



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 website 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 website https://zoom.us/j/4575423762
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study, via zoom Zoom website https://zoom.us/j/4575423762 .
Friday	4:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer, via zoom
	7:30 p.m.	Game Night, via zoom Zoom website https://zoom.us/j/4575423762
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Sacristans

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Celebrant: The Rev. Julie Smith

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

Two gospels, back to back about gardening. Yikes for you. So thanks to this week's gospel, I'm thinking about weeds and weeding but also the weeds in my own spiritual garden.

I do actual gardening, and we have raised beds of vegetables, and beds of Hosta, flowers, blooming vines and bushes, herbs and fruit trees. We have plantings around the house, so we have a symphony of colors that change from early spring's brilliant yellows and purples, to summer's lavenders, faint yellows and pinks, to the fall's burnt orange and dusky golds. I work the soil, compost and mulch, and weed regularly. This year has been spectacular because I have had the time to tend the gardens with love and care and make sure they are mulched and watered so now we are enjoying the fruits of our labors.

But what about my spiritual garden? When I get off my knees from the dirt and I look around my neighborhood, how well do I care for my neighbors? And outside of our neighborhood, what about my broader community? Do I love my neighbors as myself?

Last week in my sermon, and this week in our regular clergy meeting, The Rev. Eric McIntosh, the new canon for the Beloved Community, both recalled the same portion of our baptismal covenant, where we vow to "persevere in resisting evil," that we will "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ," and to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves," (BCP 293). So I am thinking – how do I do this spiritual gardening tending?

Last summer at Chautauqua, I heard a sermon about if your preacher wasn't preaching politics, then she wasn't preaching the Gospel. This struck me because I believe that part of my responsibility as a minister and as a Christian is to call out evil and use what power I have to improve our community. So even before I was ordained, I wrote letters and made calls to politicians and newspapers. And I signed petitions for causes in which I believe. I don't know if what I have done goes unnoticed or makes a difference, but I am convinced it is worth trying.

So this week's gospel is puzzling. In this parable about wheat and weeds, we are told to leave the weeds. Not to act, but to wait for God to give judgement. Not acting feels unnatural, as if I'm being unfaithful to God 'who makes all things new'.

The parable of wheat and weeds reminds us that, like the verses in Ecclesiastes, to all things there is a season. That there are times to take action and there are also times to wait. So this parable invites me to pray for two gifts: one is the gift of discernment, so that I know when God desires our action, and when God desires us not to act. The other is the gift of patience and active waiting. Waiting is hard because it seems (and feels) like we are doing nothing. That we are being passive.

But active waiting creates space for resolution and place where good can reassert itself. Active waiting holds space for God, or God acting through someone, to act for good. Waiting is active when you are trusting that the seeds sown in God's garden will grow and bear fruit.

This parable of God's garden, with its wheat and weeds, reminds me that my actions are limited. It invites me to put my actions in perspective, to ask God to continue to give gifts that I need, to take time to see what God is doing here, and to have the courage and the strength to wait, and create change by sometimes intentionally not acting.

Peace,
Julie+

Announcements



A BFF donation was given in celebration of the marriage of Matthew and Hilary, from Toni and Joe Passarello.

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.

Vestry Meeting. The Vestry held its monthly meeting—using Zoom, of course—on Monday, July 14. We began by electing a slate of three Lay Deputies who will represent St. Brendan's at October's Diocesan Convention and then again when the Diocese elects a new bishop next spring. Megan Overby, serving the second year of her three-year term, will lead the delegation; Peter Sweet was elected to a second term; and Joyce Donadee will join the group as our third lay deputy. Melanie Popovich had agreed to serve as our alternate if necessary and was duly elected. Other topics that we discussed at the meeting included our plans for reopening St. Brendan's for worship in person (whenever that becomes a reasonable step!); critical improvements to our technological resources for live-streaming services; the hostile response from some of our neighbors to the sign posted outside the church emphasizing our conviction that Black lives matter; and Pr. Julie's programming for our younger parishioners throughout what promises to be a long summer with limited diversions.

SAVE THE DATE

The **Speaker Series** is moving to an online format. Since we can't meet in person we are putting the series online. The first event will be a 2 part series on Reconstruction — **After the Civil War: America's failure to make Black Lives Matter** will be presented by Michael Waseleski on Thursday 8/13 and Friday 8/14 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.



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!



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 jlsp1@gmail.com.

Senior Warden's Corner

For over three decades, I worked at colleges and universities founded by the Jesuits. Inevitably, perhaps, their perspective and some of their ways of speech rubbed off on me. I found particular value in their use of a pair of contrasting terms. Moments of **desolation**, they suggest, are moments when we sense that we are moving away from God, losing touch with God's will for God's people. This doesn't necessarily mean that we feel "sad" in the everyday sense of that word; we can sometimes be perfectly "happy," but happy in a way that we sense does not align us with God's purposes. I certainly know those moments. By God's grace, there are also moments of **consolation**, when, whether we are "happy" or "sad," we can find joy in the conviction that we're headed in the right direction. (If you want to read more, there's a simple explanation at <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/consolation-and-desolation-2/>.)

This week, I have found many moments of consolation to look back on with gratitude. Steve Horton contacted the members of the Men's Breakfast Group and suggested a virtual Men's Breakfast on Monday. I can't wait. Mary Bertucci, Ellen Groves and Roger

Botti reported that after six of the oddest months in anyone's memory, our financial situation is pretty stable. When I wrote a letter with the relevant details to accompany the quarterly reports to all those who pledge regularly—that was another moment of consolation. Even the smallest things, like the news of the birth of a grandchild to two of our staunchest Brendanites, even those are treasured moments of consolation. They remind me that St. Brendan's does God's work, as it understands that work, day by day and in large ways and small. Thank you to all those who contribute a consolation to the pile.

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin

CRIES Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Black Lives Matter, in Pittsburgh. Standing together to strengthen the Black Lives Matter movement.



Kid's Corner

Buoyed by Faith

Another week and another gardening parable. But let's start with two definitions – parables and why Jesus uses parables and weeds.

Well, when the disciples asked Jesus why he used parables and you might think he'd say – I use parables because they are really good stories and the stick in your imagination, so people remember them. Or I use parables because they paint vivid word pictures, and anyone can understand really complicated ideas with pictures. But, just like parables, Jesus doesn't tell us what we expected.

But according to the Matthew, Jesus used parables so that the real meaning of a story would be hidden, and we would have to work our IN OUR HEARTS what the story means. This is what Jesus actually said about using parables is the "people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart . . ." (Matthew 13:15)

Wow, pretty big stuff. But Jesus wants us to puzzle these stories out and make them our own.

So last week it was about dirt and a sower. This week it's about weeds.

And I prepared my gardens well, I turned over the soil, I planted the right plants in the right (sunny, shady, sandy, or clay) spot so why do I still have weeds?

I feed the birds and the rabbits eat leaves on my plants, why does God give me weeds too?

Now sometimes when a teacher or a priest or a parent gets too detailed we say "well we're too far into the weeds" meaning you've given me too much information, or too much detail or more than I needed to know right now. Oops, wrong column.

So, another definition, what is a weed?

Well, for me, a weed is any plant that is where I don't want it to be. It could be a beautiful pink carnation, but if it's in the middle of another plant or in the wrong place, it's a weed and I'll pluck it out. If it is a thistle or a thorn in the middle of a path, I'll pull it out by its roots. So one weed may be pretty and another noxious but both are where they should not be – they are weeds in my garden and I remove them.

What about weeds in the garden of my life? Can something be a weed and still be good? I think yes. Like, sometimes, I am very stubborn and want my own way. Then being stubborn is like a weed – especially if I am trying to only get my own way. But sometimes, I am very stubborn, and it helps me get things finished – like reading a book or writing a dissertation. Then being stubborn is good – a good fruit.

So, what I try to focus on is what Jesus said. We shouldn't worry about pulling up the weeds. If we do, we may do more harm than good. He suggests that we leave the weeds for God to take care of - and concentrate on doing what he wants us to - which is producing good fruit.

Julie+

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
Julie

Andrew Smith
Lane

Justin Zeigler
Mike

Cindy
Patrick

Jennifer

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

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 Bank Ministry: Larry Toler
Social Justice: Clair Grotevant
Marilyn Mulvihill
Under One Roof: Inactive

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

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: Dean Peters and Mary Bertucci
Outreach and Social Justice: Donna Aiello
Safety & Security: Tim Austin
Treasurer: Ellen Groves
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Botti
Worship: Cameron Grosh

ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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, Stephanie Illsley ~ st3phy2011@gmail.com