



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>

1:00 p.m. Bible-Lite Group

Tuesday: 7:00 a.m. AA meeting, via zoom

Dial in: 312-626-6799 Meeting Id:345 892 252

8:00 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>

6:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. Women's virtual Coffee Hour

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8944116431>

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Celebrant: 10:00 a.m. The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell

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

A Time to Act Before You Think?

At the clergy meeting yesterday we reflected on the Ethiopian Eunuch and Phillip. It's a fascinating story about the growth of the early church in Acts of the Apostles. The story goes: Philip (probably a deacon who went all over preaching the Risen Christ) is in the midst of a successful preaching campaign in Samaria when an angel interrupts with an order to leave and take a lonely desert road through the wilderness from Jerusalem to Gaza.

On the road, Philip meets a stranger in a chariot reading aloud from the Book of Isaiah on his way home from worshiping in Jerusalem. The man is described as an Ethiopian eunuch (definitely an outsider by typical, early Jewish standards and somewhat a hero to many practicing Christians today in the LGBTQ community).

When Philip sees the eunuch, the Holy Spirit again takes the initiative, urging him to run to join the eunuch in his chariot. Soon the two men are absorbed in conversation about the scripture that the eunuch was reading: Isaiah 53:7-8. As the chariot passes by some water, the eunuch raises a question that LGBTQ people today ask as well: "What can stand in the way of my being baptized and becoming one of you?" Phillip realizes there is no reason to prevent the eunuch from receiving full membership rights in the church. He shows no concern about the eunuch's gender identity, sexual orientation or race and simply replies, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

The pair go down into the water and Philip baptizes the eunuch then and there. Mission accomplished, the Holy Spirit suddenly takes Philip away. The eunuch returns to his country and starts the spread of Jesus' way in Africa.

Don't you just love quick decisions that really work out? Some refer to this as the dynamic tension between two values: "thinking before acting" and "acting before thinking." In one of our Bible-lite classes several weeks ago, we discussed this concept when chatting about the fast-growing church of Matthew. One of the criticisms I've heard over the years about the Episcopalian way is our tendency to overthink things. I've been frustrated from time to time by some of this. At the same time, I've recently sensed the need to give "further thought" to a number of things—like the speed by which we reopen the church, how to make room for our new deacon's ministry, the safest and most appropriate way for us to distribute Eucharist within the reality of a still active pandemic, to name a few. On the other hand, I wanted to get the 8:00 a.m. liturgy up and running ASAP—and we did. I jumped quickly at the possibility of us having a Clinical Pastoral Internship Program at St. Brendan's. I was amazed that we were given the possibility to do "virtual" receptions to the church. The bishop and I couldn't stop laughing when we heard ourselves agreeing, "We have no idea how it will turn out, but we'll see."

I suppose some of these spontaneous solutions to fast-moving experiences of abundance are what we've been calling the "new nets" we need to gain comfort with as we respond to God's bounty. Saying "yes" before we know exactly what we're doing is the

way we grow despite a pandemic. Someone at the clergy conference yesterday, after hearing what's happening this Sunday at St. B's, asked me —“What's the secret?” I, without thinking, said “new nets—and leaping off cliffs while growing wings on the way down!” WHAT?!!??

Regis+



Adopt-a-Highway. One of St. Brendan's oldest environmental ministries is back. After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, the church's Adopt-a-Highway chapter will hold its next litter pickup on **Saturday, May 1**. Parishioners age 14 and up are invited to help clean the roadside at the Camp Horne Road interchange of I-279 in Ohio Township. Volunteers will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m., caravan to the site and finish by 10:45. Safety vests, work gloves, trash bags and bottled water will be provided. Anti-Covid protocols such as mask-wearing and social distancing will be followed. If you'd like to take part or need more info, please contact Tom Waseleski (twaseleski@comcast.net).



A Brendan's Family & Friends donation was given in memory of both Larry Flick and Wilder Bancroft, from Saundy and Tom Waseleski.

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), donates 10% of our pledged income. This month donations are given to:

Bukit Bail Bond Fund	\$710
Habitat for Humanity	\$640
Girl's Hope	\$710
Northside Common Ministries	\$710
Allies for Health and Wellbeing, formerly AIDS Task Force	\$615
Miryam's Kitchen, 1 meal per month for 2 months	\$200
Brother's Brother Foundation	\$240
Episcopal Relief and Development.	\$240

This week we are supporting the work of The Bukit Bail Bond Fund, who supports those incarcerated in Allegheny County Jail and assists with bail funding. 81% have NOT been convicted. High black percentage.

The Children's Corner

Cleaning up – the branches and the vines



We had a cleaning day outside the church (and it looks wonderful) and we have been cleaning up our yard lately. So I have seen a lot of broken branches from trees in yards. At my house, we also have some vines blown in from wild grape vines our neighbor has along our fence. So we have branches and vines. But I don't think of them as evidence of Jesus being around. After all, the branches are dead and the vines are somewhat invasive and taking over or crowding out other plants. So what is happening in this week's gospel?

Last week, Jesus told us he was the good shepherd and this week our shepherd, the Bishop, is coming to visit. Our Bishop likes to tell stories and if you pay attention, he uses different voices to tell stories. But, Jesus likes to tell stories too. Jesus often told stories to help his followers understand what he wanted them to learn.

The story he tells in this week's lesson is about grapevines. Like usual, he chose things people would know about. And at that time, in that place, people knew about grapevines. We have wild grapevines in our back yard (Colette calls them monkey vines because they can get so big they look like monkeys can swing on them)



I don't know if you have ever seen a grapevine, but there are two parts to the grapevine. There is the vine and there are branches growing out of the vine. The grapes grow on the branches. The only way that a branch can have fruit on it is for it to remain connected.



Jesus wants us to be fruitful. That does not mean he wants to turn us into fruit, but he wants his “fruits of the spirit” to grow in us. He wants us to be kind, gentle, generous, and loving. We cannot do this all by ourselves. Just like branches need to be connected to the vine before they grow fruit, we need to be connected to Jesus to produce the good fruits of God's spirit. If we stay connected to Jesus, we will grow and our lives will produce beautiful kindness, gentleness, goodness, and love.

**Peace,
Julie+**



St. Brendan's Scholarships. The parish invites young church members who will be enrolled in college, technical school or other post-secondary education in fall 2021 to apply for a St. Brendan's Scholarship. Grants are awarded on the basis of a person's years of participation and attendance in St. Brendan's services and activities.

Guidelines and applications, which must be received by the church no later than Saturday, May 1, are available by contacting the office. Launched in 1996 by a parishioner, the late Dorsey Dodroe, the scholarship fund has awarded 76 grants to 29 students. The program is sustained by the generosity of St. Brendan's members, and donations may be made to the fund at any time.



St. Brendan's Justice Ministry has now raised \$3,803 for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. That's 76.1% of our \$5,000 goal for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. We are getting there! Thank you to all that have donated. **If you have not made a donation yet, there is still time.** Simply click on pittsburghfoodbank.org/stbrendans and you can make a donation through May

10 in just a few clicks. If you do not want to donate online, just send a check payable to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, and mail it to St. Brendan's, 2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143. Your support is appreciated by the Justice Ministry and especially by the Food Bank! Thank you for anything you can do to help those in need!



Altar Flowers. We have many empty dates on our Altar Flower Calendar. Check with Katie for an open Sunday if you would like to contribute flowers for our altar. Flowers ordered from our florist cost \$40.00 each week and with that an announcement is put in the bulletin as a way to honor a special day, a memory of someone special, etc.

If you would like to bring arrangements from your garden, just inform Katie so flowers are not ordered from the florist.

Senior Warden's Corner

When I was growing up in England, a Church of England baptism (or "christening," as we called it if it was a child that was being baptized) was generally a private affair. The parents, grandparents and godparents would gather around the font, which made the service intimate—and typically quite short. At fifteen minutes or so, in fact, it was easy for the service to get lost amidst the hoopla of getting dressed up for the occasion beforehand and celebrating it afterwards.

I don't know exactly when the institutional church decided that baptism really belongs at the heart of a liturgy that involves the wider community of faith. It's a shift in understanding that makes a lot of sense to me. As important as the sponsors and parents may be, it is after all the parish that provides ongoing support for its newest members and opportunities for them to grow in their understanding of God's word. At each baptism these days, we all affirm our understanding of that role when we respond "We will!" to the celebrant's question about "[doing] all in [our] power to support these persons in their life in Christ." And at St. Brendan's, we also offer a moving example of a close-knit nurturing community when we then sing "Go, My Child, Now With My Blessing"—a specifically St. Brendan's tradition.

But this Sunday's service will once again take us in new and exciting directions. A baptism (as well as numerous confirmations, receptions, and re-affirmations) will be witnessed by worshipers spread geographically throughout the North Hills, from Florida to California, and quite possibly further afield than that. God has granted mankind amazing technological skill, and our ever-expanding understanding of what it means to "be church" results from the judicious application of that skillset. In my heart, I feel confident that God will be smiling on Sunday as God witnesses the warm welcome we extend to a new generation of Brendanites.

Tim Austin



An upcoming milestone for one of our own: The announcement here, published in Grace Happens, marks a significant milestone for St. Brendan's own Darrell Johnson. Darrell's journey of discernment began in the fall of 2017 in conversations with Fr. Regis. In the spring of 2018 Dr. Jno Hunt chaired a Discernment Committee to examine Darrell's calling and make a recommendation to the Vestry. With the Discernment Committee's recommendation and the Vestry's approval, Darrell was nominated to Bishop McConnell as a postulant. In June of 2018 Darrell, now a postulant, began his seminary studies at Stevenson School for Ministry in Harrisburg, PA. Darrell completed his academic studies in November 2020. On October 31, 2020 Bishop McConnell named Darrell a candidate for ordination, following our Vestry's approval and recommendation. On March 25, 2021 the diocesan Commission on Ministry recommended Darrell's ordination to the Standing Committee. With the Standing Committee's certification, Bishop McConnell confirmed Darrell's ordination and Darrell took the final step in the formation process, becoming an ordinand. The journey from nominee to postulant, from postulant to candidate, and from candidate to ordinand is complex and lengthy. Behind the scenes, a significant number of Brendanites have been involved in Darrell's journey in one way or another. Thanks to all those who have supported Darrell in his journey!

The service will be live streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsepisopalpgh>.



We celebrate the **May Wedding Anniversaries** of:

Katie & Howard Cervone, May 2 ~ Amy & Kevin Boyd, May 17 ~ LuAnn & James Aldridge, May 23 ~

We celebrate the **May Birthdays:**



7 Stanley Cooper	1 Joyce Donadee	3 Robert Karn	6 Allison Burdette	7 Nathaniel Boyd
10 Bill Pugliese	8 Marjorie Marine	9 Sara Byrne	9 Susan O'Toole	9 Rosie Wood
18 Mary Evanochko	10 Bev Sanker	11 Reece Basehore	13 David Schantz	17 Jno Hunt
23 Brigid Christenson	18 Emily Zupancic	19 Michele Greer	21 Joni Reis	22 Timothy Austin
25 Anne Hunt	24 Jennifer Saitz	24 Becca Sands	24 Emerson Schantz	25 Nancy Bancroft
	25 Addison Schantz	30 Mark Jennings	31 Maryn Zupancic	



Save the date for St. Brendan's annual Parish Picnic, Sunday, June 20, at Latham Shelter in North Park.



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!

PA Primary Election Ballot Questions Explained

Ballot Question #1

YES means that the legislature can vote to end the protections of an emergency declaration at any time - regardless of the status of the emergency

NO means that the Governor is able to act quickly with all state departments to respond to a crisis as long as that crisis lasts

Ballot Question #2

YES means that an emergency declaration could end prematurely unless debated, negotiated, and voted on every 21 days in the state legislature

NO means that the Governor can continue to respond to a crisis, even if it lasts longer than 3 weeks

Ballot Question #3

YES means that our constitution would be updated to include equal rights protections based on race or ethnicity

NO means that our constitution would continue to lack protections for discrimination based on race or ethnicity



The Haitian project. There is a continuing need for donations of clothing and shoes to be sent on the school bus to Haiti. Clothing sent to a developing nation such as Haiti is a source of employment for the people as well as providing needed clothing. Donated clothing play a central role in Haiti's economy as well as reducing the environmental impact of clothing manufacturing and its disposal. The bin outside of St. Brendan's is a convenient place in which to place your donated clothes. Thank you for your donations.



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.



St. Brendan's Women's Coffee Hour. For this week, St. Brendan's women's coffee hour will be cancelled due to a diocesan meeting. All women of St. Brendan's who are virtual or in person can join us the following Saturday.



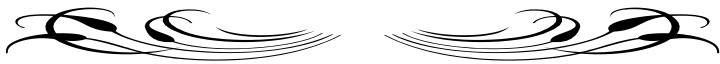
You can help. We have tubs outside to the right of the front doors for any food donations. Or, if you wish, checks can be sent to St. Brendan's and we will convert them into grocery gift cards. We have now discovered a new mission. There are halfway houses in lower income areas who share any donations 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. **Note:** Please do not leave any expired items.

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.

Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

Video/discussion group at the Unitarian Church.

Following up on their February Friday discussions concerning racism, the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills is having another get together via Zoom on Friday, April 30. There will be a short video followed by a discussion. To get the Zoom link, please email your name to sctregistration@uucnh.org.



Lost Lessons and Future Possibilities

Speaker for this Zoom event, held on Thursday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m., is Tim Stevens, Chairman and CEO of the Black Political Empowerment Project (BPEP). Tim, a long-time activist and former Executive Director of the Pittsburgh branch of the NAACP, will discuss the ongoing struggle for racial equity in the Pittsburgh region.

This event is sponsored by the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon. To register, go to cpcb.org.

What's Wrong with Solitary Confinement

A resolution from the 2018 Episcopal General Convention calls on all Episcopalians to amplify their voice in solidarity with human rights groups, the United Nations and others to end prolonged solitary confinement.

In the May 18 primary, Allegheny County residents will have the opportunity to do this by voting to restrict its use at the Allegheny County Jail, where inmates are now sometimes confined to a small bathroom-sized space 20 hours day (without books, TV or the internet), often as punishment for behavior resulting from their mental health issues, and then causing more mental health issues.

To give more background on this issue, a Zoom Forum on Sunday, May 16, at 7:30 pm on "What's Wrong with Solitary Confinement" will be held. It is sponsored by the Diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee and Commission on Race and Reconciliation. Walthour Professor Jules Loel, from the University of Pittsburgh, will be speaking. Former head of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Professor Lobel argued against Ohio's use of solitary confinement before the US Supreme Court and has co-edited Solitary Confinement.

Here is the address to join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87209176721?pwd=UkFhOHQ2TUhTNjZuUE14aTN4KzV0dz09>

Meeting ID: 872 0917 6721

Passcode: 049909

Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

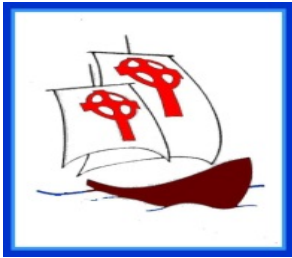
St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following parishioners and friends or family of parishioners. Each is a medical professional or an emergency first responder who is helping people cope with the Coronavirus outbreak. They are using their skills and 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
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: 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: 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