



Sunday, August 22, 2021

Celebrant: 10:00 am The Rev. Regis Smolko

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, and
10:00 am Worship, via live streaming 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://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
1:00 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
8:00 am Staff meeting, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
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** 7:00 pm Evening Service

The Priest's Corner

"Vaccination...an Ethical Obligation" according to Pope Francis; Michael Curry, not as dogmatic but as Strong as an Episcopalian Can Be on an Issue Like This.

I remember in school having theological debates about sin as "missing the mark," and that sin falls into two categories: individual sin and communal sin. I always thought that "individual" was easier to understand than "communal." It seems to me that giving blood to an individual in need if you have the opportunity to do so is philanthropic and inspiring, but it is not a sin if you fail to take this step. However, is it a bit different if you're the only person available with the blood type needed to save another's life? Moral dilemmas such as this get interesting indeed. What if that person in need is your child or if he/she is an unknown entity to you personally but generally known to be a notorious cheat and arsonist? Oh the moral dilemmas!

So, vaccinations to protect from COVID: is taking this action a moral obligation or is it "up to you as a person to do as you please?" It's not complicated to Pope Francis. He issued an appeal on Wednesday urging people to get inoculated against COVID-19, saying the vaccines could bring an end to the pandemic, but only if they are taken by everyone.

In his own words: "Thanks to God's grace and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19. They grant us the hope of ending the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we work together. Vaccines are widely available in mainly wealthier nations, but mistrust and hesitancy over the newly developed shots have meant that many people are refusing to take them, leaving them especially vulnerable as the Delta variant spreads. By contrast, poorer nations still do not have access to large-scale vaccine supplies." He continued, "Medical experts have warned that ever-more dangerous variants might develop if the virus is allowed to circulate in large pools of non-vaccinated people."

Here's how our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry made the case: "Vaccines can help us save lives and make life livable. We have an opportunity to get that vaccine now for this COVID 19. I got mine. We can get ours—for ourselves, but if not for ourselves, for our children who still do not have a vaccine yet. I got the polio vaccine as a little child. Right now adults can get the COVID vaccine to help to protect our children. That's what the Bible means when Jesus says we should 'love our neighbors as ourself.'" Here is a link to our Bishop's entire statement:

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/pressreleases/presiding-bishop-michael-curry-encourages-americans-to-get-vaccinated-do-this-one-for-the-children/>

Pope Francis, like our Presiding Bishop Curry, was himself vaccinated in March. saying at the time that **"Getting the vaccination is an ethical obligation."** He went on to say, "Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable. I pray to God that everyone may contribute their own small grain of sand, their own small gesture of love."

As you know, Episcopalians don't get as dogmatic as popes do. Some Catholics might have expected him to append to the bolded statement above, **"and not to, is a mortal sin!"** At the same time, I think, our Bishop's words are as close as he could possibly come to being dogmatic and stressing obligation in this matter when he said, "... **get the COVID vaccine to help to protect our children. That's what the Bible means when Jesus says we should 'love our neighbors as ourselves.'**"

Now both spiritual leaders would be the first to say that if you have a medical or psychological reason not to get the vaccine, by all means don't get it. However, if you are not so predisposed, your not-getting-the-vaccine can easily put others at risk and take away from "herd immunity" and the promise it brings of communal wellness. It seems to me that this is much more than a matter of it "simply being up to me to do with as I please."

All good,
Regis+



Laura Fine, one of our Brendanites, is in need of a sitter next week, Monday - Friday for their 2 small children. Any time between 8-5 would be very helpful. Laura and her husband both work from their home in Cranberry. Ideally, if someone's got a teenager who wants to come help at their home, they need an extra set of hands. They are willing to take the kids to someone else's house if that works better. Zara is 11 months, Ellery is 2.5. Please contact Laura for more information. lauraking@gmail.com Thank you.

Children's Corner

I used to play softball. As a young person I was a catcher. I had to wear a catcher's mask, glove, and chest protector. The mask protected my face, the glove protected my hand, and the chest protected – well, my chest. I also wore knee & shin guards to protect my knees and shins. I still got bruised but I never got a broken bone in softball.

The catcher wears this special protection because catching is dangerous. You are behind a batter and might get hit by a bat, a ball, or runner.



Then in college and grad school, I played rugby. We wore mouth guards to protect our teeth, and heavy jerseys and not much else.

In the car, I always wear a seat belt. That became a law when I started driving. Now my car dings to remind me to wear a seat belt and also if I have a passenger it dings to keep that person protected too.

There are things all around us that keep us protected – look in the shower or tub and I'll bet there is something there to protect you.

The Bible teaches us that you and I need protection in our lives, too. In this week's reading it's called the armor of God, which protects us from Satan's evil plans. What kind of protection does the Bible say that we need?

First is the belt of truth. We wear this because Satan's lies can never win if we will hold onto the truth that Jesus is Lord. Next is the breastplate of righteousness. I think of this like my catcher's chest protector. It covers my heart.

On our feet is the gospel of peace, so we walk in the right way and don't let worry and confusion in our lives, but knowing Jesus brings peace.

Like superheroes we also carry the shield of faith to deflect seeds of doubt from entering into our hearts and minds and wear the helmet of salvation. When we follow Jesus, we will win.

Strapped on our side is the sword of the Spirit. But we probably carry this like a book – the Bible, God's holy Word.

Just like when I was a catcher, and I needed all my protective equipment, we need all the protection God gives us to protect us.

Peace,
Julie+



Zoom Public Forum. TONIGHT!

How can we lead our next generation into a greater and more equitable future? What do students need in order to access accurate historical information?

Join us in person or via zoom at 7:00.

A local activist, Tanisha Long will help us understand how we become a more socially aware society, beginning with teaching young students, as the way children approach the world is often shaped by early learnings in the classroom. Ms. Long will discuss education access, critical race theory and the long-term effects of systemic racism on students of color.

Ms. Long is the founder of Black Lives Matter-Pittsburgh as well as Re Visions, a non-profit focused on creating a fair learning environment and broadening our understanding about the long-lasting effects of inadequate education.

To register, email stbrendanskatie@gmail.com. This Public Forum is sponsored by St. Brendan's and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills.

CRIES Advocacy (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), donates 10% of our pledged income. This week we are supporting the work of Sheldon Calvary Camp. Camps are now open and will begin accepting applications April 5th.

The next CRIES Advocacy meeting will be **Sunday, September 19, 2021** in the Library following the 10:00 service.



A donation to the Brendan's Family and Friends (BFF) fund is the perfect way to honor a special day or loved one while supporting unbudgeted building needs of our church. BFF funds have been used to purchase various items.

Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor. Contact Katie if you are interested in making a donation. stbrendanskatie@gmail.com.



Hospitality Hour Volunteers Needed! St. Brendan's has re-instituted Hospitality Hour! We are therefore looking for individuals, couples or families who plan to be at church for the 10:00 Sunday Eucharist in the coming weeks and would be willing to host. This is not a big deal. Numbers are modest at the moment (perhaps 25 people) and we urge you to keep the refreshments simple (coffee or lemonade, doughnuts or cookies). You can set up outdoors if the weather is nice or in the Social Hall if it is not. To volunteer, contact Katie.

(stbrendanskatie@gmail.com).



Brendan's Boots, the parish hiking group, will hit the trail at Fall Run Park in Shaler on Tuesday, Aug. 31. The shady, wooded gorge contains a stream and a 30-foot waterfall. Participants will meet at the church at 9 a.m. and carpool to the park. After the walk, the group will enjoy lunch at Bonefish Grill at McCandless Crossing. Everyone is welcome; feel free to bring a friend. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Waseleski (twaseleski@comcast.net).



Come join us on Wednesday, **August 25 at 7 pm** in the chapel for the monthly **Taizé/Evening Prayer service**. If you haven't attended this before, it is a quiet service based on Evening Prayer that includes Taizé music, silent meditation and reflection time, and communion following the service. It is a perfect way to insert a little peace into the middle of your busy week! (Last month we had 17 attendees.)



St. Brendan's Adopt-a-Highway crew will hold its next trash pickup on **Saturday, Sept. 4**. Anyone age 14 and up may take part by meeting at the church at 8:30 a.m. and carpooling to the Camp Horne interchange of I-279 in Ohio Township. The cleanup is over by 10:45 a.m. Please contact Tom Waseleski (twaseleski@comcast.net) if you'd like to help.

Senior Warden's Corner

You may or may not remember this, but back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, American Express adopted the tag line, Membership has its privileges. Their distinctive green card and "travelers' checks" with the corporate logo of a Roman centurion's head were distinctive – and accepted internationally in a way that Visa and Mastercard would not match for another decade. Membership alone, the company implied, conveyed prestige and financial probity.

I never held an AmEx card.

But I do have a "Triple A" card in my wallet. In fact, as the card reveals, I have been a member of that organization since 1986. Privileges? Well, back in the days before the internet transformed road travel, I did order a couple of AAA Trip Tiks – turn-by-turn instructions for long car journeys with useful advice about what to see and do along the way. But today, Meg and I retain our AAA membership primarily as insurance against breakdowns and accidents. Luckily, we've only had to use it that way once – on a frigid winter's night when our car, which had been parked for several days at the airport, refused to start.

So what does being a member of St. Brendan's mean for you? Is it a matter of social status? Some churches are like that, but I doubt that social climbers will find much traction in our community. Does it represent a safety net in times of difficulty? I hope so, though I hope too that we can offer our members spiritual enrichment and opportunities for service at all ages and stages of their lives. Does a St. Brendan's membership carry responsibilities as well as privileges – and, if so, what responsibilities might those be? These are questions worth pondering as we work our way through the process of discernment that will lead us in due course to call a new priest-in-charge.

Tim Austin

On behalf of the Transition Committee, we'd like to ask your help in distributing this Invitation link to all members of your parish to a farewell party on **Saturday, August 28, for Bishop Dorsey & Betsy McConnell.**

At the Bishop's request, we are holding a Pig Roast (with other foods, too) at Christ Church, North Hills, on Saturday the 28th from 4 pm to 7 pm. Friends are invited to drop by for as little or as long as they wish, and there is no charge for this event. We hope you will attend and your parish will be well-represented! And kids, of course, are welcomed!

Here's the link to the invitation: <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/a-pig-roast-and-more/>

We look forward to having a wonderful time, rain or shine (yes, we have tents). If you have any questions at all, feel free to reach out to us.



Requested Prayers:

We ask your prayers for our beloved members of St. Brendan's, especially; Rosie and Rodge Wood, Larry Tarrant, Matthew, Karen Peters, Mark Shoemaker, Larry Toler and Mark Kinley.

For our parents, especially; Sandy Martin, Ray Militzer, Naomi Getty and Lenora.

For our family members, especially; Mike Dixon, Jennifer Archer, John Barie, Chris Sensenich, Linda Ahlbrand, Steve Parsons, Marie Hazelton, Patrick Schantz, Tom Groves, Nathan Schlumpf, Bob Keihl, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Tony Mascaro, Shari Mancini, Becky Horton, Dave Frazier, Jane Young, Sherri Hilbert, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.



August 2021 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Nursery	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
August 1 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ellen Groves 1 st Dean Peters 2 nd AJ McKenna P Kate Heston	Dottie Antonucci Shari Tarrant	~	~	Eric Helmsen Michael Donadee	Donna Aiello	Linda Limberis
August 4 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
August 8 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Charlotte Pierce 1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd Donna Aiello (virtual) P Mary Bertucci	Sylvia Affleck Libby Juel	~	~	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Tim Austin	LuAnn Aldridge
August 11 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
August 15 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Sylvia Affleck 1 st Tim Austin 2 nd Tony Turo (virtual) P Tony Turo	Ellen Groves Janice Moore	~	~	John Appledorn Kate Heston	Cameron Grosh	Linda Limberis
August 18 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
August 22 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st Nate Boyd 2 nd Linda Limberis (virtual) P John Appledorn	Tammy Spoonhoward Anelisa Tarrant	~	~	Tim Austin Donna Aiello	Janice Moore	Megan Overby Tim Austin
August 25 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
August 29 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday, 5th	8 George Snyder 1 st 2 nd P	Joan Klinefelter Phoebe Juel	~	~	~	Larry Toler	Kathy & Dave Miller



September 2021 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Nursery	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
September 1 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
September 5 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Joan Beatrous 1 st John Appledorn 2 nd Alan Schneider P Linda Limberis <i>Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Joan Klinefelter 10 Shari Tarrant	~	~	Tim Austin Michael Donadee	Larry Toler	Need volunteer
September 8 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
September 12 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Nancy Snyder 1 st Mary Bertucci 2 nd Annemarie Malbon P Kate Heston <i>Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 10 Libby Juel	~	~	Dale & Anthony Bertucci	Cameron Grosh	Kate & Keith Heston
September 15 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
September 19 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Sylvia Affleck 1 st Tim Austin 2 nd Kate Heston P Tony Turo <i>Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Ellen Groves 10 Anelisa Tarrant	~	~	Donna Aiello John Appledorn	Janice Moore	Need volunteer
September 22 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~
September 26 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday, 4th	8 Charlotte Pierce 1 st (Children) 2 nd (Children) P (Children) <i>Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Sylvia Affleck 10 Kathy Miller	~	~	Allyson Baierl Eric Helmsen	Donna Aiello	Need Volunteer
September 29 Wednesday 7:00 pm	~	Darrell Johnson	~	~	~	~	~



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
Worship: Cameron Grosh
Treasurer: Ellen Groves
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Botti

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

Acolytes: Anelisa Tarrant
Altar Guild: Anelisa Tarrant
Flower Ministry: Libby Juel
Sylvia Affleck
Scheduler: Kelli Cerra
Ushers: Eric Helmsen

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Chris Botti
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
Annemarie Malbon

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
ESL: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Linda Schneider
Garden of Hope: Open
Justice Ministry: Ginny Volponi
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 8:00-3:00

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