



## 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 28, 2021

**Celebrant: 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Dr. 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

### Should I, as a Christian, Get the Vaccine or Not?

I know some of our members have medical reasons for putting off taking the vaccines; some also have well-thought out reasons for delaying it. As you can imagine, your reasoning and individual circumstances are 100% supported. For those of you who are considering whether to take the vaccine at this time, I thought you might be interested in an interaction among clergy that attempts to lay out a "Christian" consideration for taking the vaccine.

I'm a member of the Clergy Letter Project and recently one of our associates, Deb Haarsma, reflected on this question for men and women of faith: "Should you get the COVID vaccine?" Deb is President of BioLogos. God's Word. God's World. The mission of BioLogos is to explore the question of whether science and religion are at war? Many people today believe they are in conflict; BioLogos exists to show the similarities. Some Christians are saying "no" or "not yet" to the vaccination, while others are saying the sooner you get it the better. Here are five reasons, according to Deb, to say "yes" when you are eligible.

#### **1. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.**

Misinformation and conspiracy theories fill social media, making people cautious. Yet all vaccines in the U.S. are required to go through a rigorous testing and approval process. The process was accelerated for COVID-19, but not by shortcutting the research. Rather, companies were paid to produce millions of doses early, in hopes their vaccine would work. I'm in a vaccine trial myself and can personally attest to the rigor and care being taken. As Francis Collins points out, all of the data are publicly available and transparent. Dr. Collins vouches for the new vaccines as the director of the nation's biomedical research, as a Christian, and by personal example. (He was one of the first to receive the shot.)

#### **2. Protect others as well as yourself.**

Many people are not medically able to take the vaccine, such as those in cancer treatment, those with compromised immune systems, and (for now) children. When you get the vaccine, you help build up the "community immunity" that protects others. If large numbers of people are vaccinated, COVID won't be able to spread to the most vulnerable among us. Thousands of Christians have committed to following public health guidelines in our Christian Statement on Science in Pandemic Times. The Statement was signed by medical and faith leaders from different Christian traditions, different parts of the country, and different political parties, yet agree that masks and vaccination are ways to love our neighbors.

#### **3. The sooner the better.**

Widespread vaccination is the fastest and most permanent way to stop the spread. Nearly half a million people in the United States have already died of COVID-19 and millions more have been sick. Many others are struggling—those who've lost jobs, the lonely, those suffering mental illness, the healthcare workers serving on the front lines, and the teachers and

kids dealing with online school. All of this will end as soon as we stamp out this virus! You can help your community by getting the vaccine as soon as you are eligible.

#### 4. COVID-19 vaccines are ethical.

Many Christians are concerned about the possible use of fetal cells in vaccines. The good news is that no vaccines contain human cells! Moreover, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines do not use human cells even in the production process. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine does use a human cell line in production; this is an immortal cell line that came from a fetus aborted in 1985 (the abortion was not performed for this purpose). Yet even here, the cells used today are descended many generations from the original fetus and were never part of an actual human body. While the association with abortion gives many Christians pause, there is substantial agreement among Christian theologians and ethicists that the connection to fetal cell lines should not make these vaccines off-limits for Christians.

#### 5. The disease is riskier than the vaccine.

No vaccine is 100% risk-free, just as no medical procedure is risk free. Christians need to weigh the risks on both sides. COVID-19 is a serious disease, much worse than the flu. By now we've all known people who have had it. Some people have mild cases but others have serious symptoms, hospitalization, and long-term complications. The risks of the vaccine are less than the risks of the disease.

My personal recommendation for myself and those I love is simply this: A way of loving our neighbor and ourselves, unless we have been medically advised against getting the vaccine, is to get the shot. May Christians be known as the people most wise in discerning science, most courageous in fighting for justice, and most compassionate in caring for the sick. We are the ones most willing to make sacrifices for the sake of others, following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Vaccination is a concrete way we can care for our family, our church, and our community.

**All good to you,  
Regis+**



**Easter Palms** will be available for pick up **tomorrow**, Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The church will be open from 12:00 - 6:00. On Saturday, Palms will be available at the front door outside for pick up as well, from 12:00 - 4:00.



**A Brendan's Family & Friends** donation was given in celebration of the Life of Larry Flick, by a good friend.



**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!

## Senior Warden's Corner

**I want to use my "corner" this week to say Thank You** in advance to all those who have been working so hard on our Holy Week services. St. Brendan's will be offering services on Palm Sunday, on Maundy Thursday, on Good Friday (two of them!), on Saturday evening (the Great Vigil of Easter), and of course on Easter Sunday morning. Many parishes twice our size "pick and choose" which services to offer; St. Brendan's offers all six. What's more, these liturgies have been lovingly developed to have their own special character, reflecting the variety of intellectual and emotional responses appropriate to the turbulent final days of Jesus' life on earth.

I have said on other occasions that what makes Holy Week special for me is the unusual way in which "liturgical time" relates to chronological time during these eight days. For most of the year, after all, the church rushes headlong through Jesus' life and ministry, condensing some three years of teaching, healing and prayer into fifty-one Sundays. We hop from place to place, from a miracle to a sermon, from Jesus' call to his disciples to his patient efforts to straighten out their misunderstandings. It's hard sometimes to follow the through-line of the story as one would when reading a novel.

But then we arrive in Holy Week ... the frenetic pace slows down ... and the picture clears.

On Maundy Thursday, we experience the supper in the Upper Room in much the same amount of time that it must have taken Jesus and the disciples to eat it. On Good Friday we stand at the foot of the Cross as time crawls by, just as it must have crawled for Jesus' family and friends. And on Easter Day, we share in their initial confusion as they discover the empty tomb as well as in their dawning realization that everything has changed.

In all, then, Holy Week recalls eight action-packed days of events in the Holy Land two thousand years ago ... and we can live through them in the same eight-day period here in Southwest Pennsylvania in 2021. I hope you will be able to join us for our Holy Week services this year. Thanks to a group of dedicated Brendanites, they will be well worth your time.

**Tim Austin**



**Easter Altar Flowers.** If you would like to make a contribution for the flowers that will be on the altar Easter Sunday, send an email to Katie [StBrendansKatie@gmail.com](mailto:StBrendansKatie@gmail.com). Be sure to include in your email, the name/s of those the flowers are for, either in memory of, in celebration of or in thanksgiving for. Any amount is welcome. Submitted information will be printed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Make your check, in any amount, payable to St. Brendan's and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

**WATCH FOR OUR NEXT FORUM ON TUESDAY, APRIL 20.**

The topic is Social Justice and Food Security. The Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank will be attending. More information to come soon!

**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=MGpHMHNvZGF0Vi9xSjl1dDNmc3hkZz09> **Passcode: Lent**

**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 [jlsphone1@gmail.com](mailto:jlsphone1@gmail.com).

## The Children's Corner

**Pageants, Parades, and Praise**



When I was in High School, I was in marching band. I played the Euphonium which is a low brass instrument and is really important in a marching band. Low brass helps to keep the beat and in the 1970s, low brass ruled in the band. The drum section was pretty good too, but we had a low brass line of 6 Sousaphones, 16 Trombones, and 8 Euphoniums. Then the trumpets and flugel horns, and wow what a band.

And we went to a lot of parades! We competed and practiced and marched and practiced and had a great time. I still love a parade. The bands, the floats, the whole experience is exciting and lets you know something special is happening. Sometimes, the parade leads you to the event itself – the parade is just the start of . . . homecoming, a carnival, a city festival, fireworks, or something big.

This Sunday starts kind of like a parade. People gather, we sing (no low brass, but I hear it in my head). We have a process and it leads us to the church. We do this because about 2,000 years ago, a king was visiting Jerusalem – People lined up to see the King. They waved palms leaves, put their coats on the ground to limit the dust, and waited for the grand process to start.

Then came the King. He was riding on a small donkey one of his men borrowed he rode through the street, the people waved their palms and shouted, "Hosanna Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest



from a local farm. As to the Son of David! heaven!"

You probably already guessed that King was Jesus. This Sunday is Palm Sunday. the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the people cheering and waving palm the beginning of Holy Week – a week that starts with joy and ends in sorrow. Because this week, after Jesus arrives, he will be arrested, tried, beaten, and hung on the cross. But next week, ah, next week is Easter when Jesus triumphs.

I can hardly wait until next Sunday! Because for Easter, more people will be in church and gradually we will have more and more people coming back to church with us on Sunday. So it is fitting that just as Jesus returned to his people, so will we soon be returning to church.

**Peace,  
Julie+**



**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. 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!

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**VOTING BY MAIL 2021!** 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.

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It was decided that we will **carefully and incrementally reopen St. Brendan's for in-person worship.** The recent improvement in key COVID statistics, the increasing numbers of our members who are fully vaccinated, and the recent lifting of public health restrictions by Governor Wolf all contributed to this decision.

Here are the key details:

- The first service to which we will invite a limited number of our members will be the 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist on Easter Sunday.
- Those who are interested in attending in person in the coming weeks are invited to submit their names, their preferred means of contact (phone, text, or email), and the size of their household groups to Katie by 5:00 p.m. on Palm Sunday. Email: StBrendansKatie@gmail.com; telephone at church: 412-364-5974.
- At this early stage, we will allow children over the age of 12 to attend with their parents.
- On Monday, March 29, we will draw at random between 10 and 15 names from the list (depending on the size of each group).
- The individuals or groups selected for Easter Day will receive personal invitations to attend the service and directions about the practices they will need to follow.
- Those on the list whose names are not drawn for Easter Day will be eligible for the drawing for the following Sunday (and so on, assuming that we are able to remain open).
- Our practical experience and the comfort level of our stream team with their own safety each Sunday will determine how many invitees we select for the following service.
- Prior to Easter Sunday, the church furniture will be reset in the way to which we are all accustomed. (We will be using the upholstered wood chairs and not the plastic chairs from the Social Hall, since the current guidance from the CDC suggests that transmission of the coronavirus via contaminated surfaces is "uncommon.") However, the use of masks and hand sanitizer and the maintenance of appropriate distancing will remain absolute requirements for all who attend our services.
- The way in which Holy Communion will be distributed is a matter for our clergy to determine.
- Above all, perhaps, it must be clearly understood that we will continue to monitor with care the COVID-19 statistics for our region. Any deterioration in the indicators may be grounds to abandon this plan before its implementation on Easter Day or to close the church once again after we have reopened.

Anyone with concerns or questions is very welcome to contact me at any time (austover@gmail.com or 508-688-9554). May our Eastertide this year be blessed in a particularly special way as we embark on the next stage in our voyage as St. Brendan's.

**Tim Austin**  
**Senior Warden**

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

Susan & Mark Shoemaker, April 7      Jennifer Saitz & Daniel May, April 12      Gladys & Les Carlisle, April 26  
Mary & Jim Evanochko, April 27      Annemarie Malbon & Daric Thompson, April 27

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We celebrate the **April Birthdays of:**

1 Libby Juel	2 Betsy Smith	3 Anthony Bertucci
7 Kevin Boyd	10 Claire Grotevant	10 Linda Limberis
10 Lin Shadgett	12 Marcy Little	15 Keith Heston
16 Wilder Bancroft	18 Leah Byrne	20 Mark Shoemaker
20 Edith Waseleski	21 Morgan Aretz	22 Rachel May
23 Ted Dannerth	26 Les Carlisle	27 Linda Schneider
29 Arlena Pugliese	30 Dylan Riley	30 Sean Riley
		30 Amelia Schantz

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**CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations).** This week we are supporting the work of Crisis Center North, a local organization that ministers to victims of domestic violence.

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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>.

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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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**The Haitian project.** We want to fill two school buses so that they can be transported to Haiti both within the same month. One bus is filled to the brim but we can still use more clothes, shoes and other items to fill the second bus. Children's clothing, women's size 14 and smaller, men's shirts up to size extra large, men's pants up to waist 34 are utilized by Haitian people who tend to be smaller than Americans. They also can use donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, linens, fabrics, belts, hats, etc. are all needed. Thank you for all your donations - keep them coming!

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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.

**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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## Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

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### How To Be A Good White Ally (And A Good Black Friend)

with **Tony Norman**, Award-Winning Post-Gazette Columnist and Associate Editor.

Is it possible to have conversations about race without walking on eggshells, being offended by the truth, getting defensive, or feeling guilty? The answer is yes, according to Tony Norman.

Join the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon **Tonight, March 25, at 7:00 p.m.** for an informal look at how we can greet new ideas with gratitude and grace, and grow from our misunderstanding and differences. To register, go to [cpcb.org](http://cpcb.org).



### Black History Month Discussions Continued

The Friday night discussions by the Universal Unitarian Church of the North Hills are continuing into March. The group watches a short Ted talk following by a discussion of the video. It's a lively and thoughtful discussion, and best of all, no reading involved!

If you haven't been to an event yet, no worries! Each lesson is independent of the others. So, please join the Unitarians along with other Brendanites at **8:15 p.m. on Friday, March 26**. If you would like to attend, please send your name to [scregistration@uucnh.org](mailto:scregistration@uucnh.org).

### Our Right to Clean Air

A Virtual Resident-Led Town Hall Meeting **Tuesday, April 6, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

Find out how we, acting together with our elected representatives, can promote the change we need to safeguard our health and the health of our children. The future of our city and our region depends on us! Our own Thaddeus Popovich will be one of the presenters.

To register, go to [bit.ly/clean-air-town-hall](https://bit.ly/clean-air-town-hall).

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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  
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  
Betsy Gentile  
John Jacobs and staff  
Becca Sands  
Jennifer

Chris Fleissner  
Lynne Gloor  
Kerri Jensen  
Warren Sands  
Julie

Amanda Gagnon  
Ann Hockenberry  
Dr. Ken Judson  
Andrew Smith  
Mike

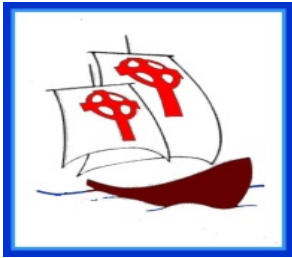
Jeff Gagnon  
Beth Lutz Hoffman  
Luke O'Neill  
Justin Zeigler  
Patrick

Shelley Gagnon  
Eric Hood  
Kim Pierce  
Cindy



**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)