



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, November 29, 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

Anything to be Thankful for This Year?

I was reading an uplifting article in The Washington Post about Thanksgiving. After reading it I was smiling and a bit more thankful than when I started. Let me share some high points with you. My prayer is that you find some gratitude this Thanksgiving. Knowing St. Brendan's as I do, I know you will find gratitude somewhere—and quite a bit of it at that.

One of the contributors started by saying that in any given year she would have a list that included her three children, her husband, friends, extended family and the six chickens in her backyard. Today her list changed to gratitude for the lock on the door to her attic, where she flees to escape her family. She is grateful for the lock on her bathroom door, which prevents her kids from barging in at any moment to tattle on one another or whine for more screen time.

Another contributor said, "I used to think I didn't spend enough time at home. Now it's like, 'Get me out of the house!' In years past the collection and gathering of home and family held promise, but months of a plague has turned the home into a minimum-security prison and your people — that once-fascinating partner or those once-adorable kids won't go away...Ever...Not. Even. For. A. Second.

The coronavirus has done a number on what deserves appreciation. Many static routines can now deliver delight, like a night of restful sleep or prolonged moment of enriching silence. One man claims his leather chair is now the best gift possible because he sits in it five hours a day because there's nowhere to go. He is so grateful for this security holder in whose reach he contemplates the end of civilization as well as figuring out what to eat for lunch. He's thankful he can sit here and space out.

The splurge in Covid cases means plans for Thanksgiving must pivot. Thus, unexpected gratitude can come from stored discoveries around the house like those 500 records you forgottenly stored for a rainy day. Oh what joy that vintage record players are now trending! You lucky hoarder, You! How about those Christmas decorations you stored five years ago unopened and you happened upon them, AND THEY STILL WORK! Hooray!

What about a little thanks for the miracle frustration outlet called social media? Don't you just wonder how people survived the 1918 flu pandemic without sharing their misery in texts to friends. And what about a shout-out for those zoom meetings that you begrudgingly learned how to enter, unmute, and screen share as you gather with other mothers, fathers, golfers, frustrated BINGO players and your church to work through an afternoon of averted boredom?

"I guess I'm grateful it's 2020 and not 1918," one contributor announced in her zoom meeting. While "Prosecco," said one grateful participant and "Schitt's Creek," said another. Life is much better "on the treadmill of gratitude," another contributor shouted. "The fact that I just awoke is already something to be grateful for," said another. One more said, "So grateful I learned how to avoid the news and social media for 90 minutes after getting up. " "There are no tanks in the streets — I guess that's a start," said another.

The pandemic has made some less interested in luxuries that used to entice them— a trip to Europe or a new car, for example. Today you hear more and more people saying, “I’d rather have true contentment, It’s like a drink of cold water on a hot day. ‘What a great drink of water!’”

Finally a 34 year old contributor, Derek Floyd, claims he found a different sort of footing in his recent work as a community organizer in a major USA city’s poorest neighborhoods, where he has also handed out food and masks and helped facilitate coronavirus testing.

Two of his cousins and an aunt died of COVID-19. He knows others who were victims of recent gun violence, including an 11-year-old who was killed by an errant bullet. He has taken up yoga and meditating and cut back on fried foods. He also made contact with an older brother with whom he hadn’t spoken in several years, after hearing that he’d had a daughter. Floyd said, “You realize that we all face the possibility of death at any moment, and this could be the last conversation I ever have. It makes you want to fix things.”

If you haven’t yet found a thing to be thankful for this Thanksgiving perhaps this last tidbit will be the answer. Another contributor put it this way, “My major coronavirus benefit: I no longer have to find excuses for not joining friends at a shopping mall, the movies or a restaurant. For many of those folks I’ve often asked myself, “Why would you ever want to be around all those people?” The contributor asked.

This is likely a question that is more common than might be expected as hosts prepare for slimmed-down Thanksgiving guest lists — potentially excluding, say, a regular whose political views can be counted on to clear the table every year. As you anticipate a feast with only your S/O and/or pet and/or kids, you might be experiencing a mix of sadness and relief. But, you don’t have to stress about who gets drunk and yells at each other. It will be quiet and peaceful. Now that’s something to be grateful for, isn’t it?

Happy Thanksgiving All!
Regis+

A BFF donation was given in memory of Bob Affleck, from Libby Juel.

Need a gift for someone who has everything? Would you like a way to acknowledge a special family event like a baptism or a birthday? **A donation to the Brendan’s Family and Friends (BFF) fund** is the perfect way to honor that special person or event. BFF funds are earmarked for unbudgeted building needs. Please contact Katie if you’re interested. Your donation will be noted in the Little Log if you wish. Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan’s by becoming a BFF donor!



I will be on vacation next week, November 30 through December 5.
Contact Tim Austin if you need assistance until I return Monday, December 7.
Thank you, Katie, Parish Coordinator.



Gifts of Joy and Wonder
November 27.



Despite the recent warm weather, our Gifts of Joy and Wonder tree sprouted just five additional leaves this week. With Thanksgiving Day now behind us, we very much need to pick up the pace. So we are setting Sunday, December 6 as Pledge Sunday. In the coming week, please take time to reflect prayerfully on what St. Brendan’s has meant and still means to you. Consider how much you (or your household) will contribute in 2021 to supporting our ongoing ministries. Finally, submit your pledge either online via [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) or by mailing or hand-delivering your pledge card to the church, making sure it is received before the weekend. Thirty-three households have already taken those same steps. But we need two or three times that number to respond if we are to sustain our work to support and advance the Kingdom of God in Franklin Park and more broadly. Thank you for your time and your contributions.

Relaxing, No-Threat Bible Study

St. Brendan’s is forming a study group for folks who are interested in the basics of the Bible. This would be a different kind of study starting at the beginning of the New Testament and examining the sequence of the New Testament, from Matthew through Acts and Paul’s Letters and ending with Revelation.



We will start by talking about the life of Jesus through the lenses of the four Gospel writers. We will read the Word, use films, share when and if comfortable, have discussions, tell stories, etc. We’ll have no pressure and simply learn and reflect together. It will not be academic and scholarly. It will be user-friendly, safe, hopefully fun and at times inspiring.

So, if your only experience with the Bible is what you hear at church through the readings and sermon, maybe this is for you. We are working out the times and dates based on interest. Send a message to Katie, StBrendansKatie@gmail.com, if you want to be included. The group will decide the time and day. We will meet weekly by zoom. Attend as you can; we will likely record the meetings for those who cannot make a scheduled session.



THE MONDAY MORNING MODERN EPISCOPALIAN GROUP, is inviting all to join them on the four Monday Mornings during Advent (beginning **THIS MONDAY**, November 30 at 11:00am) in a Zoom Meeting to learn all about the 39 Articles of Religion. These are the best beliefs/practices of the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church (the best of both religious worlds) that formed the development of the Episcopal Church. You will be amazed! Look for an interesting tidbit-weekly to lure you to join in. The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, tucked away in the back of The Book of Common Prayer, is an historical document of the Episcopal Church and of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Articles were adopted during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in the 16th century. Anglicanism is generally not viewed as a confessional denomination and the Articles of Religion are not binding on Episcopalians. The Articles did, however, play a significant role in shaping the identity of the Church of England and Anglicanism. Join us as we look at this historical document and discuss its relevance, if any, for today.

Children's Corner

Waiting for Christmas

As a young person, I was not very patient. I ran most places, I spoke before I thought about what I was going to say so I tended to ramble, and I didn't pay attention to details. Some people may say I am still the same way.



But at Christmas time, which in the Church we call Advent, when everything seemed to take soooooo long to arrive, I tried to be patient. I thought someone was watching to see if I did all of my chores, or drank all of my milk, or paid attention to all of what had to be done. Some waits were kind of short, and others took a long time. Even if in minutes it was not very long at all.

One of the rules for Christmas was we always had an Advent calendar and the year I turned 6, the Advent calendars – one for each of us – came from Germany because that is where my sister Sandy was living. But it arrived before Thanksgiving so we could not even put our calendars up for almost two weeks.

Finally the day arrived, we opened the calendars, and they were shiny, and sparkling, and twinkled. Each day was a door and when we opened the first door, instead of a Bible verse, there was a candy wrapped inside a reminder to do something kind. EVERY DAY there was a candy. But each candy reminded us to do something – like send a card to someone who could not go out or visit the lonely or clean our room. My sister had wrapped each candy with a message for us. I thought the messages were coming directly to me because she mixed them up so each of us got a different message every day.

What those calendars all those years ago taught me was to be a little more patient. To help others, to visit with those who cannot go out. But this year, we cannot visit people, so I'm sending Christmas cards. Now, I have not sent actual Christmas cards in years, but this year as we are all separated, I think something to you in the mail will be a reminder that others are thinking of you, so I'm starting a one person campaign to send Christmas cards.

Another thing to do this year, which we would have done at Sunday School this week, is making Advent chains to use at home to count the days until Christmas. So look for the instructions and handouts to make your own Advent Chain with the messages for Sunday's service and Sunday School link.

Happy Advent and watchful waiting,

**Peace,
Julie+**



Replacing a laptop? Many folks will be updating their home technology this season. If you're upgrading to a newer device, please consider donating the old one to the Conversation Friends ESL program. Some of our students have trouble joining our Zoom classes on cell phones while other prospective learners may not sign up at all because they know their technology is inadequate. We will work with you to ensure that your hard drive is wiped clean. Contact Tim Austin at 508-688-9554 or austover@gmail.com to discuss this possibility.



We continue to offer the **opportunity to receive communion on Mondays and Fridays** by appointment. 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. Those who have already received in this way once are very welcome to request an additional opportunity to receive.

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Young, Black & Lit, a non-profit organization that is providing free books that feature Black main characters and Black heroes to Black children. An opportunity to actually help "Black Lives Matter".



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.

Senior Warden's Corner

Saint Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus, taught his Jesuits the following familiar prayer:

Lord, teach me to be generous;
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labor and not to ask for any reward –
except to know that I am doing your will.

So simple to recite, yet so complicated to practice. After all, modern psychology warns us of the health risks we run when we **labor** so persistently that we leave no time for **resting**, for recharging the batteries. And while Ignatius was a widely respected soldier as a young man, what does it mean for us to **fight** and **not to heed the wounds**? Even more challenging: how do we **give** without **counting the cost** when we know that, in good conscience, we have our kids' and grandkids' college costs, and our own retirement years, and our aging parents' needs to save for?

I couldn't answer those questions in a whole year of Little Logs. Let me suggest, though, that I personally find it helpful to glance back to the second line of Ignatius' prayer. It doesn't have the catchy ring of the clauses that follow, but it does redirect my focus in an interesting way. Ignatius insists that being **generous** in how I **give** and **fight** and **labor** depends on the realization that this is not all about me and what I need or want; the standard is instead what God **deserves** as our creator, our redeemer and our companion. Reassessed from this perspective, the challenge does not magically melt away, but it may emerge with greater clarity, being less entangled in the challenges that persist in our day-to-day lives.

We want more books!

Prisoners at Allegheny County Jail are not able to receive books directly anymore, however, ACJ will be accepting book donations for their library until Dec 28, 2020.

Paperbacks preferred!

Magazines like: National Geographic, the New Yorker, gossip mags, fashion and beauty, etc.

Books like: self-help, mystery/thriller, sci-fi, novels, poetry, comics, etc.

Anything, except for:

Violent imagery, including weapons, drugs/paraphernalia.

Drop off Locations:

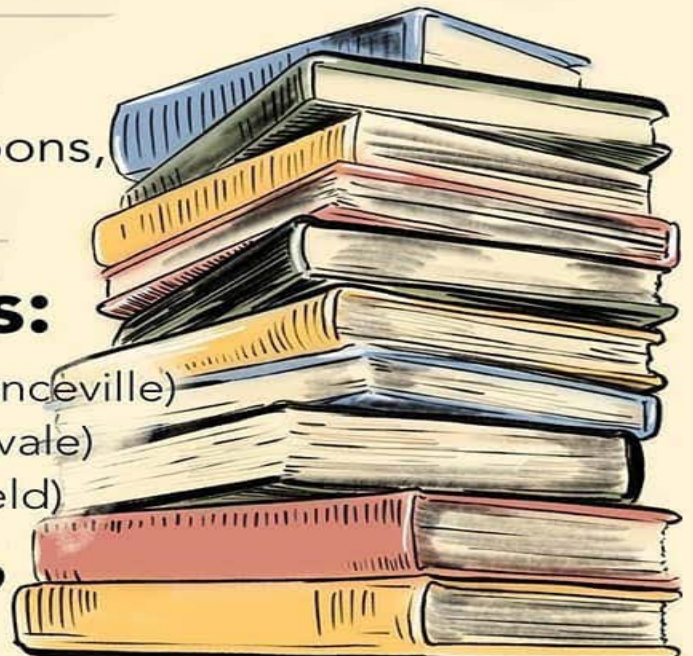
Black Cat Tattoo 3439 Butler (lawrenceville)

Pageboy Salon 420 North Ave (millvale)

The Big Idea 4812 Liberty (bloomfield)

Questions, or to arrange pick up

Call: (412) 376-5168





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.



The Haitian project. There are now two school buses in Pittsburgh that are being packed up to go to Miami and then on a boat to Haiti. Thank you for all of the donations that came from Brendanites and people in the community. Some of the clothing, shoes, and other items are still being counted and sorted. Donations are still being accepted to help to fill the second bus. Keep them coming!!!

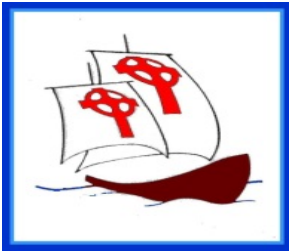
Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

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 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 & 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 & 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 8:00-2:00

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