



Weekly at St. Brendan's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Open for Worship
10:00 a.m. Worship in person is limited
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>

1:00 p.m. Bible-Lite Group

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, May 23, 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

How We Can Prep for Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost is the celebration of the birth of the church. The Spirit fell upon the world, and the Church of the Risen Lord was born. The disciples were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them. The ability to speak and be heard and understood is church.

Pentecost is this Sunday. So how do we prepare for it? Other big Christian festive days are preceded by prep time. For example, Advent is a season to prepare for the birth of Jesus. There's shopping, carols, maybe an Advent calendar. Advent gets us prepped for Christmas, so it's hard to miss the holiday. Easter, another major feast, is prepared for by Lent, a time for introspection, culminating in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, when we recall Jesus' death. Lent gets us prepped for Easter, so it's hard to miss the holiday.

No special prep days precede Pentecost. No Advent. No Lent. Most of us, then, don't know how to prepare for Pentecost. Some churches have us wear red shirts, sweaters, and scarves—to remember the fiery tongues on that first Pentecost. This hardly counts for anything because it takes about 30 seconds to do this. We at St. Brendan's change our banner, and the vestments we wear this Sunday will be red to mark the new season. But we generally don't even notice this until we step into the church or turn on the Live Streaming.

It's strange how little we prep for Pentecost, especially since this is the third largest feast of the Christian year. We are about to celebrate the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit—a cosmic shift—rushing wind filling whole houses. We celebrate a communal shift—the whole group of Jesus' followers “were all together in one place” when the wind blew and the fire came. We celebrate a ministry shift—“all of them started speaking in a number of different languages.”

So how do we prepare for something as important as Pentecost? Do as the apostles did. They returned to their place of gathering and got back to business. They didn't “just stand there looking up at an empty sky.” Instead, “they left Ascension mountain and returned to Jerusalem.” They got back to business and figured out a way to replace Judas. We too can prepare for Pentecost by doing work that needs to be done. Pentecost calls us to be practical and get necessary things done.

Another preparation is to pray—with other people, if we can. That’s what Jesus’ followers did. “They devoted themselves all together in prayer.” They agreed they were in this for “the long haul.” We can prep for Pentecost by getting over our petty hangups about who can do what in the church. There was a state of emergency in the early church. Jesus was gone! It was no time for propriety, no time to decide whether women could pray or not, whether women could preach. Of course they could. They did! Inclusivity prevailed.

So three things that can help you prepare for Pentecost. One is spiritual; the second is practical; the third, urgent. We pray; we get the next right thing done; we include all. Begin doing these and you’ll be ready for Pentecost—maybe even ready for a flash of wildfire, the Holy Spirit, to spread through your ranks.

Happy Pentecost, Regis



Brendan's Boots, the parish walking group, will return to the trail Tuesday, June 8, after a long Covid layoff. Participants will gather at the church by 9 a.m., then carpool to the boathouse parking lot in North Park for a trek around the lake. Lunch will follow at the lakeside Over the Bar Bicycle Cafe. Everyone is welcome; feel free to bring a friend. For more info, please contact Tom Waseleski, twaseleski@comcast.net.

CRIES Advocacy (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), donates 10% of our pledged income. This week we are supporting the work of Allies for Health and Wellbeing, formerly AIDS task force. As an agency founded in opposition to discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, Allies has always strived to create a place where racial and sexual minorities feel welcome, safe and respected. They stand firmly against injustice in all forms and strongly support those working to change institutional racism and discrimination.

We celebrate the **June Wedding Anniversaries** of:



3	Regis Smolko & Ken Parsons	11	Emmalynne & Michael Waseleski	17	Sheila Bigelow & James Roche
18	Julia & Michael Wick	19	Joyce & Michael Donadee	25	Connie & Richard Weichel
27	Chris & Roger Botti	30	Kate & Keith Heston		

We celebrate the **June Birthdays** of:



2	Thaddeus Popovich	5	Wesley Bell	7	Rob Chappo	12	Terri Dezort	14	Sheila Bigelow
15	James Christenson	18	Regis Smolko	20	Karl Haider	21	Gary Basehore	21	Emma Harvey
22	Nikki Konley	25	Joan Beatrous	26	Reese Long	27	Duke Aretz	27	Sharon Hlawati
28	Derek Basehore	30	Amy Boyd	30	Dean Peters	30	Charlotte Pierce		

Our Parallel Discernment Processes

There have been important developments this week in **both** of the discernment processes that St. Brendan’s is currently involved in. The following are just the headlines from two e-blasts that are being sent out this week. *[If you are not receiving our e-blasts please ask for your name to be added to the mailing list by contacting Katie Cervone at StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.]*



The search for a new Bishop of Pittsburgh moved into high gear this week when the diocese announced the names of three finalists.

- Please learn more about them by visiting <https://episcopalpgh.org/pebs/meet-our-nominees/>.
- If you have questions that you would like the candidates to respond to, you can submit them online at <https://episcopalpgh.org/pebs/the-bishop-search/meet-greet-question-form/>.
- We will shortly be sharing additional information about opportunities to meet the candidates (either in person or virtually) and about how to share your opinions of the candidates’ strengths with our clergy and lay deputies.



St. Brendan’s own discernment initiative also took a major step forward on Wednesday when the Vestry approved a nine-member Discernment Committee to lead us through the process.

- The members are **Allison Kline (Chair), Kevin Boyd, Pat Carl, Annemarie Malbon, Tammy Spoonhoward, Tony Turo** and **Mike Wick**.
- The Committee will begin work soon, meeting with Tim Austin and Canon Kim Karashin to clarify their charge and plan for the road ahead. They will be communicating about their activities in the coming weeks and will depend on the engagement and active participation of us all to complete their work.

Please email Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com if you would like to attend the 10:00 service on Sunday.



A Brendan's Family & Friends (BFF) donation was given in celebration of Darrel Johnson's ordination to Deacon, from Julia and Mike Wick.

Children's Corner

Tongues on fire



This Sunday is a very special day we call Pentecost. It was on this day God sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life into the church. This meant the church would be all that God intended for it to be ~ not a building but people wanting to tell each other the story of Jesus.

You might remember a couple of weeks ago Jesus promised he would send us a helper when he left. Jesus called that helper the Holy Spirit or the Advocate. So this week as we celebrate Jesus ascending to heaven, we are also celebrating God sending us the Holy Spirit, the Advocate Jesus promised.

We knew the Advocate arrived when we were all changed suddenly. And the way we were changed is like this. We were gathered together in a big city with people from all over praying together when the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) whooshed down and breathed life into us - the church. Soon people began telling everyone they saw about Jesus.

But what was so special about our telling these stories on that day was each person was telling their story in their own language. Two things were happening, first it was as their tongues were on fire – they HAD to tell other people about Jesus and second we UNDERSTOOD each other perfectly.

That is the amazing part, each person heard the story in their own language and they understood each other perfectly. Sometimes we misunderstand when we both share the same language but they understood EXACTLY what each other was saying.

Imagine listening to some talk and then, all of a sudden, the speaker started to speak in a different language and you understood everything that person said. You did not need a translator nor did you have to wait for someone to tell you what was being said but you actually, fully and completely, understood what was being said.

This helped us create a church – the body of Christ in the world (not the building). On that day, thousands of people were added to the church. The church became alive and started doing the things God had commanded.

So this Sunday, when you watch our church service, at one point, you will hear a lot of different languages spoken during the service. So while our various “tongues on fire” are speaking, think about the whoosh when the Holy Spirit visited us and helped us become Church.

What a great and glorious God.
Julie+

Senior Warden's Corner

To all those who completed our SurveyMonkey survey last week: Thank you! You took us at our word that it would be short and sweet and you gave us feedback that will be really useful as we work to loop everybody into the life of our diocese and our parish in the coming months.

In all, we heard from 80 of you during the seven days that the survey was open. Let's be clear: that is a return rate that most pollsters would die for! You'll remember that we offered you four potential ways to submit feedback to the parish: send an email to a dedicated email address; enter your feedback on a GoogleDoc; participate in a Zoom discussion; or attend a face-to-face meeting at church with a dozen or so other Brendanites. Here's what we learned:

- 51 respondents said that sending a simple email would be Very Convenient and another 25 said it would be Convenient. Not one response described this approach as Inconvenient, but 3 people said they would not contribute in this way.
- The approach using a GoogleDoc was judged to be Very Convenient by 19 respondents and Convenient by 30. But 18 judged it Inconvenient and 11 responded that they would not use this method of communication at all.
- Using a Zoom session to share perspectives with others drew the following responses: Very Convenient – 16; Convenient – 24; Inconvenient – 19; and Would not Use – 20.
- Finally, face-to-face small-group meetings at church were judged to be Very Convenient by just 8 respondents, Convenient by 38, and Inconvenient by 22, while 11 folks said they would not attend such gatherings for this purpose.

Based on this advice, we will move forward and establish a dedicated email account to receive feedback on the discernment processes that we are currently engaged in. The details will come out shortly. Naturally, we could still consider supplementing this with one of the other methods in the future, but if we do so, we will at least be aware of their more limited appeal to the parish as a whole.

Tim Austin



Save the date for **St. Brendan's annual Parish Picnic**, Sunday, June 20, at Latham Shelter in North Park. More details to follow soon.



The Vegetable Garden, located around the back of the building, has been planted for 2021. Harvesting is done on Wednesdays, when we clean up the veggies, pack them in zip lock bags, and get them ready for Thursdays deliveries to a local Food Bank.

We need help with this wonderful ministry. To sign up click [Garden Schedule Signup](#) or go to <https://www.stbrpit.com/> and click on Garden Schedule. Enter your name during the days/weeks you can be responsible by typing directly onto the document. Ideally, we would like volunteers to take on a task a full week at a time, to be responsible for either watering, weeding or harvesting. Text or call Ken Parsons at 412-418-5223 if you have any questions.



Now that we are beginning to reopen, we will no longer have a donation bin outside. Please bring non-perishable food items/donations when you come on Sunday, and you can leave them in the shopping cart in the narthex as before. We will continue distributing food to the North Hills Food Bank and the Community Outreach. Note: The food banks do not accept anything in glass jars or any expired items.

Need food? If you or someone you know has a food shortage, contact the church and we will be happy to help.



St. Brendan's Men's Breakfast is back. The group meets at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month for food and fellowship at the Eat'n Park, 2650 Brandt School Rd in Wexford. If you would like to join us and are not currently on the e-mail list contact either Steve Horton stephenshorton@aim.com or Bill Spoonhoward, tspoonhoward@yahoo.com. Upcoming dates: June 14th, July 12th, and August 9th.



St. Brendan's Women's Coffee Hour will meet again, this Saturday, May 22.



The Haitian project update. The school bus is filled to the brim with clothing, bikes, sewing machines, solar cells, medical equipment and more. For right now we do not need any more donations. Thank you for all of your support for this project.

Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

Lost Lessons and Future Possibilities

Speaker for this Zoom event, held tonight, Thursday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m., is Tim Stevens, Chairman and CEO of the Black Political Empowerment Project (BPEP). Tim, a long-time activist and former Executive Director of the Pittsburgh branch of the NAACP, will discuss the ongoing struggle for racial equity in the Pittsburgh region.

This event is sponsored by the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon. To register, go to cpcb.org.

Requested Prayers:

For the members of St. Brendan's: Rosie and Rodge Wood, Larry Tarrant, Wesley Bell, John Jacobs, Trish Galone, Larry Toler, Matthew, Mark Shoemaker, Dr. Ken Judson and Mark Kinley.

For our parents: Sandy Martin, Ray Militzer, Naomi Getty and Lenora.

For our family members: Tom Berkebile, Lane, Eric Carlson and his family, Geoff Wood, Jim Parsons, Karen Dansak, Marie Hazelton, Adara Rose, Roman, Patrick Schantz, Tom Groves, Nathan Schlumpf, Bob Keihl, David Pingree, Dakota and Morgan, Sabrina Office and Robert Donato.

For our friends: Dave Frazier, Jane Young, Sherri Hilbert, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.

For those who have died: Trish Galone, Norma Cervantes, Margaret Christoff and Linda Parsons.

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
Rebecca Donadee
Betsy Gentile
John Jacobs and staff
Becca Sands
Jennifer

Maddie Bell
Adele Cotter
Franklin Park Police Department
Chris Fleissner
Lynne Gloor
Kerri Jensen
Warren Sands
Julie

Kate Burnett
James Cotter
Amanda Gagnon
Ann Hockenberry
Dr. Ken Judson
Andrew Smith
Mike

Frank Casey
Laura Dugan Demers
Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department
Jeff Gagnon
Beth Lutz Hoffman
Luke O'Neill
Justin Zeigler
Patrick

Bob Cerra
Nicholas Demers
Shelley Gagnon
Eric Hood
Kim Pierce
Cindy



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: Janice Moore
Adult Formation: Ron Ladick
Audio-Visual Technology: Sean Sweeney
Communication: Lauren Ramakrishna
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
Worship: Cameron Grosh

Treasurer: Ellen Groves
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Botti

WORSHIP MINISTRY LEADERS

Acolytes: Anelisa Tarrant
Altar Guild: Anelisa Tarrant
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 8:00-3:00

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