



## Sunday, June 20, 2021

**Celebrant:** 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Regis Smolko

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](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

## The Priest's Corner

### **God Takes Care of God's Darlings: Black History— IT SHALL NOT BE SILENCED!**

When I came upon the story I'm sharing in this week's PC, I thought of a theologian whose last name is O'Brian. He said, "God always gathers His darlings."

Lt. Col. Barnard Kempter (Retired) was giving a historically driven Memorial Day Speech near Akron, Ohio this past May 29th. His microphone was on and he was clearly audible. That was until he began to explain how three black slaves played a role in an early Memorial Day Celebration. HE WAS SILENCED! His mic was cut. The events coordinator reported that two officials ordered the muting of the Retired Lieutenant Colonel's comments about the black slaves' contributions to Memorial Day. One of the "muting" officials, Jim Garrison, explained the act of silencing like this, "We didn't find his message relevant."

Lieutenant Colonel Kempter said, "The silence helped emphasize his message." He went on to say, "This was probably the most beneficial two minutes of silence that ever occurred, because millions of people now are hearing the story and taking it to heart. That's exactly what happened, and now millions of people are acutely aware of what happened." Jim Garrison, the official who gave the order, "Cut Kempter's microphone!" resigned the Friday after Memorial Day. The Ohio American Legion released a statement saying, "We don't hold space for members who believe that censoring Black History is acceptable behavior." They went on to suspend the local post's charter and are taking steps to close the post for good.

Oh, how good that feels! Oh, how good it feels that St. Brendan's just completed our 9th monthly successful BLM forum this past Tuesday night. This one was on "Asian Hate." Some of you may know that the Justice Ministry recently edited its focus and the banner expression from "Black Lives Matter" to "Hate Has No Place Here." While BLM issues and anti-racism remain a primary concern for us, we felt it important we include in our focus the Asian community also, because they have experienced dreadful violence and discrimination for some time now. Some feared that this tweak might "water down" our concern for Black Lives; what we're finding is that inclusion is strengthening it even more. As I heard last night during the "meet and greet" of the bishop-candidates' nominees, "When in doubt, include; this virtue always strengthens!" Perhaps that is why Jesus habitually extended his love to all with absolutely no exceptions.

I was also inspired last evening when we reviewed some painful events from the Pittsburgh Episcopal Church's past. One person put it this way to me in a private chat, "What was meant to destroy us actually gave us life." How applicable this comment is to the Memorial Day situation that led to this Priest's Corner reflection. That attempted silencing of Lt. Col. Kempter's speech was meant to harm his cause. In fact, it helped the cause as it brought awareness of a piece of important Black American History to millions who never would have heard about it had this attempted knowledge coup never occurred. Additionally, a "bad player" got silenced and ousted in one swift cut which never could have happened in business' normal way of handling such bigoted displays. And so, here's another great example of God taking Care of God's Darlings.

**Regis+**

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

Here are the details.



- The 8:00 am Eucharist service will be held at church.
- Kids are welcome.
- 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.
- 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.



**HOLD THE DATE:** Our next Forum will be held on Tuesday, July 15 at 7:00pm. Liv Bennett, a community activist, who represents District 13 of Allegheny County Council and is chair of the Public Safety Committee, will speak on the new Independent Police Review Board of Allegheny County. Save the date on your calendar for this informative and important event. More details to come soon.

## Children's Corner

### Roller coasters, turbulent seas, and faith.

Do you like roller coasters? The *sloooooo* climb up the track, listening to the chain clink, clink, clink, and the jerking of the cars and how loose they feel when you are being jerked, slowly to the top and then the sudden *whoooooosh* down the other side.

The ups and downs of a roller coaster scare me and make my hair stand on end. My hair is usually standing on end! And hopefully you will NEVER see me screaming upside down.



But how would you know my in fright from being turned



In this week's gospel, the disciples are with Jesus, and while they are in a boat "going to the other side" (which means they are leaving one side of the Sea of Galilee and heading to the other shore) they get afraid and are a bit upside down. If you look on a map, this is not a far trip, but because of the winds, this sea gets a lot of storms and on this night, the Sea got very rough. There were white caps and water was splashing into their boat.



Now they were not going very far because this sea is not very big, but they were far enough away from shore not to see a safe harbor. And Jesus was exhausted. He had been preaching and teaching, walking and healing, and he quickly fell asleep. And he was sleeping like a log. Nothing was bothering his slumber.

Until . . .

The disciples woke him up. They said, don't you realize what is happening? Can't you feel the storm around us? Don't you care that our boat might sink, and we will drown? Don't you care about us? They were running around, and hollering, and stirring everyone up, they were really afraid.

So, Jesus stood up. He said to the wind, "Peace, be still" and all of a sudden. Everything. STOPPED.

Then he looked at the disciples and asked them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" The disciples looked at one another and scratched their heads. Not because he had asked them if they had no faith but at what he had done. And they asked each other, who is this man that even the wind obeys his commands?

So, next time you get to ride on a roller coaster, or any ride that gives you a scare, think of the disciples and their fears. They had Jesus with them, and they were afraid. Do you remember Jesus is with you when things go *up and down*?

Peace,  
Julie+

**Justice Ministry notes:** As of July 1, I will step down as chairperson from the Justice Ministry. It is with mixed emotions, but I find that I do need to create more balance in my life. I plan to continue playing an active role in this Ministry. Ginny Volponi has agreed to be our new chairperson. I know Ginny will do a great job leading us in our quest to continue our fight for social justice! Thank you, Ginny, and congratulations!



On another note, the Justice Ministry held its first Annual Retreat last Friday. Lot of energy and great ideas. Stay tuned. Donna Aiello



**We celebrate the July Wedding Anniversaries**

- 1 Karen & Dean Peters      7 Sara & Matt Byrne
- 19 Michele & Larry Greer      27 Lizz & Eric Helmsen

14 Julie Smith & Colette Salter



**We celebrate the July Birthdays**

- 3 Evie Burdette      4 Neil Galone      7 Anne Semmler      10 Sharri Tarrant
- 11 Alan Schneider      12 Bob Smith      14 Naomi Getty      17 Daniel Schantz
- 18 Ellen Groves      18 Emmalynne Waseleski      19 Chris Botti      19 Daniel Douds
- 27 Richard Gordon      28 Colette Salter      29 Allison Kline      31 Todd Douds
- 31 Michael Waseleski

**CRIES Advocacy (Christian Response In Emergency Situations)**, donates 10% of our pledged income. This week we are supporting homeless women at Miryam’s Kitchen.

## Senior Warden’s Corner

Even if you are not a sports fan, common sense will tell you that “taking your eye off the ball” is generally not a good idea. You may also recognize that, when a sport like football or tennis or baseball is played at a high level, such mistakes almost never occur because players aren’t concentrating on the game. Instead, the issue is that they are already thinking ahead to the next shot, the next run, the next throw. Unwisely, they steal a glance downfield or across the court to refine their tactics. For that brief moment, the ball is no longer their primary focus, and by the time they go back to try to locate it, ... well, disaster!

Just hold that thought for a moment.

Our Discernment Committee met for the first time on Wednesday evening. They are a wonderful group and deserve our thanks for stepping up to lead our efforts. The first stage in the process, as I explained in a letter in the spring, consists of the parish as a whole learning more about itself—its demographics, its mission, its goals. This takes time and it will be weeks before we are ready to go public with a detailed written picture of who we are and where we hope to go in the future. The work to get us to that point will demand our time and our full attention—both of which, as

Brendanites, I am sure we will give as generously as we are able.

There is a potential pitfall out there, however. Knowing that, further along in the process, we will begin the search for a new priest-in-charge, we may, like over-eager athletes, take our collective eyes off the ball. We may begin to worry now about candidates and criteria and questions—and in the process, short-change the all-important discernment discussion.

The members of our Discernment Committee fully understand that their first task is to catch the discernment ball. They are going to focus squarely on that challenge—and they need our help to do so. My appeal to you is that you respect that “one-job-at-a-time” approach and do all that you can not to skip over the important work of discernment in an effort to embark prematurely on the recruitment of a new priest-in-charge. The writer of Ecclesiastes famously reminds us that “to everything there is a season”; this is the season is for discerning God’s will for St. Brendan’s, not for worrying about search criteria or candidates.

**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](mailto:johnsdj31@verizon.net). Please join us for a quiet, peaceful, mid-week break. (Masks and distancing will be observed.)

## Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

**June 23 at 1:00 pm:** Webinar on Climate Change, the Environment, and Your Congregation: A Data-Grounded Approach, sponsored by The FaithX Project.

Go to <https://faithx.net/events/> for more information and to register. Registration limited. \$19.95 per person.

**July 26-29:** Diversity Forum 2021 -- Dismantling Oppressive Systems; Building Just Communities, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh’s Office for Equity Diversity and Inclusion. To register, go to [https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6Exvz11cevgmNIY](https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Exvz11cevgmNIY). Free to participants.



## 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; Linda Ahlbrand, 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 Carol Hughes and Larry Tourangeau.



## 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:

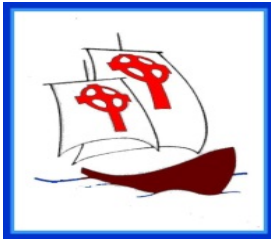
Kimberly Becker	Maddie Bell	Kate Burnett	Frank Casey	Bob Cerra
Brenna Conroy	Adele Cotter	James Cotter	Laura Dugan Demers	Nicholas Demers
Andrea Dickerson	Franklin Park Police Department		Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department	
Rebecca Donadee	Chris Fleissner	Amanda Gagnon	Jeff Gagnon	Shelley Gagnon
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.

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### **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: Open  
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](mailto:regisjs@verizon.net)

Youth Education Director, Julie Smith ~ [jlsphone1@gmail.com](mailto:jlsphone1@gmail.com)

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ [StBrendansKatie@gmail.com](mailto:StBrendansKatie@gmail.com)

Music Director, Daniel May ~ [bluesub@verizon.net](mailto:bluesub@verizon.net)

Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ [meghanthompson328@gmail.com](mailto:meghanthompson328@gmail.com)