



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 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. Game Night, via zoom
 Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>

Sunday, August 2, 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

RIP John Lewis, Thank You!

John Lewis' final essay was to be published on the day of his funeral. Today is that day, and here are his final words. These are especially relevant for those who are attempting to respond to the Gospel call, as they understand it, in taking a stand against systemic racism in our land. May John Lewis' words encourage us at St. Brendan's to continue to be bold in our efforts to end racism and proclaim that indeed Black Lives Matter.

Here are the congressman's words:

"Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and non-violence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

When the historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st Century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last, and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide."

I had the opportunity to share at the clergy meeting yesterday what was going on at St. Brendan's: the anti-racism action steps we are taking, the educational process we've committed to, the banner and our 41 complaints, 4 praises, uniformed officers' delivery of a letter outlining why our banner needed to be taken down, resultant taking down of said banner and re-wording our new, "legitimate" banner with plans for it to go up August 3. I was encouraged by the verbal support we received from several clergy persons. I heard afterwards encouragement like "We are called to be the people we are waiting for to improve our world—be bold!" I also was reminded that yesterday the Episcopal Church celebrated the memory of William Wilberforce.

I planned last Sunday to use the story of Wilberforce to exemplify the point I was making about finding "a treasure in a field and purchasing the field." This example perhaps didn't find its way into the actual preaching of the sermon for some divine reason besides I just didn't remember it at the moment. I'm thinking it might have been taken from me then because I'm supposed to use it now and here.

MP Wilberforce began championing the cause for *freedom from slave trade* in the British Parliament near the close of the 18th Century. In just five years from the inaugural and famous anti-slave trade planning meeting in the James Phillip Bookstore (May 22, 1787), public opinion had turned against the slave trade, beginning with a boycott of slave-produced sugar. Wilberforce brought the first anti slave-trade bill to Parliament in 1791. He met with fierce opposition and derision. Admiral Nelson actually condemned Wilberforce with these words, "the damnable doctrine of Wilberforce and his hypocritical allies." Prime Minister William Pitt (of Pittsburgh founding fame) supported him. But all in all, reintroduced bills failed not only in 1791, but in 1792, 1793, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1804 and 1805. Finally on February 27, 1807 a bill for the abolition of the slave trade passed the House by a vote of 283 to 16.

The anti-slavery activists assumed that once the shipping of slaves was outlawed, slavery would end. Not at all! While no more slaves were shipped, slaves continued to be held on British plantations in the West Indies. Children of slaves were enslaved. This set off campaigns, a slave uprising in 1831 and in 1833 finally the Emancipation Act. It took 56 years for slavery to finally end despite formal endorsements and ongoing bloodshed and palpable pain.

I've heard people, who were around during the Civil Rights legislation and the ensuing riots for several years, express a similarity between then and now. In fact, a S/O called Ken was an armed National Guardsman during the riots in Baltimore. The Guard had guns, but no bullets in them. Ken noticed that the same things we were saying back in the 60's and 70's are the same words being used today. It's easy to conclude—after all these years, what's the use? Well—perhaps this lesson from British History and the encouraging words of John Lewis might give us hope. Many are saying, "Things feel very different this time!" We might be very near the solution to this racist pandemic. Don't give up hope. Stay focused despite the distractions. A miracle is about to happen. Don't give up five minutes before it finally occurs.

Regis+

Announcements



A BFF donation was given in honor of Beth Karr, and her crazy mask makers, from her sister, Pat Carl.

A donation to the Brendan's Family and Friends (BFF) fund is the perfect way to honor a special day or loved one while supporting unbudgeted building needs of our church. BFF funds have been used to purchase various items.

Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor. Contact Katie if you are interested in making a donation. stbrendanskatie@gmail.com.

Anti-Racism/Black Lives Matter

Thank you for responding to the survey. Based on the responses we will start the discussions **Thursday August 6, at 4:30 pm**. We are planning them to be bi-weekly but open to change as we progress and receive input from the participants

The first discussion will review our intentions, establish common vocabulary and resources. One comment from the survey that bears repeating: There is no shame, no guilt, no judgement; just a way to listen and learn. We are all in different places in our learning.

The agenda for the first meeting will be to:

- Define "facilitated discussion"
 - Highly participative
 - Not lectures
 - Opening with all but breakouts to allow all to engage
- Enable sharing of personal stories/journeys
- Discuss resources
- Discuss vocabulary/terminology to ensure we are all agreed on meanings
 - Some examples are *prejudice, discrimination and racism*
 - *Prejudice* – consists of thoughts and feelings
 - *Discrimination* – action based on prejudice
 - *Racism* – collective prejudice backed by power and institutional control
 - "*Racism is a structure not an event*"

This learning journey will lead to action steps both individually and collectively in addition to those suggested by the Justice Ministry.

All are welcome but your confirmation to attend would help us to organize better. Please confirm to ginny4045@gmail.com.

Blessings,
Ginny Volponi

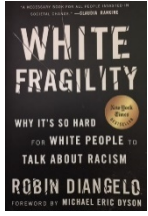
The Zoom link for the meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105>. Meeting ID: 479 620 1105 One tap mobile
+13126266799,,4796201105# US (Chicago)
+19292056099,,4796201105# US (New York)

SAVE THE DATE

The SPEAKER SERIES is making it easier to participate and continue your path to learning. The Reconstruction series is about 2 weeks away. We need your email address so we can send you the ZOOM invitation. Don't worry, it's easy. We have also made it easier to donate if you want to do that. Of course, we will always accept a check, but we've added a "Speaker Series" link on our website. Go to stbrendan.org it will take you to tithely.ly screen. In the middle open the drop-down box and choose the Speaker Series tab: Or go to https://tithely.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/837730 and choose Speaker Series in the drop box, there you go-Easy! We're looking forward to this next step in our fundraising efforts. See you on ZOOM !

Racial Justice course available: Stevenson School for Ministry (SSFM) in the diocese of Central PA is offering a 5 week course called "Racial Justice and the Body of Christ" in September via Zoom. The course is FREE and is being taught by Dr. Joshua Davis, an SSFM faculty member. Anyone can take this course. To register, go to the link below.

<https://diocesecpa.org/shaped-by-faith-courses/>



Our book discussion group meets on Tuesdays at 4:30 via zoom. We are 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 jlsphone1@gmail.com. Feel free to join us on zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481> Meeting ID: 814 8485 3481, if needed.

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.



Please sign up to harvest in the garden. Harvesting is 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.

ACTION STEP FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

St. Brendan's Justice Ministry believes that we need to take actions in our fight against racism. Along that line, we are suggesting a different action step each week to our parishioners. Here is the first of them:

Recently, we lost a great warrior for racial justice, the Honorable John Lewis. Please consider these actions to honor his memory.

-- Call Senator Mitch McConnell at 202.224.3121 and ask that he pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act. H.R.4. Click here for information on this Act <https://www.hrc.org/resources/voting-rights-advancement-act>

-- Sign the petition to rename the Pettus Bridge after John Lewis, as Edmond Pettus was a grand dragon of the KKK. This bridge is where John Lewis shed blood for justice. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ads-fb-jlbp-2>.

Senior Warden's Corner

Those of you who drove past the church recently may have noticed a banner,

On Tuesday, Wednesday and again today (Thursday), I have been dividing my time between (i) a major online Diversity Forum organized by the University of Pittsburgh with the title *Advancing Social Justice: A Call To Action* and (ii) an equally impressive Zoom-enabled series of events coordinated by the national Episcopal Church, *Becoming Beloved Community NOW*. It will take me a while to process all that I have heard so far (with a few hours still to go!) but I appreciate this opportunity to share just a couple of immediate reactions.

It is certainly heartening to see two powerful programs on closely related topics running side-by-side. This suggests that the impetus provided by the tragic deaths of George Floyd and others has not been lost. Instead, that energy is now surfacing in carefully planned programs that feature panels of Muslims and Jews, African-Americans and members of indigenous tribes, and speakers that range from Angela Davis (now *there's* a name from my youth!) to activists and scholars still in their 20s. So much is happening that counterbalances the unsettling news from Portland and Seattle—too bad that the network newsrooms seem unable to resist the endless video clips of tear gas canisters and police in riot gear!

Many of the most encouraging stories I have heard were distinctively local. (Indeed, those speakers who tried to take a 40,000-foot view of the terrain quickly forfeited my attention.) It seems that "success" depends on thoughtfully gauging what needs exist in one's specific location and then diving in to address those needs in very practical ways. At this point, I'm not sure what that will mean for St. Brendan's. It certainly doesn't mean that we should curtail our efforts to learn more about the history of systemic racism in our country and about the ways in which that racism continues to affect our lives individually and as a parish. But it does suggest to me that our Justice Ministry team is on-target in informing us about action steps we can take to initiate or support change "right here and right now."

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Bukit Bail Bond Fund. They support those incarcerated at Allegheny County jail and assist with bail funds. 81% have not been convicted, and a high percentage are black.



A special note for Newcomers and Oldtimers: We invite you to take note in the Little Log each week of the many opportunities for learning and fun activities via Zoom available at St. Brendan's. Each opportunity is listed by day under the banner "This Week at St. Brendan's" and includes a Zoom link; you only have to click on it to join.

1. Morning Prayer at 8:30 on Monday through Saturday - a great opportunity to get your day off on the right foot. Includes lively discussion before and after the liturgy of the day led by The Rev. Julie Smith. Julie shares her screen so everyone has access to the order of service and readings.

2. Modern Episcopalian meet every Monday morning from 11:00 am to 12:15 or so. Here is an opportunity to review the previous Sunday's Gospel reading and have a look at next Sunday's reading (the celebrant of the day always appreciates input and ideas for the sermon). Then we go into the red Episcopal Handbook for open discussion on various topics, such as "Why the Episcopal Church is (and isn't) Catholic Lite".

3. Bible Discussion from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon every Tuesday. Join us for lively discussion of various books in the Bible and how they relate to us today. It is amazing how timeless and relevant the Bible Message is for today's complex and conflicted world. We read from several versions of the Bible including The Message Numbered edition (The Bible in Contemporary Language).

4. Join in the fun with **Zoom Game Nite** on Friday at 7:30 pm.

5. A special **Book Club** opportunity on Tuesdays at 4:30. At the moment we are discussing the book "White Fragility: Why it's so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism". For a synopsis of this book and the Zoom link contact The Rev. Julie Smith at jlspone1@gmail.com.

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

Registered voters can sign up today at [VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](https://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



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.

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.

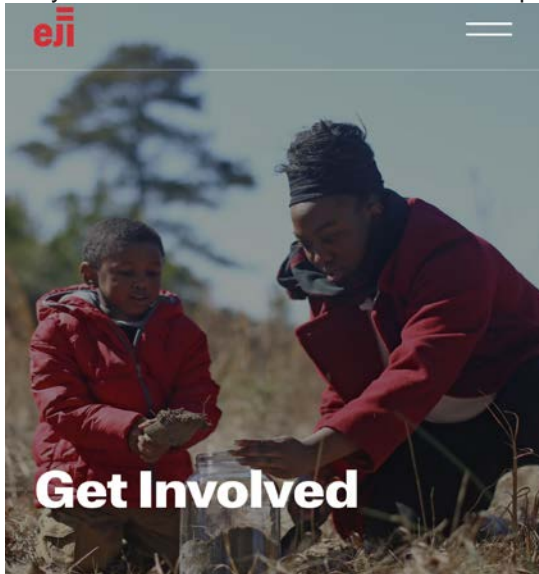
Lord, please bless and care for all healthcare workers and first responders. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, skill and compassion so that they may be instruments of Your healing power for those they serve and care for. Give them strength and support. May they be able to do their work in a spirit of love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

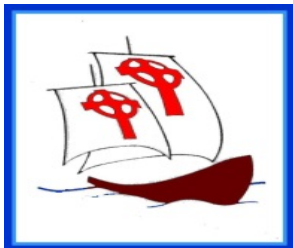
You Can Make a Difference. No matter your political preference, we all agree that voting is one of the most important civic responsibilities we have. And perhaps the most consequential election of our live time is coming up in November.

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.

This week the action item is to get involved with the Equal Justice Initiative.

They are a wealth of information on the inequality in the justice system. [Get Involved | Equal Justice Initiative](#)





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
Justice Ministry: Donna Aiello
Safety & Security: Tim Austin
Stewardship: Larry Toler
Treasurer: Ellen Groves
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Botti
Worship: Cameron Grosh

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

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 Banks: Ruth Horton & Donna Aiello