



Weekly at St. Brendan's

- Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship, via live streaming**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
- Monday 8:15 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 Meeting <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 Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
11:00 a.m. Bible Study, via zoom
 Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
4:30 p.m. Book Club discussion, via zoom
 Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481>
- Friday 7:30 p.m. Suspended-Game Night, via zoom**
 Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>

Sunday, September 20, 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

Some New Faces Blessing Us During the Pandemic

---Just when you think things are all messed up and a consistent pathway forward seems unclear; all of a sudden, we get two friends from South Korea and a wonderful voice from California that offer us joy and light along the way. Enter Amy, Charlie and Daneen.

In the following link, Amy and Charlie discuss their journey to the USA and the need to learn English as well as this new country's cultural implications. They have a young son and felt he needed them to learn as much as they could, so he'd have an opportunity to excel. Their dedication to this goal is deeply moving.

When they found St. Brendan's and our Conversation Friends, they knew they were on the right track. They felt safe and got their confidence and insights about speaking English and adapting to a new culture here.

Click here for an uplift from Amy and Charlie:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Kerh6TvqRH0tLgNsr20Rik8E8FDvWfB/view?usp=sharing>

---The second light is Daneen, my cousin from California. She and husband, Dennis, visited Pittsburgh and told me they had to go to St. Brendan's. The Sunday they visited, they closed down Coffee Hour. This was a few months before the pandemic. They couldn't say enough about the wonderful spirit they found with us—so much so that when churches closed throughout the country; they found a virtual home at our live streaming Sunday after Sunday. I told Daniel about them, and he paved a way for Daneen to join the virtual choir. Then last Sunday she offered us that robust rendition of *Beautiful Savior*.

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/73sov5StUC/c3RicmVuZGFuc2thdGllQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ==> Contact Daniel May if you have any issues with this link.

Several people ask me about Daneen, and I shared her ministry of Biblical Storytelling and music. Her specialty is Biblical Women. I contacted Daneen about the interest some people had in her work, and this is what she wrote back:

"Regis—That's fantastic that there are some people in your church interested in learning more about God's women. They can contact me directly through my email or phone (949)-290-0381 and I can send them an autographed copy of my book and/or my cd. If they prefer, they can go to Amazon and type in Bibles bad girls by Daneen Pysz or this link":

https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias=stripbooks&field-keywords=book+daneen+pysz

Here are a few other links to her work. This one is a link to her website about the women of The Bible and the storytelling

<http://www.biblesbadgirls.com/>

Here's a link to Daneen's teaching and role modeling one of the Biblebadgirls: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID0cY9E7pol>

I'm always struck by the "lights" that are available right around the corner and just waiting to light up some hope here and there along the way. I hope you never lose your sense of wonder and the ability to be inspired—especially during times like this—as we are trying to find a pathway to survive the worst pandemic of our lives.

Regis+



Vestry Meeting. The Vestry held a lengthy but fairly routine meeting—using Zoom, of course—on Monday, September 14. Among the topics we discussed was this year's Stewardship Campaign, which will kick off with a mailing in mid-October and culminate with three presentations as part of our worship on the first three Sundays in November. ... Stay tuned!

We approved the online publication of a Parish Directory (to be carefully protected from unauthorized eyes and with options for Brendanites to withhold their information if they wish). ... Stay tuned!

And we explored ways to conduct a very much scaled-down version of the fabled St. Brendan's Cookie Walk (minus the Holiday Craft Fair, alas—just the latest victim of the COVID-19 restrictions). ... Stay tuned!

As always, the full Vestry Minutes are available for those who would like a more detailed account.

Collection for Haiti: We have resumed our collection of items to be sent to Haiti. Summer clothing, shoes and any medical supplies (walkers, wheelchairs, etc.) are especially needed. If you have items to donate, you can drop them off in the large blue bin on the front porch of St. Brendan's. Thank you for any help you can give!



Next Public Forum: October 13 on Voter Suppression: In line with St. Brendan's commitment to support Black Lives Matter, our next Public Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 13 at 7:15 pm. The topic will be voting rights/voter suppression, which remains a significant issue for people of color right here in Allegheny County and surrounding areas. Mark the date on your calendar! More information will be coming soon.

Children's Corner

Buoyed by Faith--"That's not fair"

I have an older sister. In fact I have several older sisters, but when the one closest to me in age got to stay up later than I did, I would cry, "that's not fair! Why does she get to stay up and watch TV when I have to go to bed?" Our mother would say, she is older and she gets to stay up later because she is older.

My that's not fair, was usually followed by "you love her more than you love me." And that wasn't fair to our parents.

The readings for this week are kind of like a young person saying that's not fair. In this week's readings, a landowner hires workers several times during the day to make sure the harvest is collected. Those who were hired early, were promised a set amount of money, and then the next set of workers were promised a set amount of money, and so on until the last person hired, who worked for the landowner the fewest hours, was promised the same set amount of money.

The owner never said he was paying them by the hour, he was paying them for the job. But the first workers ASSUMED they would be paid more because they had worked longer. No one asked the owner for more money; they just assumed he would pay them more.

So when the harvest was collected and the time to be paid came, the owner paid all of the workers the same amount. Each worker got the same wage. The workers who had been working the longest complained LOUDLY. They said, "These last worked only one hour, and you paid them the same amount as you paid us. You made them equal to us." They owner said, yes I did. He asked them, "didn't you agree to work for the usual amount? And if you did, and that is what I paid you, I did you no wrong."

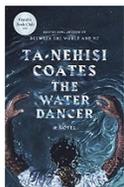
But the zinger is the question, "are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Which used to make me scratch my head – what does that mean, the last will be first, and the first will be last?"

It means, asking if God is fair is not the question. We shouldn't ask is God fair to us, because that means we have to earn God's love and favor. The Bible tells us not only is God fair, but God loves us.

We need only to remember, God loves us – all of us, those of us who love God back, and those who may not know God yet. God loves all of us equally – just like our parents love us each individually, but none of us more than others.

Peace,
Julie+



Our book discussion group continues to meet on Tuesdays at 4:30 via zoom. We are reading – *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. We read a chapter or two at a time - not the whole book - so our discussions can go a bit deeper. Our first discussion on this book will be September 8, at 4:30 via zoom.

If you would like to join us or if you need assistance getting the book, please Contact Julie jlsphone1@gmail.com.

Feel free to join us on zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481> Meeting ID: 814 8485 3481, if needed.



We are offering the **opportunity to receive communion on Mondays and Fridays** by appointment only. If you are interested, email Katie at StBrendansKatie@gmail.com your availability Monday/Friday and morning/afternoon. You'll come to the portico in front of the church with a mask on and approach the reception area in a socially distanced way. Regis or Julie will meet you for a brief service with Eucharist available for you to receive. We can catch up for a few minutes then depart.

“White privilege” is a term we have heard often lately. Do you really understand what is meant by that phrase? White privilege is not racism, it is not prejudice, it is not hatred, it is not intolerance and it is not white supremacy. Join us on October 6 to unpack what white privilege means and how this invisible advantage affects the American experience.

Please join Julie and Ginny for the fourth discussion in this series which will be facilitated by Marilyn Mulvihill. This discussion will define and discuss White Privilege.

Attendance at a prior discussion is not necessary to be a part of our next discussion at a new time.

Tuesday, October 6 at 7 PM.

We hope to continue to discuss what being an ally means for us individually /collectively and how to process what we are experiencing.

Contact Ginny Volponi if you have questions, ginny4045@gmail.com. The Zoom link for the Antiracism discussions is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105>. Meeting ID: 479 620 1105 One tap mobile +13126266799,,4796201105# US (Chicago) +19292056099,,4796201105# US (New York)

COMING SOON - Youth Program Coming soon – a survey for youth group – primarily what day to hold our meetings. Youth group is for all young people in grades 6+ who seek to deepen their relationship with Jesus through the study of scripture, through discussions of modern life lived with faith, and by exploring one's call to service.

To do this, we will be exploring questions about the Bible, Faith, the Episcopal Church, and our calls to service by reading, discussing and serving our church. In addition, some young people are about to be confirmed and we will work to prepare you for confirmation in the Episcopal Church.

Our leaders for this year will be Cameron, Allison, and Julie.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Julie at jlsphone1@gmail.com.

Senior Warden's Corner

On Tuesday evening, the Worship Committee held its regular monthly meeting. We reviewed the liturgical calendar for the next few months and are pleased to be able to offer a few “Save the Date” alerts.

Sunday, October 11. Blessing of the Animals.

On Sunday, October 11, we will hold our annual Blessing of the Animals. Of course, it is important for us all to observe the appropriate social distancing at what is always a popular event. On that morning, therefore, we will begin by celebrating the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist via live-streaming as usual. The liturgy will include prayers for all living creatures and especially our pets. About one hour after the service concludes, Fr. Regis and Pr. Julie will meet with those who would like to bring their pets for a blessing at Blueberry Park (just down the road from church). This setting will allow all involved to respect the space of others.

Sunday, November 1. All Saints Day.

All Saints Day falls on a Sunday this year. At St. Brendan's, we take this occasion to remember members of the parish, as well as the friends and family members of parishioners, who have died during the preceding year. This is always a moving occasion. In future Little Logs, we will explain various ways in which you can submit the names of those you would like to be remembered at that service. We will also be looking for a few volunteers to help us plan and carry out the liturgy; if you are interested, please contact me (austover@gmail.com or 508-688-9554) as soon as possible.

Tuesday, November 10. Memorial Service for Victims of Racism.

As most of you know, the Justice Ministry is organizing a series of public forums to explore issues surrounding racial inequity. The November event will take the form of a special liturgy at which we can pray for all victims of racism and for a more truly just society, as well as confess our own limitations as advocates for God's kingdom. If you are interested in helping to organize this liturgy, please contact Pr. Julie or Donna Aiello (donna.aiello@forecastdirect.com or 412-759-1521).

Of course, more details of each service will be announced nearer the respective dates. Arrangements will depend in part on whether or not we have re-opened the church for in-person worship. As of today, the first possible date for re-opening would be **Sunday, October 18.**

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of World Vision, an international organization that provides life-saving food, clear water and healthcare for families fighting for survival. Our donation helps build new wells. <https://www.worldvision.org/>

Volunteer Opportunity! We are looking for several Brendanites who would be interested in volunteering at the Trinity Walk-in Cathedral in downtown Pittsburgh. The Trinity Cathedral Ministry helps feed and clothe many people in desperate need. Our involvement is to help sort and distribute those items to those who need them. This would involve a commitment of 4-5 hours every five weeks at most, usually from 10am am til 2pm. You'll find this volunteer work to be very worthwhile and fulfilling. If you are interested in helping, please contact Katie at StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.



You can help. We 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. **We have now discovered a new mission. There are halfway houses in lower income areas who share any donations to them with their neighbors, and we will be supporting them with some of our food donations. This gives those residents a sense of meaningful purpose, being the ones to share rather than the ones in need.** We will continue distributing food to the North Hills Food Bank and the Community Outreach.

Need food? We can help. If you or someone you know has a food shortage, contact the church and we will be happy to help.



Do you have a special prayer request? Contact Ruth Horton rvhorton@gmail.com. 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.

Please consider applying for an absentee ballot. We want you to stay safe.

Registered voters can sign up today at votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot.



5 things you can do in less than 5 minutes:

- Make your bed
 - Feed your dog
 - Prepare a bowl of cereal
 - Reply to your parent's text
 - Sign up to vote by mail in the November 3 general election
- votesPA.com

You Can Make a Difference. No matter your political preference, we all agree that voting is one of the most important civic responsibilities we have. And perhaps the most consequential election of our live time is coming up in November.

We need to do all we can to make sure that as many citizens as possible are registered to vote. Unfortunately, it is very difficult for some people to register. They work shifts, they lack transportation and many other obstacles stand in their way. You can help! We have voter registration forms with instructions available outside and in front of the building. We are urging each member of the parish to take 3 of the preaddressed applications and put a stamp on each. When you are out and about be aware of folks you meet who may not be registered and offer them an application. The cashier at the market, the Amazon delivery driver, the pizza delivery man, all these folks might welcome at chance to get registered to vote. Applications must be received by October 19, so we have lots of time. If everyone in the parish got 3 new voters, we could add almost 500 voters! Please do your part.

Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

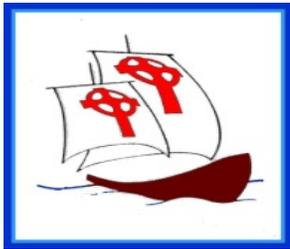
St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following parishioners and friends or family of parishioners. Each is a medical professional or an emergency first responder who is helping people cope with the Coronavirus outbreak. They are using their skills and 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	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

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: Mary Bertucci
Dean Peters
Outreach: Donna Aiello
Safety & Security: Tim Austin
Stewardship: Larry Toler
Treasurer: Ellen Groves
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Botti
Worship: Cameron Grosh

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
ESL: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Linda Schneider
Garden of Hope: Tim Michael
Justice Ministry: Donna Aiello
Miryam's: Julia Wick
Rob & George Latta
North Hills Food Banks: Ruth Horton & Donna Aiello

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

ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Corner of Rochester & McAleer Roads
2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143
Phone ~ 412-364-5974

Office hours ~ Monday thru Friday 8:00-2:00

Web Site ~ <http://www.stbrendans.org>

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

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ stbrendans@comcast.net

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net

Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ meghanthompson328@gmail.com