



This Week at St. Brendan's

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship, via live streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
Monday	8:30 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.	Game Night, via zoom Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/4575423762
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Sacristans

Sunday, July 26, 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

With Regis on vacation, and the Senior Warden's column a bit more serious, I want to reflect on the children and youth in our church. With schools out, and churches physically remote, how do we encourage our young people and children? What more can we do to encourage and promote our young people here at St. Brendan's?

The children's corner – which I've always thought of as "Buoyed by Faith" in keeping with St. Brenden – has been a rather easy write for me. I reflect on the readings and try to make what may be difficult, easier. I try to make the world around us understandable and less scary to those who do realize this is not the new normal, but just normal.

Fundamentally, I think, as do many of you whom I've heard from, that children are a part of our congregation – not congregates waiting to be or our future (which of course they are) but active congregants now. We see young people serving as acolytes (when we are together), singing and playing music, and reading. This is part of our belief that we are an inclusive congregation.

Our Children's Sunday readings come from the Children's Lectionary (*God's Word, My Voice*) for Children's Sundays. *God's Word* generally follows the *Revised Common Lectionary* (with some interesting differences – for example this week the story of Leah and Rachel was replaced in the Children's lectionary with the story of Lot's Wife and Sodom and Gomorrah – curious) – but the Gospel so far as I've seen has remained the same in both sets of readings. What this lectionary does is helps young readers have a version of the readings that speaks to them in an age-appropriate vocabulary.

When we have a Children's Sunday, I like to have the children see what is happening at the altar. The children come to the altar, participate as much as we can include them, and do the presentation of the gifts. This allows the children to move and see; touch and smell what is happening. We also see how the children look out for each other and their siblings (remember Griffin and Rory each looking for their sibling's fish in January). This movement helps the children know that God is everywhere and not confined to separate places.

At the start of this year, we also restarted a Children's Chapel. This allowed the children to have their own service with their own Book of Common Prayer (thank you Diocese of Texas) with images and text for the children to follow. We use *God's Word* as the lectionary and while it has been a bit more raucous with questions and movement, these services allow the children to ask questions in "real time" through the service.

With streaming, many of our children's activities are not able to function. We don't have Children's Chapel, but we've continued Children's Sundays. I send out a request for readers and the children (and especially their parents) have been wonderful in responding. We have seen how our children have become more comfortable reading and how they have grown since we've last been together.

We try as we can to include all of us in our services, but we also need all of you to help. As we begin to think about how we will return to St. Brendan's I would also like you consider how you can help with our children and youth. Do you think you have the time

or talent to work with young people in Sunday School? If so, please email me. If you have ideas of what you would like to see for our young people, also please email me. I would love to discuss YOUR ideas of how we can better serve our young people.

Julie+

Announcements



A BFF donation was given in celebration of the birthday of Ellen Groves, from Cynthia and Ed Chapman.

A donation to the Brendan's Family and Friends (BFF) fund is the perfect way to honor a special day or loved one while supporting unbudgeted building needs of our church. BFF funds have been used to purchase various items.

Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor. Contact Katie if you are interested in making a donation. stbrendanskatie@gmail.com.



One of our families wanted this sign for their yard. They had to buy 10, and now have eight for sale. They sell for \$10.00 each. Please consider purchasing one for your yard, if you want to take this action step. For more information or to get your sign contact Katie stbrendanskatie@gmail.com or Regis.



As we move to creating a permanent station for live streaming, a computer will need to be placed in the hall area currently housing the mailboxes. We are planning to replace those mailboxes with a more secure filing system. If you have a lockable file cabinet you are willing to donate, please let us know. Thank you!

ZOOM the Speaker Series. Michael Waseleski will present a series on Reconstruction on 2 consecutive evenings - August 13th and 14th at 7:00 p.m. This presentation will challenge what we know about slavery and expand our understanding of its legacy in the United States. St. Brendan's has made a commitment to support the Black Lives Matter movement and to that end we want to make this event available to the parish at no charge.

SAVE THE DATE

If you want to participate send an email to the office and let us know. Please be sure to include the email address you want to use. We will send you the ZOOM link along with instructions including an explanation of how to submit questions during the event so it will be more interactive. Although there is no formal charge please think about making a donation if you can.

This is a new learning experience for me both from a technical point of view and the content of the presentation. Maybe it is for some of you as well. Let's move forward together to grow personally and support the efforts of St. Brendan's at the same time.

Thank you in advance. I know I can count on you. Karen Dennis

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/>



Our book discussion group meets on Tuesdays at 4:30 via zoom. For our next meeting, we will begin reading - *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, 2018. by DiAngelo, Robin & Michael Eric Dyson (Foreword) New York: Beacon Press. ISBN-10: 0807047414/ISBN-13: 978-0807047415
The book is available via Kindle for immediate download.

We read a chapter or two at a time - not the whole book - so our discussions can go a bit deeper. For Tuesday, I recommend reading the forward and introduction - but if you haven't received your copy yet and would like to join us or if you need assistance getting the book, please let me know at jlsphone1@gmail.com. Feel free to join us on zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481> Meeting ID: 814 8485 3481, if needed.

ACTION STEP FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

St. Brendan's Justice Ministry believes that we need to take actions in our fight against racism. Along that line, we are suggesting a different action step each week to our parishioners. Here is the first of them:

Recently, we lost a great warrior for racial justice, the Honorable John Lewis. Please consider these actions to honor his memory.

-- Call Senator Mitch McConnell at 202.224.3121 and ask that he pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act. H.R.4. Click here for information on this Act <https://www.hrc.org/resources/voting-rights-advancement-act>

-- Sign the petition to rename the Pettus Bridge after John Lewis, as Edmond Pettus was a grand dragon of the KKK. This bridge is where John Lewis shed blood for justice. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ads-fb-illbp-2>.

Senior Warden's Corner

Those of you who drove past the church recently may have noticed a banner, paid for by a generous donor and designed by the Justice Ministry. It read “St. Brendan’s Believes Black Lives Matter.” Sadly, this simple sign led almost forty of our neighbors to call or email the church expressing everything from disappointment to outrage. We responded calmly to the callers or to those senders who identified themselves—sometimes drawing a second round of angry correspondence.

Then, a little over a week ago, the Zoning Officer for the Borough of Franklin Park informed us that we had no permit for our banner and that it would therefore have to be removed. To his credit, the Officer did not issue a formal citation but allowed us the time to research the regulations and consider our response. Brendanites with legal expertise contacted colleagues; we asked the Diocese for its counsel; and then the Vestry convened for a special meeting on Sunday afternoon.

The strategy that we have adopted involves replacing the banner that admittedly did not comply with the Borough Code. (Indeed, that original banner has already been removed.) Instead, we are ordering one that, in addition to proclaiming our conviction that Black lives *absolutely* matter, will also announce a Public Forum on the topic of social inequity and systemic racism to be held in about six weeks. Key to our strategy is the fact that temporary signs that announce a future community event are not subject to the zoning regulations that caused us problems before. We hope to get the new banner posted as soon as possible.

Many of us who have been working on this issue for several weeks are saddened by attitudes towards race voiced by some of our neighbors in and around Franklin Park. Some of the messages we received were overtly hostile to our sisters and brothers of color, and there is little doubt that the actions of the Zoning Officer were prompted by complaints he received. (St. Brendan’s has posted dozens of banners over the years and by no means all of them announced forthcoming events). I am pleased and proud that in response to all that has happened, the Justice Ministry and the Vestry have chosen not to compromise on our belief that Black lives matter but instead to find a way to take this Gospel-based message to the wider community—all while complying fully with the Borough’s regulations.

Please keep the Justice Ministry, the Vestry and our clergy in your prayers as we continue to seek ways to live up to our baptismal promises in trying times. Details about the Public Forum will be released as soon as key details are settled.

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Minnesota Freedom Fund, an organization that pays criminal bail for those cannot afford as they seek to end discriminatory and oppressive jailing.



A special note for Newcomers and Oldtimers: We invite you to take note in the Little Log each week of the many opportunities for learning and fun activities via Zoom available at St. Brendan’s. Each opportunity is listed by day under the banner “This Week at St. Brendan’s” and includes a Zoom link; you only have to click on it to join.

1. Morning Prayer at 8:30 on Monday through Saturday - a great opportunity to get your day off on the right foot. Includes lively discussion before and after the liturgy of the day led by The Rev. Julie Smith. Julie shares her screen so everyone has access to the order of service and readings.

2. Modern Episcopalian meet every Monday morning from 11:00 am to 12:15 or so. Here is an opportunity to review the previous Sunday’s Gospel reading and have a look at next Sunday’s reading (the celebrant of the day always appreciates input and ideas for the sermon). Then we go into the red Episcopal Handbook for open discussion on various topics, such as “Why the Episcopal Church is (and isn’t) Catholic Lite”.

3. Bible Discussion from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon every Tuesday. Join us for lively discussion of various books in the Bible and how they relate to us today. It is amazing how timeless and relevant the Bible Message is for today’s complex and conflicted world. We read from several versions of the Bible including The Message Numbered edition (The Bible in Contemporary Language).

4. Join in the fun with **Zoom Game Nite** on Friday at 7:30 pm.

5. A special **Book Club** opportunity on Tuesdays at 4:30. At the moment we are discussing the book “White Fragility: Why it’s so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism”. For a synopsis of this book and the Zoom link contact The Rev. Julie Smith at jlspone1@gmail.com.

Kid's Corner

Buoyed by Faith

This week’s Gospel has Jesus explaining and explaining and explaining what he means to the people around him. Some of those people, the disciples, think they understand, think they get it, but when Jesus asks them, do you really get it, they probably draw something in the dirt with their toes, or look suddenly at the bird flying by. Because most of the time – **THEY DON’T GET IT!!!!**

Whew. What a relief, because a lot of the time, I have to think really hard and for a long time to try to figure out what Jesus means in his parables. But remember, Jesus wants us to try to figure out what these parables mean, that’s why he didn’t just say “Believe this” or “act like that” and expect us to follow his rules without thinking about them.

But. This week's parable starts with something very small. A mustard seed. Can you see that without squinting? What is so BIG about something so small?

Well, Jesus starts the Gospel with "God's kingdom is like the littlest seed there is. When it grows into the biggest tree, all the birds want to come and build their nests in it." What Jesus is telling us, immediately, is that how big we are doesn't matter. We all have something to offer. Not only us, but even the smallest parts of creation have something to offer.

My own parable is this: A friend of mine is shorter than I am, and I'm kind of short. So when someone made fun of her because she was so little, she just said, "I'm fun sized." The same person called me shorty, and I said, "well my feet reach the ground, so I'm the right size for me." Now, we both need a stepping stool to get into high cupboards, because we are closer to the ground. But we are both the perfect size for each of us. We are not too small or too short.

Jesus uses the size of a mustard seed a lot in his stories because for many people at the time, that was the smallest thing they could image or see. And for them, small and common meant meaningless and worthless.

But Jesus turned that all upside down. Jesus kept telling them size doesn't matter; the outcome does. So if you plant a mustard seed, and it grows, when it gets larger, birds build nests in its branches. When that happens, you have made a home from the smallest thing. From that change, you have made the world a better place at least for the birds who live in the trees. This is what Jesus wants us to do. He wants us to be a small part of his kingdom, to change the world around us and make it better.

Because, you know what? We don't see love either. But from love we build families and homes and communities. With love, we connect to each other and God.

Peace,
Julie+

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

Anti-Racism/Black Lives Matter

Thank you for responding to the survey. Based on the responses we will start the discussions on **Thursday July 30, at 4:30 pm**. We are planning them to be bi-weekly but open to change as we progress and receive input from the participants

The first discussion will review our intentions, establish common vocabulary and resources.

One comment from the survey that bears repeating. There is no shame, no guilt, no judgement; just a way to listen and learn. We are all in different places in our learning.

The agenda for the first meeting will be to

- Define "facilitated discussion"
 - Highly participative
 - Not lectures
 - Opening with all but breakouts to allow all to engage
- Enable sharing of personal stories/journeys
- Discuss resources
- Discuss vocabulary/terminology to ensure we are all agreed on meanings.
 - Some examples are *prejudice, discrimination and racism*.
 - *Prejudice* – consists of thoughts and feelings
 - *Discrimination* – action based on prejudice
 - *Racism* – collective prejudice backed by power and institutional control
 - "*Racism is a structure not an event*"

This learning journey will lead us to action steps both individually and collectively in addition to those suggested by the Justice Ministry.

All are welcome but your confirmation to attend would help us to organize better. Please confirm to ginny4045@gmail.com.

Blessings,
Ginny Volponi

The Zoom link for the meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105>.

Meeting ID: 479 620 1105

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,4796201105# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,4796201105# US (New York)

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.



Need food? We can help. We now have a cabinet filled with non-perishable food items ready for people in need. If you or someone you know has a food shortage, please come by and take what you need. This cabinet is placed outside the front doors to the left. There is no need sign up or even enter the building; this is on the honor system and no one will be there to monitor what you take.

Want to donate? We also 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. If you are able to bring any donations, know that you are bringing more than food that feeds the body, you are bringing hope and caring to those who need. Any over-abundance of donations will be distributed to the North Hills Food Bank and the North Hills Community Outreach.



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



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
Justice Ministry: 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

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

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ stbrendans@comcast.net

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net

Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ 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
Miryam's: Julia Wick
Rob & George Latta
North Hills Food Banks: Ruth Horton & Donna Aiello
Social Justice: Donna Aiello