



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 Study

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, February 14, 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

Why a Transfiguration right before Lent?

In our Bible-Lite study Monday afternoon we were reading Matthew's Gospel about Jesus' baptism. In this account the words about Jesus being God's "Son, the Beloved" are preceded by this interesting phrase, "suddenly the heavens were opened up to **him** (Jesus), and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon him." In the Markan Gospel that you will hear this Sunday, you will hear God speaking aloud the same exact words, but those who hear and see this event are extended. This is not just for Jesus. It's for the three disciples who accompanied the Lord up the mountain (i.e., Peter, James and John—and by extension the church).

When the Bible group explored this, most were simply amazed—some recognizing for the first time in their lives that perhaps Jesus needed this experience alone because he was still humanly learning what it meant to be God. This led one participant to exclaim, "I've never looked at it like this before." The consensus being that Jesus was "kinda like us," struggling and growing to understand too. Transfiguration isn't for Jesus alone. We got to see the heavens open up this time. We don't need to be Transfigured; we just need to have witnessed it vicariously, so we can be *transformed* because our hearts are still in need of "inward change."

So welcome to Transfiguration Sunday. I don't want to give away the sermon yet, but here's the gist. Lent (Ash Wednesday) is always introduced by one of the Transfiguration Gospels. Please note that Jesus is "transfigured," not "transformed." Transformed means "changed inwardly." That wasn't necessary for Jesus. He already had the "heart of God." He was transfigured which means "shown to be other than assumed." Those three men (and by extension—the church) up there on the mountaintop with Jesus had to see their Lord differently than they were seeing him.

You might ask "Why?" And that answer lies in what has to happen once the four of them come down off that mountain. They have to go along with Jesus to the cross. (Now the spiritually unenlightened might say, "It's all downhill from there!") Only if you forget what you learned during the Transfiguration experience can this be one's interpretation. Transfiguration conveys Jesus' standing among the company of the great prophets. The three, we, need the brilliance of prophetic connection to be emboldened to let Jesus accomplish Calvary.

Transfiguration stands between Pentecost and Lent. Pentecost is that time when we are learning to be church. Lent is that time we are thrust back into the hard truth of our being dust. Oh! do we need the brilliance and emboldening of the Transfiguration. That brilliance helps us come to terms with our humility and utter dependence of God.

It's one thing to have the "high" of the mountaintop where all is brilliant and the view profound. But that's not the be-all-and-end-all of our spiritual story. So as we march toward Lent, take this emboldening reminder and head forward to the cross where we will experience in real time that it is in dying to self that we truly learn how to live.

Regis+



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.



Mark your calendars to hear Professor David Harris. Our next virtual Public Forum will be held on **Tuesday, February 16 at 7:00 pm.** Professor David Harris will speak on Policing and Social Justice. Professor Harris, law professor at the University of Pittsburgh and nationally known expert on police profiling, has spent the last five years visiting police forces across the country and collecting examples of smart, progressive law enforcement, all of which have reduced crime without infringing on civil rights. He has written several books on this topic. Professor Harris will show us that solutions to reduce crime, fight terror and preserve civil liberties are in reach.

This Public Forum is sponsored by St. Brendan's Justice Ministry together with the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills. To attend, please email Katie at stbrendanskatie@gmail.com. For more information, visit our website: stbrendans.org. We hope you'll join us!



Ash Wednesday is February 17. We'll be live streaming 2 services, one at 7:30 a.m. and one at 7:00 p.m. Ashes have already been mailed to your home to those who requested them. The church will be open tomorrow between 10:30 and 3:30 and again on Tuesday between 10-12, in order for you to pick up your ashes. If you haven't requested ashes, and still would like them, please contact Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.

Senior Warden's Corner

Last Saturday, the Vestry convened on Zoom for a four-hour "retreat"—our chance to get to know one another better and, together, to map out our work for 2021. I wish every Brendanite could have been a virtual fly-on-the-wall, because the energy, enthusiasm and commitment to St. Brendan's was palpable.

After sharing Morning Prayer and holding elections for Senior and Junior Warden, Treasurer and Clerk, we spent the first part of the retreat discussing how best to allocate the many tasks that fall to the Vestry. If you scroll down to the end of this issue of the Little Log, you will see who now has oversight for what. In particular, you may be pleased to learn that we have decided to make **Children and Youth** an official area of responsibility, giving Pr. Julie additional Vestry support for her work. At the same time, we merged **Inreach** and **Newcomers**, seeing them as two sides of the same coin. And for some of the busiest areas of parish life (in a change that is not immediately evident from the list), we named a second and even a third member of Vestry to assist the leads.

The second part of the retreat was devoted to a "visioning" exercise. Fr. Regis assigned us to three breakout rooms on Zoom and challenged us to imagine that we were living in the year 2031. What, he asked, does St. Brendan's look like ten years on? How has it changed? What regrets if any does it have about the decade of the 2020s? The discussion in the group that I was assigned to was lively. We reviewed updates we hoped would have been made to our buildings; we imagined services held in satellite locations like assisted living facilities and even parishioners' own homes; and we foresaw a blossoming of creative programs for children, teenagers, twenty-somethings and young families. When each of the other groups "reported out," they outlined an impressive array of equally stimulating ideas.

In short, I emerged from the retreat with a new optimism about the future of St. Brendan's (COVID be damned!) and abundant trust in the competence and commitment of my fellow Vestry members. The coming year promises to be a busy and productive one for the parish.

Tim Austin

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Miryam's Kitchen.



St. Brendan's Women's Get Together - All St. Brendan's women are welcome to "drop in" to chat on Saturday mornings at 9:30 am. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8944116431>.

The Children's Corner



Think quick!

What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen IN YOUR LIFE????

Who is in that image – are you there with your parents and your friends or no one, just nature – what is in your image of what is a beautiful place?

Now think about your perfect day. Does your perfect day take place in the most beautiful place you have ever been or does it take place in your mind?

My perfect day happens in my most beautiful place. That is also my happy place – but that tends to change too. In the winter, it doesn't have snow, and in the summer is cool and sunny. The weather is perfect, my mood is perfect, all things there are perfect – in my mind. And when I go on vacation, I think, I will be able to have at least one perfect moment. And then I will have that image to keep through the long, dreary days of work until my next vacation.

In the Gospel, Jesus takes three disciples – Peter, James, and John with him and they see Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. And everything IS PERFECT!! Then they see Jesus more perfect than they could imagine and we call this the Transfiguration because Jesus is changed (transfigured) right before their eyes.

This Sunday is our last Sunday of the Epiphany season and several things are going to be happening in church and the Transfiguration is only one of those things.

This is the last week we will sing or say Alleluia until Easter – and that is six weeks (40 days!!!!) away. That is why we bury our Alleluias, so we are not even tempted to say them. It is not because we don't want to be grateful or mean, but this is a time to focus on our relationships – with each other, with God, with Jesus, and seek out the Holy Spirit in each of us and around us. And to do that we need to quiet ourselves and the noise around us so we don't cheer alleluia in church. Cheering tends to distract us and quiet focuses us. So for the next 40 Days we will quiet ourselves, get rid of as many distractions as we can, and try to listen to that quiet voice of God.

But we don't need to go on vacation or go away to do this – part of Lent is realizing how Jesus and God and the Spirit are with us always. We have to relearn how to pay attention – all of us, young and old.

And, it is also St. Valentine's Day on Sunday – I hope you remember to tell your Valentine you love them.

It's not too late, you can still send me your colorings of the Alleluias.



Peace,
Julie+



February is Black History Month! In honor of Black History Month, the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills is holding an event relating to Black history every Friday night in February at 8:30-9:30pm. The group will watch a short Ted talk followed by a discussion of the video. It should be a lively and thoughtful discussion, and best of all, no reading involved!

If you missed the event last Friday, no matter! Each lesson is independent of the others. So, please join the Unitarians along with other Brendanites at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12.

This is an opportunity to meet our Unitarian neighbors right down the street from us. If you would like to attend, please send your name and email address to scregistration@uucnh.org.



The Haitian project. The two school buses destined for Haiti are being moved to Smith Campground near Butler to allow space to load them with bags of summer clothing, shoes, sewing equipment, medical equipment, etc. You can leave your donations at the "Haitian" container outside St. Brendan's entrance.



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.

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: Cameron Grosh
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

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