



## Weekly at St. Brendan's

**Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Worship, via live streaming**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkCY2BEJXlqMoVc\\_nXXG7ew](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>

**1:00 p.m. Bible Study**

**Tuesday: 7:00 a.m. AA meeting, via zoom**  
 Dial in: 312-626-6799 Meeting Id:345 892 252

**8:00 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>

**6:00 p.m. Bible Study**

**Saturday: 9:30 a.m. Women's virtual Coffee Hour**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8944116431>

## Sunday, March 14, 2021

**Celebrant: 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Regis Smolko**

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

### Difference Between a Rector and Priest-in-Charge and What's Next?

When I heard that I was going to be the Priest-in Charge at St. Brendan's, I must say I experienced discomfort. The alternative term in the Episcopalian world would be "Rector." That term was new to me also and it felt a bit "unusual" too—mainly because this term was not common where I came from. My experience lent me a bias for terms like "parish priest" or "pastor." These felt simpler and more gentle to me. But you go with the flow!

I chuckled about a year after I got used to the title, 'priest-in-charge' when a new vestry member, who was likewise new to the Episcopal Church, asked me why I needed to express that I was "in charge." I laughed and said, "This was my question for the last year too!" Then I found myself clarifying for the individual the canon law wording and what it really meant, how it differed from a rector and how I needed to grow into it and accept it.

So for those of you who might wonder about this, here's what I've learned. The term generally refers to someone who is more part-time than full-time. Sometimes that's due to whether a church has a debt or is financially dependent on the diocese. Other times it has to do with numbers and a need for more bishop involvement. Here's what Wikipedia says about it: "A priest-in-charge in the Church of England is a priest in charge of a parish who is not its incumbent. The appointment of priests-in-charge is sometimes done when parish reorganization is taking place or to give the bishop greater control over the deployment of clergy. Sometimes the bishop highly suggests a nominee for priest-in-charge to a parish. This last part is not set in stone."

In my case before I formally became priest-in-charge. I was already serving as priest due to my predecessor's resignation. I fully expected to be in the position temporarily. But three things happened: I started loving what I was doing, Ken got an opportunity to double his business and I was getting the feeling that St. Brendan's was sensing Ken and I might be a good fit. (I began hearing, "We like you, Regis; we L-O-V-E Ken!" Of course, Ken demanded I go along with public sentiment—LOL!) So, it was a combo type of thing. The bishop had something to do with it and the congregation seemed to be happy with it—perhaps it rose to the level of a "call," but we never had to formally go there. I do believe it was a "God thing." It wasn't on my radar when I first arrived at St. B's in mid-2016.

So I was hired part-time. I believe the contract says 26 hours (minimum not maximum, of course). Well this is something we need to consider as St. B's will in due time begin the process of discerning my successor.

Here's the issue: I arrived at St. B's fairly retired and with a deep desire for parish ministry—I had never felt I left priesthood when I needed to physically separate myself from the Roman Catholic Church more than 30 years earlier. Yet, I hadn't been able to function

as a priest per se. So 30+ years of no recognized pastoral ministry came with me, a deprived-from-ministry newly-received, legitimate priest. So I did a few extra pastoral care hours here and there. Could you blame me?!?!?

Now though, I have to spend some closing time helping you to get used to the idea that your next priest may not be able to put in extra hours. I'm sure this all makes sense to you. One thing I've learned about Brendanites—you are realistic and practical. So my dear Brothers and Sisters, be assured that I will be your pastoral care giver, "shepherd" and spiritual leaven 100% until the day you have the next priest-in-charge on the payroll. (We should have a clear date for my retirement within days.)

Until then, you will notice me growing lay pastoral care in a lot more places and with more intentionality. We do already have plenty of this lay ministry leadership up and running, so much so we take it for granted. For example, when Joyce and I, then Linda, started responding to our perceived need for focused Immigrant and non-English-speaking ministry, I was heavily involved in planning, recruiting for and hands-on activity. I spent weeks and months recruiting and helping Jon DeMartino get in place to complement what Joyce and Linda were already doing. After about six months, I began to intentionally shrink away ... and the ministry continues to grow to this day under total lay leadership. Similar works and ministries, you'll notice, have been grown accordingly and via the same formula. I will continue along the same pathway as we move forward. You may notice it more now though, since I'm pointing it out.

I have always been told that the mark of genuine leadership is noticeable most when a person leaves. Are people not only keeping involved, but are they surpassing what was created and making it their own? When a true leader departs, it should not feel like a void because a spoonful has been taken from the mold of mashed potatoes, and it's noticeable; but it should feel like a spoonful of broth has been taken from the soup bowl, and it's not all that noticeable because the flavor remains.

**All good,  
Regis+**

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**Daylight Saving Time** begins this Sunday, March 14. On Saturday night, set your clocks forward one hour to spring ahead.



**Vestry Meeting.** On Monday, March 8, the Vestry held its regular monthly meeting. Two visitors joined us at the beginning of the meeting. First, the Rev. Kim Karashin, who serves as the Transition Ministry Officer for the Diocese, helped us to understand the transition process that lies ahead as St. Brendan's prepares to call a new priest-in-charge. Then Ellen Groves, our Treasurer, joined Mary Bertucci to lead us through a review of the parish's financial status (which is encouraging at this point in what we all pray are the latter stages of the pandemic). After our guests left the Zoom call, we turned to more routine matters. Fr. Regis outlined for us his early plans for establishing a pastoral counseling internship based in the parish; Donna Aiello updated us on the submission of a grant proposal to support this year's Garden of Hope; and we revisited the question of when and how to reopen the building for in-person worship. [As always, the full Vestry Minutes are readily available for those who would like a more detailed account.]

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**SPIRITUALITY GROUP.** We are looking at the possibility of starting a spirituality group at St. Brendan's. It will be based on our church's beliefs, but will focus more on embracing our connections to each other, to nature and to all of God's creatures.

We will employ things such as meditative walks in the woods, labyrinths, retreats (including silent retreats), practices of other religions and, of course, prayer. We will utilize any activity that reminds us that everyone and everything is connected.

If you have an interest in this Spirituality Group, please contact Donna Aiello, [donna.aiello@forecastdirect](mailto:donna.aiello@forecastdirect) / 412-759-1521 or Cameron Grosh, [grosh.cameron@gmail.com](mailto:grosh.cameron@gmail.com) / 717-404-0108. Thank you!

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**Save the Date!** Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00p.m. **Training and Challenges in Suburban Policing**

Following up on our Forum last month with speaker Professor David Harris, who spoke on Policing and Social Justice, our next Public Forum is Training and Challenges in Suburban Policing, and will focus on Police Departments' perspective. Participating on the panel are:



- Yvonne Eaton-Stull, DSW, LCSW, of Slippery Rock University,
- Chief Thomas Vulakovich, who will present on Hampton Township's pilot program that sends social work interns out on police calls,
- Lt. Robert Synan of the Allegheny County Police Academy, who will speak to the training of suburban departments, and
- Chief Walter Healy of Franklin Park Police, who will focus on Franklin Park's training of police officers, and any issues they have.

This Public Forum is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills together with St. Brendan's Justice Ministry. To register for the March 23 Forum, email Katie [stbrendanskatie@gmail.com](mailto:stbrendanskatie@gmail.com).

For more information, visit our website at [stbrendans.org](http://stbrendans.org). This is another Forum that you won't want to miss!



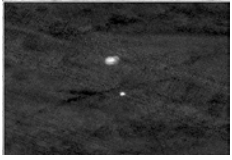
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St. Brendan's Women's Get Together - All St. Brendan's women are welcome to "drop in" to chat on Saturday mornings at 9:30 am. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8944116431>.

## Senior Warden's Corner

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**My COVID days allow me** plenty of time for surfing the Web—arguably more than is good for me. In recent weeks, my attention was drawn to three apparently unrelated news items under the broad heading of Science. I'm confident that you too will have encountered one of them, but the others belonged in a section of the BBC's Web site to which the Webmasters give the apt title ICYMI (that's In Case You Missed it).



The first concerned Perseverance, the latest in a line of Mars robots. All the images beamed back to earth (across 146 million miles) boggle my mind. But the blue ribbon goes to a perfect shot of Perseverance (left) as it descended on its parachute towards the designated landing site. What strains credulity is that this photo was taken by a second space vehicle (the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter), that was itself 146 million miles from earth, 450 miles away from Perseverance, and traveling at about 7,000 miles an hour when the shutter clicked!

The second article reported on a thought experiment conducted by a virologist. The question he asked himself was this: if it were possible (which of course it isn't) to pull together in one place all of the devilish little novel coronaviruses that have caused such havoc and suffering around the globe in the past sixteen months, how much virus material would you actually have? His answer? Well, you're thinking in the right general terms if you think of a container the size of a standard can of Coke.

And the third story comes from a small village in the Cotswold Hills in England, where a family woke on Monday to find on their driveway a chunk of "carbonaceous chondrite—a dark stony material that retains unaltered chemistry from the formation of our Solar System 4.6 billion years ago." (The meteorite, according to the BCC, "has British scientists in raptures of joy.")

Your Senior Warden is not scientifically sophisticated and may therefore be too easily impressed. But I value these reminders of the vastness and immense age of the universe. Conversely, I am also amazed to learn that the virus that has cowed humans all around the globe is itself so infinitesimally small. Perhaps Psalm 8 says all that needs to be said: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor." Indeed.

**Tim Austin**

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## The Children's Corner

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### Can we measure love?

Have you ever played "how much do you love me?" and have your parents or siblings or friends hold their arms open wide and say, "I love you this much?" Their arms are stretched out and you run to them and they hug you and you feel like yes, I am loved so much.

Love brings us a lot of joy and happiness. Knowing we are loved gives us strength and courage. Love can make us take risks to improve ourselves. Love allows us to be the version of ourselves God wants us to be.

But you can't buy love. And I wonder, can we measure love? It's not like we get a cup of love or a bucket of love.

We don't see love. But we do feel it. Sometimes, when we are sad, we feel like nobody loves us. But other times we feel like we are on the top of the world and everybody loves us. We don't say on those down days – I only have a thimble full of love and on those top of the world days – I have all of the love in the world.

Love is a special thing – we all want it, and when we have it we want more. But the secret of love is the more you give it away the more you have; and the more each of us gives away the more love there is in the world.

How amazing is that????

In this Sunday's Gospel we read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Just think about that, you are always loved, even if you don't feel it on a bad day. God is loving you and Jesus is loving you.

But the reading goes on to say "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved." God sent us Jesus to save us – from our sins and from ourselves. God just keeps loving us, no matter what we do. God sent us Jesus because God loves us.

And Jesus is holding his arms open wide – saying to us, "I love you this much." And the image I have is his arms are so far apart we can't see both hands. When we love Jesus, just like our parents and our friends, he hugs us and remains with us.

Wow!!!

And I love you too.

**Peace,  
Julie+**

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**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](mailto:swaseleski@comcast.net).



**Confirmation!** In hopeful anticipation of the Bishop's visit on May 2, youth seeking to be confirmed need to begin the final preparation for their confirmation.

While the church is still not opened, we will meet via Zoom. Once the weather improves, I will try to have us together as we are able to be together. We will be using *My Faith, My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church* for our preparation.

Deciding upon confirmation is personal and is not age-based but a mark on a young person's faith journey. Do you think you are ready to affirm the promises made on your behalf in your baptism? Our preparation class is to explore what it means to be a child of God, a Christian and an Episcopalian.

Please contact Pastor Julie for more information at 412-995-0915 or email at [jsphone1@gmail.com](mailto:jsphone1@gmail.com).

**During this 2021 Lenten season,** Bishop McConnell invites us all to participate in **Five-Minute Lent** on Monday through Saturday evenings from 7:00-7:05 p.m. via Zoom. Five-Minute Lent begins on Thursday, February 18, and will run through Wednesday, March 31 (the day before Maundy Thursday). The series is called **Expecting Life** and will follow John 12 verse by verse, which is the chapter just prior to Jesus' passion, crucifixion, death... and resurrection. **The Zoom link is:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717703921?pwd=MGpHMHNZGF0Vi9xSjl1dDNmc3hkZz09> **Passcode: Lent**

**VOTING BY MAIL 2022!** Last November, 2.6 MILLION Pennsylvanians cast their ballots by mail, safely and securely from home.



If you applied to vote by mail last year and signed up for the "permanent" vote-by-mail list, and you want to automatically receive ballots for this year's elections, **you must sign up again for 2021, since this list is only on an annual basis.** You can fill out the application that was mailed to you and return it to your county board of elections, **or complete one online here.**

It takes just a few minutes to sign up to get both your mail-in ballots for 2021. Your county will keep you updated as your ballots are processed, printed, mailed to you, and returned. If you didn't register for the "permanent" list last year, but are interested in joining, [you can read more here](#) and [sign up using the same online form.](#)

Voters should request their mail-in ballot **before May 11, 2021** to make sure they have time to receive their secure ballot and return it in time. If you're signing up to vote by mail online, just make sure you're registered to vote beforehand and have either your PA driver's license number or social security number handy.

Please make sure your friends and family are aware of this! Thank you for being a voter.



### **MARCH 13 – One remaining Lecture with Elizabeth Struthers Malbon**

#### **MARK'S GOSPEL: GOOD NEWS FOR ALL**

March 13 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. join St. Luke's for the second of two conversations with biblical scholar Elizabeth Struthers Malbon on Mark's Gospel: Good News for All. The March 13th is titled Echoes and Implications. There is no fee to attend these presentations via zoom.

Professor Malbon will begin by presenting her presuppositions about the Gospel according to Mark before illustrating from the narrative how the story is "good news" for various groups of people, including fallible followers, women and men, and one's own people and "foreigners." She will also consider what this "good news" could mean for Mark's audience, in both the first-century and the twenty-first. At the conclusion of each presentation, Professor Malbon will welcome questions from her listeners. This Zoom presentation is available by registering at [stlukeseasthampton.org/community-events](http://stlukeseasthampton.org/community-events).

Dr. Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, Professor Emerita in the Department of Religion and Culture at Virginia Tech, has authored five books (four on Mark's Gospel), plus numerous articles and book chapters. She has also edited or co-edited six books, mostly on biblical literary criticism, and is an active member of several professional groups, including the Society of Biblical Literature and the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars, where she serves as Program Coordinator. She also serves as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Lector at Christ Episcopal Church, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Click here to register.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/scholar-elizabeth-struthers-malbon-on-marks-gospel-good-news-for-all-tickets-136957967969>



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**CRIES Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations)** This week we are supporting the work of two organizations. One is Just Harvest and the other is Episcopal Peace Fellowship

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**The Haitian project.** The first school bus is waiting for Harrisburg to send back the DOT forms to give the okay to transport the school bus to Miami and then onto Haiti. We are collecting, organizing and counting items for a second bus and still could use donations. As you already know we need summer clothes, shoes, underwear, belts, ties, purses, backpacks, toothpaste and toothbrushes, towels, washcloths, sheets and hats. Thank you for the items that you have donated in the plastic bin outside of St. Brendan's. Keep them coming!!!

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**Do you have a special prayer request?** Contact Ruth Horton [rvhorton@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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**News from Diocesan Council:** The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) will be making grants to support hand-on ministries that help children, adults and families in need of assistance with food, nutrition, health care, housing, education and counselor. For more information contact Joyce Donadee.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

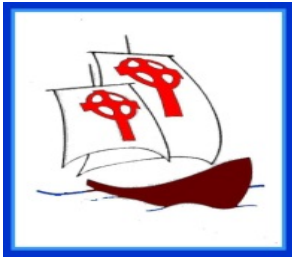
We are grateful for their selfless dedication and ask that God watch over them, keep them safe and give them both strength and rest. We hope that you will join the church in thanking and praying for:

|                       |                                 |                 |   |                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| 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       | Chris Fleissner                 | Amanda Gagnon   | Jeff Gagnon                             | Shelley Gagnon  |
| Betsy Gentile         | Lynne Gloor                     | Ann Hockenberry | Beth Lutz Hoffman                       | Eric Hood       |
| John Jacobs and staff | Kerri Jensen                    | Dr. Ken Judson  | Luke O'Neill                            | Kim Pierce      |
| Becca Sands           | Warren Sands                    | Andrew Smith    | Justin Zeigler                          | Cindy           |
| Jennifer              | Julie                           | Mike            | Patrick                                 |                 |

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**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.

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### **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: Cameron Grosh  
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  
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: 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

### **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](mailto:regisjs@verizon.net)

Youth Education Director, Julie Smith ~ [jlsphone1@gmail.com](mailto:jlsphone1@gmail.com)

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ [StBrendansKatie@gmail.com](mailto:StBrendansKatie@gmail.com)

Music Director, Daniel May ~ [bluesub@verizon.net](mailto:bluesub@verizon.net)

Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ [meghanthompson328@gmail.com](mailto:meghanthompson328@gmail.com)