



Weekly at St. Brendan's

- Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship, via live streaming**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXxG7ew
- Monday 8:15 a.m. Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105?pwd=bXM5OHJ2UEh4TXhQT1RkZnVrQWNVdz09>
 Meeting ID: 479 620 1105 Passcode: 092720
- 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>

Sunday, October 18, 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

More from Moni: YES, Our Christian Ethic Demands We Take Action Against Voter Suppression

As those of you who attended our BLM Forum Tuesday evening know, Reverend Moni McIntyre was scheduled to give us a presentation on Our Christian duty regarding voter suppression. Unfortunately technical difficulties prevent her presentation. So, she and I talked, and we decided to share her information through today's Priest's Corner. HERE GOES:

Christians believe that all human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. So, negating people's votes because of the color of their skin would be a theological and spiritual offense to God. The Bible stands as an indictment of those who would defraud the poor of their rights. For example, we read in the prophet Isaiah 10:1-2: "Ah, you who make iniquitous decrees, who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be your spoil, and that you may make the orphans your prey!" This is clearly an indictment of oppressive rulers.

Again, we see the wrath of God in the prophet Amos, when he states: "Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land." While the denial of the rights of the poor is not new, the prophets of God rail against those who take advantage of those who cannot defend themselves against the unjust rulers. In the New Testament, those who are welcomed into the kingdom of God are clearly indicated in the long and beautiful passage from Matthew 25: "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. . . . Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Voting rights are rights, and the poor have them. To defraud the poor of their voting rights is contrary to the dictates and spirit of the Sacred Scriptures. Voter suppression is any effort, either legal or illegal, by way of laws, administrative rules, and/or tactics that prevents eligible voters from registering to vote or voting. Voter suppression defrauds the people of their rights; therefore, voter suppression is contrary to the Gospel and the prophets as well as the rest of the Scripture.

In our country, legal and illegal efforts have been put forth to deny the rights of people of color. This goes against the Gospel and the prophets and the rest of Scripture. Since the Civil War, there have been serious and many successful efforts to deny people of color their voting rights. This goes against the Gospel and the prophets and the rest of Scripture. Some of us remember Bob Moses, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the 1968 Freedom Summer plan to gain voting rights for the people of Mississippi. We may remember more recent cuts to early voting, voter ID laws, and purges of voter rolls, all to deny black people, the elderly, students, and people with disabilities the right to vote. These legal and illegal efforts are contrary to the Gospel and the prophets as well as the rest of Scripture.

Christians live in an unjust world. We are called to right wrongs and do good. We read in Micah 6:8: "what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" St. Brendan's has taken up this call to do justice.

They have invited us to do likewise. We have no choice but to do justice actively and to the best of our ability, if we call ourselves Christians. We must be on the side of the poor, as Jesus was on the side of the poor. The poor today are more than the materially poor. The poor today are those who are discriminated against in voting because of their color.

President and Senior Lecturer at Repairers of the Breach, Bishop William J. Barbour puts it clearly: "Churches must help rally marginalized voters to reverse America's political and moral decline. This is not an option for us." The Bishop further stated, "Galvanizing poor and low-income voters isn't an act of charity; it is in fact what can save this democracy and our nation from falling further into crisis." As we can see, the issues today are deep. Our human history is a record of injustice and the denial of the rights of the poor. If that is the case, then do we, Christians, give up? By no means. We are called to fight even harder against the oppressive rulers of our time.

There are many despicable systemic sins in our day. Voter suppression is one of the most despicable of the despicable systemic sins today. Voter suppression is idolatry because it denies the imago dei, the image of God in each person. Christians have an obligation to work together to unleash the power of the people. We must stop voter suppression. In the words of Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, "It is a Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the church's responsibility to help get souls to the polls."

Gratefully, Moni+



SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, November 10 at 7:15 pm

We will be holding a Memorial Service via Zoom for victims of racism on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:15 pm. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Please mark this date on your calendar for this important event.



We continue to offer the **opportunity to receive communion on Mondays and Fridays** by appointment only. If you are interested, email Katie at 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.



Senior Warden's Corner

Among the many lessons that COVID-19 has taught us—some of them salutary, many of them quite unwelcome—is that between any two poles lie any number of intermediate points. Before COVID, for example, we imagined that schooling took place either in a classroom or online through enrollment in a purpose-designed Virtual Academy. Now we know that there exist hybrid versions of many kinds, each with its own advantages and challenges. Some students attend school just two or three days a week, studying online for the other days. Others sit in (carefully managed) classrooms for some subjects while completing other courses from their home or dorm room. Meg and I have nine grandchildren—in four families, living in four different states—and there is amazingly little overlap in their educational experiences!

In the same way, we at St. Brendan's are going to confront issues of our own as we gradually reintroduce in-person worship. Before COVID, we felt comfortable worshipping together—in the very special way that Brendanites love so dearly. As the pandemic robbed us of that option, we learned that streamed services have their own virtues, so that settling in around the laptop or the i-Pad at 10:00 each Sunday became the "new normal." But at some point in the future—sooner, we hope, rather than later—we will have to learn all over again how to "attend" and how to "participate in" liturgies when some of us have gathered for them on McAleer Road while others shelter at home for any of a dozen different reasons. This split-format will present new challenges to our Stream Team and to our clergy—all of whom deserve our thanks and our respect for the ability they have already demonstrated to adapt and to thrive in changing circumstances.

Let us all remember that God recognizes our good intentions, has blessed us with the creativity to find workable solutions, and loves us—both when we get it right and especially when we miss the mark! May we all remember that whenever we meet in His name, whoever worships beside us, whatever the technology we need to use, we remain one community of faith, one St. Brendan's.



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.

Children's Corner

What does it mean to give?

Have you ever heard someone say, it is better to give than to receive? As a little girl, I used to think that was crazy talk. Everyone knows I would rather get something than give something away, but as I grew up, I started to rethink this.

And when I thought about it again, giving things away makes me happy. So now, I like to make things and give them away – I knit scarves for sailors, and hats for people getting Chemotherapy, and baby blankets for newborn babies. And because I like how I feel when I give things away, especially things I made, I do more of this and the more I give away, the happier I am.

In this week's readings, Jesus was asked about taxes. It was a trick question because if he answered the wrong way, he would get into trouble, but if he answered the way people expected him to answer, other people may not like him. So he gave an unusual, unexpected, answer. When asked if the people of his day should pay taxes, Jesus said look at the coin and see whose image was there. They said it was Caesar's (the political leader of the day). So Jesus said, "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's." But what is God's? and how do we give anything to God?

So, when I give to God what is God's, it means I'm giving God my best. I'm sharing what I have with others. I like to spend time helping people, assisting my neighbors, singing when I am happy (mostly when I'm alone – another thing I give so people don't have to hear my singing voice), singing when I'm sad, teaching, and working on computers. And I remember to thank God for all of the gifts I have been given.

So, what belongs to God? Well, everything! And by sharing what I have, I give to God.

So how can you give to God? Start by thinking about making a special time to be with God each day (praying) and by helping others (like making our beds, picking up our toys, doing "good deeds" for others). So how often do you put God as part of your time and budget? We can start by giving to God by giving of ourselves – when we pray, when we read the Bible and when we take care of others. When we remember we are God's, we are giving to God.

Peace,
Julie+



JOIN OUR 9-DAY PRAYER NOVENA FOR THE ELECTION

From October 27 through November 4, St. Brendan's will be holding a 9-day prayer novena daily at 12:00 Noon via Zoom. We encourage all of you to join us for this 5-10 minute prayer commitment to be present to our nation during this very critical time, asking God's grace for decisions made, thanking God for the grace that we can participate in this way in our lives, and trusting that grace will help us through. We must pray. And we must vote. Stay tuned for more information.



Please make note of these important dates:

October 19 last day to register.
October 27 last day to apply for mail-in ballot.
November 3 ELECTION DAY.



More information is available at: vote411.org. Plan your vote now.



Collection for Haiti: The school bus for Haiti is almost full. Please continue to bring in donations to St. Brendan's and thank you for the great items that you have already contributed. Your donations can still be placed in the plastic bin by the front door of the church. We are receiving items from the community as well. Donations of summer clothes, especially children's clothes, shoes, kitchen items, bedding, and medical supplies are needed. If anyone has access to a low cost solar panel, it would be very much in demand in Haiti. Some of the donated items still need to be counted and sorted.

Volunteers may be needed for that. The bus will be driven to Miami to be put onto a ship for Haiti. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Aiello or Joyce Donadee.



Just Mercy: A story of justice & Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. We will be discussing the introduction and our own prison stories next Tuesday (October 20)



Do you have a special prayer request? Contact Ruth Horton 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.

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	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 & 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: Libby Juel
Sylvia Affleck
Scheduler: Kelli Cerra
Ushers: Eric Helmsen

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Pat Carl
Book Discussion Club: Julie Smith
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

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 8:00-2:00

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