



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 5, 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

Onward in Building Our Anti-Racism

The Governor of NYC is planning to paint the street in front of Trump Tower in NYC with the words, "BLACK LIVES MATTER." This prompted Trump to call the sign a "symbol of hate." Before we weigh in whose actions are wrong or right and with whom we agree and disagree, I'd ask us to ponder what it means when the mere thought would even emerge to take such action as a teaching point. What would you do if you felt the need to go to such extremes with Julie or me, your priests? How would that feel at times of confusion such as these if your spiritual leaders needed the experience of "Black Lives Matter" painted within their symbolic sight so that you'd think they'd might finally "get it?"

I don't think the proper response is who's right or wrong here. Rather, we all need to take a position around how we let this whole surreal thing happen in the first place. What we're experiencing is not natural. We all personally must rid ourselves of the blind spots to seeing, and lack of courage for speaking, that would have prevented this aberration in the first place.

For many of us who are white, I believe our blinders stem from this unconscious, labyrinthine-like *white privilege* that permeates our very being. Our Justice Ministry has been working tirelessly to bring the recommendations of our total-parish Meeting about Anti-Racism and Black Lives Matter to real-life attainment. Here are two of their action steps for our necessary educational steps and practices of anti-racism. I am grateful to Donna Aiello for putting together this important outreach to our parish.

Regis+

To all Members of St. Brendan's,

Father Regis has once again been so kind to share his Priest Corner in order to continue our critical call to end racism in our country...

21 Members of St. Brendan's recently completed a 9-day challenge where we took a stand for anti-racism and educated ourselves with various readings, podcasts and videos daily for 9 days. At the end of the 9 days, we met via Zoom and most of us felt the experience was powerful and so worthwhile.

We are now taking on another challenge which we invite you to join: Watch a 1½ hour video about Race and Restoration with Dr. Anita Phillips, a national leading authority who has spent her career blending faith with individual and group therapy for a wide range of issues including racism. This important video is a conversation about race and the church, which could possibly change the way we think. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/theChristineCaine/videos/body-language-a-conversation-on-race-restoration-with-dr-anita-phillips/368461430777555/>

Each of us will watch the video on our own. Then, on Thursday, July 9, at 5:00 pm, we will have a wrap-up discussion via Zoom to share our thoughts and reflections. Please let me know if you would like to participate in this challenge and if you are able to attend our wrap-up discussion.

Claire Grotevant from our parish will be leading this discussion. She is suggesting that before listening to this powerful conversation, that each person think of their favorite bible passage, as it will enhance your experience.

We do utilize a text group for all who would like to join. We share our thoughts and reflections on what we are listening to, and suggest any additional educational ideas we come across. If you would like to be included in this text group, please send me your telephone number as soon as possible. Once the text group begins, I cannot add new people. I would encourage you to join this group as soon as possible, as most of us found the text group we previously had to be relevant and educational.

We hope you'll choose to participate and come on this journey with us, and together take a stand for anti-racism!
PLEASE FORWARD TO ANYONE YOU THINK MAY BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING!

God bless,

Donna Aiello

donna.aiello@forecastdirect.com

Announcements



St. Brendan's Scholarships. The parish invites young church members who will be enrolled in post-secondary education (college, technical school, etc.) in the fall of 2020 to apply for a St. Brendan's Scholarship. Grants are awarded on the basis of a person's years of participation and attendance in parish services and activities. Guidelines and applications, which must be received by the church no later than Monday, July 13, 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.



The **Justice Ministry** is asking parishioners to stand with **Black Lives Matter** and other organizations to show our support. On **Tuesday, July 7** we are asking that folks not spend one dime outside of Black-owned businesses. Economic actions help to bring attention and have effectuated change in the past. Please consider this important anti-racism action.

This website provides more information. <https://www.blackoutday.org/>

Click on this link for a listing of Black-owned restaurants and other businesses in and near Pittsburgh:
<https://goodfoodpittsburgh.com/black-owned-businesses-and-restaurants-you-can-support-in-pittsburgh/>



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.



Another pic of what our garden harvested this week for the Food Bank. Harvesting is always 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.

We would love your help with this wonderful rewarding ministry. 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! Join us every Friday night at 7:30 as a group of Brendanites are playing games. 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 your 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>.



Over the course of four or five years, **Brendanites who use Amazon Smile** when they order their groceries from Whole Foods or other items from Amazon.com have earned our parish donations totaling \$492.49. There's no cost to the purchaser or to St. Brendan's, so sign up for Amazon Smile (which is easy to find with a Google search) and then simply use that page each time you do your routine online shopping. Thanks! Click here for detailed instructions [AmazonSmile](#).

Senior Warden's Corner

In late May, the Vestry asked a small Working Group to develop policies and procedures for re-opening St. Brendan's for in-person worship. The Group has worked quickly and thoughtfully to address the many questions that re-opening raises. We all owe Cameron, Charlotte, Donna, Lauren, Phoebe, Ruth, Saundy, and Tony a massive—if distanced!—vote of thanks for all they have done and continue to do. Most importantly, they crafted a superb Draft Plan for re-opening that is now undergoing a final review by the Vestry and will be forwarded to the Diocese this weekend. I will share the ideas in that document with everyone once it has been approved.

It is important to understand, though, that while that Plan details **how** we will go about re-opening, it says nothing about **when** we will do so. The recent uptick in infections both nationally and locally reminds us all just how complex the decision to re-open is going to be and how foolish it would be to offer projections or predictions. However, with the Working Group's blessing, I can share with you today a brief summary of what you, the members of the St. Brendan's, told us when you responded to their recent online survey.

We learned that ...

- fully 60% of Brendanites **either** fall into one of the higher-risk categories for COVID-19 themselves **or** live in households that include such higher-risk individuals;
- of these households, which are less likely to return to in-person worship quickly, only a few express an interest in having Holy Communion brought to them at home;
- some 90% of households responding to the survey report that they are currently following our online services, while fewer than 10% indicate that they do not find streaming a satisfying medium for worship;
- when the survey asked what factors Brendanites would look at when deciding when to return to in-person worship (and allowed them to check all the boxes that applied),
 - ✓ about 40% of households pointed to the existence of a clearly articulated parish plan for re-opening safely as a consideration,
 - ✓ about 40% mentioned the approval and broad distribution of a vaccine, and
 - ✓ about 30% felt that it would be important to them to see a consistent decline in local and regional infection rates;
- respondents indicated that they would generally feel more comfortable returning to in-person worship if the service were held outdoors;
- if St. Brendan's considers adding services in order to allow more people to attend in person while still respecting physical distancing, 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday morning slots are still the most popular, after which Saturday evening is the clear second choice; and
- when asked about using “overflow” space in the Social Hall as another way to accommodate more worshippers in person, about half the respondents say they would be willing to explore that idea.

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin

Kid's Corner

Buoyed by Faith

Our burdens are light?

- A long time ago, when I was in my 20s, I used to be a rower. We would meet at the rowing house on the river at 5:00 in the morning to carry our 8-woman shell to the water. For me, being short, I really liked starting my day walking down to the river with the team, talking about what was happening and what we were going to do that day in practice. As we talked, we would carry the shell on our shoulders.

- But because I'm short, at least enough shorter than the other rowers, the shell was never really on my shoulder – so I wasn't really carrying part of the weight. Until one day, the woman in front of me stepped over a tree root and suddenly the weight of the shell fell, hard, on my shoulder. So hard, I had a very nice bruise across my shoulder and down my back where the shell hit me.
- What I should have known all along, is I had not been sharing the burden and when it literally fell on me, I felt as though I was carrying it alone. And just like other burdens, like losing a friend, or worrying about someone being sick, I had friends to help me and I should also be a friend to help others carry burdens.
- I know that there are some that you just can't handle by yourself. But, guess what? We don't have to!
- Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." There is no reason for you to struggle alone with burdens. God promises us help in times of trouble.
- In this week's reading Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
- God also says, "Don't be afraid, I am with you." (Gen.26:24) David wrote, "I'll give you strength." (Psalm 28:7) and "I'm with you in times of trouble." (Psalm 34:6) These words encourage us when we have hard times that may come our way.
- Some of our burdens may help us to grow and become stronger, so this does not mean that God will take all of our troubles. But it does mean God is with us when we have trouble. Some of our burdens may help us to learn to trust in Jesus. And sometimes the face of Jesus who helps us is the person right next to us.
- So, when our load gets too heavy, Jesus and others will help us to carry it. We just need to ask. There is no burden that is too heavy for Jesus.

Julie+



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.

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.



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/>
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Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net
Nursery Director, Stephanie Illsley ~ st3phy2011@gmail.com