



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>.
- 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 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>

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Celebrant: The Rev. 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

"It may be going a little slow (sic), but I can assure you it's going very, very smooth (sic)."...Josh Shapiro

These were the words Josh used when asked this (Thursday,11-5-20) morning about "how many votes are left to count (in Pennsylvania) and what kind of guideline can you give us as to what the breakdown of these votes is?" He then stated the Secretary of State gave the best indication of the ballots left and how it's going. She indicated that the vast majority of those ballots would be "done counted" today and that people would have a better sense of where PA "is likely to land" later today. In terms of predictions, he said he wasn't a "pundit" and not going to get into that. He said his focus has been on making sure that it's a smooth process; that the law is followed and that all legal votes are counted.

He was asked about what type of votes were yet to be counted. Shapiro got factual and said that many left to be counted were "from Southeast Pennsylvania and Allegheny County—Pittsburgh." He said he's not tracking that—and that was the Secretary of State's job, further suggesting the best thing to do now is be patient and let the clerks do their jobs. He recognized "everyone's on edge and even his kids have expressed it, but getting an accurate count and making sure these legal votes are counted" is his goal.

"But the president already claimed that he won Pennsylvania, what's your reaction to that?" the interviewer continued. Shapiro said, "It doesn't work that way. A candidate doesn't claim something. What happens here in PA is the law; and my job is to enforce that law and make sure legal votes are counted and when they are—above all, the will of the people must be protected." Further "this is the process we're going through right now. We don't need proclamations or what others are saying or doing." No spin right now is needed; what we need is "patience and to do a count, and make sure it's accurate. My message here in Pennsylvania is pretty simply, 'Follow the law,' and the law says 'the ballots that were postmarked by Election Day and received up until Friday' are legal votes and they will be counted."

The reason I'm sharing Shapiro's interview here is because the underlying step-by-step process seems to be a wise way to live when you don't have all the answers. We have to decide to do things despite certainty due to our problems' solution/outcome still being fuzzy. For example, we don't yet know which presidential candidate will win the election and still we must make real life decisions right here, right now. And while our state clerks are counting legal ballots, there's Trump-supporter clamor coming from outside their workplace. Yet the counters must stay focused and continually decide to work on the task at hand according to the predetermined process set out by objective, clearer, proactive "rule makers." Of course, it would be easier to make these decisions if we knew exactly what the future will be.

So our challenge, our question here, is how do you do the next right thing amid uncertainty? We just reviewed Josh Shapiro's process as he does his job for Pennsylvania. One of the ongoing decisions we have to make at Sr. Brendan's is when do we reopen our church for in-person worship? I have experienced over-abundant support for every decision we have heretofore made in this regard. I'm also aware that COVID fatigue is real. Tim and I've heard two, perhaps three, voices now seeming to express a clearer

“we ought to consider a cautious, safety-guided reopening.” In fact, on October 25 we were very close to reopening—then the bad pandemic numbers spiked.

So, what can you rely upon during this process? Here you go: be assured, I will absolutely follow the guidance given by our reopening work group and Tim Austin. As many of you know, Tim was chosen by our diocese to lead the Safety and Preparedness Committee for Reopening. I heard one major spokesperson for the diocese express 100%+ confidence in Tim’s total sleuth-like research of the issue. We are blessed to have this level of expertise in our day-to-day operation. In addition, our reopening group of investigative, real people who deeply love St. Brendan’s were outstanding in the depth of their scope and focus. Everyone I talked to from the workgroup told me this group was perhaps the best committee they’ve ever belonged to. Terms like “most dedicated, thorough, super-functioning and practical” were used to describe the group and experience. So, what they decided is what I follow. In particular these three recommendations are key for me:

- an “infection-rate below 1.0” for a # of reports
- the church must reopen for in-person worship before rental contracts can be signed
- 72 hours between major gatherings

Of course, there are other recommendations, but these three are of high significance. Another guarantee for you is that we will always provide you with a “we will be reopened no earlier than” date. We will always have live-streaming worship available. We will always wear masks, be socially distanced and have sanitizers everywhere.

We have available times on Mondays and Fridays for you to reserve an appointment for private Eucharist. One last thing Julie and I offer is real-time participation in the live-streaming liturgy at the church on a pre-arranged Sunday of your choice. We are always on the look-out for people who have a need to be at a liturgy in real time. Generally, we can make it possible to have one, maybe two units of people at our Sunday liturgy. Let Katie know you’re interested, and we will work it out safely. To date, we’ve had several people come to our liturgies and participate with the technical team and clergy in a safe way. Let us know if you have the desire or need.

God bless you.

Regis+

Joining the Transition Committee for our next Bishop. The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh invites your prayerful participation on the Transition Committee for the election of the next Bishop of Pittsburgh. Lay and clergy persons alike are encouraged to join this Committee, which we expect will have 10-12 members from across the Diocese. The tasks of the Transition Committee are completely separate from those of the Nominating Committee and include the following: arranging “walkabouts” for the final candidates for Bishop; helping the newly-elected Bishop and his or her family to make a home in Pittsburgh; managing the logistics of the consecration service and planning welcoming activities for the new Bishop and family; and planning a celebration of ministry for Bishop McConnell and Betsy as we thank them for their ministry to us. A detailed job description for the Transition Committee can be found on the Diocesan website, or from this link: <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/transition-committee-a-letter-to-the-diocese-from-the-standing-committee/> Applications are due Saturday, November 7.

All announcements for The Little Log are due to the office, StBrendansKatie@gmail.com by 10:00 a.m. Thursday.



For over twenty years, St. Brendan’s has sponsored a **Holiday Craft Show and Cookie Walk** on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Sadly, in light of this year’s COVID-19 restrictions, we cannot repeat that very successful formula. **But do not despair!** We are instead planning an appropriately distanced Cookie Walk on Saturday, November 21.

Instructions for Bakers

- ✓ You are welcome to **bake whatever style of cookie you feel others will enjoy**. Use your own recipe, your grandmother’s recipe or a recipe off the Web. We do ask that the cookies be “from scratch,” though, because after all, the customers we aim to attract can buy at the store just as well as anyone else.
- ✓ Please do not make iced cookies because it is so hard to keep them looking attractive during handling. St. Brendan’s is not certified by Allegheny County to sell baked goods that contain dairy in the form of “custards, cream fillings, cheesecakes, etc.”
- ✓ As a general rule, our bakers donate the cookies that they bake. However, if this would cause a hardship for you, we understand and we may be able to help with the cost of ingredients so that you can still participate. Simply contact Tim Austin (austover@gmail.com or 508-688-9554) in confidence if this would be helpful. **We want to involve as many people as possible!**
- ✓ If you can, please **commit to making at least 10 dozen cookies of a single variety**. That sounds like a lot, but if you once get into the swing of it, the numbers quickly stack up—trust us!
- ✓ **Please contact Katie Cervone (StBrendansKatie@gmail.com or 412 364-5974) by November 14 to tell us how many dozen you are planning to provide.**
- ✓ **Please deliver your cookies to the church between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on either Tuesday, November 17 or Wednesday, November 18.** Someone will be there to check in deliveries during those hours. If those hours are impossible for you, please contact Katie Cervone (StBrendansKatie@gmail.com or 412-364-5974 and she will make special arrangements.

Above all, thank you for your help in pulling off this COVID-year version of our fabled Cookie Walk. Next year, we look forward to being able to return the event to its former glory!



Advent Wreath kit. We have added a new element to the famed St. Brendan's Cookie Walk. For those couples, families, or individuals who would like, we are offering a "kit" for creating your very own Advent Wreath at home. Each kit consists of: a green wire base with four candle holders firmly affixed to it; four 10" candles (three purple, one red); strips of artificial fir garland to wrap around the base; and four purple ribbons. You can rely on these basics or (of course) "dress up" your wreath with natural evergreens, pine cones, or even a Christmas candle to go in the center. We will charge \$10 for each kit and have bought supplies for 25 kits initially. If demand seems to be really strong, we may consider a second purchase but a parishioner is covering many of the costs on the first round so that all the profits can go towards the Cookie Walk proceeds.

In the week following the first Sunday in Advent (November 29), we encourage any household with an Advent wreath (whether constructed from one of our kits or not) to take a snapshot of it and send it in to church for an Advent Gallery. We'll send more instructions about how to submit your image nearer the time.

To order your Advent Wreath Kit at a cost of \$10, please send an email to me (austover@gmail.com) or call me at 508-688-9554. Kits will be available for pickup from church during the Cookie Walk hours on November 21.



MEMORIAL SERVICE - On November 10 at 7:15 we will join together in fellowship to mourn the violence rending our nation. We will pray for all of our brothers and sisters who endure constant threats of violence and have been murdered through racist acts. We will name those taken and be in silence together as we light candles to call an end to the darkness of violence and shine our light on these acts. This memorial service will be held via zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88628195457?pwd=eXJ4dlNXaHlzaHk2ZCtucGV4K3lsUT09>

(Meeting ID: 886 2819 5457 and Passcode: 049603). Anyone who feels called to help with this service, please contact Julie Smith (jlsphone1@gmail.com). This is a part of *St. Brendan's Believes Black Lives Matter*. As you prepare for this service, we will have a quiet time and lighting of memorial candles. If you have a candle you would like to light please have it prepared and with you during the zoom service.



Looking for a graphic designer. The Justice Ministry is looking for someone who has some graphic design background to help design a "St Brendan's Believes Black Lives Matter" logo. If you have any experience designing logos, even better. Please contact Donna Aiello at donna.aiello@forecastdirect.com if you think you may be able to help and want to discuss. Thank you!

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of North Hills Community Outreach, a local organization ministering to the needs of the homeless and hungry.



We continue to offer the **opportunity to receive communion on Mondays and Fridays** by appointment only. If you are interested, email Katie at StBrendansKatie@gmail.com your availability Monday/Friday and morning/afternoon. You'll come to the portico in front of the church with a mask on and approach the reception area in a socially distanced way. Regis or Julie will meet you for a brief service with Eucharist available for you to receive. We can catch up for a few minutes then depart. Those who have already received in this way once are very welcome to request an additional opportunity to receive.

Senior Warden's Corner

I'm not sure that there's any objective way to measure the intensity of the fall foliage in a given year, but 2020's display of yellows, oranges and reds against a brilliant blue sky seemed to me especially breathtaking. Most of that color is gone now, of course, and we settle back to wait for the buds and blossoms of spring.

Luckily, though, there is a way for us to bring one tree to life—even in November.

Our annual stewardship period begins this Sunday; you'll be receiving a package about it in the mail in the next few days. This year's conversation focuses on God's many gifts to us as individuals and as a parish and on the joy and wonder that we feel when we take the time to recognize them. In the coming weeks, we will be asking that, as a natural response to such amazing generosity, you consider pledging an amount that is right for you to sustaining the work of St. Brendan's during 2021.



Then, each time that someone pledges online or sends in a pledge card, we will add one leaf to the bare branches of the tree you see to the left. Once we pass 60 pledges, the tree will also begin to blossom! And you will be able to watch our progress as we bring the tree to life—both in future editions of the Little Log and during the livestream of our 10:00 Eucharists each week as we sing the Doxology and begin the Great Thanksgiving.

Please look for more information in the mail in the near future. Please think carefully about all that God has done and continues to do for you and for us at St. Brendan's. Please help us to add energy and resilience as a worshipping community and to maintain the foundation that makes future growth possible.



Just Mercy: A story of justice & Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. We will be discussing the introduction and our own prison stories next Tuesday (October 20).



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.

Children's Corner

What do you do to get ready...



for the winter? Do you get a new coat? Maybe new boots too because you grew since last year and need a new coat and new boots. My Aunt Jean used to knit me a new hat and mittens each year for Christmas – they always matched and she knitted a line connecting my mittens because she knew (and my mom knew) I would probably lose one in the snow. So with my new hat and mittens I was ready for winter.

And in school every so often (and we still do at my college) we would have fire drills. Sometimes we are slow to respond and other times my students rush out the door. What we are told is to be deliberate and move quickly but not to run. I tell my students on the first day, collect your bags and meet me at the tree. Then I remind them periodically where we are to meet if we have a fire drill. That way I can take attendance and know if anyone is missing and I can contact one student rather than the whole class and let any administrator or fire fighter know who to look for.

By having a plan, knowing what we are supposed to do and where to go, we know what to do if a real emergency happens. By getting a new coat and boots and hat and gloves (that all match) I know I have done everything I need to do to be ready for winter. We usually got a new sled for Christmas so we could enjoy being outside in the winter too. Later we could go cross country skiing or ice skating and we needed the right equipment and clothing for those activities too. We needed to be prepared or we could be sorry – with wet feet, cold fingers, and frost-bitten ears.

This week, Jesus tells us a story to show us how important it is to be prepared. In his story, Jesus tells us about ten bridesmaids who took their oil lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Jesus said five of them were foolish because they had their lamps lit, but they did not bring any extra oil with them for their lamps (this is kind of like not charging your phone before you use it a lot). When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were out of oil. BUT, the other five bridesmaids were very wise and well-prepared. They had brought extra oil for their lamps. When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were ready. Their lights were shining brightly.

In this story, the bridegroom is Jesus and you and I are the bridesmaids. One day we're going to meet Jesus and we must be prepared because we don't know exactly when He's coming. The great news is, what we do to prepare is pretty simple. We must invite Jesus to come into our hearts. When we do that, we are ready.

So, be prepared – the day is coming.

**Peace,
Julie+**



MONDAY MORNING MODERN EPISCOPALIAN GROUP, heeding the suggestion of Vestry, invite all to join us on the four Monday Mornings during Advent (beginning November 30 at 11:00am) in a Zoom Meeting to learn all about the 39 Articles of Religion. These are the best beliefs/practices of the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church (the best of both religious worlds) that formed the development of the Episcopal Church. You will be amazed! Look for an interesting tidbit-weekly to lure you to join in. The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, tucked away in the back of The Book of Common Prayer, is an historical document of the Episcopal Church and of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Articles were adopted during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in the 16th century. Anglicanism is generally not viewed as a confessional denomination and the Articles of Religion are not binding on Episcopalians. The Articles did, however, play a significant role in shaping the identity of the Church of England and Anglicanism. Join us as we look at this historical document and discuss its relevance, if any, for today.



The Haitian project moves forward as the 26 solar cells are packed up. The clothing, sewing machines, medical equipment, toiletry items, school items, shoes, etc, that St. Brendan's and our community neighbors have given fill the school bus and are a continuous blessing. Thank you so much. The bus is currently at a trucking terminal near Cranberry and Beaver County. Another bus will hopefully be purchased next week. So, continue to bring in your items for Haiti. Thank you also to the CRIES committee for their monetary donation to cover the cost of supplies for packing, gasoline and other miscellaneous help. Special thanks to the Bertucci family who spent a Sunday afternoon packing up solar cells for the truck. If you should have any questions about this project, please contact either Donna Aiello or Joyce Donadee.



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.

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	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 & 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: Mary Bertucci
Dean Peters
Outreach: Donna Aiello
Safety & Security: Tim Austin
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: Eric Helmsen
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