



Epiphany

## Sunday, January 2, 2022

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Dr. Bill Pugliese

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** 7:45 am Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom, Monday thru Saturday  
<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://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976791143?pwd=NnN0cW5xSFVFMmk1VlFBcVJia05LQT09>  
4:00 pm Bible-Lite Group <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
- Tuesday** 7:00 am AA meeting, via zoom Dial in: 312-626-6799 Meeting Id:345 892 252  
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>
- Wednesday** 3:00 pm Deacon hours  
7:00 pm Evening Service, in person
- Friday** Varying office hours, please call ahead

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## The Priest's Corner

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### On Not Setting Limits

Our greatest gift, and oftentimes our greatest gripe, is our free will. We human beings differ from every other creature because we are endowed with the ability to freely choose to do or not to do whatever it is we may desire to do. Yes, our "animal" instincts are often at work, saving us in those moments when we have neither the time to think nor perhaps even to freely choose how we will respond. Thus, there are times when reflecting back on what just happened, we are either thankful for those instincts or chagrined that we acted in the manner we did.

The truth is that were we to be given the choice between being devoid of free will or having to acknowledge our guilt for a foolish or sinful action, in the end we will gladly choose the latter over the former. Of course, we were and are not given that choice. That is not the way we were created. Thus, because of our free will no one and nothing can be held accountable for our actions, good or bad, except we ourselves.

We know that, much as we might like to find a scapegoat for our sinfulness. Given that freedom and given our human nature, we simply have to live with the truth that we freely do that which we should not and freely choose not to do that which we should. The saving grace is God's grace and forgiveness. It allows us to pick ourselves up after our failures and go on knowing God will help us be stronger the next time, if we are willing to do our part.

The real issue in this life, it seems to me, is not our sinfulness so much as it is our freely choosing to limit our love, which, in essence is the basis for everything we do or do not do. To paraphrase something Charles Schwab once observed, when we put a limit on what we will do, we put a limit and what we can do. As we know, there is a difference between being unwilling to do something and being unable to do something. I have the will to play the piano but I am unable to do so because I simply do not have the God-given gifts needed to be able to do so. I have the ability to help someone in need but may I not have the will to do so.

So it is for each and every one of us. While our abilities as individuals are limited since no one of us is God, our abilities as a world community are limitless. It is our will, both individual and collective, that puts limits on what we will do and not our ability to do whatever it is that needs to be done. More often than not, if not all the time, whenever we say that we cannot do something, what we are in fact saying is that we really do not have the will to do it: we do not want to.

There is a vast difference between “I can’t” and “I won’t”, between “we can’t” and “we won’t.” Whenever we find ourselves saying “I can’t” or “we can’t”, perhaps we need to step back and ask if what we truly mean is “I won’t” or “we won’t”. Then we need to ask ourselves why we are unwilling to do that which we know we can do and which must be done. We may not like to ask or answer that question and our free will gives us the freedom not to, but we must. We must not, we must not limit ourselves to that which we are willing to do.

## Bill

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**For those who need to speak with one of our staff**, please note that during the current COVID surge, Fr. Pugliese and Katie Cervone will not be coming in to the church at specific times on specific days. However, both are available by phone at any time and can make arrangements to meet with you in person if you wish (with appropriate safeguards).

Contact information is as follows:

For Fr. Pugliese, 724-591-4971 and [wipugliese@aol.com](mailto:wipugliese@aol.com).

For Katie Cervone, 412-364-5974 and [stbrandanskatie@gmail.com](mailto:stbrandanskatie@gmail.com)

Please do not hesitate to call them.

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**Book Club News.** The next meeting of the St. Brendan's Book Club will be held via Zoom, NOT at the church as previously announced. Our meeting date and time remains the same - Tonight, January 6th at 7 pm. We will be discussing "The Paris Library" by Janet Skeslien Charles. Please feel free to contact Chris Botti at [shadypatch@msn.com](mailto:shadypatch@msn.com) for the zoom log-in information if you would like to attend. Thank you!

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**Thank you to all who have sent in a pledge.** Although we've received a total of 70 pledges, we've fallen short of our dollar goal.

To date, Brendanites have pledged a total of about \$199,000 for 2022. This is about \$11,000 short of our current budget placeholder of \$210,000.

If you haven't sent in a pledge for 2022 or have already but might be able to contribute a little more, please consider helping us to fill our budget gap.

The new year is already underway and our ministries continue to touch many lives through support, community and fellowship for those who have chosen to walk in love with us.

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## Children's Corner

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### Answering to the wrong name?



Have you ever been called the wrong name? How often does one of your parents call you by the wrong name? I was sometimes called Lorri, Janet, Sandy, Leslie or Bomber (our dog). My mother would look at us and say a name which wasn't always our name.

But . . . she knew who we were, and she knew that we knew she was talking to us.

When I was about 10, my mother called me Lorri, and I didn't respond.

So, she called again, and said “Lorri, come out to the kitchen and help.” And I still ignored her. She came next to me, looked me in the face, and said, “Julie Lynn Smith, you know I'm talking to you, come help in the kitchen.” I blinked and said, “but you didn't say my name, I thought you were calling for Lorri.” My mother said, “if I am looking at you, I am calling you.”

I sometimes wished I was a twin so we could change positions and not get into trouble if we didn't answer our mother's call.

In Jesus' time, there were many people who claimed to be the Messiah. But they were frauds – trying to fake out the people. They would come to town, pretend to be holy, try to heal people and when they left, their cures would disappear, and the people were left with the lies of a false prophet.

But there were other people, like John, who people thought were the Messiah. The people of John's time wondered if John was the Messiah. They saw the work John was doing and they talked about him and asked if he was the Messiah. The people started to call him the Messiah.

He was being called someone else's name. But John quickly corrected them, saying there was One who would come who was more powerful than him, and whose sandal straps he wasn't worthy to untie.

John the Baptist later baptized Jesus, and the Holy Spirit came to Jesus in the form of a dove, as a loud voice said, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

John and Jesus knew who they were, they knew who was the Son and who was the prophet. Others may have been confused, but John would not answer to the wrong name. He knew Jesus was God's Son, he heard the voice that called Jesus by name.

Peace,  
Julie+

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**PUBLIC FORUMS ARE BACK! Native Americans: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow – Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Our speaker, Michael Simms, will address the culture, traditions and challenges of Native Americans in a Q&A Format. Mr. Simms is part of the Upper Cumberland Cherokee and Seminole tribes. He has lived in Pittsburgh his entire life as an active member of the American Indian Center and has been Pow Wow coordinator for the past 11 years. His commitment is to keep Native American traditions alive by sharing them through speaking, dancing and educating the next generation. Come prepared with your questions!

Send an email to Katie at [StBrendansKatie@gmail.com](mailto:StBrendansKatie@gmail.com) and tell her of your interest. You'll find more information at [stbrendans.org](http://stbrendans.org). You won't want to miss this one!

*This Forum is sponsored by St. Brendan's, in conjunction with the other members of Faith in Action (Universal Unitarians of the North Hills and Trinity Lutheran Church).*

**Save the Date for the Annual Parish meeting, Sunday January 30<sup>th</sup>.**

We will be combining services that day, and will have it at 9:00 a.m. All ministry leaders are asked to provide a brief summary of their ministry for 2021. Please submit your report to Tammy or Katie by **Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>**. **Please note**, this date was changed.



We celebrate the **January Birthdays** of:

- |                   |                   |                    |                     |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Gail Gagnon     | 5 Mary Bertucci   | 4 Meghan Thompson  | 6 Jacob Konley      |
| 6 Matthew Wunsche | 8 Linda Konley    | 9 Kelli Cerra      | 12 Donna Aiello     |
| 13 Shellie Hipsky | 15 Eleanora Byrne | 16 Sharon Basehore | 16 Janice Moore     |
| 19 Zoe Boyd       | 21 Rob Latta      | 26 Ginny Volponi   | 29 Sherri Angeletti |
| 30 Andrew Helmsen |                   |                    |                     |

## Senior Warden's Corner

**In one corner of our garage** is a gray card table—standard design with folding tubular metal legs. It is a reminder of the dark early days of the pandemic, when Meg and I would have our groceries delivered, then “stage” them in the garage for 72 hours before bringing them into the house. Today, we no longer take this precaution, of course; we have learned that brown grocery bags are not a vector for the virus. But somehow, we have never gotten around to folding up the card table and returning it to its basement home. I'm sure that some of you can point to practices in your own homes that are similarly “left over” from days when we knew less about the true nature of the threat that the virus posed.

In March 2020, in a very parallel fashion and for precisely the same reasons, St. Brendan's removed all the prayer books and hymnals from the seats in the Sanctuary. Once it became clear that books were not going to spread COVID, we could have taken them back out of the boxes where we had stored them. But we didn't—even as the building re-opened for in-person worship last Easter. This was regrettable.

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) has played an important role in the faith life of Episcopalians for four and a half centuries. It has its roots in the first English Prayer Book, published in Britain in 1549 as Anglicanism split from the Church in Rome; in its specifically North American form, the BCP dates from the decade after the Revolutionary War (from 1789, to be precise); and it was most recently revised in 1979. The official website of the Episcopal Church USA calls the BCP “a treasure chest full of devotional and teaching resources for individuals and congregations, [and] also the primary symbol of our unity.” A companion volume in many ways, the 1982 Hymnal contains hundreds of hymns, from the much loved carols we sing at Christmas and Epiphany to many “hidden gems” that probably deserve more frequent airings than we give them.

This week, we are returning the hymnals and the prayer books to the seats at St. Brendan's. Whenever you visit the Sanctuary, take a little time to thumb through them. (If you are housebound, the BCP is just a click away at <https://www.bcponline.org/>). In our weekly service bulletins for the 10:00 service, we always print the page numbers of the major parts of the liturgy and the numbers of the hymns we sing, so please consider reaching down for the BCP (the red book) or the Hymnal (the blue one) and learning a little more about how our services draw on resources with long and rich histories.

**Tim Austin**

**WANTED: Rentals Supervisor.** This individual fields inquiries from folks who are looking to rent our facilities and answers their questions concerning availability, capacity, cost etc. Then, following St. Brendan's well documented policies and working with the Parish Administrator, she or he sees that the renter receives the appropriate forms and works with the renter to complete the process. George Snyder estimates that these tasks may require four hours per week, though this does fluctuate from one season to another. George has said that he will be available to train his successor.

**WANTED: Memorial Garden Coordinator.** Just outside the Chapel doors, you will find our Memorial Garden, in which parishioners are welcome to arrange for their cremains to be interred. Maintaining the Garden (mowing, trimming, etc.), working with potential purchasers, and ultimately managing interments fall to a small committee for which we are seeking a Coordinator to succeed Bill Spoonhoward and Dan Moore. The maintenance work is seasonal, while other functions may occur at any time.

**CRIS Advocacy, (Christian Response In Emergency Situations)**, meets monthly on the third Sunday in the library after the 10:00 a.m. service where they determine the distribution of St. Brendan's 10% tithe of our pledged income. This week we are praying for the work of RIP Medical Debt. This is a charity that purchases medical debt from collection agencies. Over the years they have eliminated \$4.5 billion in medical debt.  
**The next meeting is January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

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## Requested Prayers

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**For our beloved members of St. Brendan's, especially;** Karen Dennis, Joan and Maggie Beatrous, Charlotte Pierce, Larry Toler, Alice Butterworth, Sandy Nagy, Rosie and Rodge Wood, Matthew, Mark Shoemaker and Larry Tarrant.

**For our parents, especially;** Kenneth and Adele McCormack, Sandy Martin, Ray Militzer, Naomi Getty and Lenora.

**For our family members, especially;** Lizzie and Aunt Lisa, Anna Botti, Bob Berkebile, Sue Burchill, Tom Groves, Marie Hazelton, Linda and Callie Ahlbrand, Mike Dixon, Raphael Walton, John Barie, Chris Sensenich, Nathan Schlumpf, Bob Keihl, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

**And for our friends, especially;** Jim Blackburn, Bill Phelps, The White family, Dennis Ranalli, Becky Horton, Sherri Hilbert, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.

**We pray for all who have died, especially** Lisa Berkebile, Ryan Berkebile and Matthew Berkebile.

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**St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following.** 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.

Kimberly Becker	Maddie Bell	Sheila Bigelow	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	Abby Montgomery	Luke O'Neill
Kim Pierce	Becca Sands	Warren Sands	Andrew Smith	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.

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# January 2022 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Greeters	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
January 2 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ellen Groves 1 <sup>st</sup> Alan Schneider 2 <sup>nd</sup> Donna Aiello P Linda Limberis  <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Ellen Groves Libby Juel	n/a	Kathy Miller Dave Miller Wesley Bell	Tim Austin Donna Aiello	Ron Ladick	Need volunteer
January 5 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 9 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Nancy Snyder 1 <sup>st</sup> Tim Austin 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marilyn Mulvihill P Dean Peters  <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Joan Klinefelter Shari Tarrant	n/a	Toni Passarello Saundy Waseleski Tom Waseleski	John Appledorn Allyson Baierl	Janice Moore	Need volunteer
January 12 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 16 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Sylvia Affleck 1 <sup>st</sup> Dean Peters 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annemarie Malbon P Tony Turo  <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Sylvia Affleck Janice Moore	n/a	Donna Aiello Sharon Hlawati Dean Peters	Michael Donadee Kate Heston	Larry Toler	Need volunteer
January 19 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 23 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Joan Beatrous 1 <sup>st</sup> John Appledorn 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kate Heston P Marilyn Mulvihill  <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Tammy Spoonhoward Phoebe Juel	n/a	Joyce Donadee Megan Overby Tim Austin	Eric Helmsen Mike Wick	Ron Ladick	Need volunteer
January 26 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 30 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday, 5th	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 <sup>st</sup> Children 2 <sup>nd</sup> Children P Children  <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Sylvia Affleck Libby Juel	n/a	Toni Passarello Annemarie Malbon Wesley Bell	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Mary Bertucci	Need volunteer

