



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, June 28, 2020

Celebrant: The Rev. Regis Smolko

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

Reflections on the first year as a priest.

On June 15, I celebrated my first year as an ordained priest. Several friends emailed and asked if it was all I expected it to be. Simple answer – No and yes.

No. Because no one expects a pandemic. No. Because no one expects that when you are trained and taught and try to live how to be present with people one way then have that way eliminated, you have to reinvent what ministry is and how to practice it. Just as the church has to reinvent what church is, and how we are church together, clergy are reinventing what ministering to people looks like and how we act in these times.

No. Because even though it seems that every summer, we have a crisis, a shooting, an overflow of violence, this year's deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and the list goes on, feels different. The atmosphere seems more charged, the emotions more raw, and the events more personal – as we witnessed the deaths of people in their homes, out jogging, or with the indifference of a police officer kneeling on a man's neck while others videoed the events. The shock and horror that has awakened in the world, challenges all of us to understand our roles in benefiting from our indifference and how we have carefully been manipulated into avoiding the root of the problem.

But also Yes.

At my ordination, one of my mentors said now I will live into my ordination. I thought how kind, how cryptic, that comment was. I wondered then what exactly that meant. And as the months flew by, I came to realize part of living into my ordination was living into the spiritual lives of people. It means what used to feel like intruding is now ministering. That asking, "how are you?" is not seeking a simple, "I'm OK" or "things are fine" answer, but I'm asking about your physical and spiritual health – maybe your mental health – and also asking, "how can I enter into your life and walk with you?". For the extrovert side of me, this is easy. For the introvert side of me this has been where I've grown in the past year.

Yes. Because in our ordination examination the Bishop asks us a series of questions but also asks if we are up to the task of being a priest. When I answered these questions, a pandemic and racial violence may have been the furthest thing from my mind. But I said yes, that I believed I was called to "love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor." And more.

I also said I would "undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom I am called to serve."

While we clearly state that we solemnly declare that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and contain all things necessary to salvation, living into my ordination means that while I continue to study the Bible that I've moved to the "other side of the altar". Reading these no longer is just how I apply these words to my life, but to our corporate lives. Living

into my ordination means readings like last week – Sarah’s jealousy and protecting her privilege and this week’s Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac – now call me to seek and find God’s meaning for me, our us, and for our time.

The events of the Bible don’t change; the words change slightly and their meaning in our lives may feel like they shift. It is our times that change rapidly. But the eternal nature of God’s revelation in the words of Scripture give me hope that as we change, the eternal remains. As we recover from the shock of the pandemic, how we are church is strikingly similar to how we have always been church.

Thank you, St. Brendan’s, for helping me to live into my ordination and into the lives of the church.

Julie+

Announcements



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.



Over the course of four or five years, **Brendanites who use Amazon Smile** when they order their groceries from Whole Foods or other items from Amazon.com have earned our parish donations totaling \$492.49. There's no cost to the purchaser or to St. Brendan's, so sign up for Amazon Smile (which is easy to find with a Google search) and then simply use that page each time you do your routine online shopping. Thanks! Click here for detailed instructions: [AmazonSmile](#).



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.



Technology Volunteers Needed! To assist with the continuity of our online services, St. Brendan's is in need of volunteers who are willing to learn and assist in streaming the services. "How to" instructions will be given on the software and hardware in use, so no prior streaming knowledge is required, but volunteers should have at least a basic comfort level with IT. If you are interested, please contact Cameron Grosh at grosh.cameron@gmail.com.



Look at what our garden harvested this week for the Food Bank. Harvesting is always done on Wednesdays, when we clean up the veggies, pack them in zip lock bags, and get them ready for Thursdays deliveries to a Food Bank.

We would love your help with this wonderful rewarding ministry. To sign up click here [Garden Link](#) or go to <https://www.stbrpit.com/> and click on Garden Schedule. Please enter your name during the days/weeks you can be responsible by typing directly onto the document.



Ideally, we would like volunteers to take on a task a full week at a time, to be responsible for either watering, weeding or harvesting. Contact Ken at cleankrp1@aol.com if you have any questions.

The Search Committee that is charged with identifying a successor to Bishop McConnell has launched a survey through which they hope to gather the views of all members of the Diocese as they move forward in this very important process.

The survey is now available at either of the following two locations:

<https://pittsburghbishopsearch.com/?p=32> or <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/nominating-survey/>

Please complete the survey online as soon as possible. It really does take only the 15 minutes they claim in their cover letter!

Thank you!



Game Night! Join us every Friday night at 7:30 as a group of Brendanites are playing games. Here's the link to use <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>.

If you prefer to enter thru the Meeting ID: The # is: 457 542 3762. If it requires a passcode, that # is: 316792.



Join our Hallelujah Choir! Do you enjoy our "Halle Hallelujah" on Sunday? You are invited (along with their friends and family) to do an individual video and send it to St. Brendan's. Each new video will be added to the main video each week. We have over 100 people singing "Halle Hallelujah" together! It's a fun way to spice up our weekly streaming service. Get more details and download the audio file here. <https://www.stbrendans.org/hallehallelujah>.



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.

Senior Warden's Corner

As many of you know, the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh holds a one-day convention each October. Each parish elects a number of **lay deputies** to attend, based on the size of its congregation.

The wonderful growth that we have recently experienced at St. Brendan's has earned us an additional seat at the table this year, and our delegation will consist of **three deputies**. We also elect a couple of **alternates** in case one or more of the deputies is unavailable for some reason when the day arrives.

Deputies serve **three-year terms**, and our delegation this year will be led by Megan Overby, whose term ends in June 2022. Andrea Dickerson is currently an alternate, also serving for a second year in that role. **The other positions are open and your Vestry will be electing parishioners to fill them at its meeting on July 13.**

Our By-Laws state that deputies "shall be baptized persons sixteen years of age or over, financial contributors of record at least once within the past twelve months and regular worshipers in the congregation for six months prior to the [Vestry] meeting in which they are elected." As for the duties involved, Megan (austover@gmail.com or 402-960-2828) has indicated that she would be happy to talk to anyone who has questions about the convention or the role that a deputy plays.

The events of 2020 have highlighted for us all the need for vigorous and responsible leadership in the Diocese as we respond to issues of racial inequity, fair policing policies and the persistent coronavirus crisis. It is significant, therefore, that the deputies that St. Brendan's elects this summer will also vote next April when the time comes to **elect a new bishop** for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

If you believe that you may be called to put your name forward as a candidate for election, please send me a simple email austover@gmail.com to the effect no later than Thursday, July 3.

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin

Kid's Corner

Buoyed by Faith

Say What?!?

Have you ever played the game Trust or gone Trick or Treating? Both of these require you to trust someone else. In Trust, you fall backward without telling the person behind you and you expect (hope) the person behind you is 1) paying attention and more importantly 2) will catch you.

When we go Trick or Treating, we trust the people giving us candy (and I do like candy) will not hurt us or do something to the candy. So, we go to the houses of the people we already know and the people we trust.

So the questions are – *Who do you trust?* and *Why do you trust that person?*

I knew I could always trust my Mom and Dad, my Aunts and Uncles, and even my brothers and sisters. As I grew, I could also trust my teachers and the people who worked at my school. As I grew, I needed to learn not only who to trust, but understand why I trusted certain people.

I learned that I trust people who tell the truth – even when it hurts; I trust people who are kind to other people; I trust people who do what they say they will do.

This week's Bible lesson about Abraham and Isaac is about trust. But there are parts of the story that make me scratch my head, and yell – "What was he thinking?" or even make me say, "Say what!?"

Abraham was Isaac's father. Abraham and his wife Sarah were old, and I mean *really* old! They were almost 100 years old when Isaac was born. ("Say what!?") And God told Abraham that He was going to have lots of grandchildren and great grandchildren

through his son Isaac. God didn't give a number, but God told Abraham that he would have more children than the stars in heaven before Abraham had even one child. ("Say what?!")

Abraham has two sons – Ishmael and Isaac, but Ishmael was sent away and Isaac would be the one to inherit. And Abraham and his wife Sarah were happy, and Isaac (which means laughter) was happy. Then one day, God spoke to Abraham and told him to take Isaac up on a mountain and give God the thing that he loved more than anything. And Abraham, who trusted God with all of his might, did exactly that. Abraham took Isaac (the thing he loved more than anything) and they started up the mountain.

One day, Abraham told Isaac that they were going to build an altar and offer a sacrifice to God. Isaac said to his father, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide the lamb." They kept walking until they arrived at the place where God had told him to go. Then Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Abraham was ready to give God the thing he loved the most – Isaac (if there were a TV show this is where really scary music would play).

Isaac was not afraid, because he trusted his father. And Abraham was not afraid because he trusted God (although I think he was a little worried). Just then Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught by his horns in the weeds. So Abraham took the ram and offered it as a sacrifice to God.

Abraham had faith in God and trusted Him completely -- and God provided the ram – it all happened just as Abraham had told Isaac it would.

So, what we learn from this is when we put our trust in God, God will provide. It may not be the way we expect, there might be a "Say What?!?" moment, but it will be the way God planned.

Julie+

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 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/>
Priest, Regis Smolko ~ regisjs@verizon.net
Youth Education Director, Julie Smith ~ jlsphone1@gmail.com
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Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net
Nursery Director, Stephanie Illsley ~ st3phyy2011@gmail.com