toler
Social Justice: Clair Grotevant
Marilyn Mulvihill
Under One Roof: Inactive

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

Acolytes: Anelisa Tarrant
Altar Guild: Anelisa Tarrant
Pastoral Care Ministry: Ruth Horton
Flower Ministry: Sylvia Affleck
Libby Juel
Scheduler: Kelli Cerra
Ushers: Eric Helmsen

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden: Tim Austin
Jr. Warden & Secretary/Clerk: Ruth Horton
Adult Formation: Dean Peters
Audio-Visual Technology: Cameron Grosh
Communication: Annemarie Malbon
Finance: Mary Bertucci
Fundraising: Larry Toler
Inreach & Hospitality: Janice Moore
Newcomers: Dean Peters and Mary Bertucci
Outreach and Social Justice: Donna Aiello
Safety & Security: Tim Austin
Treasurer: Ellen Groves
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Botti
Worship: Cameron Grosh

ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Facebook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/StBrendansEpiscopalChurch/>
Nextdoor ~ <https://franklinparkpittsburgh.nextdoor.com/pages/st-brendans-episcopal-church-sewickley-pa/recommend/>
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