



The Priest's Corner

For this month's Priest's Corner, I wanted to share with you the sermon that Marilyn Mulvihill preached on Sunday, June 4th. I asked her to preach because when St. Brendan's hosted the "Memorial to the Lost" last August, I was profoundly moved and inspired to devote more of my energy as a Christian to eradicating gun violence. As an Episcopal priest, one of my charges is that I "equip the saints for their ministry." So I invited Marilyn to preach. Her sermon is below:

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

First, thank you Mother Robin, Tom and the other vestry members for this opportunity.

"Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God"

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These words were written by Bob Pierce, the founder of WWV, on the leaflet of his Bible over 70 years ago. I prayed these words a little over 30 years ago and God answered my prayers. He broke my heart for all the lives lost to gun violence.

God broke my heart for:

- 26 first graders slaughtered in their class rooms in Sandy Hook Elementary
- Pulse Nightclub 49 victims of gun violence
- A Super market in Buffalo where 10 were killed
- Uvalde 19 students murdered
- And right in my old neighborhood the Tree of Life where 11 worshippers were gunned down.
- The more than 120 killed every single day in America, the more than 200 who are shot and wounded
- The 67 suicides by guns daily in America
- Knowing that guns are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in the US

My heart is broken yet my spirit is not. I believe we can end gun violence, I believe the people of God are called to act, because it is not going to happen without us.

My message to you this morning is that in this country we have both a heart problem and a gun problem. God changes hearts. People change gun laws.

One of the reasons I am here today is because it's Wear Orange Week in America. What's that you ask? It has a history. On January 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya's friends commemorated her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others. Wear Orange is now observed every June. And once again this year we unite in our call to end gun violence as we come together for Wear Orange. We honor the communities shattered by gun violence alongside the 120 people who are shot and killed, and hundreds more who are wounded, every day in our country. Together, we call for meaningful action to save lives.

You often hear the argument that the gun violence problem is one of mental health. And it is true; you have to have mental problems to slaughter 26 first graders. Does it make sense to make gun available to the mentally ill? Of course not!

Since every country in the world has mental issues why do they not have mass murders? I propose it is the guns. In Japan there were 5 children killed by guns in 2020, France 48 and Sweden just 4. In the US there were 4357. We are killing our children. And it is not so much a mental health problem as a gun problem.

Some argue that the second amendment is sacrosanct and no laws can limit access to firearms. When that amendment was passed guns fired one round a minute, now they can fire 100 a minute. Guns have changed, Gun laws have not.

And some will argue that there is nothing we can do. I adamantly disagree. There are several common sense laws that if enacted would save lives. This attitude of nothing can be done is designed by special interest groups to make us give up in exhaustion. Don't believe it! It's a lie. We have power if we act, if we mobilize.

In 1996, 35 people were killed in a hospital in Australia. Days after that, sensible gun laws were passed and since that time gun related homicides have decreased dramatically. It can be done. When 16 school children were massacred in Scotland, sensible gun laws were passed and there have been ZERO school shootings in the UK. It can be done.

States with common sense gun laws have less gun murders than others, it's a fact and researchers estimate that there would be 70% fewer mass shootings if there were a ban on assault weapons. The lowest 10 year average in mass shootings occurred during the ban on weapons of war.

There are 434 million guns in the US, 20 million assault rifles and 150 mags. There are more guns than people. If guns made us safer, the US would be the safest place in the world.

In this country we have a heart problem and a gun problem. God changes hearts. We change gun laws.

James Atwood, a Baptist minister and activist, says that gun violence is the greatest moral and ethical issue of our times. He points out in a famous sermon that I would recommend to you, that in Mark 12, Jesus says to love God is to love our neighbor. We cannot love God without loving our neighbor. He points out spiritual, moral and ethical reasons why Christians need to speak out to end gun violence.

- Every victim is born in the image of God (our first reading today tells us we are created in the image of God)
- Every victim is a precious child of God
- Every victim is a brother or sister in the family of God
- Every victim is a neighbor who God commands us to love
- Every victim is a temple of the living God.

So where does this leave us as Christians, as member of the Body of Christ? Why does this matter?

It leaves us with an obligation to speak out. It is each Christian's responsibility to be part of the solution if we claim to serve the Prince of Peace.

One of the most important roles that faith leaders and communities play is to raise awareness about gun violence and collectively mourn those whose lives have been lost, as we did and continue to do with the Memorial to the Lost. WE can challenge ideological motivators of gun violence within factions of our communities and uplift the diverse but overlapping threats of gun violence their communities face—from suicide to gang-related violence to domestic and white supremacist violence and more. Additionally, we can foster the necessary cultural change to build broader urgency around the need for commonsense gun policies at the federal, state, and local levels.

I believe with all my heart that as Christians we have a moral obligation to do whatever we can, whenever we can, to work to protect human life, to work to enact sensible gun laws that will save lives. We must "project that call for peace and justice and change into the streets of our communities and to that halls of power", as Josh Fletiman has said. In Corinthians today we are told to live in peace.

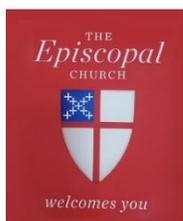
We can:

- Pray that there would be a collective culture shift in this country in regard to guns and gun violence. Yes, Church we have both a heart problem in this country and a gun problem. God works on hearts.
- Talk with our friends and family about gun violence and the ways to prevent it.
- Vote for candidates who support sensible gun laws.
- Call, email your representatives regularly about pending legislation. Yes, we have both a heart problem and a gun.

Thank you, Marilyn Mulvihill



A BFF donation was given to bless the community of St. Brendan's for their prayers and help, from Joyce Donadee.



Attention, Newcomers! Mark your calendars for **Everything You Wanted to Know about St. Brendan's (but were afraid to ask)**, a friendly informational session **THIS Sunday, June 11**, downstairs in the Youth/Handprint Room after the 10 a.m. service. Bring your own questions and along the way learn about:

- Episcopal Church basics
- St. Brendan's history in a nutshell
- Membership, confirmation and being received
- Ministries, activities and other ways to take part

Mother Robin and others will be on hand to take your questions and receive your feedback. Refreshments and child care will be provided. This informal session is your chance to fill in the gaps on what you'd like to know. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex to tell us if you plan to attend. Contact Chris Botti or Saundy Waseleski if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Gentlemen, please join us for breakfast on Monday, June 12th at 9:00 AM at the Eat'n Park, 2650 Brandt School Rd, Wexford. Bring your hunger, humor, and good will. RSVP Steve stephenshorton@gmail.com.



"It is utterly insufficient (to eat pie only twice a week), as anyone who knows the secret of our strength as a nation and the foundation of our industrial supremacy must admit. Pie is the American synonym of prosperity, and its varying contents the calendar of the changing seasons. Pie is the food of the heroic. No pie-eating people can ever be permanently vanquished." NYT Editorial, 1902 *"Good apple pies are a considerable part of our domestic happiness."* Jane Austen



Adopt-a-Highway. Volunteers from St. Brendan's will be picking up litter at the Camp Horne Road interchange of I-279 in Ohio Twp. on Saturday, June 17. Anyone age 14 and up may participate. If you'd like to help beautify the environment, meet at 8:30 a.m. in the church parking lot and join the carpool to the site. The cleanup is finished by 10:45. For more info, please contact Tom Waseleski, twaseleski@comcast.net.



Summer can be a difficult time for families who depend on schools for breakfast and lunch. **The North Hills Food Bank** is in particular need of these items.

- Cereal; particularly kid's cereal
- Jelly and Peanut Butter
- Granola Bars, Applesauce and Fruit Cups
- Juice - Orange, Apple, and Cranberry (32 to 96 oz.)

Of course they will always accept non-perishable food items

Note: The food banks do not accept anything in glass jars.



Save the date for our annual parish picnic, **July 9th**. More details will be coming soon.



Grocery Cards: Need groceries again? Before you head to Giant Eagle or Kuhns, be sure to buy a grocery card at St. Brendan's! Did you know that our church earns 5% for each grocery card that we sell? Basically, if you eat, you can raise funds to meet our budget needs! It's easy! Just visit the vestry member who is selling grocery cards in the narthex each Sunday, buy a grocery card for Kuhns and/or Giant Eagle, then go shopping for those weekly necessities. Thanks for your support of the easiest fundraiser in town!



Many copies of **The Book of Common Prayer in large print** are available in the back of the sanctuary.

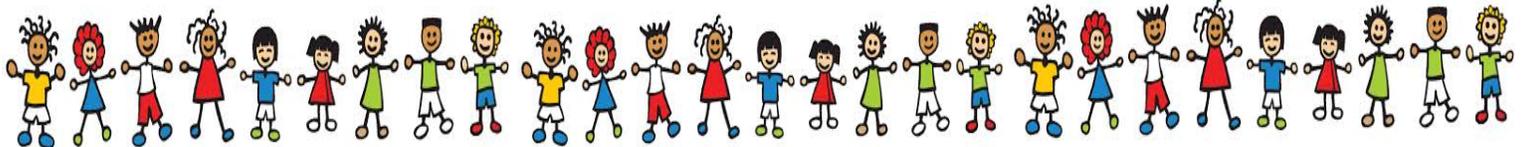


Brendan's Boots. The parish hiking group will be rollin' near the river on **Tuesday, June 13**, with a trek on the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. After meeting at the church at 9 a.m., participants will carpool to Pittsburgh's South Side for a walk along the Mon. An outdoor lunch will follow at the Hofbrauhaus Brewery & Restaurant. Everyone is welcome; feel free to bring a friend. For more info, please contact Tom Waseleski at twaseleski@comcast.net.



BFF = Building Needs. Would you like a way to acknowledge a special occasion like a baptism or a birthday or to remember a departed loved one? A donation to the Brendan's Family and Friend's (BFF) fund is the perfect way to honor that special person or event. BFF funds are earmarked for unbudgeted building needs which might otherwise derail our budget. Air conditioning units, technology, kitchen and playground equipment, acoustic panels, security window film, exterior painting and much more have been made possible through your generous donations. Please pick up a BFF card in the narthex or donate online via [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly). Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor!]

Children and Youth



- **Sunday School volunteers needed for the 2023-2024 school year:** We've begun planning for the next Sunday School year and need your help! Please consider volunteering your time as a teacher or doorkeeper. We'll help you get clearances if you don't have them, and we'll provide you with materials and guide you through the curriculum. All that is needed is a little time on occasional Sunday mornings and a commitment to providing our children with a Christian foundation. Please consider helping us next year. The kids at St. B.'s are great, and you'll enjoy working with them and watching them grow in their faith. Contact Saundy at swaseleski@comcast.net to learn more.
- **Happy Summer:** Thank you to all of the teachers, doorkeepers, nursery and youth group volunteers who gave up their time to support the programs we have for our children and youth. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you, also, to all of our great kids at St. B.'s. We're so happy to have their participation, and it's a joy to watch them grow in their faith. We wish everyone a happy, fun, and relaxing summer!

Prayer Requests

We pray for our beloved members of St. Brendan's, especially; Annie Koch, Dean Peters, Susan Shields, Bill Spoonhoward, Karl Haider, Joyce Donadee, Jim Gray, Matthew, Margie Davies, Rosie Wood, Mark Shoemaker, Mark Kinley, Larry Tarrant, Nancy Snyder, Ruth, Alice Butterworth.

For our parents, especially; Adele and Ken McCormack, Debbie Adrian, Diane Davis, Ray Militzer, Lenora.

For our family members, especially; Eric Darde, Beth Karr, Sandy Donaldson, Pat Schulze, Tom Groves, Nelson Ferguson, John, Chris Sensenich, Jay & A, Sue Burchill, Carol Schmitz, Frank Nagy, Nathan Schlumpf, David Pingree, Bob Kiehl, Marie Hazelton, Ray Maas, Robert Donato, Carman Lorcas & family, Rena Feingold, Ann & Ben Kirkpatrick, Maggie Cervone.

And for our friends, especially; Chris Ivanisin, Phil & Bernice Bollman, Barb & Wayne Seelhorst and family, Josh, Kevin Mahoney, Cindy & Bob Getty, Josh, Ron Neurohr, Barbara & Max Hagen, Pat Reiner, Vivian, Steve Parsons, Nancy Baker.

We pray for all who have died, especially Robert Jarrell and Jean Whitehouse.

June Ministry Calendar 2023

Date	Lectors	Sunday School Leaders	Nursery	Altar Guild	Greeters	Ushers	Vestry	Stewards	Hospitality
June 4 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Sylvia Affleck 1 st Michael Donadee 2 nd Tony Turo P Tim Austin	Summer Break	Liz MacDonald Lindsay Beel	Ellen Groves Phoebe Juel	Sharon Hlawati Donna Aiello	The Bertucci family	Chris Botti	John Appeldorn	Kate Heston
June 11 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Joan Beatrous 1 st Kate Heston 2 nd Cindy Koszarek P Donna Aiello	Summer Break	Liz MacDonald Dawn Quinn	Sylvia Affleck Anelisa Tarrant	Toni Passarello Donna Aiello	Kate Heston Mike Wick	Kate Heston	Tim Austin	Janice Moore
June 18 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st Linda Limberis 2 nd AJ McKenna P Dean Peters	Summer Break	Liz MacDonald Molly Kirk	Tammy Spoonhoward Janice Moore	Kathy Miller Dave Miller	Donna Aiello John Appeldorn	Tom Waseleski	Dave Miller	Megan & Tim
June 25 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ellen Groves 1 st Aidan McKenna 2 nd Donna Aiello P Volunteer needed	Summer Break	Pat Carl Dawn Quinn	Joan Klinefelter Susan Shields	Barb Fure John Appeldorn	Kate Heston Tim Austin	Dan Moore	Linda Limberis	Donna & Sharon



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.

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden: Tom Waseleski
Jr. Warden: Dan Moore
Adult Formation: John Appeldorn
Audio-Visual Technology: Sandy Nagy
Communication: Sandy Nagy
Children & Youth: Ruth Horton
Finance: Lauren Ramakrishna
Fundraising: Chris Botti
Inreach & Hospitality: Kate Heston
Membership: Chris Botti
Outreach: Ruth Horton
Secretary/Clerk: Lauren Ramakrishna
Worship: Neil Galone
Treasurer: Roger Botti
Assistant Treasurer: Ellen Groves

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

Acolyte: Anelisa Tarrant
Altar Guild: Anelisa Tarrant
Flower Ministry: Libby Juel & Sylvia Affleck
Greeter: Donna Aiello
Lector: Ann Vinski
Scheduler: Kelli Cerra
Spirituality: Donna Aiello

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Chris Botti
Brendan's Boots: Tom Waseleski
Bulletin Coordinators: Pat Carl & Carol Meese
Dinner Group: Janice Moore
Fiber Crafting Club: Sherri Angeletti
Finance Chair: Lauren Ramakrishna
Green Thumb Gang: Dan Moore
Historian: Ellen Groves
Holiday Happenings/Cookie Walk: Donna Aiello
Memorial Garden: John Appeldorn
Merry Meal Makers (M&M's): Saundy Waseleski
Reiki Ministry: Melanie Popovich
Rental: Marilyn Mulvihill
Scholarship: Allison Kline
Ann Vinski
Mike Wick
Web Site: Kelli Cerra

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
ESL: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Garden of Hope: Annemarie Malbon
Justice Ministry: Marilyn Mulvihill & Donna Aiello
Miryam's: Julia Wick
North Hills Food Banks: Ruth Horton

WEEKLY AT ST. BRENDAN'S

Sunday: 8:00 am Worship, in person
10:00 am Worship, in person and via live streaming
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJlqMoVc_nXXG7ew

Monday: 8:00 am Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom, Monday thru Friday
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83591825912?pwd=a3BGcCswanE1OFFXaVBWbDBYRGM1UT09>
10:00 am Modern Episcopalian, via zoom
11:00 am Katie office hours till 3:00 pm

Tuesday: 11:00 am Katie office hours till 3:00 pm
11:00 am Bible Study, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
11:00 am Katie office hours till 3:00 pm
4:30 pm Book Club discussion, via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481>

Wednesday: 1:00 pm Mother Robin office hours till 5:00 pm
6:00 pm Midweek Eucharist

Thursday: 11:00 am Mother Robin office hours till 4:00 pm
11:00 am Katie office hours till 3:00 pm

Friday: 11:00 am Katie office hours till 3:00 pm

ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143
Phone ~ 412-364-5974

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

Online Parish Calendar ~ <https://www.stbrendans.org/calendar>

Online Parish Directory ~ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1By4bzW6dJ2AwwZVImIqicQ4WFAynP16D/view?usp=sharing> (authorization required for access--apply online)

Facebook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/StBrendansEpiscopalChurch/>

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

Priest-in-Charge, Mother Robin Jarrell ~ Robin@stbrendans.org

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ Katie@stbrendans.org

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net

Deacon, Rev. Darrell Johnson ~ johnsdj31@verizon.net

Nursery Director, Liz MacDonald ~ Liz702988@gmail.com