



Sunday, December 19, 2021

Celebrant: The Rev. Julie Smith

Participating and representing St. Brendan's in prayer and worship and receiving Holy Eucharist for all members and friends.

Weekly at St. Brendan's

- Sunday** 8:00 am **Worship, in person**
 10:00 am **Worship, in person**
 10:00 am **Worship, via live streaming** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKCY2BEJXlqMoVc_nXXG7ew
- Monday** 7:45 am Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom, Monday thru Saturday
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105?pwd=bXM5OHJ2UEh4TXhQT1RkZnVrQWNVdz09>
 Meeting ID: 479 620 1105 Passcode: 092720
 Varying office hours, call ahead
 11:00 am Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976791143?pwd=NnN0cW5xSFVFMmk1VlFBcVJia05LQT09>
 4:00 pm Bible-Lite Group <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
- Tuesday** 7:00 am AA meeting, via zoom Dial in: 312-626-6799 Meeting Id:345 892 252
 11:00 am Bible Study, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
 4:30 pm Book Club discussion, via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481>
- Wednesday** Varying office hours, call ahead
 3:00 pm Deacon hours
 7:00 pm Evening Service, in person
- Friday** Varying office hours, call ahead

The Priest's Corner

Sharing joy at Christmas.



A long time ago, when I was five, my sister Sandy got married and moved to Germany. Even though she was 13 years older than me, Sandy was my favorite sister – she had been my babysitter and I was her chaperone on dates. We spent a lot of time together and I thought we would always be together.

But, then she got married to a soldier and suddenly moved to Germany. The preparation for her wedding seemed to last a long time then in the blink of an eye, she was gone. We wrote letters to each other, she sent me funny letters, and she drew pictures for me to color. She took pictures of Germany to show us where she lived, but she still seemed so far away. This was before cell phones or the internet and we couldn't even talk to each other.

In early November that year, I started to hear about Christmas presents coming in the mail. And I thought, since Christmas was a long way off – almost two months – why would presents start to come now? Well, it took a long time then for presents to arrive from Germany and almost every day from the start of November to Christmas packages arrived from Sandy. To get ready, my parents put up our Christmas tree early that year and when each gift arrived it was put under the tree.

Sandy's presents were already wrapped and labeled with names on the outside package and on the wrapping paper inside "just in case." I kept watching and finally, one day, a package arrived that said, JULIE. I was in awe she remembered me. It was the only package that arrived that day. The day after Thanksgiving. And I was not allowed to even touch it until Christmas.



It was a small package, wrapped in newspaper from the Sunday funny pages. As Christmas approached, we were reminded, we were going to have a family dinner and open family presents on Christmas Eve. Then on Christmas morning we would open Santa's presents – after Mom and Dad woke up – and we were not allowed to make noise and wake them up.

So after a month of not touching, or poking or rearranging Sandy's gifts, Christmas Eve finally came. After dinner we passed out the presents with each of us watching the others to see what Sandy had sent us. Some were in big boxes with shiny paper and others were small and wrapped in the funny pages. As I said, my gift was a small package. wrapped in the funny pages in German, not shiny

paper like the others. When I opened it I found a German made transister radio. My great-grandfather said, it's a German radio so it will only pick up foreign language stations.

The next morning my sister Lorri and I had to be quiet not to wake Mom and Dad. We found batteries, put them in the radio and turned on my present. Sitting in my father's oversized rocking chair, in the dark of Christmas morning, with only the tree lights on we found one station clearly. They were speaking a foreign language. We thought it was German just as our Great-Grandfather had said. We thought it was the BEST CHRISTMAS EVER because we were sharing Christmas love with Sandy and just for that moment, she wasn't far away.

Peace
Julie+



The Holiday Season is hard for those whose hearts are hurting. You are not alone. **Our Blue Service** is a contemplative service offering hope, remembrance, and healing for those carrying pain during this season.

Wednesday, December 29 at 7:00 p.m.



Vestry Meeting. On Monday, December 13, the Vestry held its regular monthly meeting. We discussed several items including:

1. An interim report from the Discernment Committee, indicating that they continue to make progress and are actively considering applications they received by the December 6 deadline.
2. Approval of this year's Nominating Committee for new Vestry members.
3. Review of the dates for this year's Annual Parish Meeting (now set for Sunday, January 30 following a single 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist) and for the initial organizational meeting of the 2022 Vestry (on Saturday, February 5).
4. Further discussion of the 2022 Budget in light of pledges received through the end of last week. And
5. Plans to continue the process of relaxing COVID-driven restrictions and thus return gradually to the practices that we followed before the beginning of the pandemic. As always, the full Vestry Minutes are available for those who would like a more detailed account.

WANTED: Rentals Supervisor. This individual fields inquiries from folks who are looking to rent our facilities and answers their questions concerning availability, capacity, cost etc. Then, following St. Brendan's well documented policies and working with the Parish Administrator, she or he sees that the renter receives the appropriate forms and works with the renter to complete the process. George Snyder estimates that these tasks may require four hours per week, though this does fluctuate from one season to another. George has said that he will be available to train his successor.

WANTED: Scholarship Committee Chair. For 25 years, St. Brendan's has offered modest scholarships to teenagers in the parish who are pursuing higher education. The fund currently has a balance of a little under \$10,000 and most recently made awards worth about \$300 each. The bulk of the work for the Committee Chair falls in the Spring, when applications need to be solicited, received and reviewed. The current Chair is Tom Waseleski, who will be happy to brief his successor on the history and logistics of the fund.

WANTED: Memorial Garden Coordinator. Just outside the Chapel doors, you will find our Memorial Garden, in which parishioners are welcome to arrange for their cremains to be interred. Maintaining the Garden (mowing, trimming, etc.), working with potential purchasers, and ultimately managing interments fall to a small committee for which we are seeking a Coordinator to succeed Bill Spoonhoward and Dan Moore. The maintenance work is seasonal, while other functions may occur at any time.

Save the Date for the Annual meeting, Sunday January 30th. We will combine services that day and the only one will be at 9:00.

All ministry leaders are asked to provide a brief summary of the previous year. Please submit your report to Katie by Monday January 17st, a booklet will be compiled.



Easy Fund Raiser Purchase your Giant Eagle and Kuhn's gift cards from us \$ for \$? Did you know St. Brendan's actually gets 5% when you buy the gift cards from us?



Every year St. Brendan's accepts contributions of money and names either in memory of those who have died, those who have made a special impact on our lives, or simply because we love them. The money collected goes toward the purchase of our Christmas greens and poinsettias. On Christmas Eve the names are printed in the bulletin, the tree lights are lit, and our beautiful church glorifies the birth of Christ. If you would like to contribute to the greening of the church, please contact Katie. StBrendans@gmail.com.



Need a gift for someone who has everything? Would you like a way to acknowledge a special family member? A donation to the Brendan's Family and Friend's (BFF) fund is the perfect way to honor that special person or event. BFF funds are earmarked for unbudgeted building needs. BFF fund donations are spent on unbudgeted building projects. Please pick up a BFF card in the narthex or contact Katie. StBrendans@gmail.com and make a donation today! Thank you for making a difference at St. Brendan's by becoming a BFF donor!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday	December 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Pageant
Friday	December 24	10:00 pm	Family service
Saturday	December 25		No Service
Sunday	December 26	8:00 am	Worship
Sunday	December 26	10:00 am	Lessons & Carols
Wednesday	December 29	7:00 pm	Blue Service



Stewardship 2022

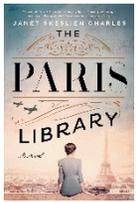
The end of the year is quickly approaching, and our Stewardship campaign will soon come to an end. Although we have many footsteps filling our path, we're still short of our goal of 100 pledges. We have received 67 pledges to date. In order to plan for our 2022 programs, we need to know how much support we can count on. If you haven't already sent in your pledge, please consider what St. Brendan's means to you and commit to walking in love with us. Can we add your footsteps to our path? Feel free to e-mail Katie and let her know your intentions StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.

Senior Warden's Corner

When I was a boy, our family spent two August vacations at a sleepy seaside town on the south coast of England called Bembridge. It was the kind of place where folks set up their blankets and folding chairs on the same spot each day. As a result, one quickly came to know one's neighbors. One year, we found ourselves situated near a pair of elderly single women, who would complain—loudly—about anything and everything. The sand was too gritty. We children were too noisy. The ice cream was not as delicious as it used to be “before the War.” One blazing afternoon, when the sky was blue and all seemed right with the world, one of the ladies turned to the other with a theatrical sigh and declared, “Well, my dear, if we can just get Christmas over with, I suppose things may improve.” Our family collapsed in giggles and “if we can just get Christmas over with” became our way of reminding one another to live in the moment and cross bridges only when they came along.

“To everything,” says the author of Ecclesiastes, “there is a season.” For St. Brendan's, this December continues to be a very busy season and there is so much that I could write about. But I won't. In the few days of Advent that remain, may we all enjoy some quiet time to reflect with mounting anticipation on the approaching birth of our Lord. In January, there will be “time enough and to spare” to embrace the challenges and the changes that lie ahead.

Tim Austin, Sr. Warden



Book Club News: The St. Brendan's Book Club meets regularly at 7 pm on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings are typically held in the church library. At our next meeting on **January 6th**, we will be discussing, “The Paris Library” by Janet Skeslien Charles. Based on the true World War II story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris, this is an unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family, and the power of literature to bring us together. Sounds like the perfect book club selection! Hope you can join us. Please feel free to contact Chris Botti at shadypatch@msn.com if you have any questions. Thank you!

CRIES Advocacy

CRIES Advocacy, (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), meets monthly on the third Sunday in the library after the 10:00 a.m. service where they determine the distribution of St. Brendan's 10% tithe of our pledged income. This week we are praying for the work of Northside Common Ministries, a large food pantry on Pittsburgh North Side that maintains Pleasant Valley Shelter for 25 homeless men.

The next meeting is January 16th, 2022.

Please use this link for the **Parish Directory** and book mark it as the directory is updated often!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_NkE3ZP4ngPHe5j0TL1eeJzITMGA9G1Y/view.

2021 Pledges should be paid in full by December 31, 2021. If you would like to know your outstanding pledge amount, contact Katie at 412-364-5974 or email StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.



Requested Prayers

We ask your prayers for our beloved members of St. Brendan's, especially; Karen Dennis, Charlotte Pierce, Rosie and Rodge Wood, Alice Butterworth, Sandy Nagy, Matthew, Mark Shoemaker, and Larry Tarrant.

For our parents, especially; Kenneth and Adele McCormack, Sandy Martin, Ray Militzer, Naomi Getty and Lenora.

For our family members, especially; Sue Burchill, Raphael Walton, John Barie, Marie Hazelton, Chris Sensenich, Linda Ahlbrand, Tom Groves, Mike Dixon, Nathan Schlumpf, Bob Keihl, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Jim Blackburn, Bill Phelps and Cat Munz, Dennis Ranalli, Becky Horton, Heather and Dan Houle, Diane Bruckus, Denise Nagel, Sherri Hilbert and Joan Gonzales.



December 2021 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Greeters	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
December 1 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 5 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Thank you Regis ☩	8 Joan Beatrous 1 st AJ McKenna 2 nd Linda Limberis P Michael Donadee <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Ellen Groves 10 Shari Tarrant	n/a	Allyson Baierl Kate Heston Wesley Bell	Tim Austin Donna Aiello	Tim Austin	The Bertucci family
December 8 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 12 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Nancy Snyder 1 st Kate Heston 2 nd Tony Turo P Donna Aiello <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Sylvia Affleck 10 Janice Moore	n/a	Annemarie Malbon Donna Aiello Sharon Hlawati	Eric Helmsen Michael Donadee	Janice Moore	Need volunteer
December 15 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 19 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 George Snyder 1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd Mary Bertucci P John Appledorn <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	8 Joan Klinefelter 10 Libby Juel	n/a	Kathy Miller Dave Miller John Appledorn	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Mary Bertucci	Need volunteer
December 22 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 24 Christmas Eve Children's Service 5:00	1 st Nate Boyd 2 nd AJ McKenna P Kate Heston	Shari Tarrant Anelisa Tarrant	n/a	n/a	Allyson Baierl Mike Wick	TBD	n/a
December 24 Christmas Eve Vigil 10:00	1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd Tony Turo P Tim Austin	Anelisa Tarrant Tammy Spoonhoward	n/a	n/a	Eric Helmsen	TBD	n/a
December 26 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Lessons & Carols, 4th	8 Tammy Spoonhoward Various Readers		n/a	Allyson Baierl Megan Overby Tim Austin	Kate Heston John Appledorn	Larry Toler	Need volunteer
December 29 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



January 2022 Ministry Calander

Date	Lectors	Altar Guild	Sunday School	Greeters	Usher	Vestry	Hospitality
January 2 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Ellen Groves 1 st Alan Schneider 2 nd Donna Aiello P Linda Limberis <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Ellen Groves Libby Juel	n/a	Sharon Aiello Donna Aiello Wesley Bell	Tim Austin Donna Aiello	Tim Austin	Need volunteer
January 5 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 9 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Nancy Snyder 1 st Tim Austin 2 nd Marilyn Mulvihill P Dean Peters <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Joan Klinefelter Shari Tarrant	n/a	TBD	John Appledorn Allyson Baierl	Janice Moore	Need volunteer
January 12 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 16 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Sylvia Affleck 1 st Dean Peters 2 nd Annemarie Malbon P Tony Turo <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Sylvia Affleck Janice Moore	n/a	TBD	Michael Donadee Kate Heston	Larry Toler	Need volunteer
January 19 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 23 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am	8 Joan Beatrous 1 st John Appledorn 2 nd Kate Heston P Marilyn Mulvihill <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Tammy Spoonhoward Phoebe Juel	n/a	TBD	Eric Helmsen Mike Wick	Ron Ladick	Need volunteer
January 26 Wednesday 7:00 pm	TBD	Darrell Johnson	~	~	n/a	n/a	n/a
January 30 Sunday 8 & 10:00 am Children's Sunday, 5th	8 Tammy Spoonhoward 1 st Children 2 nd Children P Children <i>*Readers have the option to pre-record or read live in person.</i>	Sylvia Affleck Libby Juel	n/a	TBD	Dale Bertucci Anthony Bertucci	Mary Bertucci	Need volunteer



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: Roger Botti
Assistant Treasurer: Ellen Groves

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: Chris Botti
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
Reiki Ministry: Melanie Popovich
Rental: George Snyder
Scholarship: Tom Waseleski
Sticks & Strings: Joni Reis
Debbie Jennings
Web Site: Kelli Cerra
Annemarie Malbon

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
ESL: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Garden of Hope: Open
Justice Ministry: Ginny Volponi
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

Deacon, Darrell Johnson ~ johnsdj31@verizon.net

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ StBrendansKatie@gmail.com

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net