



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, January 3, 2021

Celebrant: 10:00 a.m. 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

The end of the calendar year lets us reflect on what has happened during this year or, if you are like me, watch too much television. In my reflecting on the end of the year, I noticed a bizarre commercial for Match.com. It features the devil and a woman enjoying 2020 and in the last scene we hear one saying, "I just don't want this year to end." My first thought was these two may be the only two who think 2020 is a year worth remembering, but then I thought again. What have been our gifts in 2020?

Before you think I have lost my mind, I know we have lost much – primarily our togetherness, but what we have gained is a different sense of being together. What we have started or reinvigorated here at St. Brendan's is Morning Prayer – which meets six days a week – only missing Sundays. We started meeting March 18 and continue to meet because of Zoom. Not in spite of separation, but because of our need to be apart, we found a new way to be together. So this started me thinking, how should we rejoice, and I mean rejoice, in Zoom and our new found ways to be together?

Through Zoom, we have been able to continue meeting with each other no matter where we are, be that Florida, the Carolinas, California, Wexford, or Franklin Park. From around the world, we still come together for Church on Sunday, Modern Episcopalians on Monday, Bible Study on Tuesday, our book groups, or Morning Prayer. The Men's Breakfast group, I hear, is also still meeting and Sticks and Strings knitted scarves and hats for Christmas at Sea. Zoom webinars and meetings also allowed us to host webinars on Reconstruction, and initiate a Black Lives Matter series of speakers on racial justice. We hosted a wide variety of speakers on justice, law, housing, and church.

While we had the foundations of these groups face to face, more people could participate, and from farther away, because of Zoom. Now there is the coincidence of technology and need. Zoom did take off because of the pandemic, and the pandemic meant we needed to find ways to come together. But, this coincidence of circumstances could also be the Holy Spirit guiding us find ways to be church – to minister to one another outside of our comfortable space and deeper in faith with each other.

Because we also expanded our ministries, we have raised money for a variety of causes, and continue to minister to those in need through donations for the local food pantry, books for Allegheny County Jail, or clothing for Haiti and Blessed Be Educators.

But also think of how far we have come with our services. Our Dream Stream Team has done herculean work and we have made our variety of services widely available on YouTube with ever more polish. Our virtual choir provides a range of musical selections, professionally rendered biweekly. And through the use of recordings, we have watched our children grow this year. The Easter movie the children made was wonderful, taking us through the Holy Week. The Christmas Pageant was fantastic. Because both were videoed, we have them as longer memories of how our children look, how the children viewed these events and we have watched the young ones grow this year. In comparing still pictures from last year's pageant, to seeing the children read on Children's Sundays, to the Christmas Pageant, we can see our young people getting taller, becoming more confident in their reading, and growing in their faith.

I do look forward to returning to church and I do long for a very long sharing of the peace with one another, but until then, "We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord And we pray that our unity will one day be restored." Until then, they will know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

Julie+

A BFF donation was made in thanksgiving for prayers (of the people) and meals prepared and delivered, by Nancy and George Snyder.



Need a gift for someone who has everything? Would you like a way to acknowledge a special family event like a baptism or a birthday? **A donation to the Brendan's Family and Friends (BFF) fund** is the perfect way to honor that special person or event. BFF funds are earmarked for unbudgeted building needs and have been utilized for items such as air conditioning replacements, audio-visual equipment, and acoustic tile work in the social hall. Please contact Katie if you're interested. Your donation will be noted in the Little Log if you wish. Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor!

Gifts of Joy and Wonder
December 30



As our Stewardship Conversation for 2021 nears its end, our **Gifts of Joy and Wonder** tree is filled with white blossoms. What a beautiful image—reflecting as it does both the gratitude of Brendanites for all God's gifts and their willingness to help support St. Brendan's ministries in the coming year!

Early in the New Year, we will be sending you the Parish Annual Report, which will include our proposed Budget for 2021. **Right up until our publishing deadline, we will be happy to receive last-minute pledges!** Send in a pledge card or visit the [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) pledge site. In our office, Katie is always available for advice on how to complete the process.

If you have not handed in your pledge card for 2021, feel free to print this one and mail it to church.



ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Gifts of Joy and Wonder!

In 2021, I / We pledge \$ _____ annually to St. Brendan's.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____



Help Wanted. **Looking for a way to stay connected at St. Brendan's while Covid is keeping us apart?**

Here's a place where your help is needed. The Merry Meal Makers is a parish ministry that helps members during a trying time with a delivered meal. The M&M volunteers prepare (or purchase) a meal and take it to a parishioner who has been ill, lost a loved one, delivered a baby or is in a similar situation. You can imagine how much more stressful these events are during the pandemic, when many of us are alone or cut off from each other. Volunteers are notified when a parishioner's need arises and receive a list of dates from which they can

choose to bring a meal to that person. This is a simple but important ministry, and most of the work is done at home. If you'd like to help, please contact Saundy Waseleski at 412-741-8727 or swaseleski@comcast.net.



Hold the Date: Our next Forum will be held on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. Our featured speaker is long time -environmentalist Larry Schweiger, a local Pittsburgher who is nationally known for his work on the climate crisis and has published several books on that topic. Larry was president and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the National Wildlife Federation. You won't want to miss this one! Stay tuned for more information.

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of The Salvation Army. Our donation helps change lives for the better and directly benefits people throughout our community.

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 gotten? Do you think you will still be able to wear them next winter or will you be taller? Or just bigger?

One of my favorite Christmas presents ever was from the Christmas I was six. It was from in Germany. It was 1968 and she had to send our presents early. But she sent them so Thanksgiving! We looked at them, and shook them, and touched them, so much our mother we would not “accidentally” open them. So when we FINALLY got to open them, we were excited to have our own. Then someone said, well she sent them from Germany they probably only get German radio stations. We put them away that night but the next morning, my sister Lorri and I got up early, put the batteries in our radios, turned them on, very quietly, and sure enough, we got a foreign language station. Our radios picked up the Canadian Broadcasting Company's French Language Christmas Service. We thought we got Germany on our radios and that made me feel really close to my sister who was very far away.



my sister Sandy who lived early they arrived before had to put them up high so excited to get transistor devices, so we were so

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. Remember from the Sunday School lesson last week when Paul wrote this to the Galatians, “God sent his Son Jesus, born as a little baby, . . . And now, we are all adopted children of God.”



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

Peace,
Julie+



Replacing a laptop? Many folks will be updating their home technology this season. If you're upgrading to a newer device, please consider donating the old one to the Conversation Friends ESL program. Some of our students have trouble joining our Zoom classes on cell phones while other prospective learners may not sign up at all because they know their technology is inadequate. We will work with you to ensure that your hard drive is wiped clean. Contact Tim Austin at 508-688-9554 or austover@gmail.com to discuss this possibility.

We celebrate the **January Birthdays** of:

2 Gail Gagnon	5 Mary Bertucci	5 Meghan Thompson	6 Jacob Konley	6 Matthew Wunsche
8 Linda Konley	9 Kelli Cerra	9 Ed Chapman	10 Maria Hooper	12 Donna Aiello
13 Shellie Hipsky	15 Eleanora Byrne	16 Sharon Basehore	16 Ruth Getz	16 Janice Moore
19 Zoey Boyd	21 Rob Latta	26 Ginny Volponi	30 Andrew Helmsen	31 Peter Sweet

If you would like to see your birthday or wedding anniversary here in The Little Log, just notify Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.

Our diocese distributes a newsletter, *Grace Happens*. It contains news about upcoming programs and services; updates from parishes around southwest Pennsylvania (including St. Brendan's, of course); and information about important developments such as the ongoing search for a new Bishop. To receive future editions electronically, simply send your email address by text message: Text EPISCOPALPGH to 22828 to get started.

ANNUAL
MEETING

All ministry leaders are asked to email Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com a year-end summary of their 2020 group's activities by **January 2, 2021**. These reports will be included in the annual report that will be emailed to the congregation prior to the Annual Meeting. Upon request, a copy of the Annual Meeting from last year can be e-mailed to you by contacting Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.

The Annual Meeting will be held by Zoom at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 24.

Senior Warden's Corner

I want to devote my Corner of this week's Little Log to saying thank you—on behalf of St. Brendan's many members, guests, neighbors and friends—to all those who made our Christmas services this year so rich and warm. Admittedly, I am more than a little concerned that I may miss some key individuals—but I think that's a risk worth running, because our worship relied on so many contributors and yet many of their efforts remained largely unseen. I simply want to foreground as many folks as I can.

Regis and Julie led our liturgies with loving care, ably supported as they are all year by Ken and Colette. Daniel not only selected and directed our service music but coordinated the amazing 2020 Christmas Pageant. (Thank you too to our 20+ young narrators and actors—and to the parents who found the time and the patience to record them!) Lauren, Anthony, Brigid and Warren stepped forward as lectors to pre-record the familiar Christmas readings for us. Sean once again wrangled these and the many other “moving parts” for each service and ensured that our live stream was steady and seamless. And Anelisa represented the Altar Guild, even doubling as a lector so that we could limit the number of people present at each service.

But how about those whose work was less evident? There is a team that prepares our service bulletins each week: Karen, Katie, Debra, and Donna all play their parts as drafts and revisions crisscross the internet. During the eight days between December 20 and December 27, these folks assembled, proofed and distributed four different bulletins, each flawless! Meanwhile, a second team (Anelisa again, but also Ken and Chris and Roger) decorated the sanctuary—or at least those parts of it that would be “on camera”—creating the visually stunning backdrop that our services deserved.

I am confident that I speak for us all when I offer our heartfelt thanks to all these Brendanites for their hard work. And to those whose names I may inadvertently have missed—I'm sorry and please know that we appreciate your help too.

Tim Austin



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.



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.



Please continue to get St. Brendan's free money. If you use **Amazon Smile** (not just Amazon), it will cost you nothing (that's right! zero dollars!) but St. Brendan's will receive a modest donation based on the price of whatever you buy.

Signing up initially is simple. Search for Amazon Smile in your Web browser, then log in to Amazon Smile just as you do to Amazon--same email, same password. (You will have to create a login if you're new to Amazon altogether.) After signing in to Amazon Smile, you will be taken to a screen where you can select the Charitable Organization you wish to benefit. Type in St. Brendan's and then scroll down to find St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Sewickley, PA. Click on this as your organization to ensure that we receive donations for every order you place.

After you have set yourself up in this way, all you will have to do is to log in through Amazon Smile each time you do your online shopping. Please tell your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Click here for detailed instructions [AmazonSmile](#).



The Haitian project. Thank you everyone for your donations. We are hearing that people are also needing hats and sunglasses to protect their eyes from the harsh sun. Recently we had a donation of 28 baseball hats which will be terrific and there were 29 pairs of children's shoes which are really needed.

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
Brenna Conroy
Andrea Dickerson

Maddie Bell
Adele Cotter
Franklin Park Police Department

Kate Burnett
James Cotter

Frank Casey
Laura Dugan Demers
Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department

Bob Cerra
Nicholas Demers

Rebecca Donadee
Lynne Gloor
Kerri Jensen
Warren Sands
Julie

Amanda Gagnon
Ann Hockenberry
Dr. Ken Judson
Andrew Smith
Mike

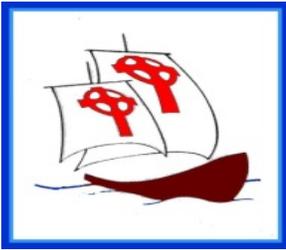
Jeff Gagnon
Beth Lutz Hoffman
Luke O'Neill
Justin Zeigler
Patrick

Shelley Gagnon
Eric Hood
Kim Pierce
Cindy

Betsy Gentile
John Jacobs and staff
Becca Sands
Jennifer



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