



## 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-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, April 18, 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

### 39 Articles

Last week in the Modern Episcopalians group we finished the 39 Articles – which some thought we would finish in Advent, so instead of 4 weeks it took 4 months. But what a great four months of discussions about what things mean and how they apply to our practice of being a church.

This week, we delved a bit deeper into Article 17 predestination. And again it was a great discussion about how we live our faith and believe. As most things in the Episcopal Church, we follow the via media – the middle way with room for wide and divergent thought. But at the end of our conversations, we agree we are better, stronger together wrestling with ideas than we are apart and alone with rigid views that exclude.

So I was ready when a colleague emailed me a question about a good (current) Episcopal theologian and a question about a singular Episcopal way of thought. I have a working list of theologians I consult and that list seems to continually grow but I was stumped by the notion of a singular way of thought.

I think one of the great things about being an Episcopalian is our faith in reason. That by working through questions communally we will find our answers. I read Rowan Williams a lot because I think he is a sound thinker, but I also read Howard Thurman, Obery M. Hendricks Jr., Verna Dozier, Diana Butler-Bass, and as I said the list keeps growing. Perhaps for me, the question is not so much what type of theology but how I live into my responsibility to love others and live into the Baptismal Covenant we all share.

In Romans 14 where Paul is explaining the new covenant – how to treat those who are different from you in how they eat, how they pray, how they behave. And Paul's reply is:

Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another ... The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. (Romans 14: 13, 18-19)

And as we renew our Baptismal Covenant, we are asked several questions that follow the conversations we frequently have in Modern Episcopalians, questions Christians wrestle with and wonder about and try to fulfill.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

I think we come to church to find what "with God's help" means for us so that we can serve God together. We renew our covenant with God to remind us that we do have God's help in hard times, that the choice to live in love or live in fear is ours to make and with God, living in love is the best choice. That is what Paul is reminding us with his call to serve Christ and pursue peace.

Julie+



**Volunteers Needed!** Dan Moore is coordinating our Spring Clean-up and has scheduled it for **Thursday, April 22, at 9:00 a.m.** The Justice Ministry is already on board to help. Hoping for the Green Thumb Gang as well and anyone who likes to be outdoors. **Let's do this in recognition of Earth Day!** Rakes, shovels, gloves, tarps, wheelbarrows and your time and talent would be greatly appreciated. Saturday, April 24, will be saved for back up rain date. Contact Dan [daniel.moore@zoominternet.net](mailto:daniel.moore@zoominternet.net) for more information.

**community  
food bank**



**Next Public Forum on Social Justice and Food Security.** Our next Public Forum is **Tuesday, April 20, at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. The topic is *Social Justice and Food Security*. Mitch Bassi, a long-time volunteer from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, will be speaking on how the Food Bank bridges communities and resources in our region to help our neighbors in need overcome food insecurities and lead healthy, happy lives.

Because of the pandemic, individuals and families who never imagined asking for a helping hand have turned to the Food Bank for the first time. People most vulnerable to food insecurity, such as people of color, veterans, people with disabilities, seniors and children need our support more than ever to ensure they have a steady source of fresh and healthy food.

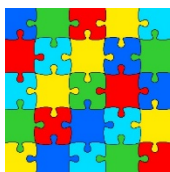
We will be raising funds to assist the Food Bank in helping our brothers and sisters in need during this very difficult time. If you would like to make an early donation, it's easy! Just go to [pittsburghfoodbank.org/stbrendans](http://pittsburghfoodbank.org/stbrendans) and you can make your donation right there. For every \$1.00 raised, the Food Bank is able to provide five meals to those in need. Our goal is \$5,000. When we reach our goal, the Food Bank will be able to provide 25,000 more meals!

To register, email Katie at [StBrendanskatie@gmail.com](mailto:StBrendanskatie@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.stbrendans.org](http://www.stbrendans.org). Hope to see you there!



**Adopt-a-Highway.** One of St. Brendan's oldest environmental ministries is back. After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, the church's Adopt-a-Highway chapter will hold its next litter pickup on Saturday, May 1. Parishioners age 14 and up are invited to help clean the roadside at the Camp Horne Road interchange of I-279 in Ohio Township. Volunteers will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m., caravan to the site and finish by 10:45. Safety vests, work gloves, trash bags and bottled water will be provided. Anti-Covid protocols such as mask-wearing and social distancing will be followed. If you'd like to take part or need more info, please contact Tom Waseleski ([twaseleski@comcast.net](mailto:twaseleski@comcast.net)).

## The Children's Corner



### Do you like puzzles?

I think you know I do. If you check out the activities pages sent out with the bulletin and links for Sunday's Services, you know I like puzzles. We do a lot of crossword puzzles at our house, and in the winter we put together jigsaw puzzles. So when I create word searches or cryptograms (decoding words), you probably figured out I really like puzzles.

And I like mysteries. I read them a lot and when I watch movies, I try to figure out who did what in the movie first.

So what do puzzles have to do with Jesus and church? Well, this Sunday, in our gospel reading we have this line, "Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures" and ever since I was young I thought this must mean Jesus wants us to figure out what the scripture is saying to us each time we read it.

And just like a puzzle, I work the scriptures and try to figure them out. I realize that the scriptures mean something different to me at different times in my life. But the central message is always the same ~ God loves us. We are God's people. As God's people we need to figure out how to live together as God's people.

This week, early in the reading, Jesus appears to the disciples, and they thought they were seeing a ghost. They were afraid and thought maybe Jesus was trying to scare them or maybe . . . who knows. But they were worried. And scared. And unsure, until Jesus did a very human thing – he said, "I'm hungry, do you have anything to eat?" And that broke the tension and they believed it was Jesus.

Then Jesus "opened their minds" and what he opened their minds to was how to be God's people in the world. Jesus reminded them, about leaving them his peace. Jesus said, "do not be afraid, because I will always be with you and if I'm not here, I'll send someone to help you ~ an advocate. But remember to love each other."

Now that message sounds kind of simple, but there is still a puzzle. And the puzzle part of it sometimes is, how? How do I love my neighbor as myself when . . . they don't let me pick their flowers? Or I can't play ball in their lawn? Or for whatever reason?


Sometimes it may seem hard to love someone who tells you no. But even when we hear no, it may mean they don't want you to pick the wrong flower or touch the poison ivy. It may mean, I'm trying to protect you. And this is like having an advocate – someone who takes care of me when I might get into trouble.

**Peace,  
Julie+**



A **Brendan's Family & Friends** donation was given in memory of Wilder Bancroft, from Sylvia Affleck.

**Vestry Meeting.** On Monday, April 12, the Vestry held its regular monthly meeting—an exceptionally long and busy one. The following were among the many topics we discussed:

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- (1) selecting potential members of the committee that will lead the parish through the discernment process that lies ahead;
  - (2) learning more about plans to host Eddie Wise, a pastoral counseling student, as an intern this summer;
  - (3) discussing the early steps in reopening the church to in-person worship and possible paths forward;
  - (4) approving plans for the creation of a 3- to 5-minute video about the parish to be shared with candidates in the ongoing search for a new Bishop of Pittsburgh;
  - (5) discussing a request from the C.A.R.E.S. organization to rent office space during the week; and
  - (6) brainstorming fundraising ideas as the range of potential projects grows post-pandemic. It was also agreed that Lauren Ramakrishna will take over as the Vestry member with oversight responsibility for Communication. (As always, the full Vestry Minutes are available for those who would like a more detailed account.)



**St. Brendan's Scholarships.** The parish invites young church members who will be enrolled in college, technical school or other post-secondary education in fall 2021 to apply for a St. Brendan's Scholarship. Grants are awarded on the basis of a person's years of participation and attendance in St. Brendan's services and activities.

Guidelines and applications, which must be received by the church no later than Saturday, May 1, are available by contacting the office. Launched in 1996 by a parishioner, the late Dorsey Dodroe, the scholarship fund has awarded 76 grants to 29 students. The program is sustained by the generosity of St. Brendan's members, and donations may be made to the fund at any time.



**Altar Flowers.** We have many empty dates on our Altar Flower Calendar. Check with Katie for an open Sunday if you would like to contribute flowers for our altar. Flowers ordered from our florist cost \$40.00 each week and with that an announcement is put in the bulletin as a way to honor a special day, a memory of someone special, etc.

If you would like to bring arrangements from your garden, just inform Katie so flowers aren't ordered from the florist.

## Senior Warden's Corner

**Question:** How is a living through a pandemic like parenting a child?

**Answer:** Neither a pandemic nor an infant comes with a User's Manual.

In the sixteen or so days since we invited the first Brendanites to return to church for in-person worship, I have heard a wide range of opinions about the approach we adopted. No surprise there. Since COVID-19 presents challenges unlike any we have witnessed before, it is natural that people should respond to it differently. It is important that our clergy and the members of the Vestry should hear those divergent views as they figure out the most appropriate path forward.

At its monthly meeting on Monday, the Vestry did agree on two things. First, they agreed that we should gradually increase the number of in-person worshippers that we invite to any one service—setting a cap for now at 25. Second, they asked me to convene a meeting of the fifteen or so individuals who have been closely involved over the course of the past year in planning for re-opening and then implementing the plan. We will hold that meeting as soon as possible, and it may result in some changes to our strategy going forward—in which case, I will of course keep you informed.

In the meanwhile, a couple of requests:

- First, do please keep Katie informed about it and when you would like to attend in person. Some folks have been very generous in hanging back to allow others to take the available spaces. But this leaves us with an inaccurate view of how many people in total are eager to attend. Ironically, as a result, we did not even fill all the slots that were available on the first two Sundays. If you let us know what you would truly like, we will do our best to figure things out from there.
- Second, please feel free to express your views about our policies and procedures directly to me. Complaining to one another or keeping your frustrations bottled up inside will not have any effect on our decision-making. We need to understand what you feel and why, even if there continues to be a wide range of views to be taken into account.

Thanks!

**Tim Austin**

**CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations).** This week we are supporting the work of Mercy Ships, an organization that provides medical services in ports around the world bringing hope and healing to many.

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## Words you may not know ...

[From time to time, we will use *The Little Log* to explain key words that you will hear as we move towards selecting a new bishop for our diocese and a new priest-in-charge for our parish. This is the first of those “explainers.” We hope they are helpful.]



**Discernment** - Discernment is a practice of prayerful reflection in which a community of faith comes to appreciate its spiritual gifts and figures out what God is calling it to become. It provides the all-important energy that enables a diocese or a parish to continue to grow its mission in creative and Spirit-centered ways.

Discernment typically involves periods of reflection, the collection and sharing of information, thoughtful discussion and (first, last and throughout) prayer. This may sound very much like the activity that people refer to as “strategic planning” in other contexts. It differs, however, in that we are not seeking to **decide for ourselves** what we hope to do in the future. Rather, we are asking the Holy Spirit to **reveal to us** the future that God has prepared for us and the steps that will allow us to respond to God’s call.



Similarly, electing a bishop or calling on a new priest can seem quite like conducting a “job search.” And it certainly does involve a position description of sorts, letters of application, long- and shortlists of candidates, and interviews. But here too, the question is not which individual we **prefer or admire**; instead, what we hope is that we can serve as God’s agents in finding the woman or man who can best **lead us in carrying forward the work of the Kingdom** in the Pittsburgh area.

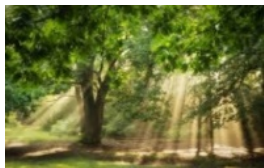


**The women's Coffee Hour** this Saturday April 17, will not be meeting because of a Diocesan discernment retreat. We will continue the following week on April 24<sup>th</sup>.



**An upcoming milestone for one of our own:** The announcement here, soon to be published in *Grace Happens*, marks a significant milestone for St. Brendan’s own Darrell Johnson. Darrell’s journey of discernment began in the fall of 2017 in conversations with Fr. Regis. In the spring of 2018 Dr. Jno Hunt chaired a Discernment Committee to examine Darrell’s calling and make a recommendation to the Vestry. With the Discernment Committee’s recommendation and the Vestry’s approval, Darrell was nominated to Bishop McConnell as a postulant. In June of 2018 Darrell, now a postulant, began his seminary studies at Stevenson School for Ministry in Harrisburg, PA. Darrell completed his academic studies in November 2020. On October 31, 2020 Bishop McConnell named Darrell a candidate for ordination, following our Vestry’s approval and recommendation. On March 25, 2021 the diocesan Commission on Ministry recommended Darrell’s ordination to the Standing Committee. With the Standing Committee’s certification, Bishop McConnell confirmed Darrell’s ordination and Darrell took the final step in the formation process, becoming an ordinand. The journey from nominee to postulant, from postulant to candidate, and from candidate to ordinand is complex and lengthy. Behind the scenes, a significant number of Brendanites have been involved in Darrell’s journey in one way or another. Thanks to all those who have supported Darrell in his journey!

Due to the constraints of St. Paul’s pandemic protocols, attendance is limited and by invitation only; however, the service will be available for everyone via Facebook streaming. That link will be communicated as we get closer to the date. Be looking for that in a future *Little Log*.



**The Spirituality Group at St. Brendan's is growing!** We are looking forward to 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. This group will be based on our church’s beliefs, but will focus more on embracing our connection to each other, to nature and to all of God’s creatures.

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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**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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**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!



**The Haitian project.** The two school buses have been parked in a local trucking garage where the mechanics have been working on them. They made mechanical upgrades that were needed in the buses. However, the mechanics recommend that school buses should not be driven at highway speed all the way to Miami.

Not to be daunted, our Haitian friend has been working two jobs to save money to buy his own day bed truck. After he buys the truck he will rent a flatbed to transport each bus to Miami. He will use the day cab truck to start his own trucking business picking up available transportation routes. He is getting close to the goal of saving enough money to buy the truck. Then he will add the required Penn DOT stickers and he will be ready to go.

Wheelchairs, crutches and walkers are also needed. Donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and medical supplies are very appreciated.



**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.



**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. **Note:** Please do not leave any expired items.

**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.

## Upcoming Events from our Neighbors



### Blessing of All Athletes

On Saturday, April 24, at 1:30 pm, Perry Highway Lutheran Church will be holding an Inaugural Blessing of Athletes at their church located at 11403 Perry Highway in Wexford. Participants are asked to arrive no later than 1:25pm. Athletes of all ages and abilities are welcome --

from around-the-block walkers to more experienced athletes such as 5K runners, marathoners and professionals.

The event will be held outside in the church parking lot. Parking is available at the Nex Tier Bank parking lot beside the church or across the street in the UPMC Medical Center's parking lot.

If possible, participants are asked to bring a donation of a bike helmet. They will then be donated to United Way's Bike Build event held every summer, which puts children in need on bikes.

All participants are required to wear a mask. Call the church office at 724-935-1226 with questions.

### 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

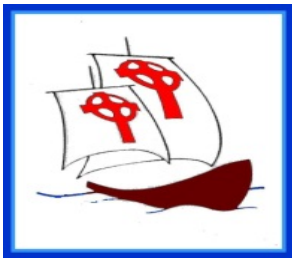
Frank Casey  
Laura Dugan Demers  
Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department  
Jeff Gagnon  
Beth Lutz Hoffman  
Luke O'Neill  
Justin Zeigler  
Patrick

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.

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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: 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  
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)