



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>

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 9, 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

On the Passing of Aunt Margaret

My Priest's Corner this week was supposed to be about Encouraging St. Brendanites to Consider Being Nominated for Roles Within Our Diocesan Governance, but I learned last night that my Aunt Margaret died. I'm sad but I also feel guilty to take this public slot to talk about a personal issue like this especially since so many of you recently lost loved ones and did not have this avenue of expression. Please forgive me and know I'm sensitive to all of you who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Aunt Margaret was the last of my mother's seventeen brothers and sisters to die. She's the one you've all been praying for ever since she fell flat on her face at a rest area in South Carolina as Ken and I were stealing her off from the guarded eyes of a kid or two to get a plane from Pittsburgh to NYC to take care of her baby brother, Ronnie, whose cancer surfaced again. He was 75; my aunt was 90. Remember how we had to take her back (500+ miles) to Florida thinking a final wrench was leveled at her "secret, covert, mercy trip."

"Hell No!" The lady would not be stopped. She boldly took a plane in the daylight for all to see, this time from Daytona to NYC three weeks later. She rented a car and drove back and forth on the busy LIE (Long Island Expressway) making sure her baby brother got all the care he needed—a new-rehab—all the medications. She fought the insurance companies who demanded he be moved and secured him the same bed until he died with her holding his hand three months later. In the middle of a snow storm, she and two others buried him with military honors in the military cemetery way out on furthest Eastern Long Island. I couldn't make it due to the weather. She got a deacon from her former Catholic Church to travel with her.

Oh what grit! She's been to St. Brendan's twice and met many of you. She walked me down the aisle at Ken's and my wedding at Redeemer. She was at my Reception to Priesthood and the First Liturgy afterwards. (She helped in the kitchen, I was told!) I called her every other week and she filled in the other. I was only one of many she talked to weekly. I did feel special though—but truth be told in talking last night to my cousins, Dennis, Juney, Renee, Mary Renee and Gary, they felt just as special, if not specialer. My cousin, Gary, who lives in Philly, and I were in competition for the last 10-15 years. Each time we were with Aunt Margaret we took a picture of her and ourselves—with a sign that read, "She loves me more!" We'd text it to each other and Aunt Margaret was always present in the picture with the biggest grin ever after planting the hugest lipstick-proof-on-cheek kiss on the nephew of the moment. She was fun!

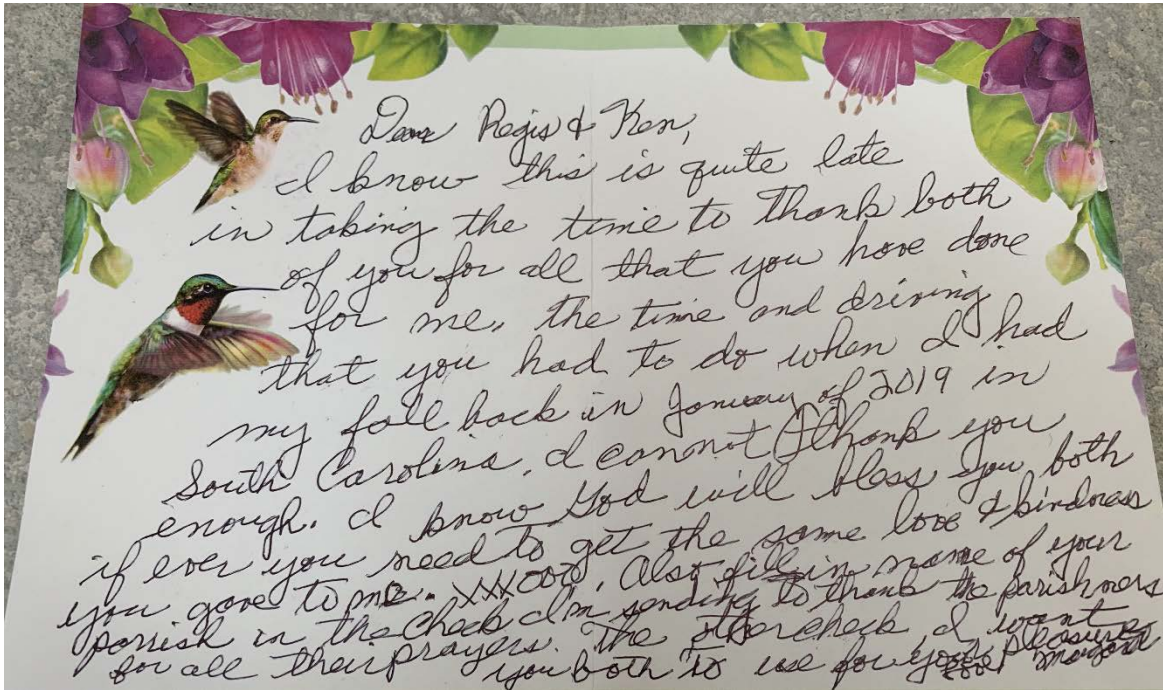
On our most recent trip to Florida, Ken and I spent Tuesday and Wednesday (April 20-21) with her. She cooked supper. Politically we differed and there was only one attempted comment on immigration to which I replied, "Aunt Margaret, we love each other too much to..." To which she replied, 'Oh yes, I forgot'... and off we went laughing and talking about a thousand other things. She cooked breakfast. She had a TV issue that we tried to fix, but couldn't. We helped her get in touch with the "TV guy." She then wanted to give us and our church money—this was new. I told her not to—she finally acquiesced. She did say she wanted to thank

St. Brendan's for praying for her and that's why she wanted to send some money; she also spoke of her gratitude to Ken and me for stuff and wanted to give us something. I convinced her to give us some food for our trip instead. She settled for that.

I didn't suspect this would be our last human visit. She called to see if we made it back to Clearwater and called once more a week later to see if we made it back to Pittsburgh. Then last Thursday, we got this beautiful card with a hand-written note. I took a picture of it and asked Katie to somehow share it here so you might see what she wrote. Part of what she has to say is to all of you at St. B's. You all, especially your prayers, meant a lot to her. (BTW she enclosed two checks, one for St. B's and one for us.)

Last Sunday, I was very consumed with all the activity around the happenings at the church—so I asked Ken to call Aunt Margaret to thank her for the note. My typical phone conversations with Aunt Margaret lasted on average 1-2 hours; I just didn't feel I had the space to be present to Aunt Margaret with so much going on. So Ken did make the call and told her that I'd call on Thursday or Friday. Well, it has taken me about two hours to write these words to you all today. So, Aunt Margaret, this is my promised call to you. I'm so glad I had an opportunity to let the people I love and care about up here know how beautiful and inspiring you are. Be at rest, dear Aunt. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for everything! Keep an eye on us.

Regis 😊



A Brendan's Family & Friends (BFF) donation was given in thanksgiving for The Adoption (finally & forever) of **Elijah David Mesko Kline**, March 26, 2021, from Allison Kline and Linda Mesko!

CRIES Advocacy (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), donates 10% of our pledged income. This week we are supporting the work of Habitat for Humanity. An organization that renovates and/or builds homes for local needy families.

The Children's Corner



An upcoming milestone for one of our own: The announcement here, 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!

The service will be live streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsepisopalpgh>.

Please notify Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com if you would like to attend one of the church services, since attendance is limited. **This Sunday the 8:00 service will re-open for the first time in over a year.**

Happy Mother's Day

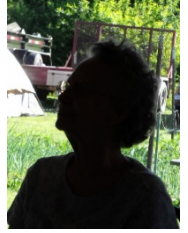
Don't forgot this Sunday is Mother's Day. Remember to tell your mother, and for some of us, who may not see our mothers, we can tell our mothers in our prayers.



When I was a little girl, I used to ask my mother, who is your favorite? Now, I have six brothers and sisters and we each wanted to be Mom's favorite. But she would say, why you are my favorite Julie. Not that I was her favorite daughter, but her favorite Julie. And for a long time I thought I was her favorite. But then my sister Lorri told me, Mom told her she was Mom's favorite Lorri. So I was confused. Which of us was her favorite, favorite? And Mom would say she loves us all.

But as a child I thought love was like something that could be divided and some people got more and some less. But the story Jesus tells us today, He tells us there is just love. This let me know that the way I was thinking about love was a bit off. There is just love – not more or less – simply love.

Jesus tells us this in a short Gospel lesson – but the message is powerful. In this week's Gospel, Jesus is talking to his disciples and he is reminding them to follow God's laws about love, to continue in love, and if we do those things, we will have joy.



Then Jesus gave his disciples and us a commandment – a big rule to follow – to love one another as He loves us. Bishop Dorsey reminded us last week how hard that is because we are to love EVERYBODY. Not just the people we know in our family, but the people we don't know everywhere in the world. We are supposed to love ALL PEOPLE. No exceptions.



Jesus reminded His friends that He loves ALL the children, no matter what they look like or what their interests and talents are. And He wants us to love others like that, too. That is why he said "Love each other as I have loved you."

Now this means, when we make a mistake we still apologize or ask for forgiveness, or if someone breaks the law they still have to pay the price. But for us that means we still pray for them, and we still love them, because God and Jesus love them too.

Wow is this big stuff. And wow is this hard. This is why we come to church to remember how to work together.

Happy Mother's Day

Peace,
Julie+



WE'RE ALMOST AT OUR GOAL!!

St. Brendan's Justice Ministry has now raised \$4,545 for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank! That's 91% of our \$5,000 goal! We are almost there! Thank you to all have donated.

If you have not yet donated, there is still time. Simply click on pittsburghfoodbank.org/stbrendans and you can make a donation through May 20 in just a few clicks. If you do not want to donate online, just send a check payable to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, and mail it to St. Brendan's, 2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143. Your support is appreciated by the Justice Ministry and especially by the Food Bank! Thank you for anything you can do to help those in need!



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



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 are not ordered from the florist.



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. Please do not leave 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.

Senior Warden's Corner

According to no less an authority than *The New York Times Magazine*, “applying the word *relatable* to someone or something you can relate to is a modern peculiarity.” In fact, the article goes on, even using the underlying verb *relate to* to mean “to understand, to empathize with, to feel a connection with” is rather new, being recorded by the Oxford English Dictionary only since 1947.” But these days, I hear *relatable* being used in all kinds of contexts: song lyrics, paintings, politicians and restaurants can all apparently be *relatable* (or not, of course).

Since Bishop McConnell’s visit with us last Sunday, a number of Brendanites have described their response to him and to the beautiful, joy-filled celebration that he presided over at our 10:00 Eucharist. Each person used her or his own words, but I believe that it is fair to say that they were all commenting on how *relatable* he is. We are fortunate to have a Bishop in this Diocese who, in addition to all his other gifts, impresses on those with whom he speaks his genuine interest in and love for them individually. (We are equally fortunate that Fr. Regis and Pr. Julie also demonstrate such *relatability*.)

Shortly, we will all be asked to reflect on what characteristics we seek in the woman or man who will be chosen to succeed Bishop McConnell. *Relatability* may not be something that you see as an important consideration. Perhaps it is. Either way, this is the time to think about what you are hoping for in your next bishop—because you are about to be prompted to express your views!

Tim Austin

How can Brendanites best communicate their views?



In about two weeks, we will all learn which priests have been nominated to become the next Bishop of Pittsburgh. We anticipate that between three and five names will be published, together with detailed information about each candidate’s past ministries and her or his reasons for seeking the position. We will of course alert you when these details are available and explain how to access them.

In the three or so weeks that follow, we will all need to provide our feedback to St. Brendan’s three lay deputies (Megan Overby, Joyce Donadee and Cameron Grosh) as well as our two alternates (Ginny Volponi and Dean Peters). What questions would we like to see asked when the nominees visit the diocese in June? What strengths and what limitations do we see in the materials presented by the candidates so far? What different factors might St. Brendan’s deputies weigh as they seek to discern the calling of the Holy Spirit?

Our immediate challenge is to figure out how best to collect your feedback. Any or all of the following could be arranged if there is sufficient interest: (i) a dedicated email address for messages; (ii) an online Google Doc to which anyone could contribute ideas; (iii) one or more Zoom sessions in which Brendanites could meet for real-time discussion of the nominees; (iv) in-person meetings either outdoors at church or in the Social Hall (limited to a dozen individuals, with masks and social distancing expected). What we want to avoid of course is spending time setting up methods of communication that few or none of the congregation will use.

Early next week, you will receive a **one-question** (!) Survey Monkey survey. We hope you will take the thirty seconds or so that you will need to indicate your preferred means of submitting your ideas. **We want all voices to be heard—and what you tell us now will also be useful as we move ahead shortly to begin the parish’s own discernment process.** Thank you!



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.



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!



St. Brendan’s Women’s Coffee Hour will meet again May 22. For the next two Saturday’s, we will not be meeting.

ELECTION DAY IS MAY 18!

May 18 is an important election day in PA. A great resource for voters loaded with information on this election is lvvpgh.org. You'll see candidate forums, a presentation on "How to Evaluate a Judicial Candidate" and a Common Pleas Video Gallery. There are 39 judicial candidates running for 9 positions, and this site may help you to decide how you would like to vote. You will find some background information on each candidate and hear their views on cash bail in Pennsylvania, as well as the use of special courts for restorative justice in sentencing decisions as an alternative to incarceration. To hear the candidates' answers to these two questions, click on "Common Please Video Gallery" at lvvpgh.org.

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES – YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!

PA Primary Election Ballot Questions Explained

VOTE
★ ★ ★
2022

Ballot Question #1

YES means that the legislature can vote to end the protections of an emergency declaration at any time - regardless of the status of the emergency

NO means that the Governor is able to act quickly with all state departments to respond to a crisis as long as that crisis lasts

Ballot Question #2

YES means that an emergency declaration could end prematurely unless debated, negotiated, and voted on every 21 days in the state legislature

NO means that the Governor can continue to respond to a crisis, even if it lasts longer than 3 weeks

Ballot Question #3

YES means that our constitution would be updated to include equal rights protections based on race or ethnicity

NO means that our constitution would continue to lack protections for discrimination based on race or ethnicity

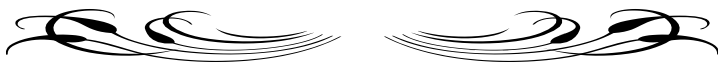


The Haitian project. There is a continuing need for donations of clothing and shoes to be sent on the school bus to Haiti. Clothing sent to a developing nation such as Haiti is a source of employment for the people as well as providing needed clothing. Donated clothing play a central role in Haiti's economy as well as reducing the environmental impact of clothing manufacturing and its disposal. The bin outside of St. Brendan's is a convenient place in which to place your donated clothes. Thank you for your donations.

Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

Video/discussion group at the Unitarian Church.

Following up on their February Friday discussions concerning racism, the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills is having another get together via Zoom on Friday, April 30. There will be a short video followed by a discussion. To get the Zoom link, please email your name to sctregistration@uucnh.org.



Lost Lessons and Future Possibilities

Speaker for this Zoom event, held on 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.

What's Wrong with Solitary Confinement

A resolution from the 2018 Episcopal General Convention calls on all Episcopalians to amplify their voice in solidarity with human rights groups, the United Nations and others to end prolonged solitary confinement.

In the May 18 primary, Allegheny County residents will have the opportunity to do this by voting to restrict its use at the Allegheny County Jail, where inmates are now sometimes confined to a small bathroom-sized space 20 hours day (without books, TV or the internet), often as punishment for behavior resulting from their mental health issues, and then causing more mental health issues.

To give more background on this issue, a Zoom Forum on Sunday, May 16, at 7:30 pm on "What's Wrong with Solitary Confinement" will be held. It is sponsored by the Diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee and Commission on Race and Reconciliation. Walthour Professor Jules Loel, from the University of Pittsburgh, will be speaking. Former head of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Professor Lobel argued against Ohio's use of solitary confinement before the US Supreme Court and has co-edited Solitary Confinement.

Here is the address to join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87209176721?pwd=UkFhOHQ2TUhTNjZuUE14aTN4KzV0dz09>

Meeting ID: 872 0917 6721

Passcode: 049909

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	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	Chris Fleissner	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: 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
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

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