



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
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Sacristans

Sunday, June 14, 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

Anti-Racism/Black Lives Matter Parish Meeting

I've had some stressful days, a few rough days and maybe two bad days in my three years at St. Brendan's, so, in all, maybe a total of a dozen, less-than-desirable days. This then leaves over a thousand good, great or super great days at St. Brendan's in that time. Our Total-Parish, Anti-Racism/Black-Lives-Matter meeting last night, though, ranks right up there with my best-three-days-ever. It was a fantastic, awesome night. It was thrilling to be pastor of this wonderful, dedicated, *with-it* parish.

First of all, we had double the participation I expected: 44 people attended via Zoom. Prior to our suspension of public worship, we were averaging between 110-150 people on Sundays. Forty-four volunteer attendees at an Anti-Racism Parish Meeting on a Wednesday night is not only impressive, but also means we got between 22-34% attendance. That's unbelievable; but after all, **We are St. Brendan's!** Participants included new Brendanites, live-streamers who just met us over the past months because we started on-line worship and founders of St. Brendan's along with ESL volunteers. We had the chair of our Diocesan Justice & Peace Committee present as well as a representative from the Diocesan Anti-Racism Commission. We had parishioners from Florida and soon-to-be parishioners from Pottstown, PA. Already, at least five additional parishioners have taken the time to express not only why they couldn't attend, but to submit long recommendations for what they think we need to do about racism and Black Lives Matter in our country, state, city and church. Last night's expression, I'd say, indicates we not only have a concerned church, but we have a church that actually turns thoughts into actions.

It was our first large meeting done through Zoom with six break-out rooms. This whole new technological experiment went off as if we have been doing these contemporary ways of collaborating for years. The evening came about because six concerned parishioners approached Tim or me within days of George Floyd's public murder to express their clear need to "do something" about our current systemic racism. Our Justice Ministry then called a joint meeting of the two life streams of racial-equality activism within the church. These 13 people gave life to this social justice movement at St. Brendan's and our outstanding total-parish meeting last night.

Some highlights from last night's meeting with a promise of much more to come:

- We reviewed and added to the developing **Living Document for Action Steps against Racism**. This is a list of actions every Brendanite can personally commit to doing immediately. The document also lists corporate action steps against racism we can take as a church. (Stay tuned as to how you can access the latest version of this document.)
- Over 20 parishioners committed publicly to "the 9-day anti-racism challenge." This is an expressed, accountability-partnered commitment to participate in a communal, focused, Black Lives Matter behavior each day for 9 days. **Contact Donna Aiello at (donna.aiello@forecastdirect.com) for more information and to sign up.**
- Strong support for St. Brendan's to partner with a black church, to rejoin PIIN (Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network) and to display a Black Lives Matter banner on our church grounds was voiced. Two parishioners offered to cover all the costs for PIIN membership and the Black Lives Matter banner.
- We have established an Education Coordination Team overseen by **Virginia Volponi at (ginny4045@gmail.com)**. This group meets weekly to examine and make available relevant Racism and Black Lives Matter material to the parish. Please

send your educational findings/discoveries to the email address highlighted above and these will be explored. This team will offer regular Zoom training opportunities for the parish and submit a weekly relevant fact, explanation or development to *The Little Log* or email blast.

Look for much more from this meeting coming your way through *The Little Log*, sermons, email blasts, Zoom opportunities, vestry and our Justice Ministry. If you'd like to join our Justice Ministry, **contact Donna Aiello (listed above) or Claire Grotevant (clairesgrotevant@gmail.com)**.

Stay tuned!
Regis+

Announcements

Vestry Meeting. The Vestry held its monthly meeting—using Zoom, of course—on Monday, June 8. It will come as no surprise that three topics dominated our discussions. We heard first from the Working Group that is examining **how we will reopen St. Brendan's for in-person worship** when the time is right. We were able to offer some comments on an early draft of the parish questionnaire that you will all be receiving shortly. This led to consideration of **the challenges we will face in continuing to live-stream our services** while also having a limited number of parishioners present in the sanctuary; technological upgrades were approved to ensure that we will be able to do so safely and effectively. Finally, we talked about **the need felt by many to participate in the national conversation about racial inequity and police brutality**. Leadership in that area is being provided by our Justice Ministry. In closing, we want to thank Brendanites for their response to our request that they do their best to fulfill their pledges in a timely way; pledge income rebounded in May, allowing us to face the new demands on our resources with confidence.



Streamed Services are Moving to YouTube only! Starting THIS Sunday, June 14, St. Brendan's online services will begin streaming on YouTube only. This is important to ensure the stability of the stream and to simplify the job of delivering it each Sunday. The link to St. Brendan's YouTube page is available on our website or you can simply search "St. Brendan's Episcopal Church" on YouTube.



Volunteers Wanted! For almost three months now, we have been including in our streamed services scripture readings and the Prayers of the People pre-recorded at home by Brendanites from 7 to 70+ and from Sewickley Heights to farthest Florida! We would love to widen that circle of participation. The process of recording yourself is simple and painless--we promise! To be added to the list of readers, simply send your name and email address to Tim Austin at austover@gmail.com. Thank you!



Technology Volunteers Needed! To assist with the continuity of our online services, St. Brendan's is in need of volunteers who are willing to learn and assist in streaming the services. "How to" instructions will be given on the software and hardware in use, so no prior streaming knowledge is required, but volunteers should have at least a basic comfort level with IT. If you are interested, please contact Cameron Grosh at grosh.cameron@gmail.com.



Next week, kale and some greens will be ready for harvesting. Harvesting is done on Wednesdays, when we clean up the veggies, pack them in zip lock bags, and get them ready for Thursdays deliveries to a Food Bank.

To sign up click here [Garden Link](#) or go to <https://www.stbrpit.com/> and click on Garden Schedule. Please enter your name during the days/weeks you can be responsible by typing directly onto the document.

Ideally, we would like volunteers to take on a task a full week at a time, to be responsible for either watering, weeding or harvesting. Contact Ken at cleankrp1@aol.com if you have any questions.



Game Night! Every Friday night at 7:30 join a group of Brendanites who are playing games. This Friday Scattergories is the game of choice. Here's the link to use <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>.

If you prefer to enter thru the Meeting ID: The # is: 457 542 3762. If it requires a passcode, that # is: 316792.



Join our Hallelujah Choir! Do you enjoy our "Halle Hallelujah" on Sunday? You are invited (along with their friends and family) to do an individual video and send it to St. Brendan's. Each new video will be added to the main video each week. We have over 100 people singing "Halle Hallelujah" together! It's a fun way to spice up our weekly streaming service. Get more details and download the audio file here. <https://www.stbrendans.org/hallehallelujah>.



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 Food Bank – We have tubs to place donations in and a cabinet filled with goods ready for people in need to use. These are placed right outside the front doors. If you or someone you know is struggling, PLEASE come by and take what you need. There is no need to enter the building. 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.

Senior Warden's Corner

Many wonderful suggestions emerged from our parish-wide Zoom meeting on Wednesday evening. Among them was a proposal that St. Brendan's should adopt and post on our Web page an explicit statement about racial inequity and police brutality, including a commitment to developing and implementing a sustained and effective response. I endorse that idea and will work with Fr. Regis and with the Justice Ministry to bring it about.

The challenges in crafting such a document are many. The statement must be rooted in our Baptismal promises and reflect our Christian identity both for those who understand that connection and for those who do not. It should include a humble admission of our historical complicity (as a nation, as a church, and in most cases as individuals) in the systemic oppression of women and men of color "by what we have done and by what we have left undone." It should make explicit reference to the specific events that have triggered equal measures of outrage and resolve among our members. It should express our determination as Brendanites to take stock of our own past behavior; to educate ourselves in areas where our understanding is lacking; to listen more carefully to the voices of the oppressed and marginalized; and then to act—in solidarity with our Black sisters and brothers—to bring about real and effectual change. All of these elements seem indispensable, and yet the statement cannot be too long either, since the attention span of its intended audience is not limitless.

Like most people, I am no fan of documents written by committees, but a statement of this importance **needs** community-wide input, because meeting the commitments that it voices will demand community-wide involvement. If you have suggestions about what it should say (or not say), therefore, please forward them **in the next few days** to Fr. Regis, to Donna Aiello or Claire Grotevant, to any member of the Vestry, or to me.

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin

Dear Brendanites,

We continue with our Lenten series called 'Kneeling with Giants'. If you recall, during Lent we were able to complete the first two sessions in the series (Regis and Julie) before Sunday services at church were suspended. The schedule below reflects survey responses for availability.

Kneeling with Giants learning series on Prayer:

Book of Common Prayer, Darrell Johnson	June 12, Friday 4:00 p.m.
Healing Prayer, Regis Smolko and Melanie Popovich	June 19, Friday 4:00 p.m.

All sessions will be via Zoom, and the link will be sent prior to each session. All sessions are intended to be interactive.

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.

Hospitality Hour Hosts/Hostesses

October 2019  September 2020

October 2019

- 6 ~~Melanie & Thaddeus Popovich~~
- 13 ~~Dottie & Carl Antonucci~~
- 20 ~~Kinley & Aretz families~~
- 27 ~~Lauren Chappo and Becca Sands~~

November 2019

- 3 ~~Brenna Conroy & Kristen Bailey~~
- 10 ~~Melinda & Wesley Bell~~
- 17 ~~Sheila Bigelow & Jim Roche~~
- 24 ~~Church sign-up (Appetizers)~~

December 2019

- 1 ~~Choir~~
- 8 ~~Brigid & Jim Christenson~~
- 15 ~~Julie Smith & Colette Satler~~
- 22 ~~Church sign-up (appetizers)~~
- 29 ~~Stacey Coyle and Andrea Dickerson~~

January 2020

- 5 ~~Karen Dennis and Janet Fesq~~
- 12 ~~Mary & Dale Bertucci~~
- 19 ~~Joyce & Michael Donadee~~
- 26 ~~Annual Meeting church sign-up (soup)~~

February 2020

- 2 ~~Donna Aiello & Sharon Hlawati~~
- 9 ~~Chris & Roger Botti~~
- 16 ~~Richard Gordon, Janice & Dan Moore~~
- 23 ~~Anne Semmler and Cameron Gresh~~

March 2020

- 1 ~~Janice & Dan Moore~~
- 8 ~~Amy & Kevin Boyd~~
- 15 ~~Eric Helmsen and Ken Parsons~~
- 22 ~~open~~
- 29 ~~Meghan & Robert Karn~~

April 2020

- 5 ~~Cindy & Pete Larson~~
- 12 ~~Hospitality Committee~~
- 19 ~~Libby and Phoebe Juel~~
- 26 ~~Stephanie Illsley & Justin Ziegler~~

May 2020

- 3 ~~The Bertucci family~~
- 10 ~~Parish Men, Mother's Day~~
- 17 ~~Laureen & Todd Douds~~
- 24 ~~Sharon & Ron Ladick~~
- 31 ~~Linda & Jason Konley~~

June 2020

- 7 ~~Marian & AJ McKenna~~
~~Trish & Neil Galone~~
- 14 ~~Annemarie Malbon and Joe Macklin~~
- 21 ~~Erica & Mark McClure~~
- 28 ~~Parish Picnic-cancelled~~

July 2020

- 5 ~~open~~
- 12 ~~Kate & Keith Heston~~
- 19 ~~open~~
- 26 ~~Joni Reis and Thaddeus Popovich~~

August 2020

- 2 ~~Lauren & Ashwin Ramakrishna~~
- 9 ~~Arlena & Bill Pugliese~~
- 16 ~~Anne Semmler and Andrew Sprentz~~
- 23 ~~Saundy & Tom Waseleski~~
- 30 ~~AJ Turo, Rob & George Latta~~

September 2020

- 6 ~~Nancy & George Snyder~~
- 13 ~~Emmalynne & Michael Waseleski~~
- 20 ~~Emily & Brad Zupancic~~
- 27 ~~Janet Fesq and Chris Fleissner~~



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 ~ st3phyy2011@gmail.com