



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
- 9:00 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>

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Celebrant: 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

Never Thought My Long-Awaited Return to Priestly Ministry Would Be Spent Keeping You Away from Church!

Our announcement to defer opening St. Brendan's for in-person worship was only minutes out and available to the parish, and I received this feedback: "Isn't it strange that they can pack people in a plane with masks, and it's acceptable; but we can't have public worship together in a much bigger church, socially distanced and wearing masks?" And my answer was, "Yes, it is."

Now I'm pretty sure this person wasn't criticizing or "telling me off," in fact, he said as much. He was frustrated, a bit fed up—suppose, and in need of having a safe place to vent. We both had a good opportunity to vent. So let me tell you, I totally hate this situation we are in. I hate to have to defer in-person worship. We were so close. We had the limit—25 people—signed up to participate this Sunday. Like I said in the title of this Priest's Corner, my dreams of being reinstated and able to be a priest again was to do what I got to do prior to March 15, 2020—to welcome over 150 newcomers, mill around a crowded, noisy Narthex before the 10:00 a.m. liturgy laughing and hugging and being chastised for talking too much to people instead of starting liturgy on time. Oh what I'd give to return to those wonderful days when we couldn't find a seat during coffee hour, we debated the new bulletin and one of our biggest perceived challenges convinced us we had to brainstorm ways our kids could lean less on our revered baptismal font. I never thought so much of my priestly ministry would be keeping you away from church. This is unreal—it's like living in a bad dream, but I'm awake and it's ugly! Who would have thought we'd be in the situation we are in now?

Be assured, I see my call to spiritual leadership at St. Brendan's as one of pointing you toward hope. I'm a positive person and my nature is to bring hope. So, back to the question that prompted this Priest's Corner:

"Isn't it strange that they can pack people in a plane with masks, and it's acceptable; but we can't have in-person worship together in a much bigger church, socially distanced and wearing masks?" My earlier answer was "Yes." Now my answer is "No! it's not strange!" Airlines are based on capitalism; St. Brendan's derives its life from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have a spiritual foundation; the airlines are founded on materialism. That makes a huge difference. Think about it. We have two separate starting thrusts and have two different sets of principles and priorities that guide us. When business does something that seems to compromise some moral standard, we often hear it said or say ourselves, "It's just business." Most then nod their heads and find some sort of understanding of the steps taken. We'd never say that of a church which takes it's light from the Gospel. We live in spiritual mystery and have room for worldly contradictions: "The last will be first. Happy are the poor in spirit; they shall inherit the earth. Those who mourn will laugh." I looked up the definition of the word, "contradiction." It means two opposites can't be true at the same time. So it can't be hot and cold at the same time. Now the word, "paradox" has a slightly different meaning. It means two opposites can't be true within most logical frames of knowledge. So, if you have a different frame of knowledge, you might be able to balance contradictions you couldn't have balanced otherwise. The new frame of knowledge that we apply is that Jesus inaugurated the Kingdom of God in our world. We are in the "now and not yet" of the Kingdom—even now the blind, see; the lame, walk and the Good News has come to the poor. In this frame of knowledge we can enter the mystery of paradox with confidence.

We can live in this paradox, and accept this step into hope. Realize that given our experience today, "Not participating in common worship is the way to love one another." We are helping each other stay alive. This is love—it doesn't get better than this.

Regis+



Security Update. Thanks to the generosity of one parishioner (who donated the equipment) and another volunteer (who had the tools to install it), the church building now sports a fancy new Ring video doorbell. Why might this matter to you? Well, to be frank, we have installed it because we too often find the main doors to the church unlocked. Please be aware that we will now be able to identify anyone who leaves without locking up and have a heart-to-heart with him or her about safeguarding our beautiful building.

Joining the Transition Committee for our next Bishop. The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh invites your prayerful participation on the Transition Committee for the election of the next Bishop of Pittsburgh. Lay and clergy persons alike are encouraged to join this Committee, which we expect will have 10-12 members from across the Diocese. The tasks of the Transition Committee are completely separate from those of the Nominating Committee and include the following: arranging "walkabouts" for the final candidates for Bishop; helping the newly-elected Bishop and his or her family to make a home in Pittsburgh; managing the logistics of the consecration service and planning welcoming activities for the new Bishop and family; and planning a celebration of ministry for Bishop McConnell and Betsy as we thank them for their ministry to us. A detailed job description for the Transition Committee can be found on the Diocesan website, or from this link: <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/transition-committee-a-letter-to-the-diocese-from-the-standing-committee/> Applications are due on November 7.

CRIES Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Episcopal Relief & Development, a local organization that responds to need following natural disasters. This donation is for relief in Louisiana from flooding and hurricanes. <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/stories-info-2/louisiana-leads-in-diocesan-disaster-response-1/>

CRIES Advocacy distribution for October and November are as follows:

Brother's Brother Foundation	\$ 180.00
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$ 180.00
Isaac's Trip with goods for Haiti	\$ 470.00
North Hills Community Outreach	\$ 560.00
Operation Smile	\$ 475.00
Light of Life Rescue Mission	\$ 530.00
You g, Black & Lit	\$ 605.00
Environmental Defense Fund	\$ 445.00



MEMORIAL SERVICE - On November 10 at 7:15 we will join together in fellowship to mourn the violence rending our nation. We will pray for all of our brothers and sisters who endure constant threats of violence and have been murdered through racist acts. We will name those taken and be in silence together as we light candles to call an end to the darkness of violence and shine our light on these acts. This memorial service will be held via zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88628195457?pwd=eXJ4dINXaHlzaHk2ZCtucGV4K3lsUT09>

(Meeting ID: 886 2819 5457 and Passcode: 049603). Anyone who feels called to help with this service, please contact Julie Smith (jlsphone1@gmail.com). This is a part of St. Brendan's Believes Black Lives Matter. As you prepare for this service, we will have a quiet time and lighting of memorial candles, if you have a candle you would like to light please have it prepared and with you during the zoom service.



ALL SAINTS' DAY IS Sunday, November 1.

On All Saints Day people who have been part of prayers that have died in the last 12 months, and all former members will automatically be included in the reading of the Necrology.

Please contact Katie if there is someone you would like to add. StBrendansKatie@gmail.com



Let's get St. Brendan's free money while shopping on line. It's simple, Search: Amazon Smile, then sign into Amazon Smile just like Amazon (email and password). (Create a login, if you're new). After signing in, you will go to a screen where you select a Charitable Organization. Type in St. Brendan's and scroll to find St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Sewickley, PA. Click on St. B's as your organization to get St. Brendan's 0.5% donation on every order you place. Please tell family friends, co-workers and neighbor.



We continue to offer the **opportunity to receive communion on Mondays and Fridays** by appointment only. If you are interested, email Katie at StBrendansKatie@gmail.com your availability Monday/Friday and morning/afternoon. You'll come to the portico in front of the church with a mask on and approach the reception area in a socially distanced way. Regis or Julie will meet you for a brief service with Eucharist available for you to receive. We can catch up for a few minutes then depart. Those who have already received in this way once are very welcome to request an additional opportunity to receive.

Last weekend, our diocese held its Annual Convention. Bishop McConnell, speaking for the last time before he retires in the spring, reflected on the challenges of these extraordinary times and what our faith teaches us about how we should respond to them. But much of the meeting time was devoted to the approval of changes to documents that dictate how the diocese is governed: its Canons and Bylaws. It's not oversimplifying, I think, to summarize the changes by saying that they reduce the size of key committees with the goal of streamlining the day-to-day running of the diocese.

One of St. Brendan's three deputies to the Convention (with whom I happen to share our home) has accused me in the past of actually enjoying such abstruse procedural discussions. (Her own view could fairly be paraphrased by saying that she much prefers to watch paint dry.) She points out that I was responsible for revising the Faculty Handbooks of all three of the college campuses at which I served as an administrator—so I guess it's hard for me to deny at least a certain fascination with how such documents enable us to get things done (or prevent us from doing so).

Coincidentally, a completely separate development this week drew my attention to something we will have to address at our own Parish Annual Meeting in January. I was asked whether our Bylaws allow the Vestry to meet and vote electronically. You can guess the answer. Those who wrote and revised the Bylaws (last updated in 2009) could not have foreseen COVID-19, nor could they have imagined the miraculous ways in which Zoom has allowed us to keep St. Brendan's ship both afloat and on course through the pandemic. But, now that we know what we know, it will be important to update our formal documents to reflect the new realities and legitimate the actions we have been taking remotely since mid-March.

One closing note: many thanks for their service as our deputies to this year's Convention go to Megan Overby, Joyce Donadee and Peter Sweet (who was elected at the meeting as a lay representative from District 1 to the principal governing body of the diocese).



We celebrate the **November birthdays** of:

2 James Aldridge	3 Theo Sands	5 Debbie Jennings	6 Avery Kline
15 Lizz Helmsen	15 Steve Horton	17 Janet Fesq	17 Bradford Thompson
19 Hadley Zupancic	20 Cynthia Chapman	23 Jonathan Bigelow Roche	24 Bob Grotevant
24 Nathan May	24 Daniel Moore	29 Bill Spoonhoward	



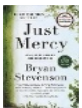
7 Mary & Dale Bertucci	14 Meghan and Robert Karn	14 Kate and John Riley
15 Sharon and Gary	29 Linda and Alan Schneider	

Senior Warden's Corner

Among the many lessons that COVID-19 has taught us—some of them salutary, many of them quite unwelcome—is that between any two poles lie any number of intermediate points. Before COVID, for example, we imagined that schooling took place either in a classroom or online through enrollment in a purpose-designed Virtual Academy. Now we know that there exist hybrid versions of many kinds, each with its own advantages and challenges. Some students attend school just two or three days a week, studying online for the other days. Others sit in (carefully managed) classrooms for some subjects while completing other courses from their home or dorm room. Meg and I have nine grandchildren—in four families, living in four different states—and there is amazingly little overlap in their educational experiences!

In the same way, we at St. Brendan's are going to confront issues of our own as we gradually reintroduce in-person worship. Before COVID, we felt comfortable worshipping together—in the very special way that Brendanites love so dearly. As the pandemic robbed us of that option, we learned that streamed services have their own virtues, so that settling in around the laptop or the i-Pad at 10:00 each Sunday became the “new normal.” But at some point in the future—sooner, we hope, rather than later—we will have to learn all over again how to “attend” and how to “participate in” liturgies when some of us have gathered for them on McAleer Road while others shelter at home for any of a dozen different reasons. This split-format will present new challenges to our Stream Team and to our clergy—all of whom deserve our thanks and our respect for the ability they have already demonstrated to adapt and to thrive in changing circumstances.

Let us all remember that God recognizes our good intentions, has blessed us with the creativity to find workable solutions, and loves us—both when we get it right and especially when we miss the mark! May we all remember that whenever we meet in His name, whoever worships beside us, whatever the technology we need to use, we remain one community of faith, one St. Brendan's.



Just Mercy: A story of justice & Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. We will be discussing the introduction and our own prison stories next Tuesday (October 20)



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.

Children's Corner

The Greatest of All

Music seems to be what is rolling around in my brain when I think of the reading the Greatest of All. I don't always hear the notes, or I don't hear the right notes, but I think I usually hear the words right. Most of the time. But when I don't hear the right words, I really get it wrong, but that's another story.

When I read the Gospel for this week, and a lawyer asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment of all, Jesus did not even hesitate – he said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Some songs immediately popped into my head. (Just a warning, when you get older, songs will start to pop into your head too – I kind of have a sound track for my life.)

Some of those songs, *Love, Love Me Do*, or *When I Fall in Love*, or *Love and Marriage*, don't quite fit the kind of love Jesus is talking about in this reading.

But there are a couple of other songs that do. One, *The Greatest Love of All*, sings about love and loving yourself and finding that love inside of you. But one of my favorites songs right now is *Have It All*. This song sounds a bit light hearted, but I think the words are exactly what Jesus is trying to have us do. In *Have It All*, the song reminds us how to treat each other, how to be our best selves, to always be generous and share what we have, so we can be happy. Then ends with a hope – "may the best of your todays be the worst of your tomorrows."

Maybe if we treated each other more like guests and friends and less like someone trying to take away what wasn't ours to begin with, adults could be happier. The song, *The Greatest Love of All*, begins with "I believe that children are our future." Similar to a passage in Isaiah 11:6, that says, "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them." Apparently, they were struggling with how to treat each other too.

Like the song, I believe children are our future. I also think if we started acting more like we are loved, and love one another, then we would be better. So, perhaps, young ones, you should show the adults how to love one another – listen to each other, share with each other, and even if we don't love each other at least get along. Maybe you can lead us into better ways, and my hope for you that "the best of todays are the worst of your tomorrows."

**Peace,
Julie+**



Join us for a virtual Novena - The Forward Movement and The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations are calling Episcopalians and all others to join in A Season of Prayer: For an Election. Here at St. Brendan's we are joining with others across the nation to pause each to come together, via zoom, to ask God for courage and wisdom, to thank God for love and joy. We will do this via zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85364233750?pwd=Z2tOT1FOcVRjbjISejNHaDNqWmNWQT09>
(Meeting ID: 853 6423 3750 and Passcode: 191668)

A novena is an ancient tradition of nine days of devotional prayers, often with a specific intention. In this case, we pray for discernment in voting and for the well-being of our nation.

We will begin on October 27 and continue through the day after the election. The prayers are from The Book of Common Prayer. If you can't join us, but would like a text of the prayer, please send your text information to jsophone1@gmail.com



Please make note of these important dates:

October 27 last day to apply for mail-in ballot.
November 3 ELECTION DAY.

More information is available at: vote411.org. Plan your vote now.





MONDAY MORNING MODERN EPISCOPALIAN GROUP, heeding the suggestion of Vestry, invite all to join us on the four Monday Mornings during Advent (beginning November 30 at 11:00am) in a Zoom Meeting to learn all about the 39 Articles of Religion. These are the best beliefs/practices of the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church (the best of both religious worlds) that formed the development of the Episcopal Church. You will be amazed! Look for an interesting tidbit-weekly to lure you to join in. The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, tucked away in the back of The Book of Common Prayer, is an historical document of the Episcopal Church and of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Articles were adopted during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in the 16th century. Anglicanism is generally not viewed as a confessional denomination and the Articles of Religion are not binding on Episcopalians. The Articles did, however, play a significant role in shaping the identity of the Church of England and Anglicanism. Join us as we look at this historical document and discuss its relevance, if any, for today.



Collection for Haiti: The school bus for Haiti is almost full. Please continue to bring in donations to St. Brendan's and thank you for the great items that you have already contributed. Your donations can still be placed into the plastic bin by the front door of the church. We are receiving items from the community as well. Donations of summer clothes, especially children's clothes, shoes, kitchen items, bedding, and medical supplies are needed. Solar cells are also needed in Haiti. A local company purchased too many and so 20 solar cells were purchased from them for \$75 each. Each cell is worth

about \$600!! They can be used in many ways in Haiti. Some of the donated items still need to be counted and sorted. Volunteers may be needed for that. The bus will be driven to Miami to be put onto a ship for Haiti. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Aiello or Joyce Donadee.

Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

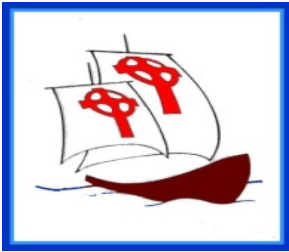
St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following parishioners and friends or family of parishioners. Each is a medical professional or an emergency first responder who is helping people cope with the Coronavirus outbreak. They are using their skills and 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 | 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 Sale: 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