



## Sunday, June 27, 2021

**Celebrant:** 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Julie Smith

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

### **What Does It Mean When Your 300-Year-Old Tree Gets Struck by Lightning?**

I'm sure everyone who attends St. Brendan's knows that we have a special tree right outside our church that is hundreds of years old — I've heard estimates ranging between 250 and 350 years. This stately oak stands as our natural-stained-glass window mosaic, just to the left of the altar as you gaze to the front of the sanctuary from your seats. It fills two or more windows, depending on your angle of vision.

It supplies the canopy for our outdoor worship space during the summer months. It serves as a choir loft for birds and squirrels. It supplies a rustling-of-leaves melody to our worship and shares parts of itself all over the benches and altar to remind us that we are renting space from a benevolent landlord. It takes on the burden-share of the sunlight, saving us from the inconvenience of sunscreen as we praise God. It provides an interesting, intriguing diversion from a sermon that might forget that its awesomeness is sermon enough on most Sundays. What a buffer it is from the cars that travel up and down McAleer Road on early Sunday mornings. We have come to presume it will always be there because it always has been — it seems.

St. Brendan's has been good to that tree over the years. We have an arborist who looks after it fairly regularly and gives us professional advice as to how we should treat our massive gift. When construction of the current worship space and downstairs rooms was undertaken about two decades ago, Brendanites insisted that no heavy equipment drive over our

great oak's roots. This inconvenienced the construction workers and cost a bit more money and some extra time, but we love our tree. I don't believe anyone named our massive oak, but a few swear they found the face of Jesus in it more than once. We know that it is a work of God. We love our tree.

And our tree loves us! In 2019 it took a lightning bolt and spared our church from potential destruction. Our tree is so much taller than the church and serves us as a lightning rod — a protector. How we love it! How it loves us! When I took my first walk out to see the damage to our mighty oak, my heart broke a little because our dear tree was wounded. When lightning hits a tree, the water in the cells beneath the bark is heated and boils. According to Texas A&M University's Agrilife Extension, the lightning strike itself can produce temperatures greater than 50,000 degrees and an electrical charge of 100 million volts. Steam is generated along the path of the strike and there's a cell explosion in the wood, leading to strips of wood and bark being blown off the tree. The pathway of the strike on our tree is from the top of the tree straight down to the roots. It's very sad to see this trauma.

Many trees are severely injured internally below ground despite the absence of external symptoms. There can be major root damage.

If the time has come for our tree to participate in another form of nature, let us ask the Lord to be with us as we get used to that possibility.

**Regis+**



**HOLD THE DATE:** Our next Forum will be held on **Tuesday, July 15 at 7:00 pm.** 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

### The power of touch

DO you remember when you were really little and wanted to touch everything? Maybe even lick it? Probably not, but if you have a younger brother or sister or have nieces or nephews or neighbors with young children, then you might hear “no, no, no, don’t touch that.” A lot.

And this last year! We have not been able to touch each other very much because we were afraid of catching something or getting sick. So we have not been touching each other or things and some people worried about touching things brought home from stores without washing them. So those “no, no, no’s” we heard as very little children came back. Again. And Again. Over and over again, we heard do not touch!



Until this Spring and gradually things started to get better. And while some people are still getting sick, it is not as many as before. But we still need to be safe and be very careful about who, and when, and where, and why we touch each other.

And what does this have to do with church? Well, this week in the Gospel story, we hear about Jesus’ superpower when someone touches his clothes.

Jesus is walking in a crowd, heading to the house of a sick girl when someone reaches out and touches his clothes. It was a woman who had been sick for a long time – longer than many of you have been alive, and she said, if I could only touch his clothes, then I will be better. I will get healed just by touching his clothes. So, while Jesus is walking in the crowd, this woman sneaks up from behind and just touches his clothes. She does not jerk his shirt, or tug at his pants, she just brushes her hand against his clothes – JUST LIKE A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE WERE DOING!



At this, Jesus spins around and asks, “who touched me?” His disciples thought he was crazy, everyone was touching him. But Jesus knew something special had happened. He felt something special happen – power drained from him. So this woman, who had been sick for so long, came up, afraid of what might happen, and she said. I did it, it was me. I touched you. She told Jesus everything – the whole truth.

And Jesus must have thought, “wow she know my power.” But he said, “You have such a strong faith. You are healed. Go, be at peace and live a happy life.” Then Jesus went on to someone’s house and healed their little girl with his touch. Two touches, two lives saved.

Imagine, we have only not been allowed to touch for a year, but this woman had not touched for twelve years!!! And the family thought the little girl was dead. Both the woman and the girl were healed by their faith. These are amazing examples of Jesus’ “good touch.” And today Jesus continues to touch our hearts.

**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 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 |    |                     |    |               |    |                |



### We celebrate the July Wedding Anniversaries.

- |    |                       |    |                     |    |                              |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1  | Karen & Dean Peters   | 7  | Sara & Matt Byrne   | 14 | Julie Smith & Colette Salter |
| 19 | Michele & Larry Greer | 27 | Lizz & Eric Helmsen |    |                              |

---

**CRIES Advocacy (Christian Response In Emergency Situations)**, donates 10% of our pledged income.

This week we are supporting Brother's Brother Foundation.

2021 May and June distributions;

Brother's Brother Foundation	\$ 190.00
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$ 190.00
Miryam's Kitchen	\$ 200.00
Stop Asian Hate	\$ 500.00
AT Children's Program	\$ 570.00
Whole Planet Foundation	\$ 745.00
Afro-American Music Institute	\$ 555.00
Caring Foundation	\$ 450.00
Sheldon Calvary Camp	\$ 400.00

The next CRIES Advocacy meeting will be Sunday, September 19, 2021 in the Library following the 10:00 service.

---

## Senior Warden's Corner

---

I have racked my brains for a topic to address in this Senior Warden's Corner—and, after succeeding for over 70 weeks in a row, I have come up dry—sort of! It's not that there are no weighty topics that I could hold forth on. But each time I make a start I find myself coming back to ... last Sunday's Picnic.

What an extraordinary blessing that morning was. The bad weather that had threatened at 7:00 passed us by to the south. As 10:00 arrived, we started seeing long-time friends without their masks (and with the smiles we had missed for so long!). New friends turned up too—the family of a student in our ESL classes and two visitors who were brave enough to make the Picnic their very first taste of St. Brendan's! Daniel came

through with battery-powered music every bit as good as that we hear each week in church. The food was amazing (hardly a surprise, considering that we are talking about St. Brendan's) and the chance to circulate and shoot the breeze was (as the Mastercard commercials used to say) "priceless." Fr. Regis' birthday celebration put the icing on the cake—literally.

Thanks to everyone who organized the whole affair for us—most notably Janice (to whom we send get-well wishes), Julia, Ken, and Katie—and the cadre of inspired home chefs who brought contributions of so many sorts. It was indeed a day to remember.

**Tim Austin**

---

## Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

---



**Juneteenth Parade.** The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a Juneteenth Festival and Parade this Saturday, June 26, and need many marchers. Anyone who wants to attend will meet at Freedom Corner (Centre Ave. at Crawford St., 15219 across the street from the Church of St. Benedict the Moor) at 10 am. The parade is from 11 am until 12 pm. The parade route is approximately 1.25 miles, and starts from Freedom Corner and proceeds down Centre Avenue, 6th Avenue, 5th Avenue, Liberty Avenue to Point

State Park. All are welcome! You will need to register in order to join the parade. To register, please go to:

<https://forms.gle/8PtMAwN8BQEAcpCi9>

The Juneteenth parade is a re-enactment of the "**Jubilee of Freeman**" Parade held in Pittsburgh on April 26th, 1870 celebrating the ratification of the 13th and 15th Amendments granting Black men the right to vote. The family-friendly Festival in Point State Park continues into the evening with music, kids' zone, activities, and food vendors—and Voter Registration.

For more information, please contact Linda Schneider at [schneiderlinda@comcast.net](mailto:schneiderlinda@comcast.net) or Marilyn Mulvihill at [mimi15143@yahoo.com](mailto:mimi15143@yahoo.com). This is an important and exciting event! Hope you can join in!

---

**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\\_6Exvz1cevmNIY](https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Exvz1cevmNIY). Free to participants.

---

---

### Requested Prayers:

For the members of St. Brendan's: Janice Moore, Rosie and Rodge Wood, Larry Tarrant, 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, 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.



**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:

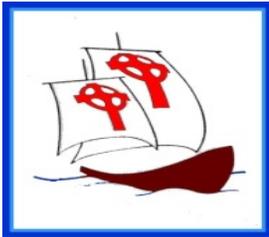
Kimberly Becker	Maddie Bell	Kate Burnett	Frank Casey	Bob Cerra
Brenna Conroy	Adele Cotter	James Cotter	Laura Dugan Demers	Nicholas Demers
Andrea Dickerson	Franklin Park Police Department		Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department	
Rebecca Donadee	Chris Fleissner	Amanda Gagnon	Jeff Gagnon	Shelley Gagnon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

---



### 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)