



Pentecost

This Week at St. Brendan's

Sunday	(8-11)	8:00 a.m.	Worship in Outdoor Chapel
		10:00 a.m.	Worship
		11:15 a.m.	Hospitality Hour
Monday	(8-12)	11:00 a.m.	Be a Modern Episcopalian
		7:00 p.m.	Vestry meeting
Tuesday	(8-13)	7:00 a.m.	AA meeting
		12:30 p.m.	Tai Chi
		7:00 p.m.	Love ~ Teach ~ Heal
Wednesday	(8-14)	7:00 p.m.	Worship
		7:00 p.m.	Overeaters Anonymous
Saturday	(8-17)	9:00 a.m.	Sacristans

Serving Sunday, August 11, 2019

Celebrant:	The Rev. Regis Smolko
Lay Reader:	8:00 a.m. Charlotte Pierce
	10:00 a.m. Dean Peters
Acolyte:	Acolyte team
Prayers:	Alan Schneider
Chalice Bearers:	Janice Moore
Altar Guild:	Dean Peters
Sunday School:	Summer Break
Nursery:	Stacy Connifey & Silvia Bertucci
Ushers:	Terry Dezort & Brigid Christenson
Vestry:	Janice Moore
Hospitality:	Joan & Paul Klinefelter
LEM:	Stacey Coyle

The Priest's Corner

Guns and the Holy Spirit

The two topics of today's "Priest's Corner" seem far from connected, and it's likely wise not to try to make associations around connections today. The only way they are connected is that this week both subjects caused questions among some of our Brendanites. When this occurs, I feel obliged to start conversations. You know that in the Episcopal Church we sense we're on the right track as long as we're talking to each other. So I'd like to encourage calm, non-reactionary discussions around these two issues.

Here's the first — guns. A Brendanite told me she was talking to a family member and the oft-heard notion of banning machine gun conversion devices, such as bump-stocks, was the topic of conversation. As soon as she said this, her family member's reaction was, "That means then that only the bad guys will have them." In psychological interpretive application, this reactionary comment is a classic "conversation stopper" tactic. It often works; it stops conversations. And likely it's of little use to try re-focus the conversation back to a reasonable discussion about America's gun crisis. But I don't think you can just grow silent then; to do so, I believe, takes something away from you. Here's a suggestion, especially if you love your family member. You might attempt to get the conversation focused on the issue at hand. Point out that this tactic invites no further dialogue on the topic. Tell your loved one that you were wondering if that was his/her intention. At least this will give the human interaction some positive meaning and purpose. Who knows where this will lead?

The president said that "mental illness pulled the trigger, not the gun!" This again is a conversation stopper, but, of course, the president was not engaging in conversation with anyone. He was making a pronouncement. Thus, the above strategy does not apply. Since the presidential message was not dialogical, whereby you might have been able to preserve your views while perhaps influencing the other to consider your tilt on the matter, your best strategy is to receive or not receive the information with intentionality. Don't let such things exist in your hearing without your consent. Once you heard something, it got in. So with matters of such import, use intentionality to allow it in as truth or intentionally reject its entry into you as non-truth. Now if you have some responsibilities toward others (i.e., children) who are still learning how to filter, you best actively and intentionally guide this work for them as well. (One of the most important things my mother did for me when Sister said, "Protestants don't go to heaven!" was to say, "Regis, Sister isn't always right.") This has impacted my life in ways I cannot even begin to express. It may actually be one of the reasons why I'm your priest today.

Here are some things, I think, we kinda all know to be true. Mental illness cannot be, if indeed it has any part to play at all, a major player in pulling a trigger of a gun. Many other influences exist that are equally or even more responsible for trigger-pulling. For example, racism and racist inciting are at least equal causal agents for trigger pulling. Xenophobia is at least equal as a causal agent. White supremacist elevation and influence is at least as causal. And, lest we miss the elephant in the room, the guns have a causal relationship to this tragedy. Here's a fact for you: Australia, England and New Zealand have as much mental illness, if not

more than the United States. At the same time, they have a fraction of a percentage point of gun-related deaths compared to the USA. (Fact: During the Trump era there are more mass-gun-shooting events than days in a year!)

So, my dear friends, I'm not telling you what to believe or practice, but I am saying that with a crisis as huge and important as this one, we ought not be neutral when we hear stuff. Whatever place you land on this issue, make sure you have a say in it!

At our Social Justice meeting last night we learned about an organization that is receiving high ratings regarding a balanced approach around respecting the Second Amendment as well as encouraging "common sense" measures around gun violence prevention. If you'd like to sample this organization (Moms Demand Action) and decide if this might be helpful for your self education regarding this issue, Text COMMIT to 6444-33.

The second matter: Holy Spirit! A couple of our newer Brendanites were away and attended other Episcopal churches. In one of these, some words (pronouns) were tweaked. The Holy Spirit was referred to by the feminine pronoun, She. They had never heard of this before and wondered why the "experiment?" (I thought I'd make this a thought-provoker for the 10 o'clockers this Sunday – and this Sunday only, unless our conversations suggest differently. We're going to try out the alternative words and listen to where our dialogues go.)

You all, of course, know that assigning gender to God is limiting in the first place. God is not male, female or neutral. Our limited language seems to have forced a resorting to pronouns. It's curious that God the Father and Son have basically maintained a male identity. Just know that the Holy Spirit has received a mixed pronoun use over the ages. Our conversations, and I hope this experience, prompts some individual and communal research. Enjoy the process of deepening your understanding of God and Spirit.

Regis+

Announcements

Parish Notes. In case you missed it, the Rev. Dr. Julie Smith has been hired as St. Brendan's new youth ministry coordinator, as announced recently in church. She will be in charge of the parish's Sunday School and teen programs. She succeeds Allison Kline, who worked tirelessly as a parent volunteer to sustain and improve Christian formation for St. Brendan's youth. Please congratulate Julie on her new role with our children and thank Allison for her years of dedicated service.
–Senior Warden Tom Waseleski, twaseleski@comcast.net.



Have you ever questioned or been angry with God? Have you ever had friends give you advice when all you wanted was to have them sit with you and be with you in your pain and suffering? Job did as well. Starting soon, you'll have an opportunity to explore this experience in a safe environment with some of our trusted friends. STAY TUNED.



Stuffed shells with broccoli, chopped Italian salad, bread, and vanilla cake with fresh strawberries were on the menu for Miryam's this month. **Thank you** to Ken Parsons and Mike Wick for helping to prepare the meal and for Rob and George Latta for delivering.



A donation to the **Brendan's Family and Friend Fund** toward the social hall acoustic tiles was made by Sylvia Affleck in thanksgiving for St. Brendan's. A donation to the BFF is the perfect way to honor a special person or event. BFF funds are earmarked for unbudgeted building needs. Please pick up a BFF card in the narthex and make a donation today. Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor.



Conversation Friends, St. Brendan's ministry to those in the community who are looking for opportunities to improve their spoken English, is preparing to start up classes again after its usual summer hiatus. On Sunday, August 25, we will be holding an orientation for anyone who has volunteered in the past or would like to know more about ways to help with the program. The session will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the Social Hall and should last between 60 and 90 minutes.

You absolutely do not need to have had any previous experience in ESL tutoring to attend; we warmly welcome all who are interested.

Let's get St. Brendan's free money while shopping on line. It's simple! All you do is ...



- In your browser, search: Amazon Smile
- Sign in to **Amazon Smile** just like Amazon (email and password). Create a login, if you are new.
- After signing in, you will go to a screen where you select a Charitable Organization. Type in St. Brendan's and scroll to find St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Sewickley, Pa.
- Click on St. B's as your organization to get a 0.5% donation on every order you place.

Please tell family friends, co-workers and neighbors to think of St. Brendan's when they are shopping on Amazon by going to Amazon Smile.

We need old magazines with colorful pages, such as Better Homes and Gardens, for a **Sunday School craft**. Please drop them off in the narthex. Thank you.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Senior Choir: I am excited as I look out over all the new faces at St. Brendan's. You can feel the energy and excitement in the air. As we approach the beginning of the new program year I hope that some of you will consider joining our music ministry. Hold that thought – no, you don't have to read music or be musically trained. The only requirement is to love singing and the desire to help enrich our liturgy by enhancing our ways of hearing, praying and experiencing the message of our Lord.

Music has always been an important part of St. Brendan's, even in the early days when just a few people joined together to lead the hymns; now the effort has grown to our largest choir of 15 members. Over the last few years we have had multiple choir members move away and our numbers have dwindled. Having a larger choir takes the pressure off everyone; if someone is sick or wants to take time off to travel or be away, it is easier to carry on. Also, people feel more secure singing in a larger group, plus it truly is fun being a part of a large, active group.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., learning and reviewing two to three pieces of music. Rehearsal tapes can be provided, if needed. We then meet on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. to review the anthem and the hymns before the 10:00 o'clock service. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

I have begun to choose and work on the anthems we will be singing in September and October and I would love to be optimistic and pick pieces that require a larger group of singers. Please contact me and let me know if you are interested. I will be happy to talk with you about time commitments or any other questions you may have.

–Debbie Wunsche, 724-316-3505, dwunsche@yahoo.com.

Chime Choir: The Chime Choir will begin rehearsing in September. This is a multigenerational group for both youth and adults to work together; you must be at least 10 years old to join. It is helpful to read music but not mandatory.

We will be rehearsing on Sundays after church from 11:30 a.m. (about 10 to 15 minutes after the service ends, so everyone can grab coffee and a cookie) until 12:45 p.m. We will rehearse for 45 minutes, with the ending time impacted by the actual start time. Please contact me and let me know if you are interested in joining the chime choir and if you are able to read music.

–Debbie Wunsche, 724-316-3505, dwunsche@yahoo.com.



North Hills Food Pantry. For the month of August we are asking you to donate food items that can be used in school lunches. The North Hills Food Bank needs any kind of non-perishable food. Please remember, no glass jars. If you have any questions, contact Larry Toler, ldtoler@aol.com. Thank you for your support.



Easy Funds for St. Brendan's! You may not know it, but St. Brendan's earns 5% for each gift card that we sell! Basically, if you eat, you can raise funds for our church! It's easy! Just visit the vestry member who is selling gift cards in the narthex each Sunday after the 10 a.m. service, buy a gift card for Kuhn's and/or Giant Eagle, do your usual grocery shopping or gasoline pumping, then pay for it with the card purchased at St. Brendan's! Thanks for your support of the easiest fundraiser in town!



Sticks & Strings will not gather in August. However, the group will resume its second Thursday of the month meeting schedule in September. The next date will be Sept. 12 and everyone is welcome.

CRIS Advocacy. Christian Response In Emergency Situations meets monthly on the third Sunday in the library after the 10 a.m. service to determine distribution of the parish's outreach tithe each month. Each person present has an equal voice and vote on where the money goes.

This week we are praying for the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council (www.gplc.org), which helps adult and students acquire language, reading, math and computer skills. ESL is sponsored by the council. The next meeting will be **Sunday, Aug. 18**. All are welcome.



Used ink cartridges

St. Brendan's benefits from donations of used computer ink cartridges. Please bring them to church and place the cartridge in the box near Katie's office. Thank you.



Book Club is on summer hiatus until September 5, but if you want to plan your beach reading, we'll be comparing two books, Jane Austen's classic "Pride and Prejudice" and "Eligible," a modern take on the story by Curtis Sittenfeld. Both are easy to borrow from the library in print or audio formats. (Feel free to cheat with the PBS series starring Colin Firth.) For more information, email Pat Carl at pkarrcarl@gmail.com. Happy reading!

Under One Roof Support Ministry is for adults who unexpectedly find themselves living under one roof with other adults — adult children, parents, other family members and friends. This ministry assists individuals in navigating the oftentimes complex pathways of these living situations and relationships. Contact Jim Evanochko for information and support, 609-577-6459 or Jme555@comcast.net.



Do you have a special prayer request? You can write one and leave it on the prayer plate by Regis' office. On Sunday those prayers are offered up to God during the 8 a.m. service. Each week they are collected by the Community of Hope and added to their daily prayers. You can also email prayer requests to stbrendans.coh@gmail.com. Community of Hope 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.

Please visit our website: <http://www.stbrendans.org>

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StBrendansEpiscopalChurch/>

Recommend us on Nextdoor: <https://nextdoor.com/pages/st-brendans-episcopal-church-sewickley-pa/recommend/>

Trinity Cathedral Walk-In Ministry. Every five weeks Brendanites help to staff the Walk-In Ministry at Trinity Cathedral downtown, feeding and clothing 70 to 90 desperately needy people. You can help by donating children's diapers; new, white athletic socks and underwear for women and men; toothpaste, razors and travel size cans of shaving cream. Please leave donations in the wicker basket outside Regis's office. If you might be interested in volunteering at the cathedral in person, please see Linda Schneider, Meg Overby or Tim Austin.



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's public address. (Saturday, October 5)

Would you be interested in going to Wheeling, W.Va., to hear and see Presiding Bishop Michael Curry? In celebration of the 200th anniversary of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Wheeling, the church will feature a special presentation by the presiding bishop at Wesbanco Arena at 3 p.m. Wheeling is about one hour and 30 minutes from St. Brendan's. Tickets are \$5. Click on the link to purchase yours:

<https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/5841774/bishop-michael-curry-wheeling-wesbanco-arena>. Contact Regis or Frances Kinley if you're interested or sign up in the narthex.

Please scroll to the next few pages for the Hospitality Hour schedule and the August ministry calendar.



August 2019

Ministry calendar

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Nursery	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
August 4 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Joan Beatrous L Debbie Wunsche P Anne Hunt C Debbie Wunsche C Richard Gordon LEV Stacey Coyle	Sylvia Affleck Betsy Smith	Summer Break	Stacy Connifey Pat Carl	Joyce & Michael Donadee	Larry Toler	Angela & Michael Schlumpf
August 7 Wednesday 7:00 pm	Ellen Groves	Ellen Groves	~	~	~	~	~
August 11 Sunday 8 & 0:00 am	8 Charlotte Pierce L Dean Peters P Alan Schneider C Dean Peters C Janice Moore LEV Joyce Donadee	Terry Dezort Brigid Christenson	Summer Break	Stacy Connifey Silvia Bertucci	Chris Fleissner Eric Helmsen	Janice Moore	Joan & Paul Klinefelter
August 14 Wednesday 7:00 pm	Alan Schneider	Linda Schneider	~	~	~	~	~
August 18 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ruth Horton L Annemarie Malbon P Michael Donadee C Joyce Donadee C Michael Donadee LEV Richard Gordon	Ellen Groves Janet Fesq	Summer Break	2 Volunteers needed	Brad Thompson Larry Toler	Chris Botti	Allison & Phil Burdette
August 21 Wednesday 7:00 pm	Tammy Spoonhoward	Tammy Spoonhoward	~	~	~	~	~
August 25 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday	8 Ellen Groves L Children P Children C Darrell Johnson C Sheila Bigelow LEV Ruth Horton	Chris Botti Anelisa Tarrant	Summer Break	Julia Wick Volunteer needed	Mike Wick Bob Smith	Annemarie Malbon	The Sunday School children
August 28 Wednesday 7:00 pm	Sylvia Affleck	Sylvia Affleck	~	~	~	~	~

Hospitality Hour Hosts/Hostesses

October 2018  September 2019

October 2018

- 7 Nancy & George Snyder
- 14 Pat Carl & Joan Beatrous
- 21 Animal Blessing
- 28 Gail Gagnon & Karen Dennis

November 2018

- 4 Joyce & Michael Donadee
- 11 Darrell Johnson & Ruth Horton
- 18 Eric Helmsen & Joni Reis
- 25 Nancy & Wilder Bancroft

December 2018

- 2 Saundy & Tom Waseleski
- 9 Chris & Roger Botti
- 16 Anelisa Tarrant & Janet Fesq
- 23 Julia Wick & Ken Parsons
- 30 Rob & George Latta

January 2019

- 6 Kate & Keith Heston
- 13 Anne & Jno Hunt
- 20 Julia & Mike Wick
- 27 Mary & Jim Evanochko

February 2019

- 3 The Fleissner family
- 10 Janice & Dan Moore
- 17 Ken Parsons & Regis Smolke
- 24 Amy & Kevin Boyd

March 2019

- 3 Mary & Dale Bertucci
- 10 Brad Thompson & Larry Toler
- 17 Allison Kline & Linda Mesko
- 24 Michael Newton & Peter Sweet
- 31 Lauren Chappo & Becca Sands

April 2019

- 7 Karen & Dean Peters
- 14 Sharon Hlawati & Donna Aiello
- 21 Megan Overby & Tim Austin
- 28 Pot Luck

May 2019

- 5 Kelli Cerra & Ellen Groves
- 12 Mother's Day/Bishop's visit
- 19 Sharon & Ron Ladick
- 26 Tammy & Bill Spoonhoward

June 2019

- 2 Annemarie Malbon & Janet Fesq
- 9 Susan Shoemaker & Margie Davies
- 16 Linda & Alan Schneider
- 23 Parish Picnic
- 30 Celebration

July 2019

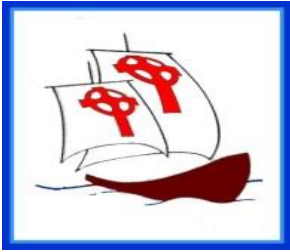
- 7 Rob & George Latta
- 14 Judy Flick & Marcy Little
- 21 Debbie Wunsche & Jim Gray
- 28 Betsy & Bob Smith

August 2019

- 4 Angela & Michael Schlumpf
- 11 Joan & Paul Klinefelter
- 18 Allison & Phil Burdette
- 25 The Sunday School Children

September 2019

- 1 Darrell Johnson & Isaac Mondelus
- 8 Laureen & Todd Douds
- 15 The Aretz & Kinley family
- 22 Melanie & Thaddeus Popovich
- 29 Jean Pett-Ridge & Marge Marine



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.

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: Roger Botti
 Historian: Ellen Groves
 Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale: Anelisa Tarrant
 Invite Welcome Connect: Bradford Thompson
 Memorial Garden: Dan Moore
 Merry Meal Makers (M&M's): Saundy Waseleski
 Nursery: Stacy Connifey
 Parish Profile: Kelli Cerra
 Reiki Ministry: Melanie Popovich
 Rental: Mark Shoemaker
 Scholarship: Tom Waseleski
 Sticks & Strings: Joni Reis
 Debbie Jennings
 Web Site: Kelli Cerra

VESTRY MEMBERS

Sr. Warden: Tom Waseleski
 Jr. Warden & Education: Ruth Horton
 Worship & Safety/Security: Tim Austin
 Fundraising & Clerk: Chris Botti
 Finance & Technology: Kevin Boyd
 Communication: Annemarie Malbon
 Inreach & Hospitality: Janice Moore
 Newcomers: Dean Peters
 Invite/Welcome/Connect & Outreach: Larry Toler
 Treasurer: Ellen Groves

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

Acolytes: Anelisa Tarrant
 Altar Guild: Tammy Spoonhoward
 Flower Ministry: Sylvia Affleck
 Libby Juel
 Community of Hope: Ruth Horton
 Scheduler: Kelli Cerra
 Ushers: Eric Helmsen

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
 CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
 English as a Second Language: Joyce Donadee
 Linda Schneider
 Invite Welcome Connect: Bradford Thompson
 North Hills Food Bank Ministry: Ruth Horton
 Garden of Hope: Tim Michael
 Miryam's: Julia Wick
 Rob & George Latta
 Janice & Dan Moore
 Stacy Connifey
 Under One Roof: Joyce Donadee
 Jim Evanochko

ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Corner of Rochester & McAleer Roads
 2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143
 Phone: 412-364-5974 ~ Fax: 412-364-6024
 Office hours ~ Monday thru Friday 8:00-2:00
 Web Site ~ <http://www.stbrendans.org>
 Facebook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/StBrendansEpiscopalChurch/>
 Nextdoor ~ <https://franklinparkpittsburgh.nextdoor.com/pages/st-brendans-episcopal-church-sewickley-pa/recommend/>
 Priests, Regis Smolko ~ regisjs@verizon.net
 Priest, Julie Smith ~ jlsphone1@gmail.com
 Administrative Assistant, Katie Cervone ~ stbrendans@comcast.net
 Music Director, Debbie Wunsche ~ dwunsche@zoominternet.net
 Musician, Erica Lin ~ hylerica@yahoo.com
 Nursery, Stacy Connifey ~ stacy.connifey@gmail.com