



Sunday, January 2, 2022

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Bill Pugliese

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
 - 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
 - Varying office hours, call ahead
 - 11:00 am Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976791143?pwd=NnN0cW5xSFVFMmk1VlFBcVJia05LQT09>
 - 4:00 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
 - 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**
- Varying office hours, call ahead
 - 3:00 pm Deacon hours
 - 7:00 pm Evening Service, in person
- Friday**
- Varying office hours, call ahead

The Priest's Corner

ONE SMALL CANDLE

The turn of the year is a time both for looking back and reflecting ahead. When we look back at the past, we realize that we could have done things differently, should have, in fact, that mistakes were made but there were a myriad of successes as well. While we may revel in our triumphs and regret our tragedies, we also realize that the past is passed and cannot be undone and that only the future is in our hands.

What that future will be like will only be known when it is past, when it can be viewed from the perspective of the present, just as we now reflect on the past of last year that was our future when that year began. As we reflect back, we wonder if we made a difference in the world, if what we did really mattered. As we look ahead, we ask ourselves the same question: will my life matter? Will I make a difference?

The late scholar Sir James Dowling, who did make a difference in the world in his time, when he was 90 and looked back on his life, came to this conclusion: "When you're young, you think you're going to reform the world, that you're going to make a great impression. When you get old, you realize that, at best, you have only lit one small candle." You also realize, if you think about it, that one small candle can light a very, very dark room.

We light candles, you and I, by the way we live our lives. They are small candles, to be sure. But without our candle being lit, the world would be darker. To discount our light would be wrong and it would diminish us as a person. No one is unimportant. Everyone has a candle to light. The reason we were born, the reason God created us, was to give light to the world. And as Jesus said, that light of ours is not to be hidden under a bushel basket but to be placed on a stand to give light to those around us. That's parabolic language to be sure but it is also the truth.

At this time of year we often make resolutions about doing things differently, living life better, making changes in our life that need to be made but won't come easily. More often than not we bite off more than we can chew and wind up giving up or settling for much less than we could or should. That may be human nature but it is also no excuse. What we often end up doing is nothing: no reflections on the past, no thoughts about what lies ahead, just living from day to day.

What we cannot not do is snuff out the candle. We light the way, whatever that way may be, good or bad, wherever it leads, because doing so comes with the territory of being human. There is no way around it. And even though our light may not be very bright, even though we may be embarrassed because of where it is going and what others saw us doing, we are a candle in the world.

If for this year we resolve to do nothing else, perhaps what we can do, perhaps what we should do, is simply, each morning of each day, remind ourselves that we are a candle, one small candle, yes, but one candle that God has put on this earth to light the way for others. We won't make a great impression, but we will make a difference.

Bill



A BFF donation was given in celebration of the New Year 2022, as we look forward to a better year for St. Brendan's and the end of Covid, from Carol Meese.

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.

Save the Date for the Annual Parish meeting, Sunday January 30th.

We are planning to combine services that day, and it will be at 9:00 a.m. All ministry leaders are asked to provide a brief summary of their ministry for 2021. Please submit your report to Katie by **Monday January 10th**. **Please note**, this date was changed.

Children's Corner

Do you still remember Christmas?



Happy New Year! I mean the calendar new year, not the church new year. I hope your celebrations were happy and full of new memories, and a lot of good food. And maybe quiet, and smaller than you were used to, but hopefully next Christmas will be just as wonderful or maybe even more wonderful.

So, let's take a minute – what did you get for Christmas this year? When I was in school, one thing I wanted was some time away from school but by this time in my vacation, I was ready to go back. I bet you are too. So, do you remember opening presents on Christmas morning (or Christmas Eve or when you open your presents)? What was your favorite present? Are you still playing with it or wearing it or have you forgotten it already?

Do you think you will still be playing with that present next month? By the summer? Next year? OR will you want a new something bright and shiny? What about those clothes you may have got? Do you think you will still be able to wear them next winter or will you be taller? Or just bigger?

There's one thing I've learned about Christmas gifts. No matter how much you enjoy receiving them, they just don't last forever. If you got nice, new clothes, eventually they'll wear out, go out of style, or you'll outgrow them. Even if you got a fun toy you really enjoy, eventually it could break or you'll grow tired of it. Maybe you got candy in your stocking, but when you eat it, it's gone.

What our Christmas Readings (both Christmas I and II) last week and this week tell us is what our REAL present is, every year for Christmas we get JESUS. We get the baby Jesus as our real Christmas present. When we become the children of God, we have all of the rights and privileges of being His child. God will love us, protect us, and provide everything that we need. The best part is that it never ends. In Psalm 23:6, the Bible says that kindness and love will be with us every day of our life and we will live forever in God's house.



I enjoy giving and receiving gifts at Christmas, but I think it's important to remember the greatest gift of all was God's gift to us. It's the gift that keeps on giving!

Jesus' birth makes us all brothers and sisters. He is always with us. And this is a present we can't outgrow, doesn't need batteries, we can't exchange, or we won't forget it. This present never goes out of style and it is something we will have for the rest of our lives. Every year.

Peace,
Julie+



We celebrate the **January Birthdays** of:

2 Gail Gagnon	5 Mary Bertucci	4 Meghan Thompson	6 Jacob Konley
6 Matthew Wunsche	8 Linda Konley	9 Kelli Cerra	12 Donna Aiello
13 Shellie Hipsky	15 Eleanora Byrne	16 Sharon Basehore	16 Janice Moore
19 Zoe Boyd	21 Rob Latta	26 Ginny Volponi	29 Sherri Angeletti
30 Andrew Helmsen			

Please use this link for the **Parish Directory** and book mark it as the directory is updated often!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_NkE3ZP4ngPHe5j0TL1eeJzITMGA9G1Y/view.



PUBLIC FORUMS ARE BACK!

Native Americans: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow -- Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Our speaker, Michael Simms, will address the culture, traditions and challenges of Native Americans in a Q&A Format. Mr. Simms is part of the Upper Cumberland Cherokee and Seminole tribes. He has lived in Pittsburgh his entire life as an active member of the American Indian Center and has been Pow Wow coordinator for the past 11 years. His commitment is to keep Native American traditions alive by sharing them through speaking, dancing and educating the next generation. Come prepared with your questions!

Send an email to Katie at StBrendansKatie@gmail.com and tell her of your interest. You'll find more information at stbrendans.org. You won't want to miss this one!

This Forum is sponsored by St. Brendan's, in conjunction with the other members of Faith in Action (Universal Unitarians of the North Hills and Trinity Lutheran Church).

Senior Warden's Corner

Speaking with NPR recently, Dr. Leana Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University, suggested that living in this COVID world is simpler if we learn to base our decisions about what to do and where to go on a broader personal "risk budget." Much as in household budgeting, she said, risk budgeting depends on balancing available resources with potential costs. Younger individuals, for example, start out with more on the positive side of the ledger; those with compromised immune systems, through no fault of their own, have less. Getting vaccinations and boosters for oneself and one's family members adds valuable deposits to one's balance, as do practices like picking up one's groceries curbside and double-masking. Against such resources, one then draws judiciously, taking a few risks in areas of life where other important factors come into play: taking a trip to see family members, eating out with a friend, attending a church service. Each individual will have her or his own tolerance for such risks and her or his own approach to weighing them against the potential benefits they make possible.

The NPR story went on to observe that "part of the difficulty in creating your own [risk] budget, ... is that humans aren't particularly good at calculating risk when things are in flux." Unfortunately, "things" have been "in flux" for two years now, and the Omicron variant has added a new twist in just the last month or so. In the face of such constant uncertainty, it would be understandable if we were to throw up our hands in resignation (to toss out the risk budget we had developed, if you like). But we need to be more thoughtful than that if we can, more intentional. Some Brendanites will feel that they must reassess their willingness to attend services in person, that they must seek substitutes to fill in on Sundays when they had offered to be a greeter or an usher. (Full disclosure: I am one of those Brendanites.) Others will find they have been exposed to the virus and need to quarantine.

Through it all, St. Brendan's must develop its own parish risk budget. Our Reopening Committee has set a meeting for next week and the Vestry will hold its regular monthly meeting a few days later. Please keep both of these groups in your prayers as we seek to make prudent judgments about how to maintain our community's faith life in a New Year that will likely bring further twists and turns in the road.

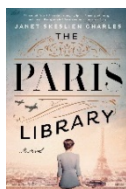
Tim Austin

WANTED: Rentals Supervisor. This individual fields inquiries from folks who are looking to rent our facilities and answers their questions concerning availability, capacity, cost etc. Then, following St. Brendan's well documented policies and working with the Parish Administrator, she or he sees that the renter receives the appropriate forms and works with the renter to complete the process. George Snyder estimates that these tasks may require four hours per week, though this does fluctuate from one season to another. George has said that he will be available to train his successor.

WANTED: Scholarship Committee Chair. For 25 years, St. Brendan's has offered modest scholarships to teenagers in the parish who are pursuing higher education. The fund currently has a balance of a little under \$10,000 and most recently made awards worth about \$300 each. The bulk of the work for the Committee Chair falls in the Spring, when applications need to be solicited, received and reviewed. The current Chair is Tom Waseleski, who will be happy to brief his successor on the history and logistics of the fund.



Stewardship 2022. The end of the year is quickly approaching, and our Stewardship campaign will soon come to an end. Although we have many footsteps filling our path, we're still short of our goal of 100 pledges. We have received 68 pledges to date. In order to plan for our 2022 programs, we need to know how much support we can count on. If you haven't already sent in your pledge, please consider what St. Brendan's means to you and commit to walking in love with us. Can we add your footsteps to our path? Email Katie, and let her know your intentions StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.



Book Club News: The St. Brendan's Book Club meets regularly at 7 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings are typically held in the church library. At our next meeting on **January 6th**, we will be discussing, "The Paris Library" by Janet Skeslien Charles. Based on the true World War II story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris, this is an unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family, and the power of literature to bring us together. Sounds like the perfect book club selection! Hope you can join us. Please feel free to contact Chris Botti at shadypatch@msn.com if you have any questions. Thank you!

WANTED: Memorial Garden Coordinator. Just outside the Chapel doors, you will find our Memorial Garden, in which parishioners are welcome to arrange for their cremains to be interred. Maintaining the Garden (mowing, trimming, etc.), working with potential purchasers, and ultimately managing interments fall to a small committee for which we are seeking a Coordinator to succeed Bill Spoonhoward and Dan Moore. The maintenance work is seasonal, while other functions may occur at any time.

**CRIS
Advocacy**

CRIS Advocacy, (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), meets monthly on the third Sunday in the library after the 10:00 a.m. service where they determine the distribution of St. Brendan's 10% tithe of our pledged income. This week we are praying for the work of Episcopal Relief and Development. An Episcopal response to natural disasters. **The next meeting is January 16th, 2022.**

Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

Trinity Talks: **Violence as a Public Health Issue**

Thursday, January 13, 6:30–7:45pm | Free with [registration](#). In-person at Trinity Church and streaming online.

Join the Rev. Phil Jackson in a discussion with Dr. Rob Gore, founder and executive director of Kings Against Violence (KAVI), about violence as an endemic public health issue, particularly in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, greatly impacting children and teenagers. [Learn more and register](#).



Requested Prayers

For our beloved members of St. Brendan's, especially; Karen Dennis, Charlotte Pierce, Larry Toler, Alice Butterworth, Sandy Nagy, Rosie and Rodge Wood, Matthew, Mark Shoemaker and Larry Tarrant.

For our parents, especially; Kenneth and Adele McCormack, Sandy Martin, Ray Miltzer, Naomi Getty and Lenora.

For our family members, especially; Lizzie and Aunt Lisa, Anna Botti, Bob and Lisa Berkebile, Sue Burchill, Linda and Callie Ahlbrand, Mike Dixon, Raphael Walton, John Barie, Chris Sensenich, Marie Hazelton, Tom Groves, Nathan Schlumpf, Bob Keihl, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Jim Blackburn, Bill Phelps, The White family, Dennis Ranalli, Becky Horton, Sherri Hilbert, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.

We pray for all who have died, especially Ryan Berkebile and Matthew Berkebile.



January 2022 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Greeters	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
January 2 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ellen Groves 1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd Donna Aiello P Linda Limberis <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Ellen Groves Libby Juel	n/a	Kathy Miller Dave Miller Wesley Bell	Tim Austin Donna Aiello	Ron Ladick	Need volunteer
January 5 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 9 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Nancy Snyder 1 st Tim Austin 2 nd Marilyn Mulvihill P Dean Peters <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Joan Klinefelter Shari Tarrant	n/a	Toni Passarello Saundy Waseleski Tom Waseleski	John Appledorn Allyson Baierl	Janice Moore	Need volunteer
January 12 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 16 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Sylvia Affleck 1 st Dean Peters 2 nd Annemarie Malbon P Tony Turo <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Sylvia Affleck Janice Moore	n/a	Donna Aiello Sharon Hlawati Dean Peters	Michael Donadee Kate Heston	Larry Toler	Need volunteer
January 19 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 23 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Joan Beatrous 1 st John Appledorn 2 nd Kate Heston P Marilyn Mulvihill <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Tammy Spoonhoward Phoebe Juel	n/a	Joyce Donadee Megan Overby Tim Austin	Eric Helmsen Mike Wick	Ron Ladick	Need volunteer
January 26 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 30 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday, 5th	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st Children 2 nd Children P Children <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Sylvia Affleck Libby Juel	n/a	Toni Passarello Annemarie Malbon Wesley Bell	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Mary Bertucci	Need volunteer

