



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

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>

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

Sunday, January 31, 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

And St. Brendan's kept these things alive during the plague . . .

As promised at the annual meeting, here are many of the ministries, happenings, traditions etc. we kept alive during this pandemic. Take a look. If there are any I forgot, please let me know.

- We kept liturgy going through live streaming.
- We kept readers of the Word alive.
- We had weddings and a baptism.
- We had virtual choirs and anthems at every liturgy; we had over 125 members of our virtual choir sing Halle! Halleluia!
- We brought to life Morning Prayer at St. Brendan's.
- We kept children involved—25 participated in our Christmas Pageant.
- We sent off, in St. Brendan's Style, four people and families to new life ventures.
- We kept the Speaker's Series alive—and made money on it.
- We kept Conversation Friends alive—in fact, it flourished more than ever.
- Modern Episcopalian Group thrived—it branched out into 39 Articles.
- Bible Study continued—it spawned two new groups, totaling 25 new Bible participants.
- Merry Meal Makers found a way to get meals to needy people
- Myriam's found a new way to continue.
- CRIES still gave 10% of our income to needy causes.
- We kept the Cookie Walk alive—and made money on it, to boot.
- We almost equaled last year's number of pledges. Our total income is almost the same as last year—all this in a pandemic year when we didn't see one another, and many jobs were lost.
- Our 8'oclockers found ways to continue to meet and talk together—sometimes in, shall I say, non-conventional ways.
- Our Justice Ministry sprang into action after a record-breaking parish meeting of 50+ people to express outrage over the death of George Floyd and desire to grow our BLM awareness and commitment.
- We've had 5 BLM forums (6th in the making)—we raised nearly \$5k for those being evicted.
- We started a food bank and distribution center.
- We grew a Book Group.
- Stitching continued; Strings thrived also
- The website expanded and other technical developments were robust.
- Men's breakfasts continued virtually; a brand new women's coffee group started on Saturday mornings.

- The garden continued to grow and families (kids included) volunteered to water the plants.
- The sick continued to be virtually visited and creatively anointed.
- Phone calls and prayers continued—attempts were made twice to call and communicate with all parishioners and people who visited us once pre-pandemic.
- We had virtual game night and coffee hour.
- Ash Wednesday will be held virtually this year and we devised a way for all to get ashes.
- We had our share of COVID cases among our parishioners and family members and friends—all have made it through the virus—some with some enduring challenges, but all are manageable. Praise God!
- We've had at least ten people who want to deepen their connection with St. Brendan's due to live streaming. Some of these are already involved in our justice ministry, Bible study, reader's ministry and adult formation.
- Vestry continued working and made big decisions.
- The flower ministry continued being active—flowers were safely distributed to people who needed a lift after the services.
- Altar Guild resumed in the last two months.
- Most Committees met.
- The List goes on....

**All good,
Regis+**



Mark your calendars to hear Professor David Harris. Our next virtual Public Forum will be held on Tuesday, February 16 at 7:00 pm. Professor David Harris will speak on Policing and Social Justice. Professor Harris, law professor at the University of Pittsburgh and nationally known expert on police profiling, has spent the last five years visiting police forces across the country and collecting examples of smart, progressive law enforcement, all of which have reduced crime without infringing on civil rights. He has written several books on this topic. Professor Harris will show us that solutions to reduce crime, fight terror and preserve civil liberties are in reach.

This Public Forum is sponsored by St. Brendan's Justice Ministry together with the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills. To attend, please email Katie at stbrendanskatie@gmail.com. For more information, visit our website: stbrendans.org. We hope you'll join us!

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Pittsburgh Foundation, Emergency Action Fund, for the arts. Please go to <https://pittsburghfoundation.org/emergencyactionfund> for more information.

Senior Warden's Corner

At its January meeting, our Worship Committee deliberated—not for the first time—about how to hit an important liturgical “sweet spot.”

On the one hand, the familiar, the comfortable and the traditional has much to recommend it. I know that when I see the hymn “Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah” in the service bulletin and hear the opening chords of the tune Cwm Rhondda, I am transported back to the building where I used to worship alongside my mother, who lent her rich Welsh contralto to our singing. And I have been told by some Brendanites who were raised Roman Catholic that they found their transition to the Episcopal Church easier because the language of our Eucharist follows the Catholic Mass so closely.

On the other hand, rote repetition can become numbing. Sheer habit led me to trudge out through the snow ten days ago to check the mailbox ... on the Martin Luther King holiday. And it's what once caused me to back my car out of the garage straight into a backhoe that the landscaper had parked in our driveway overnight. Against the backdrop of the familiar, variety and novelty force us to stop acting on autopilot and to pay attention to what has otherwise become predictable.

The Worship Committee is sensitive to this tension. In partnership with our clergy, the Committee aims to offer at some moments the reassurance that comes with tried-and-true liturgical choices but at others the flash of awareness that can result when the familiar is viewed from a new angle or in a new light. As we do so, we welcome your reactions, your suggestions, and your concerns.

Tim Austin



We celebrate the **February Birthdays** of:

4 Tamara Spoonhoward	10 Adam Konley	11 Larry Greer	11 Bill O'Toole
12 Larry Toler	13 Debbie Wunsche	15 Saundy Waseleski	17 Eric Helmsen
18 Melissa Aretz	19 Connie Weichel	26 James Roche	27 Ruth Haider



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

14 Arlena and Bill Pugliese 21 Debbie and Mark Jennings



The Haitian project. The project to send two school buses loaded to Haiti is still being worked on. As you are sorting through your items and deciding what to donate, we have some more specific requests. The Haitian people tend to be smaller than typical Americans. However, men's t shirts are welcome - even an extra-large size. Haitian people use the shirts for younger girls to wear as a dress. Often underwear is not donated but they are needed in Haiti. They not only appreciate receiving shoes, but even if you have boots, they are needed. They will wear winter boots rather than go barefoot. Thank you for all of your continuing donations.



Coffee Fellowship

St. Brendan's Women's Coffee Hour. If you would like to join St. Brendan's women's virtual Coffee hour which meets on zoom Saturday mornings at 9:30, join us by clicking on our link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8944116431>. This is a way to connect with other women from St. Brendan's and give us a "lift" for the week. All are welcome to join us and there is no expectation that you need to join us every Saturday - just when you have the time and feel like joining us. If you have any questions about how to log in, please contact Joyce Donadee at 412-635-2312. You can save the zoom link too because we will use the same link every Saturday.



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.



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.



February is Black History Month! In honor of Black History Month, the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills is holding an event relating to Black history every Friday night in February at 8:30-9:30pm. The group will watch a short video following by a discussion of the video. It should be a lively and thoughtful discussion, and best of all, no reading involved!

The Unitarians have invited parishioners of St. Brendan's to attend any or all of these get togethers. It's an opportunity to meet some of our neighbors right down the street from us. If you would like to attend, please send your name and email address to scregistration@uucnh.org

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:

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|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 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 | 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 | | |



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