



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-Lite Group

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 25, 2021

Celebrant: 10:00 a.m. 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 #1

What does justice look like?

Five year old Gigi Floyd said her father was going to change the world and maybe he has. Derek Chauvin, the former police officer is only the second police officer to be convicted in an on-duty death case in Minnesota's history. In the past 15 years, only five non-federal law enforcement officers were convicted of murder in an on-duty shooting and not had the conviction later overturned, according to Philip Stinson at The Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

In listening to commentators Tuesday night and into Wednesday, some are celebrating and some are lamenting the decision. I read how some cities were prepared for riots and had police on standby "just in case" for when the jury returned their verdict. And I was in a meeting when we heard the news. And my first thought was I hope there will be peace. We needed to end the meeting soon after the announcement. Some were crying and others seemed overwhelmed. And we prayed.

As the verdict starts to recede, my thoughts have turned to "what does justice look like"? If justice is about restoring to wholeness, Gigi Floyd will never be whole. There will always be a hole in her family pictures where her father should be. There will be empty spaces and seats at the missed birthdays, graduations, celebrations and weddings that her father misses. She will heal but a scar will remain.

Does justice deferred mean justice denied? The Black community in America has waited for justice for centuries. If we think one trial and one conviction has changed everything, we are mistaken. It is a step, a small step, but a step in the direction of moving toward equal justice for all.

If we think the system is broken and can't be fixed, we need to remember we are the system. Some of those who said the system is broken said this outcome only came about because of action. And that is also right: the people acted, the system responded, we responded, and a new outcome occurred. In this instance, the system worked.

But seeking justice, working for justice, and finding justice is hard work. The prophet Amos was crying out for justice when he said, ". . . let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream." (Amos 5:24) This section of Amos speaks to us today as much as it did to the ancient world. Amos was chastising those who exploit their power and privilege against others. Amos concludes Chapter 5 by berating those who have much and deny the same to others – religion is meaningless if you unfairly burden the poor or work against those in need.

According to Amos, a nation is judged by how it treats its poor, lonely, isolated; how we treat the lowest and least privileged. We claim a heritage of justice, fairness, and equality for all. Our founding documents declared "every man is created equal" and promised the pursuit of happiness as our birth right. This calls us to continue to pursue justice after this first step.

Because as Christians we are called to do more. We are witnesses to the risen Christ and we are called in our Baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” When we all live into that promise, then will we see what justice looks like.

Julie+



At our Public Forum held this past Tuesday evening, Mitch Bassi from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank did an excellent job letting us know about the extreme need for food in our area as well as how the Food Bank works.

However, St. Brendan's Justice Ministry fell short of our goal of \$5,000. Right now, we stand at 50% or \$2,500, and have a ways to go. Thank you to those who have already given! If you have not made a donation yet, there is still time. Simply click on pittsburghfoodbank.org/stbrendans and you can make your donation in a few clicks. This donation link will be open for the next few weeks. If you do not want to donate online, just send a check payable to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, and mail it to St. Brendan's, 2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley PA 15143.

Your support is appreciated! Thank you for anything you can do to help those in need!



Adopt-a-Highway. One of St. Brendan's oldest environmental ministries is back. After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, the church's Adopt-a-Highway chapter will hold its next litter pickup on Saturday, May 1. Parishioners age 14 and up are invited to help clean the roadside at the Camp Horne Road interchange of I-279 in Ohio Township. Volunteers will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m., caravan to the site and finish by 10:45. Safety vests, work gloves, trash bags and bottled water will be provided. Anti-Covid protocols such as mask-wearing and social distancing will be followed. If you'd like to take part or need more info, please contact Tom Waseleski (twaseleski@comcast.net).



A Brendan's Family & Friends donation was given in honor of Linda and Alan Schneider.

The Priest's Corner #2

Dear Brendanites,

I asked that this uplifting news be added somewhere to TLL this week. So, in case this seems to break anyone's printed train of thought, I'm the culprit breaking in on the newsletter with late developing news from Florida about St. B's. So here goes:

Remember our theme for the last three years has been the God of Abundance and the only request to us is that we approach this gifting with “new nets.” It's hard not to notice that at every turn, we are experiencing abundance. For example, we put out an invite to a new Bible Study—we got 20+ participants. Our New BLM Forums keep getting stronger and more credibility—we are now on our 8th one and people keep on learning and responding to every opportunity to help with time, talent, and treasures. We now have over 15 people interested in St. B's because of live streaming. I've had 5 zoom meetings with new guests already and two more are scheduled this week.

Julie and I have been gathering those interested in being confirmed, received or reaffirmed when the bishop comes to our church for his annual visitation on May 2. **SO ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?** As of Wednesday evening, we have 16 people who want to be confirmed, received or re-affirmed this May 2. We are still waiting to hear from several other potential participants. The God of Abundance could not be stopped by a pandemic.

Please pray for the following, our brothers and sisters who will be taking these deeper steps in communion with St Brendan's:

Confirmations Silvia Bertucci
Anthony Bertucci
Harry Harkins, virtually

Receptions Carol Meese
Karen Dennis
Kathy Miller
Dave Miller
Kathy Dancho
Linda Murray Limberis
John Appledorn
Sheila Bigelow
James Roche
Nikki Kurash, virtually
Marilyn Mulvihill, virtually

Re-affirmations Terry Dezort
Jay Sabatowski

As we move toward this special day, may God be blessed and praised for the great love that has been poured upon us all. May our brothers and sisters above, and those still deciding, experience the love of God as they deepen their discipleship. May we at St. Brendan's grow and develop with arms reaching out to all and warmth radiating especially to those in need. May God lead us all to reinvigoration and outreach—striving for deeper union with God and unity with our neighbors. Thank you, Lord.

Regis+

The Children's Corner

The good shepherd

Why does the Bishop carry a crozier? What is a crozier? Why am I asking about the Bishop?

Next week, not this Sunday but next Sunday, Bishop Dorsey will be with us and when he processes up the aisle, he carries a staff, a shepherd's crook or what we call a crozier. Why does he do that?

This week's gospel tells us why - "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep." The Bishop is our shepherd. And so is Father Regis. And so am I.

And the job of the shepherd is to take care of a flock of sheep (and we are the sheep). So the job of Bishop Dorsey and Fr. Regis is to take care of us.

If sheep try to go the wrong way – by walking off in the wrong direction or eating food that may make them sick, the shepherd can reach out with the crook and gently pull them back onto the right path. When sheep are out in a field, the shepherd can also use the crook to help protect them from wild animals that might try to hurt them.

How do Bishop Dorsey and Fr. Regis do this for us?—because I don't remember ever being pulled back with the shepherd's crook (or the Bishop's crozier). Both Bishop Dorsey and Fr. Regis try to help us to figure out the right way to go and what we should do. They try to keep us on the right path. And if we need help or have questions, they are there to help us figure out what to do.

Our version of the Psalm this week begins with "The Lord is my shepherd and I am the sheep." And we respond, several times with, "The Lord is my shepherd and I am the sheep. I have everything I need." So when Bishop Dorsey, or Father Regis, or another shepherd is not with you, just remember, the Lord is with you to help you. And with the Lord you have everything you need.

Peace,
Julie+



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 are not ordered from the florist.

Senior Warden's Corner

This week, I have three seemingly random thoughts—but they are connected, as you'll see.

Since I retired, I have devoted some time to updating my mother's excellent genealogical research. Thanks to Ancestry.com, I have been able to scan photos from my parents' old albums to illustrate the family's story. I was struck the other day by a picture that had been taken around 1960 of our family standing outside church—specifically, by the very smart way in which my sister and I were expected to dress for church, not just on important days like Christmas and Easter but every Sunday. It brought back memories of "sitting still" through long sermons while a carefully knotted necktie scratched at my neck.

More recently—but still thirty years ago—I found myself visiting a large Episcopal church in North Carolina. The building was packed, but I was surprised by the speed with which the congregation dispersed as soon as the priest pronounced the final blessing. The assistant rector explained to me later that when she had first arrived in the parish, she had been concerned by the perception that, in order to be accepted in the parish, you needed to belong to a specific, highly desirable local golf club. "Nowadays," she went on, "I am afraid that some people are here only because they think that attendance at St. John's will help them secure an invitation to join the golf club. I honestly don't know which is worse!"

The choir's anthem this Sunday, Fred Rogers' "It's You I Like," points to a very different principle, one that I believe permeates St. Brendan's. We welcome everyone for who they are; we meet them and support them wherever they find themselves in their journey of faith; we encourage them to contribute their talents and their energy to our work in whatever way they choose; and we delight in the diversity and creativity that results. If you agree, then why not invite your friends and neighbors to come and see what an inclusive church family can look and feel like?

Tim Austin

Some more words you may not know ...



Convention – Major decisions in the Episcopal Church are made at conventions. The election of the 9th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh will occur at such a convention on June 26.

Orders – The election of a bishop requires separate votes among the members of two orders: the clergy (ordained priests and deacons) and the laity. The two orders must agree for the vote to be valid.

Deputies – Lay persons entitled to vote at conventions are called deputies. St. Brendan's has three deputies selected in recent years by the Vestry: Cameron Grosh, Megan Overby, and Joyce Donadee. Fr. Regis and Pr. Julie will vote as clergy. Last Saturday our deputies and clergy attended a Diocesan Discernment Spiritual Retreat where they learned how reflection, information gathering and prayer will help the diocese to find out what it is that God is calling us to do.



Joyce (left), Megan (above) and Cameron (right)



We celebrate the **May Wedding Anniversaries** of:

Katie & Howard Cervone, May 2 ~ Amy & Kevin Boyd, May 17 ~ LuAnn & James Aldridge, May 23 ~

We celebrate the **May Birthdays**:



- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Joyce Donadee | 3 Robert Karn | 6 Allison Burdette | 7 Nathaniel Boyd |
| 7 Stanley Cooper | 8 Marjorie Marine | 9 Sara Byrne | 9 Rosie Wood |
| 10 Bill Pugliese | 10 Bev Sanker | 11 Reece Basehore | 13 David Schantz |
| 18 Mary Evanochko | 18 Emily Zupancic | 19 Michele Greer | 21 Joni Reis |
| 23 Brigid Christenson | 24 Jennifer Saitz | 24 Becca Sands | 24 Emerson Schantz |
| 25 Anne Hunt | 25 Addison Schantz | 30 Mark Jennings | 31 Maryn Zupancic |
| | | | 17 Jno Hunt |
| | | | 22 Timothy Austin |
| | | | 25 Nancy Bancroft |



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.



Need a gift for someone who has everything? Would you like a way to acknowledge a special family event like a baptism or a birthday? A donation to the Brendan's Family and Friends (BFF) fund is the perfect way to honor that special person or event. BFF funds are earmarked for unbudgeted building needs. Please contact Katie if you're interested. Your donation will be noted in the Little Log if you wish. Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor!

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. The two school buses have been parked in a local trucking garage where the mechanics have been working on them. They made mechanical upgrades that were needed in the buses. However, the mechanics recommend that school buses should not be driven at highway speed all the way to Miami.

Not to be daunted, our Haitian friend has been working two jobs to save money to buy his own day bed truck. After he buys the truck he will rent a flatbed to transport each bus to Miami. He will use the day cab truck to start his own trucking business picking up available transportation routes. He is getting close to the goal of saving enough money to buy the truck. Then he will add the required Penn DOT stickers and he will be ready to go.

Wheelchairs, crutches and walkers are also needed. Donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and medical supplies are very appreciated.



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.



St. Brendan's Women's Coffee Hour. If you would like to join St. Brendan's women's virtual Coffee hour which meets on zoom Saturday mornings at 9:30, join us by clicking on our link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8944116431>. This is a way to connect with other women from St. Brendan's and give us a "lift" for the week. All are welcome to join us and there is no expectation that you need to join us every Saturday - just when you have the time and feel like joining us. If you have any questions about how to log in, please contact Joyce Donadee at 412-635-2312. You can save the zoom link too because we will use the same link every Saturday.



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. **Note:** Please do not leave any expired items.

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

Video/discussion group at the Unitarian Church. Following up on their February Friday discussions concerning racism, the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills is having another get together via Zoom on Friday, April 30. There will be a short video followed by a discussion. To get the Zoom link, please email your name to sctregistration@uucnh.org.

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
Brenna Conroy
Andrea Dickerson
Rebecca Donadee

Maddie Bell
Adele Cotter
Franklin Park Police Department
Chris Fleissner

Kate Burnett
James Cotter
Amanda Gagnon

Frank Casey
Laura Dugan Demers
Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department
Jeff Gagnon

Bob Cerra
Nicholas Demers
Shelley Gagnon

Betsy Gentile
John Jacobs and staff
Becca Sands
Jennifer

Lynne Gloor
Kerri Jensen
Warren Sands
Julie

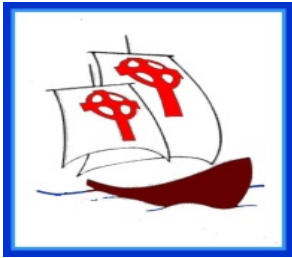
Ann Hockenberry
Dr. Ken Judson
Andrew Smith
Mike

Beth Lutz Hoffman
Luke O'Neill
Justin Zeigler
Patrick

Eric Hood
Kim Pierce
Cindy



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: Lauren Ramakrishna
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