



## Weekly at St. Brendan's

- Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship, via live streaming**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckCY2BEJXlqMoVc\\_nXXG7ew](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 6, 2020

**Celebrant: The Rev. Julie Smith**

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

### Tuesday's BLM Public Forum—St. Brendan's Opted for Its Big Boy(Girl) Pants—Time for The Book of Esther!

It struck me during the Public Forum Tuesday night, where we had over 100 participants, that St. Brendan's as a Church had become new. I'm not quite sure what this exactly means, but it feels like we had some sort of "decision-at-the-fork-of-the-road" kind of moment.

Right around this same time Marilyn Mulvihill worked with our webmasters to showcase an article from The New Yorker titled "How Black Lives Matter Is Changing the Church." The article traces the awakening of clergyperson-evangelist, Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, who shares her metamorphosis from Christian of mere lip service to active follower of Christ, devoted to "skin-in-the-game" activity.

Here is the witnessing that inspired my new thinking about St. Brendan's. Dr. McNeil recalls, "When I say 'Black Lives Matter,' and they respond, 'Don't All Lives Matter?' there's someone to answer their question, but it isn't me any longer," she said. "I don't want to answer questions that I've answered for the past thirty years, nor will I. The time is way more urgent."

When we started responding to our 50+ BLM banner criticisms, we learned a clever way to respond to this same question—asked over and over by the reactive critics. "Yes, all lives matter, but can't until all lives are equal!" I was impressed! BUT I'M OVER IT NOW! We are no longer called to answer that stupid question. In fact, everyone knows it's really not even a "for real" question. We are at a totally new place in this struggle. I'm so angry! I can no longer stand hearing about yet another black man, this time in Rochester, NY, who was suffering from mental illness, naked on the street calling out to Christ, dying seven days after encountering yet another "bad cop."

It's time for Esther. She can teach us how to become brave in a productive way. I don't think men can do it. Somehow our testosterone screws with us. The main theme in the Book of Esther is that God is working behind the scenes. There was a divine purpose for all the decisions and details documented in this story, yet none of that becomes apparent until the end. God was arranging all these "secular" events to bring about His divine purpose to save the Jews. The Book of Esther teaches us the right way to fight: not in anger or dependent on our own strength. Esther becomes an amazing queen and gets much done—much that the king could not. Being Christians, we need to take the time to connect with our Heavenly Father/Mother for advice and inspiration and then take action with the community

This is what I'm going to propose to our Bible Group that meets on Tuesdays in a Zoom Conference from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Please consider joining us. I'm thinking of interspersing the Scripture with excerpts from Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil's new book, "Becoming Brave." This book is based on the Book of Esther. The author says, "I began my journey sincerely believing that if I could convince evangelical Christians that reconciliation was not some politically motivated agenda but a Biblical calling rooted in Scripture, they would pursue racial justice." She said she now believes that this has proven naïve, and that religious leaders must begin more actively campaigning against systemic racism if they are to effect change. Participants will be invited to get a copy of this book to use as a companion to the Bible Study.

At some point I'd also like to have a showing of the movie about Esther. You can watch the trailer here:

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/321743398806/play?autoplay=true>

Black Lives Matter seems to have created a type of reckoning that is becoming more and more difficult to ignore. I think that's what I'm sensing when I speak above that St. Brendan's is rounding a bend. Something's definitely happening. Please consider joining in if you haven't already. One exciting way will be this potential Bible/Book/Movie study. Once I talk this over with the current Bible Study participants and see if they agree; keep your eyes open for start-up and how to participate. If this does come about and you do enroll—I can't guarantee you'll be the same person when you finish it—come to think of it—you may never really finish it.

**Regis+**



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](mailto: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.



**The ESL team needs volunteers** to translate our ESL flyer, which advertises our classes to people in the community. If you know someone who could translate our flyer into Spanish, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, or one of the Indian languages, please let Joyce Donadee know at [jdjdonadee@gmail.com](mailto:jdjdonadee@gmail.com).

## Senior Warden's Corner

**It is some time since I last updated you on St. Brendan's thinking about when and how to reopen the church for routine in-person worship.**

We conduct a weekly review of the COVID-19 statistics for the state as a whole and for Allegheny County in particular. In the past few weeks, as the media have reported, those numbers have been encouraging, with the most significant indicators either plateauing or improving week over week.

But most Brendanites with whom I have spoken recently remain apprehensive about the potential impact of the start of the new school year. Experience suggests that we could expect to see any resulting spike in infections in about two weeks. Much will rest on what we see at that time.

Fr. Regis and I continue to discuss developments and I am sure that the Vestry will have this topic on our agenda when we meet next on Monday, September 14. In the meanwhile, a small ad-hoc committee (Ruth Horton, Saundy Waseleski, Cameron Grosh, George Snyder, Fr. Regis and I) continues to review occasional requests for use of the facilities other than for routine services.

Let us hope that it will not be too long before we can all meet again at McAleer and Rochester Roads.

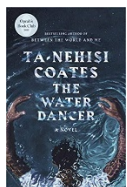
**Sr. Warden, Tim Austin**

**CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations).** This week we are supporting the work of Hello Neighbor. This is a request from St. Brendan's Justice Ministry. Our donation goes to the local Refugee Assistance Program to help immigrant families with groceries, rent and utilities.

**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!

**Anti-Racism/Black Lives Matter** Please join Julie and Ginny for the third discussion in this series. Attendance at a prior discussion is not necessary to be a part of our next discussion, **TODAY**, Thursday, September 3, 4:30 p.m. We will use the time to discuss what we learned from participating in the public forum St. Brendan's is hosting to address race, religion and reconciliation on **Tuesday, September 1 at 7:15 pm** via Zoom. We hope 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, [gabby4045@gmail.com](mailto:gabby4045@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)



**Our book discussion group meets** 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 [jsphone1@gmail.com](mailto:jsphone1@gmail.com).

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



**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](mailto: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.

## Children's Corner

### Buoyed by Faith

Hopefully you are getting into a new schedule and hopefully you are getting to see your old friends at school. If you are getting to school and getting into a new routine, maybe when you get back together with your friends, you will notice they changed. And so did you. You might be taller, or have a new hair cut or new glasses, or be wearing new clothes. Maybe you are reading. But something about you is different than it was before.

But inside, you are still the same YOU. The you that your family loves. And this is what this week's readings are about. This week's Gospel and readings are about love.

In the reading from Acts, Paul reminds us to "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." It doesn't get much simpler – love each other and by doing that you will love Jesus.

The God I believe in; the Jesus I follow are all about love. I hope this is what you hear on Sundays, I pray this is what you try to do all week. Love each other. Love one another. And sometimes loving other people is hard work. So we need to learn how to forgive each other too.

But what about when you are with your friends or at school – and someone hurts your feelings by calling you a name? Or maybe they hurt your feelings without realizing it by saying something they didn't know about you or your family. What did you want to do? Does it make you want to "get even" and hurt them back?

What happens when you do that? If someone calls me a name, my tiny lizard brain sometimes thinks, "I'll make up a name to call them so they can feel like I do." But I know trying to make others feel bad, doesn't make me feel good. And it doesn't take away the hurt I felt. It makes me feel kind of yucky. It makes me feel like I need to take a bath to get rid of that yuckiness.

And I'm reminded that in our reading for this week, Jesus says, "If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him – work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend." Now that's called "getting ahead" instead of "getting even." If we try to get even, we will lose a friend, but if we forgive someone, we will make a friend!

Jesus calls us to be like him and to be his disciple. What that means is to try to do what he did – love them and forgive them. Sometimes that is very hard to do, but we can do it if we ask Jesus to help us.

Peace,  
**Julie+**

**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/>.

### 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](https://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.

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**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.

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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.

### **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

### **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](mailto:regisjs@verizon.net)  
Youth Education Director, Julie Smith ~ [jlsphone1@gmail.com](mailto:jlsphone1@gmail.com)  
Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ [stbrendans@comcast.net](mailto:stbrendans@comcast.net)  
Music Director, Daniel May ~ [bluesub@verizon.net](mailto:bluesub@verizon.net)  
Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ [meghanthompson328@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Justice Ministry: Donna Aiello  
Miryam's: Julia Wick  
Rob & George Latta  
North Hills Food Banks: Ruth Horton & Donna Aiello