



Sunday, June 13, 2021

Celebrant: 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Julie Smith

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

Weekly at St. Brendan's

- Sunday** 8:00 am Worship, in person
10:00 am Worship, in person
10:00 am Worship, via live streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
- Monday** 8:15 am Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105?pwd=bXM5OHJ2UEh4TXhQT1RkZnVrQWNVdz09>
Meeting ID: 479 620 1105 Passcode: 092720
11:00 am Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
1:00 pm Bible-Lite Group
- Tuesday** 7:00 am AA meeting, via zoom Dial in: 312-626-6799 Meeting Id:345 892 252
8:00 am Staff meeting, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
11:00 am Bible Study, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
4:30 pm Book Club discussion, via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481>
6:00 pm Bible Study
- Wednesday** 7:00 pm Evening Service
- Saturday** 9:30 am Women's virtual Coffee Hour <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8944116431>

The Priest's Corner

Happy P R I D E!

Oh what a blessing it is to belong to a church that not only supports our rights, it takes pains to pronounce and demonstrate this love. St. Brendan's for years has bent over backwards to make sure everyone knows we not only support gay rights—we love gay people and want as many of them as find us to be robustly present and involved in all levels of church life. Happy PRIDE, St. Brendan's!

June is PRIDE month—a month to celebrate our gender identity uniqueness and sexual orientation. The uprising at the Stonewall Inn in June, 1969 sparked a liberation movement — a call to action that continues to inspire us to live up to our nation's promise of equality, liberty, and justice for all. Pride is a time to recall the trials the LGBTQ+ community has endured and to rejoice in the triumphs of trailblazing individuals who have fought so bravely. It's also the time to continue the fight for full equality because we're not totally there yet.

For all of our progress, our nation continues to face tragic levels of violence against transgender people, especially transgender women of color. There are many states in which LGBTQ+ individuals still lack protections for fundamental rights and dignity in hospitals, schools, public accommodations, and other spaces. LGBTQ+ persons in Pennsylvania face some legal challenges and discrimination not experienced by non-LGBTQ+ residents. Same-sex sexual activity is legal and same-sex couples and families headed by same-sex couples are eligible for all of the protections available to opposite-sex married couples. A sad reality, though, is that our state was the final mid-Atlantic state without same-sex marriage. We lacked any form of same-sex recognition law until the statutory ban was overturned on May 20, 2014. PA was no leader in this cause.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is not explicitly banned in PA. Some cities (including all the major, most populous ones) and counties ban such discrimination (Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Allentown, Erie and Reading). Some cities and counties within PA also ban conversion therapy on minors. Yet, within five miles of our church, there's a "conversion ministry" operating. One year ago (June 15, 2020), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is discrimination on the basis of sex; specifically, therefore, Title VII protects LGBT employees from workplace discrimination. PA, however, has no such protection on its books; the argument is "We're covered by this federal law." We can be grateful for this; still, it sure would be nice to have something in Pennsylvania's legal code guaranteeing this.

Here's my concern for the diocese and St. Brendan's. Diocese, first: for a number of years we had more than a few gay male priests and, I think, two gay female priests. With my departure, the diocese will have only one gay priest-in-charge; and so far, to my knowledge, no female gay priests. (We have one gay male deacon.) Every gay clergyperson in the diocese I've spoken to has encountered discrimination. It's usually the silent treatment. And we do have clergy—some in significant roles—who are still theologically unsure of the validity of blessing same-sex marriages.

Now, my concern for St. Brendan's: for the past four years (my tenure), we scored 50-50 in terms of the highly significant, symbolism-effective Gay Pride Parade commitment. Now the obvious, reality-based reason for parade non-participation is the fact that Pittsburgh did not have one the last two years due to the pandemic. True! But be careful. The momentum has been cut in half. We were on fire. That doesn't mean we will be like this next June. This energy needs intentional nurture and intentional fueling to continue.

Here's what you need to know: four years ago when we first participated in PRIDE as a church, the momentum did not come from the gay priest. The impetus came from a focused, committed Senior Warden, who bugged me continually about the PRIDE presence; and from an in-the-know, civically-connected, determined vestry member who took the lead on this matter. The vestry voted to pay a supply priest to take my place for Sunday liturgies so that I could March with Brendanites in this parade. The vestry and others talked this up and produced 30+ Brendanites at PRIDE—the most any Episcopal Church ever produced at the Parade. We were the only Episcopal church from the diocese at that PRIDE parade.

I recall beloved Bob Affleck and Sylvia and others were running pamphlets back and forth along the parade route as throngs of parade goers took them. This small, energized group of Brendanites connected hundreds, perhaps thousands of young and old gay people and their loved ones to St. Brendan's. Marge Marine led our portion of the parade on her motor scooter; she waved like the Queen of England, while boldly wearing her shirt that told the world how much she loves her gay daughter.

Please don't lose this incredible witness! We gained a family at St. Brendan's because of our being at PRIDE that year. A gay man took Eucharist for the first time since he was a boy because we were at PRIDE. One Episcopalian in our diocese read on the website that we were at PRIDE; he decided to become honest about who he is—and the incredible pathway God put him on is amazing.

I'm so glad to have been a part of this outstanding love. May God secure our love for ministry, especially to the LGBTQ+ Community. Happy, happy PRIDE!

Regis+



St Brendan's Men's Breakfast, Monday, June 14th.

Gentlemen, please join us at the Eat'n'Park, 2650 Brandt School Rd in Wexford at 9:00 AM for breakfast and coffee. Sign-up not necessary, but you may contact Steve Horton at stephenshorton@gmail.com for additional information.



OUR NEXT FORUM: THIS Tuesday, June 15 via a Zoom webinar -- **Equality, Identity and Hope: The Asian American Experience**. Our speaker is Cynthia Choi, Co-Founder of Stop Asian Hate. She is also Co-Executive Director of Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), a civil rights organization committed to protecting immigrant livelihoods, and fulfilling the promise of a multi-racial democracy. Ms. Choi has 20+ years of nonprofit leadership experience, leading campaigns on immigrant rights, violence prevention, and more. She will not only provide us with historical information about the embedded bias, but also the latest information on what is happening to Asian Americans in our country and what we can do.

To attend, email Katie at StBrendansKatie@gmail.com. For more information, go to www.stbrendans.org. Timely and worthwhile!



Annual Parish "Pic-in-ick" and Liturgy by the Lake 10:00 am, Sunday, June 20.

We could use a little help with . . .

- organizing food and drinks
- bringing and/or organizing COVID-appropriate games and activities for various age-groups
- assisting with set-up and tear-down

If you can help in any of these ways (or some way that we haven't listed—yet!), please contact Tim Austin at austover@gmail.com.

Here are some details, more will be coming soon.

- Eucharist will be celebrated 10:00 am at Latham Shelter.
- The picnic meal will follow the service.
- Please bring your own chair/s or blankets.
- We will respect everyone's personal judgement in respect to COVID 19.
- Those who prefer to bring and consume their own meals are welcome to do so.
- Kids are welcome.
- The 8:00 am Eucharist service will be held at church.
- There is no rain date scheduled.
- If the picnic is cancelled, you will be notified by 8:00 am. The 10:00 service will then be at St. Brendan's, minus live-streaming.

Children's Corner

It's Summer!

And what do you have planned? I know school is just ending and maybe you just want to sleep in late or maybe stay up late and catch fireflies. Maybe you are thinking of going on hikes, swimming at the beach or pool, or playing soccer or baseball. There are a lot of things you might be thinking about doing.

When you think about what you want to do, do you think about how many times you miss the ball or how many times you hit a home run? Dropping that easy pop up or catching the ball and winning the game for your team?



Of course, you think about the win. Don't we all. We think about being carried off the field by our teammates and how good that post game celebration is going to be. But we don't often think about the hours and hours of practice that went into that easy catch or that great hit, just the end result and the big win.

Or, think about catching fireflies. Do any of you still try to catch fireflies or grasshoppers? We used to think if we caught enough fireflies we would not need a flashlight! But before we could catch any bugs, we needed: a glass jar, a lid with holes or some netting or a screen so the bugs could breathe, grass and a small twig in the jar. So, while we focused on the end of the project – having enough fireflies to light our way – we also needed to prepare to catch them by having our jars, lids, and bug food supplies ready.

This week's readings are about planning ahead too. The reading in Second Corinthians says, "for we walk by faith, not by sight." It also says we need to be confident in our walk. Because our aim is to be pleasing to God.

Being pleasing to God means we don't wander aimlessly through life without plans. We don't just hope to do good, we look for ways to be good. Which means we might plan on being good by thinking, '*today I will help my parents by cleaning my room, or taking out the trash, or sweeping the floor, or weeding the garden*', then doing that thing we thought of doing. Or if working seems too hard to do, maybe I just do what my parents ask (or tell) me to do – like stop fighting with my sister or brother; not leaving my toys out or making my bed. Planning to do something good as part of our fun makes it not seem like too much work once we have had our fun.



If you watched last week's Sunday School lesson – this makes me a little less Goofus and bit more Gallant.

**Peace,
Julie+**

CRIS Advocacy (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), donates 10% of our pledged income. This week we are supporting the work of Northside Common Ministries. The Mission of Northside Common Ministries (NCM) is to answer the call "to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and receive the stranger," as well as "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God."

Senior Warden's Corner

It is not given us to know what the future may hold, but the recent improvement in the COVID numbers suggest that this may be a good time to look back at what we learned as a parish during fifteen months of pandemic restrictions.

We learned for example that modern technology can provide access to church activities for those who cannot attend in person—whatever the reason. From liturgies to forums, and from Bible study to game nights, we no longer have any excuse not to include the housebound, those who are traveling, and those who have found us online and become members of a "St. Brendan's-Without-Walls" that didn't even exist a year ago.

We also learned, however, that individuals respond to live-streaming in many different ways. Some welcomed being able to participate from home with a mug of coffee at their side and perhaps a pet in their lap. Others found it hard to distinguish online services from the cable and broadcast entertainment that most of us were consuming in such quantities day after day. I've heard people say everything from (at one extreme) I've found a whole new way to worship; I may never go back to church again! to (at the other) I couldn't stand the livestreamed liturgies and basically stayed away from church throughout the pandemic!

We surely need to respect all these reactions—those at both extremes as well as those that lie at intermediate points along the spectrum. Such a diversity of viewpoints is hardly a novelty, after all. Episcopalians have always responded in wildly different ways to everything from the use of incense to liturgical dance to the more or less traditional translations of the Bible itself.

As St. Brendan's continues its steady pathway towards reopening, though, I think it is important for each of us to reflect individually on what we have learned about our participation in worship during this time. Where have we found new opportunities to find God (or where has God found us?)? How can we integrate new insights into ourselves with pre-pandemic practices that had become routine? Can we identify the source of whatever may have made worship especially challenging under COVID—and how could St. Brendan's overcome those barriers? Then, please, share those thoughts with the Worship Committee so that your perspective can be taken into account as we move forward into the summer.

Tim Austin



St. Brendan's has resumed the **weekly Wednesday evening service at 7:00 pm** in the chapel. The short service (approx. 30 min.) will follow closely Evening Prayer from the Prayer Book. Communion will be offered at the end of the service. The format will be similar to the monthly Taize service from 2019 but without music. For more information email Rev. Darrell at johnsdj31@verizon.net. Please join us for a quiet, peaceful, mid-week break. (Masks and distancing will be observed.)



We met our \$5,000 goal for the **Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank!**

Wanted to say thank you for all who donated to help us reach our goal of \$5,000 for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. The Food Bank and the Justice Ministry appreciates each and every one of you!



Are you using Amazon Smile when you shop online? Let's get St. Brendan's free money. Amazon Smile. Directions are on our website www.stbrendans.org. Please tell family, friends, coworkers and neighbors to join us.

Requested Prayers:

For the members of St. Brendan's: Rosie and Rodge Wood, Larry Tarrant, Wesley Bell, John Jacobs, Matthew, Larry Toler, Mark Shoemaker, Dr. Ken Judson and Mark Kinley.

For our parents, especially; Sandy Martin, Ray Militzer, Naomi Getty and Lenora.

For our family members, especially; Steve Parsons, Geoff Wood, Lane, David, Marie Hazelton, Patrick Schantz, Tom Groves, Nathan Schlumpf, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Dave Frazier, Jane Young, Sherri Hilbert, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.

We pray for all who have died, especially Larry Tourangeau, Trish Galone and Norma Cervantes (Darrell Johnson's sister).

Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

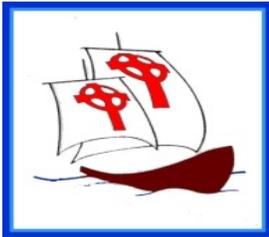
St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following parishioners and friends or family of parishioners. Each is a medical professional or an emergency first responder who is helping people cope with the Coronavirus outbreak. They are using their skills and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

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden: Tim Austin
Jr. Warden: Janice Moore
Adult Formation: Ron Ladick
Audio-Visual Technology: Sean Sweeney
Communication: Lauren Ramakrishna
Finance: Mary Bertucci
Fundraising: Larry Toler
Inreach & Hospitality: Tim Austin
Newcomers: Tim Austin
Outreach: Donna Aiello
Safety & Security: Ron Ladick
Secretary/Clerk: Lauren Ramakrishna
Stewardship: Larry Toler
Worship: Cameron Grosh

Treasurer: Ellen Groves
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Botti

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

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

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Chris Botti
Book Discussion Club: Julie Smith
Brendan's Boots: Tom Waseleski
Dinner Group: Janice Moore
Finance Chair: Mary Bertucci
Green Thumb Gang: Dan Moore
Historian: Ellen Groves
Holiday Arts & Crafts & Cookie Walk: 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
ESL: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Linda Schneider
Garden of Hope: Tim Michael
Justice Ministry: Donna Aiello
Miryam's: Julia Wick
North Hills Food Banks: Ruth Horton & Donna Aiello

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 8:00-3:00

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

Online Parish Directory ~ <https://www.stbrpit.com/> (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, Regis Smolko ~ regisjs@verizon.net

Youth Education Director, Julie Smith ~ jlsphone1@gmail.com

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ StBrendansKatie@gmail.com

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net

Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ meghanthompson328@gmail.com