



Sunday, July 4, 2021

Celebrant: 10:00 am The Rev. Regis Smolko

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** 8:15 am Daily Morning Prayer, via zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4796201105?pwd=bXM5OHJ2UEh4TXhQT1RkZnVrQWNVdz09>
 Meeting ID: 479 620 1105 Passcode: 092720
 11:00 am Be a Modern Episcopalian, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
 1:00 pm Bible-Lite Group
- Tuesday** 7:00 am AA meeting, via zoom Dial in: 312-626-6799 Meeting Id:345 892 252
 8:00 am Staff meeting, via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>
 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>
 6:00 pm Bible Study
- Wednesday** 7:00 pm Evening Service

The Priest's Corner

We Are Wearing Masks Because We Are Inclusive

I cannot tell you how many times I secretly listened to Brendanites tell others at church or in the social hall about St. Brendan's. I generally heard their voices rise with energy when they spoke particularly of us as "friendly" and as "inclusive." I also enjoy speaking about St. Brendan's using these two life-giving words. To my mind these are awesome words, and anyone who exudes these two qualities, in my opinion, is a top notch, quality, human being. I want, more than anything, to be this sort of person.

We are friendly and inclusive. We demonstrate these qualities in the way we welcome people, the way we worship and sing hymns, the way we exchange the peace and do coffee hour, and the way we conduct our Vacation Bible School. We do it in the way we support causes through CRIES Advocacy and in the way we structure our ministries. We're friendly and inclusive in the way we answer the phones and the way we interact with other churches; in the way we plant our garden and harvest our crops ... and on and on. There's no limit to the numbers of ways in which we bear witness to these two virtues.

Now we can add another example to this long list: we are friendly and inclusive as we reopen our church after a pandemic of unrelenting challenges. I could not have been inspired more than I was by the careful efforts and open conversation among the 15 Brendanites who participated in Tuesday evening's reopening meeting on Zoom. Every participant ensured that friendliness and inclusivity were paramount as we now open our church to all people, regardless of age and vaccination status. We were led by our practice and vision of friendliness and inclusivity.

We now invite all to come back to church--as they feel comfortable and safe to do so. What we guarantee to all is that everyone who is at church will wear masks and be appropriately socially distanced. This means that if you attend the 8:00 am or the 10:00 am liturgy, you wear a mask throughout the entire service. The only exceptions are infants who have not yet turned 3 years old and those who are vaccinated but have a medical condition that makes mask-wearing hazardous to their health.

Why are we doing this? So that all will know that mask wearing is, at this time, the universal safety precaution we guarantee at St. Brendan's because we are friendly and want to maintain inclusivity. We want the parents of children, who aren't able to be vaccinated yet, and other unvaccinated people to have this loving, inclusive, Brendanite way of belonging in as full a sense as possible. We hope this "giving to others" will help all to decide with confidence and joy how to approach their return to family worship at our church.

I want you all to know that I, your priest, support this decision 100%. You likely have already read the email blast from Tim Austin, our Senior Warden, detailing this reopening conversation as well as the obvious details of the unanimous decision referred to above. Please take time to read Tim's clear and thorough explanation and resultant practices. Also, know that copies of this information will be available at church on Sunday or via mail. (Contact Katie.)

I know you will support this practice of love and inclusivity. Of course, we welcome dialogue and ideas from all. I thank you and God for bringing us to this reopening place.

**Sincerely,
Regis+**

Are you struggling with any of these symptoms?



- Feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and helplessness.
- Feeling removed from family or friends.
- A lost interest in what used to be fun.
- Troubling shifts in sleep patterns, appetite, and/or weight.
- Irritability.
- Physically and emotionally drained.
- Any thoughts of hurting yourself or those you are caring for.
- Becoming sick and withdrawn more than usual.

You might have Care-Giver Burnout. The Transitional Care Team at St. Brendan's is here to offer you support and guidance. You can reach Eddie Wise, our Pastoral Counseling intern at 724-825-3594.

Caregiver Burnout. 2021. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/9225-caregiver-burnout>

Hospitality Hour Volunteers Needed! Effective immediately, St. Brendan's is re-instituting Hospitality Hour! Ta-daa!! We are therefore looking for individuals, couples or families who plan to be at church for the 10:00 Sunday Eucharist in the coming weeks and would be willing to host. This is not a big deal. Numbers are modest at the moment (perhaps 25 people) and we urge you to keep the refreshments simple (coffee or lemonade, doughnuts or cookies). You can set up outdoors if the weather is nice or in the Social Hall if it is not. To volunteer, please contact Katie (stbrendanskatie@gmail.com).



Childrens Corner

When I was 5 years old, my older sister Sandy got married and moved to Germany all in about 3 months. So, when she left, I lost one of my best friends, my first babysitter, and my sister. This was in the days before the internet, cell phones, or even cheap phone calls. Sandy's new husband was in the Army, so they did come home once a year to visit.

Their visits were amazing. They told us of their adventures living in Germany, then California, then Colorado, of touring in Japan and visiting Australia. Their months at home were a whirlwind of parties and family reunions. There was the anticipation of their return, the excitement of their being with us and then the let-down of their leaving. This pattern repeated itself until my brother-in-law left the Army and they returned home to stay when I was 14. It was my sister's dream to settle down and be at home and her dream had now come true.

The funny thing was, now that they were around all of the time, other than their welcome home party, all of the excitement was gone. We didn't have to anticipate their visits because they were always here. While we could celebrate all of the holidays and all of our birthdays together, and those celebrations were always special, the "specialness" of them quickly wore off and they just became . . . ordinary.

Now Sandy was always the fun sister, the one who wanted parties, and dances, and celebrations. I think she would celebrate the sun coming up if nothing else was happening. And she was fun. We would meet at her house for family reunions and picnics – she and her family built a picnic pavilion so even if it rained we could have a party. But even with all of the fun, she became just like the rest of us – kind of ordinary.

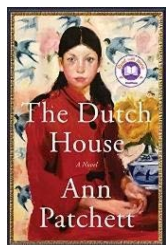
In the Gospel this week, Jesus returns home after being away, performing miracles, and spreading the word of God. What Jesus was doing was well known by his family and his neighbors in Nazareth, but quickly he realized his neighbors had no faith in him. And without their faith, he couldn't do much.

He began teaching in the synagogue and some were amazed at what they heard. They didn't know that Jesus had so much wisdom and power. But not everyone thought he was that big a deal. After all, wasn't he just the carpenter's son? Hadn't he been the one they saw growing? And they saw nothing special in him before?



So Jesus felt rejected. And told his disciples, no one is a hero in their own hometown. Let's go. So Jesus sent the disciples out of Nazareth, into far away places to spread God's word. He said it won't be easy but go with God.

**Peace,
Julie+**



Book Club is Back! In-person Book Club meetings have resumed! Please join us for fun, fellowship and lively book discussions on the first Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be held at the church on **Thursday, August 5th at 7 pm**. We will be discussing, "The Dutch House", a work of contemporary fiction by award-winning author Ann Patchett. Published in 2019, the novel tells the story of what happens to siblings Danny and Maeve Conroy when their stepmother expels them from their sumptuous childhood home after the death of their father. Set in the Dutch House—located in the outskirts of Philadelphia—and New York, the novel is literary fiction with fairy-tale elements. For more info, feel free to contact Chris Botti at shadypatch@msn.com or 412 952-3180. All are welcome! Please join us!



HOLD THE DATE: What is the Independent Police Review Board of Allegheny County? Why do we need it? How does my community join? Liv Bennet, chair of Allegheny County Public Safety Committee and a community activist, will explain it to us! Join us via Zoom on **Thursday, July 15 at 7:00 pm**. Please rsvp to this important and informative event by going to scregistration@uucnh.org. This Forum is sponsored in conjunction with the Universal Universalists of the North Hills.

CRIS Advocacy (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), donates 10% of our pledged income. This week we are supporting Episcopal Relief and Development, who facilitate healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease. Their work addresses three life-changing priorities to create authentic, lasting results.

The next CRIS Advocacy meeting will be **Sunday, September 19, 2021** in the Library following the 10:00 service.

Senior Warden's Corner

Independence Day, 2021. Of course, there will be parades, barbecues, and fireworks—which I fully intend to enjoy as much as ever. (There's a little boy inside this 69-year-old frame that **loves** all the traditional holiday treats!) But this year, it's going to be hard not to think back to the muted and apprehension-filled holiday we all celebrated (or more accurately, didn't celebrate) on July 4, 2020. And, looking ahead, it's going to be tempting to regard this year's holiday as an occasion to savor our "freedom" from COVID-19.

Perhaps we can also take a moment while preparing for the weekend to consider the fact that **independence from** something (British domination, the pandemic) also implies **independence to** do or be something new. In 1776, as soon as the lofty debates were over and the Declaration had been signed, the colonists had to set about figuring out how to be citizens instead. In a similar way, as we hopefully move past the worst of the COVID crisis, we are offered the opportunity to re- envision what St. Brendan's can do and become in the years ahead.

During the past four weeks, I was struck by the willingness of so many Brendanites to educate themselves about the way we elect a new bishop in the Episcopal Church and more specifically about the candidates for election. The whole process reminded us of the importance of being forward-thinking ... and Bishop-elect Ketlen Solak puts a name and a face to our aspirations as a diocese. In the coming weeks, we will be asked to help St. Brendan's own Discernment Committee to shape a similar vision for our parish. Building upon our historical roots, we will also draw on the new energy that can be ours if we allow the Holy Spirit to point us in new directions. For that is the gift that always comes with **independence from** whatever ties otherwise hold us back—most commonly the tie to "the way we've always done it." May we embrace with enthusiasm whatever God is granting us **independence to** become.

Have a Happy 4th!

Tim Austin

Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

July 26-29: Diversity Forum 2021 -- Dismantling Oppressive Systems; Building Just Communities, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh's Office for Equity Diversity and Inclusion. To register, go to https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_6Exvz11cevgmNIY. Free to participants.



Requested Prayers:

For the members of St. Brendan's, especially Janice Moore, Matthew, Joyce Donadee, Rosie and Rodge Wood, Larry Tarrant, John Jacobs, Larry Toler, Mark Shoemaker, Dr. Ken Judson and Mark Kinley.

For our parents, especially; Sandy Martin, Ray Miltzer, Naomi Getty and Lenora.

For our family members, especially; Linda Ahlbrand, Steve Parsons, Lane, David, Marie Hazelton, Patrick Schantz, Tom Groves, Nathan Schlumpf, David Pingree and Robert Donato.

And for our friends, especially; Becky Horton, Dave Frazier, Jane Young, Sherri Hilbert, Joan Gonzales, Heather and Dan Houle.

We pray for all who have died, especially Carol Hughes.



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

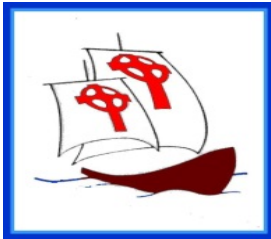
Frank Casey
Laura Dugan Demers
Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Department
Jeff Gagnon
Beth Lutz Hoffman
Luke O'Neill
Justin Zeigler
Patrick

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.



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
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
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: Open
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 8:00-3:00

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

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ StBrendansKatie@gmail.com

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net

Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ meghanthompson328@gmail.com