



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 10, 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

I've been thinking a lot about journeys the past few weeks, about my own personal journey during the past year, about our collective journey as faithful members of St. Brendan's, and about the socio-political journey we have all made as members of a larger society that has experienced a pandemic and a tumultuous pre- and post-election season. Last Sunday we listened to the story of the holy family's journey to Egypt and back as told in Matthew's gospel. Julie talked about how Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus were exiles wandering on a circuitous route that eventually found them back in Nazareth. Julie invited each of us to consider our own journeys, the steps we've taken, and our companions along the way in order to find meaning and sense in the movements of our lives. Where have we been? How did we get there? Who have been our guides? Where have we ended up? For most of us these are profound questions, ones that require a lot of time and disciplined reflection.

I suspect most of us engage in some form of reflection at year's end as we contemplate what the New Year holds in store. For some, that reflection may lead to self-improvement resolutions – better eating and exercise habits, weight loss, better use of our time, more meaningful engagement with the world around us. Personally, I gave up on New Year resolutions ages ago when I finally came to terms with my history of failure. If you are among the resolution-minded, I wish you every success in the days ahead! But even if you don't intend to make resolutions or establish goals for the coming year, consider taking an inventory of your personal journey. Gaining a sense of where you have been, where you are now, and where you would like to be in the future is a way of charting a course toward a more meaningful and satisfying life, a deeper spiritual connection to your family and friends, to your community of faith, and to the world at large.

So where might that reflective inventory begin? I can only offer my own personal experience. For me, the reflective process began the first Sunday of Advent as we embarked on the new liturgical year (B), and it continued through each successive Sunday up through and including Christmas. Each week as we considered the concepts of **hope, peace, joy, and love**, I tried to identify where I saw those in my experiences during 2020. If I am honest, it wasn't an easy exercise. Hope, peace, joy, and love are not easily discernible in a pandemic world where infection and death rates are part of our daily statistical diet, where social isolation disconnects us from family and friends, where our communal lives are virtual, and where the cultural divisions that tear at the social fabric of our world result in competing realities, deep-set distrust (even hatred), fear, and anxiety. Is there anyone of us who has not been affected by these realities during 2020? Is there anyone of us who has not mourned? Haven't we all had images of pain and sadness indelibly imprinted on our memories? For me, one of the most poignant was of an Episcopal priest standing outside a nursing home with his hand on the window as he read the last rites from the Prayer Book for a resident inside. My friends, we have lived through an extraordinary year, one with a confluence of challenges never seen before in our lifetimes.

And yet... We see glimmers of light in this immense darkness. We find hope in the promise of new vaccines whose distribution will save lives and eventually allow us to resume some semblance of 'normal'. We see love in the sacrifice of first responders and

caregivers throughout the world as they man the trenches and step up to the battle lines in the on-going war against this virus. We take joy in the triumph of technology that allows us to be able to connect with each other as families, as worshipers, as prayer partners, and as advocates for social justice. There is joy in overcoming the constraints of isolation and satisfaction in having found innovative ways to connect to the most important people in our lives. And as challenging as this year has been, we can see God's love active in our lives and the lives of those around us. Emmanuel with us! Every time we step up to the challenge, every time we strive to shine the light of Christ into the world around us, every time our heart beats to the rhythm of compassion and caring, we amplify that glimmer of light and bring hope, peace, joy and love into our troubled and turbulent world. Shine on into 2021 my friends! Shine on!

Faithfully, Darrell

(For those who are new to St. Brendan's, Darrell Johnson is our candidate for ordination to the diaconate who recently completed his academic studies at Stevenson School for Ministry (SSFM) in the diocese of Central PA and who transitioned from postulant to candidate for ordination in October 2020.)

A BFF donation was made to St. Brendan's to help us to continue doing all the wonderful things we do for our parishioners and our community, from Tom and Jennifer Groves.



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 and have been utilized for items such as air conditioning replacements, audio-visual equipment, and acoustic tile work in the social hall. 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!



Help Wanted. **Looking for a way to stay connected at St. Brendan's while Covid is keeping us apart?** Here's a place where your help is needed. The Merry Meal Makers is a parish ministry that helps members during a trying time with a delivered meal. The M&M volunteers prepare (or purchase) a meal and take it to a parishioner who has been ill, lost a loved one, delivered a baby or is in a similar situation. You can imagine how much more stressful these events are during the pandemic, when many of us are alone or cut off from each other. Volunteers are notified when a parishioner's need arises and receive a list of dates from which they can choose to bring a meal to that person. This is a simple but important ministry, and most of the work is done at home. If you'd like to help, please contact Saundy Waseleski at 412-741-8727 or swaseleski@comcast.net.



Public Forum Tuesday, January 12, on the Climate Crisis with Larry Schweiger: St. Brendan's next Zoom Forum will be held on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 pm. Our featured speaker is long time-environmentalist Larry Schweiger, who will speak on Climate and Social Justice.

Larry is a local Pittsburgher who is nationally known for his work on the climate crisis. His accomplishments include past president and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, as well as PennFuture and the 4.5 million member National Wildlife Federation. He is the award-winning author of several books on the climate crisis.

To attend, please email Katie at stbrendanskatie@gmail.com, and you will receive the link for the Town Hall Meeting. There is no charge for this event, but if you would like to make a donation to St. Brendan's for sponsoring this event, you can send a check to St. Brendan's or visit stbrendans.org, click on "Giving" and then on "Give Online". You can also visit stbrendans.org for more information. You won't want to miss this educational and enlightening Forum!

All are welcome, so please pass the word around! Thank you!

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Episcopal Relief & Development. Our donation helps to work with churches to rebuild after disasters and empower people to create lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease.



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, 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.



The Haitian project. Thank you everyone for your donations. We are hearing that people are also needing hats and sunglasses to protect their eyes from the harsh sun. Recently we had a donation of 28 baseball hats which will be terrific and there were 29 pairs of children's shoes which are really needed.

Children's Corner

John the Baptism and what is baptism anyhow?

Have you ever joined a group that asked you to do something special to join? Like an initiation or an investiture? Where you may do something special – sing songs or learn a special sign or get a pin (here I am thinking of Girl Scouts and things we did when I was a Girl Scout). Or any Scouts who have badges and you wear your sash with pride because you did something that your group wanted to have done and you did it very well.

Well, in Church, baptism is our initiation. And many of us did it when you are so young we may not remember it. But baptism links us with all of the people who ever followed Jesus in the past, all those who follow Jesus today, and all those in the future who will follow Jesus.



At St. Brendan's we do our baptisms at the font in the middle of the sanctuary. And whenever we baptize people, we are doing pretty much the same thing that John the Baptist did with Jesus. With a couple of big changes – we do not ask you to walk into a river and get all wet, nor do we typically baptize adults – although we sometimes do.

Our church believes baptism is something you only do one time in your life, so we sometimes do a “renewal of our baptismal vows” which reminds us what happened for us and to us in our baptism.



So baptism is our initiation but what else does it do?

Baptism helps us remember we are marked (with oil) as one of God's own. It is a promise to try to be God's hands and feet in the world, to follow the path Jesus set for us, and to try to be our best. Because most of us were babies when we were baptized, we may have godparents – people who will assist us in understanding our faith. They may be an aunt or uncle, or they may be good friends of your parents, but they volunteer to help you. They are more people in your life who want you to be the best you can, all of the time.



Even for babies, baptism is a new beginning. The baptism ceremony is also about saying “yes” to the love promised by Jesus and to turn toward that new life in Christ. And your parents and godparents promise to help you to turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as the savior, to put trust in Christ's grace and love and to follow and obey Jesus.

That is a lot. So once the promises are made, we seal these promises with the Oil of Chrism, and at St. Brendan's the newly baptized walk (or are carried) around the church so everyone can greet them. And that is what I call a new beginning!

Peace,
Julie+



All ministry leaders are asked to email Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com a year-end summary of their 2020 group's activities by **Saturday, January 2, 2021**. These reports will be included in the annual report that will be emailed to the congregation prior to the Annual Meeting. Upon request, a copy of the Annual Meeting from last year can be e-mailed to you by contacting Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.

The Annual Meeting will be held by Zoom at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 24.

Senior Warden's Corner

Sometime in the next week or so, we will be releasing (electronically) St. Brendan's **Annual Report** for 2020. As you read this paragraph, email messages are zipping to and fro: contributions flowing in from those responsible for everything from maintaining our physical plant (our Junior Warden, Ruth Horton) to preparing the church for our liturgies (Altar Guild Chair, Anelisa Tarrant); draft copy flowing out to proofreaders from our production team of Katie Cervone and Tammy Spoonhoward. It's quite an operation!

I fear that the Annual Report too often goes largely unread and therefore unappreciated. (I certainly did not devote much time to studying it before I joined the Vestry—shame on me!) The Report is not just the formal record of what St. Brendan's achieved during the year but a wonderful window on what makes our faith community tick. It bears witness to the mutual support we offer one another, to the many projects and initiatives we pursue (even in the Year of COVID) and to the seriousness with which we seek to live out our Baptismal promises in Franklin Park.

When you see the Report arrive in your in-box, I encourage you to set aside a half hour or so to read it through. Then please plan on joining us for the Parish's Annual Meeting at 1:00 on Sunday, January 24, as we set sail on a new year of mission and ministry.

Tim Austin

St. Brendan's Annual Meeting: St. Brendan's will hold its Annual Parish Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 24. As with so many of our activities since the last Annual Meeting, this event will be held by Zoom. An agenda and detailed instructions about how to join the meeting will be made available in the days to come. So too will the Annual Report for 2020.

One of the significant items of business for the Parish Meeting is the election of three new members to our Vestry. As required by the Bylaws, an ad-hoc Nominating Committee was created and will present on January 24 the following three candidates, all of whom have agreed to serve if elected. Nominations from the floor are also permitted.



Lauren Ramakrishna

I have been a part of St. Brendan's since September 2018, when, after leaving the Catholic Church, I was looking for a religious community that offered a more welcoming, inclusive atmosphere, and afforded opportunities for parishioners to take an active role in the decisions about the church.

You may have seen me at the 10:00 am service, usually with my son, Griffin (6), and more recently with my daughter, Ainsley (3), as well. (My husband, Ashwin, is Hindu. While he doesn't regularly attend with us, you may have seen him in the seats periodically!)

In 2019, I organized the annual Easter egg hunt for the kids, and more recently I worked with other church members as part of the Working Group to Reopen St. Brendan's.

I'm an editor/writer by trade, and I work on freelance projects while managing my two little kids. When I'm not working or knee-deep in the joys or trials of parenting, I like to read, exercise, and paint.

I'm excited to work with other Vestry members to help St. Brendan's continue to thrive as a welcoming home for families, even during these challenging months when we have to worship through a screen. Thank you for continuing to offer your love, prayers, and support to my family.

Ronald Ladick. I was born on April 2, 1956 in Fort Knox, Kentucky. My childhood years were spent growing up in the state of Illinois. My parents, both from Pittsburgh, moved our family back here in January 1973.

My undergraduate college years (1974-1978) were spent at Slippery Rock State College where I majored in English/Secondary Education. Upon graduating, the ensuing 33 years would see me as a teacher (at elementary, middle school and high school levels), as a student (achieving my Masters and Doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh, 1984 and 2001, respectively, a second Masters at Carnegie Mellon University in 1996 for Management, a year of independent study at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, and two years at Geneva College to acquire a certification in elementary education) and as a school administrator (an interim middle school principal, an elementary school principal and an Assistant Superintendent).

Throughout my life, the Episcopal Church has been a constant. I was baptized at Fort Knox Divinity Chapel on April 11, 1956. My early infancy saw me attending St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pekin, Illinois. My family became members of Peoria's St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1961. Five years later, when my family moved north to Lansing, Illinois, we became members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Hammond, Indiana.

And when we arrived in Pittsburgh in 1973, we became members of St. Martin's Episcopal in Monroeville. Prior to joining St. Brendan's, my wife and I attended St. Phillip Episcopal Church in Beaver.

My wife, Sharon, and I are both retired and reside in Center Township, Beaver County.



Sean Sweeney. Sean Sweeney was born and raised in Vienna, VA, a suburb of Washington, DC. The only child of Sharon and Pat, Sean grew up attending Cherrydale Baptist Church in Arlington, VA and was baptized in 1994 at Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, VA. He received his undergraduate degree from George Mason University and attended graduate school at Virginia Commonwealth University. He moved to the Pittsburgh region in 2005, and currently resides in Brighton Township, PA with his 14-year-old daughter, Libby.

Sean arrived at St. Brendan's the first Sunday of Christmas 2019, and immediately knew he had found his church home. He was impressed by the warm reception, liturgy, and inclusive atmosphere. Within weeks he found himself a regular at the coffee hour and within months he began working with Fr. Regis to join St. Brendan's. Since March of 2020, Sean has dedicated every Sunday (except one to attend a funeral) to producing St. Brendan's live stream services. He looks forward to continued service to St. Brendan's, especially in using technology to expand our reach.

In his professional life, Sean is the Global Chief Security Advisor at Microsoft and is a previous Chief Information Security Officer at the University of Pittsburgh. Sean is a frequent author and speaker on cybersecurity and stays connected to the region as an Affiliate Practice Scholar in the University of Pittsburgh's Cyber Institute of Policy, Law, and Security. In his free time, you can find Sean and Libby on his sailboat, Island Girl, sailing on Lake Erie.



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.



Please continue to get St. Brendan's free money. If you use **Amazon Smile** (not just Amazon), it will cost you nothing (that's right! zero dollars!) but St. Brendan's will receive a modest donation based on the price of whatever you buy.

Signing up initially is simple. Search for Amazon Smile in your Web browser, then log in to Amazon Smile just as you do to Amazon--same email, same password. (You will have to create a login if you're new to Amazon altogether.) After signing in to Amazon Smile, you will be taken to a screen where you can select the Charitable Organization you wish to benefit. Type in St. Brendan's and then scroll down to find St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Sewickley, PA. Click on this as your organization to ensure that we receive donations for every order you place.

After you have set yourself up in this way, all you will have to do is to log in through Amazon Smile each time you do your online shopping. Please tell your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Click here for detailed instructions [AmazonSmile](#).

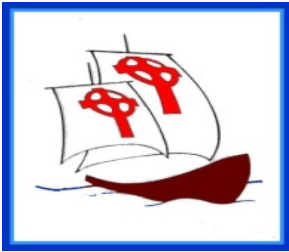
Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

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	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