



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 Study**

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, April 11, 2021

Celebrant: 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Dr. 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

Confirmations and Receptions on May 2 and a Bit About Our Garden

Bishop McConnell will be visiting St. Brendan's on May 2. This is an annual feature throughout the Episcopal Church. The bishop, as shepherd of the flock, comes to greet, spend time with and support each church in the diocese annually. The bishop also "confirms" those who want to claim the faith as their own and "receives" those who desire to become Episcopalians and/or align with the Episcopal practices, beliefs and social mores.

Julie has already gathered some adolescents for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I'd like to further extend the invitation to all adults or teens who have not yet been confirmed and feel some urging as this might feel like the year for such a commitment.

In addition to Confirmation, the Bishop will receive and welcome new committed Christians to the Episcopal Church. If you recall, it's been over two years since he was last able to do this. In that time, we've had eight adults ready to be received, but the Bishop was not available. When we discovered this, we asked Bishop McConnell if we could have the option to recognize those would-be reception candidates with a public declaration that they were one with St. Brendan's. He granted our request and almost a year ago, we held that ceremony at the church for seven members prior to the closing due to the pandemic; we also held one virtual ceremony later as part of a live streamed service. Now is the opportunity for all eight of those individuals to be present on May 2, either face-to-face or virtually, so that Bishop McConnell can formally receive them. (Invitations to do so will be coming to those folks soon.)

I suggested to the Bishop that we would likely have an additional cohort of individuals ready for reception this year. At the same time, though, we are restricting the return to in-person worship for safety reasons. So today we are announcing a new option: NOW THE GREAT NEWS! YOU WILL BE ABLE TO BE FORMALLY RECEIVED BY THE BISHOP VIRTUALLY, if you choose. I'll be sending invites to those I know are ready to take this step. If you choose to be received virtually, we will send you easy directions on how to do this. You'll just need to record yourself saying a few responses and praying a joint prayer. Then you'll send us the video as an attachment or upload it to a shared drive. It's truly simple—we will work out the details. Even mindful of the limited number of open, in-church seats available, many of you will likely be able to come to church and be received by the Bishop in real time. But you will have choices. We all just need to be respectful of the church's latest position on in-house worship as of May 2.

My sense is that we have in the ballpark of 10-12 people, in addition to the eight mentioned earlier, both prepared for and desirous of being received by the Bishop into the Episcopal Church. If you have any desire to be received, please let Regis or let Katie know as soon as possible.

This Little Log announcement is my first outreach to gather people for Reception. We will make announcements at church and through live streaming for the next two Sundays.

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.



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 aren't ordered from the florist.

Senior Warden's Corner

With the arrival of Eastertide, the rhythm of church life begins to return to "normal," and it is time to update you on a couple of more mundane developments that will allow St. Brendan's to sustain and grow its work in the coming months and years.

First, we have secured a \$500 grant from the Diocese to provide critical materials for this year's Garden of Hope. This family-friendly, outdoors ministry allows St. Brendan's to send fresh produce throughout the growing season to the North Hills Food Bank. They in turn distribute it to needy families in our area. For more details, see <https://www.stbrendans.org/garden-of-hope>.

Second, we were selected as one of 160 applicants across the state to receive a Non-Profit Security Grant of \$25,000. These funds will enable us to provide reliable cell phone coverage throughout the lower level of our building and to upgrade our fire alarm system to provide 24/7/365 coverage.

Third, we just submitted an additional grant proposal to the Episcopal Church's Beloved Community initiative. If approved, that award will allow us to extend the work of the Justice Committee in new and exciting directions.

Writing these proposals is hard work. Administering them once a grant is made is no picnic either! But these dollars will help us to continue key ministries without always relying on the pledge-supported operating budget that we approve each January. I am grateful to all those who have contributed—and it is a team effort—to planning, writing and submitting these proposals.

Tim Austin

Save the Dates. The coming spring and summer are going to be **exceptionally** busy for Brendanites! Exciting developments both at St. Brendan's itself and in our Diocese will offer us many opportunities to reflect on our life "as church," on the ministries to which we are called, and on the individuals we believe are being called to lead us.

In the Little Log and on other media platforms, we will do our best to provide you with the context you need to understand all that is happening and to remind you of the opportunities you will have to participate.

News regarding our parish's own discernment process will be marked with this symbol and be printed in blue:



News regarding the search for our new bishop will be marked with this symbol and be printed in red:



In that spirit, we invite you to mark the following important dates in your calendar:



Saturday, May 8 – The Ordination of Darrell Johnson to the Diaconate. COVID restrictions have resulted in recent ordinations being "Invitation Only" affairs, but live-streaming has been available via Trinity Cathedral's Facebook page. We will keep you updated on the arrangements as the date draws nearer.



Sunday, May 9 – Our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist will be Darrell's first service at St. Brendan's as a Permanent Deacon, and Fr. Regis has asked him to preach that day.



Saturday, May 15 (approx.) – The Diocesan Nominating Committee plans to announce the slate of candidates for Bishop. We expect to receive biographical information and perhaps short videos from the candidates.



Week of June 14-19 – "Meet and Greet Week." This will be our opportunity to meet the candidates (either in person or virtually) and to hear them speak about their own histories and about their understanding of our parish and our diocese.



Saturday, June 26 – The Electing Convention. St. Brendan's three deputies (Megan Overby, Joyce Donadee and Cameron Grosh) will be eligible to cast votes as laypersons; Fr. Regis and Pr. Julie will vote as members of the clergy.

These are certainly not the only important dates; we will be back with more in future Little Logs. But for now, they will give you a sense of how two of the important processes will unfold in the coming weeks.

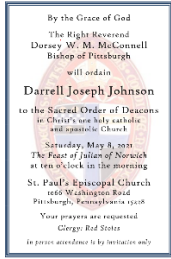
Confirmation! In hopeful anticipation of the Bishop's visit on May 2, youth seeking to be confirmed need to begin the final preparation for their confirmation.

While the church is still not opened, we will meet via Zoom. Once the weather improves, I will try to have us together as we are able to be together. We will be using *My Faith, My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church* for our preparation.

Deciding upon confirmation is personal and is not age-based but a mark on a young person's faith journey. Do you think you are ready to affirm the promises made on your behalf in your baptism? Our preparation class is to explore what it means to be a child of God, a Christian and an Episcopalian.

Please contact Pastor Julie for more information at 412-995-0915 or email at jlsphone1@gmail.com.

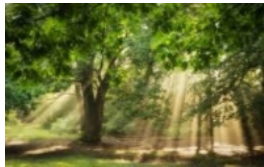
CRIES Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of The Society of Saint John the Evangelist, an Episcopal religious community ministering through workshops, retreats, prayer and spiritual direction.



An upcoming milestone for one of our own: The announcement here, soon to be 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!

Due to the constraints of St. Paul's pandemic protocols, attendance is limited and by invitation only; however, the service will be available for everyone via Facebook streaming. That link will be communicated as we get closer to the date. Be looking for that in a future Little Log.



The Spirituality Group at St. Brendan's is growing! We are looking forward to meditative walks in the woods, labyrinths, retreats (including silent retreats), practices of other religions and, of course, prayer. We will utilize any activity that reminds us that everyone and everything is connected. This group will be based on our church's beliefs, but will focus more on embracing our connection to each other, to nature and to all of God's creatures.

If you have an interest in this Spirituality Group, please contact Donna Aiello, donna.aiello@forecastdirect 412-759-1521 or Cameron Grosh, grosh.cameron@gmail.com / 717-404-0108. Thank you!

VOTING BY MAIL 2021! Last November, 2.6 MILLION Pennsylvanians cast their ballots by mail, safely and securely from home.



If you applied to vote by mail last year and signed up for the "permanent" vote-by-mail list, and you want to automatically receive ballots for this year's elections, **you must sign up again for 2021, since this list is only on an annual basis.** You can fill out the application that was mailed to you and return it to your county board of elections, [or complete one online here.](#)

It takes just a few minutes to sign up to get both your mail-in ballots for 2021. Your county will keep you updated as your ballots are processed, printed, mailed to you, and returned. If you didn't register for the "permanent" list last year, but are interested in joining, [you can read more here](#) and [sign up using the same online form.](#)

Voters should request their mail-in ballot **before May 11, 2021** to make sure they have time to receive their secure ballot and return it in time. If you're signing up to vote by mail online, just make sure you're registered to vote beforehand and have either your PA driver's license number or social security number handy.

Please make sure your friends and family are aware of this! Thank you for being a voter.



The Haitian project. We want to fill two school buses so that they can be transported to Haiti both within the same month. One bus is filled to the brim but we can still use more clothes, shoes and other items to fill the second bus. Children's clothing, women's size 14 and smaller, men's shirts up to size extra large, men's pants up to waist 34 are utilized by Haitian people who tend to be smaller than Americans. They also can use donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, linens, fabrics, belts, hats, etc. are all needed. Thank you for all your donations - keep them coming!



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.



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.

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



Blessing of All Athletes

On Saturday, April 24, at 1:30 pm, Perry Highway Lutheran Church will be holding an Inaugural Blessing of Athletes at their church located at 11403 Perry Highway in Wexford. Participants are asked to arrive no later than 1:25pm. Athletes of all ages and abilities are welcome --

from around-the-block walkers to more experienced athletes such as 5K runners, marathoners and professionals.

The event will be held outside in the church parking lot. Parking is available at the Nex Tier Bank parking lot beside the church or across the street in the UPMC Medical Center's parking lot.

If possible, participants are asked to bring a donation of a bike helmet. They will then be donated to United Way's Bike Build event held every summer, which puts children in need on bikes.

All participants are required to wear a mask. Call the church office at 724-935-1226 with questions.

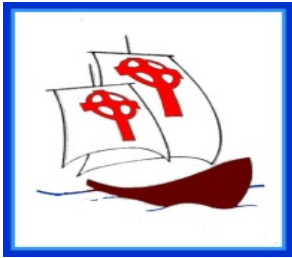
Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

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: Cameron Grosh
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