



This Week at St. Brendan's

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship, via live streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXIqMoVc_nXXG7ew

Monday 8:30 a.m. Daily Morning Prayer

Zoom ID # website https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4796201105

11:00 a.m. Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom

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 11:00 a.m. Bible Study, via zoom

Saturday 9:00 a.m. Sacristans

Sunday, May 17, 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

Reopening the Church

Let me start by saying two things.

- 1) I believe this to be the most important Priest Corner I will write.
- 2) I firmly believe that all of you will comply, most energetically endorse, all the safety steps our church decides to take.

Let's start with the basics. Will I be here to support you in the reopening process of the church during this pandemic? Let me be frank: for me to continue on as your priest and be your spiritual shepherd through the reopening of the church, this week's Priest's and Warden's Corners and the next several are **must-reads**. We are at the most important crossroads of our lifetime, and we have to get this right. These last several quarantine-like weeks have gotten me to re-evaluate many core issues, and one of them is whether or not I am the right person to spiritually lead, pastorally shepherd and appropriately upbuild and empower the people of St. Brendan's during this "make or break" process.

My discernment group's and my own perception so far has me more convinced than less convinced that I could be that leader. I know I'm up for the challenge and willing to do my best for St. Brendan's as long as it takes to get us through this crisis and reopened, and I view this as perhaps the most important job of my lifetime. I don't believe, though, that I can work with and for people who do not share, or are at least open to, my convictions about how serious this crisis is and how important it is for us to get our reopening right.

This article includes many of the basic methodologies and precautionary actions that we must take, like wearing masks, observing social distancing of 10 feet, sanitizing, accepting our new approach to receiving communion, live streaming and email blast communications, whether or not we congregationally sing, etc. (I won't engage in arguments around these basics, nor will I listen to complaints about St. Brendan's or issues like hymn choices and the length of the service. We are in survival mode; that luxury is gone. There will be a time for this later, BUT NOT NOW!) So, I'm willing to participate in and will apply 100% of my energy to the reopening of St. Brendan's if you share this sense of urgency. And like all things Episcopal, as long as we keep talking about confusing areas and keep seeking understanding, we will be fine.

You might be getting the sense that this is a "line in the sand" kind of moment. IT IS! Now, some of the things we know clearly from the vestry meeting on Monday regarding the reopening process follow. We will, at a minimum, follow the guidelines and use the terminology of the state. St. Brendan's will likely be even more cautious. Tomorrow our state enters the "yellow" phase. Yellow phase means "somewhere between full lock-down and fully reopened." Gatherings of no more than 25 people are allowed. Masks and social distancing are required. Appropriate cleaning of public spaces before and after use is required. The state says, "People who can work from home must continue where feasible." Worship from home (live streaming of our services) will, therefore, be available even when we start to gradually reopen the church for public worship. Zoom conferencing of our meetings, Bible Studies, specialty groups (like Modern Episcopalians) will remain in place. A gradual opening of limited-numbered, socially distancing, masked participants will come first and likely will exist as the only approved gathering at St. Brendan's for a while. Gathering for limited public worship does not guarantee gathering for other groups at St. Brendan's, which will remain Zoom conferences until an intentional decision is made to do otherwise sometime down the road. Likewise, we will, at a minimum, follow all the guidelines of the Diocese's Emergency Preparedness & Response Committee and the Bishop. You can find these at this link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15avR24dGJCTOzuZsvI0m6 DMiuINE5Xz/view?usp=sharing

Some of the overarching considerations from this guide are these: distancing, the wearing of face masks and focused attention and planning regarding the "danger to vulnerable populations." The document outlines approaches to "deep clean" the whole church prior to reopening and signage that clarifies the practices of no handshaking or hugging, how to enter the church/nave, how to move around and how to exit. Signs will indicate the areas of the church that are off limits. Restroom protocols, personal hygiene, live streaming, multiple services, etc. are wonderfully explained and exemplified in the guidelines. Please take time to download and read this outstanding article. There's a section within the document about how we now ought to communicate and other activities beyond public worship. In subsequent Priest and Warden Corners, these issues will be discussed in full.

As I said, we will comply with all the above guidelines from the state and diocese--and this compliance is "at a minimum." In other words, these we will absolutely do and we will add even more precautions where we deem it necessary. NOW! THIS NEXT PART IS VERY IMPORTANT: The vestry has assembled a committee of vestry members and congregants to take the lead in customizing St. Brendan's added and unique precautionary requirements. I as Priest and Tim as Senior Warden are ex-officio members of this committee which comprises seven others (who have been intentionally chosen for reasons of position, profession, personality, knowledge, connectedness, etc.). I ask these individuals to do everything in their power to say "Yes!" to this request for committee membership. You have not been nominated for this task without a lot of discussion and prayer. We need you to help St. Brendan's answer **Seven Questions** before we reopen for public worship, even in a minimal way.

The **Seven Questions** were developed by the Diocesan Preparedness Committee and the bishop. Every church in the diocese needs to thoroughly think these questions through and to consult with as many of the parishioners and newcomers as possible in fashioning the practical answers. These will be discussed and critiqued and nuanced and tested by people in the church, concluded and written out and then presented to the Preparedness Committee and the bishop, who will then present their own concerns and make suggestions for improvement. The bishop will discuss these at length with the priest and senior warden before we move forward with reopening. Here's where Brendanites get to customize what will make them feel safe to return to public worship at our church.

Serious business, isn't it? Tim (Tim is the co-chair of the diocese's Emergency Preparedness & Response Committee, so we are doubly blessed to have him as our senior warden.) and I will have a lot to say in future Corners about a lot of these elements. You've probably noticed that within this pandemic, issues and concerns have ways of *turning on a dime* depending on new emerging understandings and knowledge. There's a need for resilience and openness as we gain a handle on this virus and unmask it. This is why you must stay tuned and keep current with what's happening and what we are doing. Here's a factor we must all get into our core. You are not only responsible for keeping yourself and those close to you safe and healthy, but what you do or what you don't do has a direct impact on my life and every other Brendanite. You have no ethical, moral choice other than to be on the same page as St. Brendan's is if you are to be a Brendanite going forward. It is a matter of life or death. What we do now will determine the future of this wonderful, holy, life-giving, accepting and inclusive, welcoming, God-loving, 32-year-old community of God's people-the Church: Saint Brendan's of Franklin Park.

Respectfully submitted, Regis+

Announcements

Vestry Meeting. The Vestry held its monthly meeting—using Zoom, of course—on Monday, May 11. We discussed the challenges that will confront St. Brendan's as we plan when and how to reopen our church for public worship, and we reviewed the parish's financial situation at this point, four months into the fiscal year. Both of these topics are important, and you will be hearing more about them in the coming weeks. Other issues that we considered included equipment we will need to purchase as we transition to streaming services with a congregation in the seats; some guidelines to assist Fr. Regis when he is considering requests for financial assistance from parishioners; possible formats for a Vacation Bible School experience for our children; and concerns about the health of the magnificent tree at the south end of our building that was struck by lightning last year.



Do you speak a second language?

We are looking for readers who speak languages other than English to participate in our virtual Pentecost Sunday service on May 31. It's easy, you will record the short reading in another language from your own home, and it will take only 5-10 minutes of your time. We would love to hear from you if you can help! Just give your name to Katie at St. Brendan's 412-364-5974 or stbrendanskatie@gmail.com. Thank you!



Have some sewing skills and extra fabric? The pastoral care team is sponsoring a project to deliver face masks to essential personnel. If you're interested, this is a link to a video and instructions on how to make them.

https://www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern/?pid=1257#picgallery Once you have made a few, let us know and we'll arrange to pick them up from your home and make sure they go where needed. Contact Ruth Horton at rvhorton@gmail.com with any questions or when you have completed a few.

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 Ann Hockenberry Beth Lutz Hoffman Eric Hood John Jacobs and staff Lynne Gloor

Kerri Jensen Dr. Ken Luke O'Neill Kim Pierce Becca Sands Warren Sands Andrew Smith Justin Zeigler Cindy Jennifer

Julie Lane 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 would like to help with meeting the needs of our community and neighbors. If you have medical equipment, especially **pulse oximeters**, that you might make available, please consider donating. The item would need to be wiped with a disinfecting medium, such as a Clorox wipe, and packaged in a plastic bag. Contact me if you can help with this. Thank you! Regis

Senior Warden's Corner

As I reflect on all that has happened in our lives during the past three months, I am reminded of a line from Tennyson's poem "Ulysses": "Though much is taken, much abides."

COVID-19 has changed our lives in so many ways. Most of us don't travel—not far anyway, and not often. We garden more and bake more bread, apparently. Inevitably we socialize less. And we have a heightened sense of what were once unimportant things—the unmasked teenagers on the sidewalk ahead of us, the surfaces we touch, the common household items we can or cannot find on Amazon. One of the most important changes for many Brendanites has been the way in which we worship each Sunday. We miss the hugs and handshakes during the Peace. We long to feel the warmth of the sun streaming through the south window (dazzling those on the right side of the aisle). And at the end of the service, we listen in vain for Dean's third "Alleluia!" from the back door.

But most of us have adapted to the live streams well. Meg and I watch with our cat stretched across our laps; others have reported "attending church" in their pajamas or while nursing a second cup of coffee. And we need to notice, too, that by no means everything at and about church has changed. Adapting the familiar Episcopal liturgy for today's technology, our team (Regis and Julie, Sean and Daniel, Cameron, Ken and Colette) has helped us to find continuity even though so much is in flux. Katie, Ellen and Roger answer the phones, open the mail and pay our bills. The Modern Episcopalian Group, the Bible Study Group, and the ESL classes meet on Zoom just as they did before in person.

What also remains unaltered is St. Brendan's financial reliance on donations from our members and from visitors. (We have other revenue streams too, but these have largely dried up during the lockdown.) Earlier this week, those who sent in pledge cards in the fall should have received a first quarter statement from the Church Office. If you find you have fallen behind, please consider whether your financial situation will allow you to catch up and then keep pace with your commitment. If instead you normally give by dropping a bill or a check in the collection plate, please take the opportunity to send us a contribution in the mail or use Tithe-ly to give online. (See the GIVE tab on our Web page, http://www.stbrendans.org.) The Vestry will be exploring other ways to fundraise and will make sure that we spend our budget wisely. But all that we most value about St. Brendan's depends on the continued generous, prayerful support of its members—and that remains as true today as it did before COVID-19 came along to disrupt our lives.

Sr. Warden, Tim Austin



Do you have a special prayer request? Contact Ruth Horton. 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.



NEW VOTER REFORM LAWS UPDATE. As many of you are aware, the upcoming Pennsylvania primary has been rescheduled for June 2. STOP THE SPREAD AND REGISTER TO VOTE BY MAIL: Anyone can sign up to vote by mail as long as you are already a registered voter – no reason necessary. Just go to <u>VOTESPA.COM</u>, click on "Other Links", then "Votes PA" and you can register right there. The county must receive your application May 26 at 5 p.m. Deadline to register to vote in PA is May 18. If you are not registered and want to be able to vote, or for more information on the latest improvements, visit <u>VOTESPA.COM</u>. For more information on the candidates, visit <u>VOTE411.ORG</u> starting about three weeks before each election

We have all seen the long lines of people at food distributions during this pandemic. This crisis has revealed much about our country, including that many people live paycheck to paycheck and are suffering from food insecurity. Plainly put: People are going hungry. We have another opportunity to perform one of the corporal works of mercy, to feed the hungry. Christ Lutheran Church, in Millvale, is in a working-class community, where many are going hungry. They have stepped up and are giving out grocery cards to people in need. If you can donate anything to help feed the hungry, please go to www.clcmillvale.com select the fund "COVID 19-Gift Card Donation. You can also mail a check made payable to Christ Lutheran Church Millvale, 917 Evergreen Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15209. Thank you for caring for those in need during this difficult time.

Join our Hallelujah Choir! In our Sunday, April 19, service we featured a video of many folks singing a joyful song called "Halle Hallelujah." We are inviting as many members of St. Brendan's (along with their friends and family) to do an individual video and send it to St. Brendan's. Each new video will be added to the main video each week. Eventually we hope to have over 100 people singing "Halle Hallelujah" together! It should be a fun way to spice up our weekly streaming service. Get more details and download the audio file here. https://www.stbrendans.org/hallehallelujah.

Kid's Corner

Buoyed by Faith

This week's Bible lesson is a resolution to last week's cliff hanger. Do you know what a cliff hanger is? It's a term we use when a whole story seems to be finished and just when we think everything is fine, a twist to the story happens and we have to wait until the next week, or the next story, comes to know how it turns out.

Since March 15, we have been living a kind of cliff hanger ourselves. With the church and then everything closing, we didn't know when we would be together again. Then as things look to be getting better, we start to hope and think that we may open and be together again soon.

But, and here comes another cliff, not so fast. We want to take every possible care that when we open, we are all going to be well and stay well. So that means taking a little bit more time, it means doing some things differently, and it means when do are back together, we can be safe, not get each other or ourselves sick, and it may mean fewer people together in new and different ways than before. It also means a lot of people are planning and preparing the church for us to be back together again.

In some ways, this is exactly what the gospel is about these last few weeks. A cliff hanger, some solutions, some questions, and a lot of unknowns. Last week, Jesus told his disciples, don't worry, "I am going to prepare a place for you, but I will come again, and when I do, you will come and be with me."

Just like the disciples didn't know when Jesus would be back, we don't know when we will be together again. So this week, Jesus tries (again) to explain to them what he means. But because they are worried about his leaving them again, he promises to ask God to send a helper. Jesus said, "I will ask the Father to send a helper who will never leave you."

That helper is the Holy Spirit (think about the Creed we say every week – we believe in God the Father, his only Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit). Jesus asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit to live in us and help us to follow Jesus and obey his teachings. Then Jesus said, "You know him, because he is with you, and he will be in you."

So, what or who is the Holy Spirit? Even the smartest, most educated people have trouble understanding the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew this because he said, "The world can't accept it because they don't know him and they can't see him." But, we can see our helpers at St. Brendan's – people like Bishop Dorsey who is the head of this whole diocese, Father Regis, Tim Austin who chairs a diocese wide committee, and other people at church who are making sure when we reopen we are as prepared as we can be.

Sometimes, because we can't see the Holy Spirit, people look to people like you and me to know what it means to be a follower of Jesus. And do you know what they see? People see how we act and how we behave. When they see us sharing what we have with other people – by giving our time, or our treasure, or our talents – they see faith in action. So when we are generous, loving, caring, helpful, and kind, they see God.

I heard someone say once "You may be the only sermon some people will ever hear." That is what you and I need to remember. We are the sermon. And our examples, how we live, may be the only sermon some people will ever hear.

So what sermon are we preaching by our lives? Do you know where to even start? Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." What is it Jesus tell us to do? He said, "Love one another as I have loved you." And when others how knowing Jesus has changed the way we treat other people, then they will want to know him too.

Julie+

Monday, Wednesday, Friday between 10 am & 2 pm at North Hills Community Outreach Main office at 1975 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 is collecting donations.

Shopping carts will be placed outside the pantry, located behind the main building down the driveway. Please place the donated items into the shopping carts. Thank you.

Urgently needed items:

Plastic, paper and re-usable grocery bags.

Snacks such as granola bars, nutrigrain bars, and crackers.

Fruit juice

Canned mixed fruit (cocktail), peaches, pears, mandarin oranges

Canned carrots, potatoes, baked beans Spaghetti Sauce Side dishes such as; rice-a-roni and instant mashed potatoes Hamburger/tuna/chicken helper boxes Oatmeal

Also needed:

Toilet paper Gallon Ziplock bags Paper towels

Or you can mail a check to:
North Hills Community Outreach
1975 Ferguson Road
Allison Park, PA 15101



North Hills Food Pantry. During this time when we are unable to take donations into our church, the North Hills Food Bank is still in need of donations. Please consider making a monetary donation by sending a check payable to the North Hills Food Bank to the following address: North Hills Food Bank, 845 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15229. Thank you for your support.

Hospitality Hour Hosts/Hostesses

October 2019



October 2019

- 6 Melanie & Thaddeus Popovich
- 13 Dottie & Carl Antonucci
- 20 Kinley & Aretz families
- 27 Lauren Chappo and Becca Sands

November 2019

- 3 Brenna Conroy & Kristen Bailey
- 10 Melinda & Wesley Bell
- 17 Sheila Bigelow & Jim Roche
- 24 Church sign up (Appetizers)

December 2019

- 1 Choir
- 8 Brigid & Jim Christenson
- 15 Julie Smith & Colette Satler
- 22 Church sign up (appetizers)
- 29 Stacey Coyle and Andrea Dickerson

January 2020

- 5 Karen Dennis and Janet Fesq
- 12 Mary & Dale Bertucci
- 19 Joyce & Michael Donadee
- 26 Annual Meeting church sign up (soup)

February 2020

- 2 Donna Aiello & Sharon Hlawati
- 9 Chris & Roger Botti
- 16 Richard Gordon, Janice & Dan Moore
- 23 Anne Semmler and Cameron Grosh

March 2020

- 1 Janice & Dan Moore
- 8 Amy & Kevin Boyd
- 15 Eric Helmsen and Ken Parsons
- 22 open
- 29 Meghan & Robert Karn

April 2020

- 5 Cindy & Pete Larson
- 12 Hospitality Committee
- 19 Libby and Phoebe Juel
- 26 Stephanie Illsley & Justin Ziegler

May 2020

- 3 The Bertucci family
- 10 Parish Men, Mother's Day
- 17 Laureen & Todd Douds
- 24 Sharon & Ron Ladick
- 31 Linda & Jason Konley

June 2020

- 7 Marian & AJ McKenna Trish & Neil Galone
- 14 Annemarie Malbon and Joe Macklin
- 21 Erica & Mark McClure
- 28 Parish Picnic

July 2020

- 5 open, volunteer needed
- 12 Kate & Keith Heston
- 19 Volunteer needed
- 26 Joni Reis and Thaddeus Popovich

August 2020

- 2 Lauren & Ashwin Ramakrishna
- 9 Arlena & Bill Pugliese
- 16 Anne Semmler and Andrew Sprentz
- 23 Saundy & Tom Waseleski
- 30 AJ Turo, Rob & George Latta

September 2020

- 6 Nancy & George Snyder
- 13 Emmalynne & Michael Waseleski
- 20 Emily & Brad Zupancic
- 27 Janet Fesq and Chris Fleissner

Rev. 5-12-20



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.

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves English as a Second Language: Tim Austin

Joyce Donadee Linda Schneider

Garden of Hope: Tim Michael
Mirvam's: Julia Wick

Rob & George Latta

North Hills Food Bank Ministry: Larry Toler

Social Justice: Clair Grotevant

Marilyn Mulvihill

Under One Roof: Inactive

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: Dean Peters and Mary Bertucci

Outreach and Social Justice: Donna Aiello Safety & Security: Tim Austin

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: Sylvia Affleck

Libby Juel

Scheduler: Kelli Cerra Ushers: Eric Helmsen

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd

Book Club: Pat Carl

Brendan's Boots: Tom Waseleski

Dinner Group: Janice Moore Finance Chair: Eric Helmsen

Green Thumb Gang: Dan Moore

Historian: Ellen Groves

Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale: 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

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

Facebook ~ https://www.facebook.com/StBrendansEpiscopalChurch/

 $Next door \sim \underline{\text{https://franklinparkpittsburgh.nextdoor.com/pages/st-brendans-episcopal-church-}}$

sewickley-pa/recommend/

Priest, Regis Smolko ~ regisjs@verizon.net

Youth Education Director, Julie Smith ~ jlsphone1@gmail.com

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ stbrendans@comcast.net

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net

Nursery Director, Stephanie Illsley ~ st3phyy2011@gmail.com