



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 16, 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

Voting Next Tuesday and How Is St. Brendan's Coming Back from the Pandemic?

VOTING NEXT TUESDAY: I hope you vote next Tuesday in the Pennsylvania Primary. It's really important to go in prepared to vote. You will face one of the longest ballots ever. Thirty-nine (yes, 39) people are running for the 9 seats on the Court of Common Pleas. I'm planning to go into my voting place with my list of the ones I'm voting for in my pocket. (I can't remember all those names.) This is not the time to go in and vote on the basis of name recognition. The League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh supplies an online forum, "How to Evaluate a Judicial Candidate," which you might find helpful. Here are some links that might assist you in gaining some control of this complicated matter. www.lwvpg.org or www.vote411.org. If you live in Allegheny County and have questions, call 412-350-4500. If you do not live in Allegheny County and have questions, call your county elections office.

One simple way I'm rooting out those I'm not voting for is based on this reality—33 of the 39 have sent in a short video explaining their answers to some policy questions. Those who didn't submit a video don't seem equipped for the job to me. Play around on some of the links and check the public list of candidates deemed "unqualified" to be a judge, because they've been found to have abused the legal system or have been accused of misdeeds like sexual harassment.

Finally, Allegheny County will decide three local ballot measures on May 18, 2021. The measures include two law enforcement initiatives to ban solitary confinement in the Allegheny County Jail and ban the use of no-knock warrants by Pittsburgh police. Please go to vote and do it with knowledge and intentionality.

COMING BACK FROM THE PANDEMIC: Please take a look at Tim's *Senior Warden Corner* which touches on this reality as well. Some are predicting a "split" in the future church post pandemic. It's not your typical church split about doctrine, social concerns or the color of the carpet. It's bigger than that, and for the most part, you won't even realize it's happening until you look back a few years from now and see what took place. The emerging divide seems to be between churches that are technologically and current-culturally well-positioned for the future and churches that aren't. There are churches embracing such change and those that aren't. Pre-pandemic, approximately 15% of churches were preparing for technology and cultural shifts--and growing--while 85% were plateauing or declining.

There seem to be four fault lines developing before our eyes. Let's look at one of them today. (The other three will be taken up in Future Corners.) **The first divide is Online-Optional Versus Fully Hybrid.**

Most churches, including St. Brendan's, were forced into the digital age during the disruption of the pandemic whether their leaders were ready or not. (I actually was preparing for it for about two years—this got a lot of support despite the occasional voicing of fears.) Of course, I'll be heading south at the end of the year, but my thrust remains to fully embrace a hybrid church model: let's become 100% physical and 100% digital. The view I favor is that *digital* is not a temporary "accommodation," but real ministry and an abundant opportunity. To the question, "Should ministry be digital or physical?" My answer would be, "Yes".

In case you're interested in the other three "divides," here they are:

- Bringing People Back Versus Moving People Forward
- Churches That Embrace Versus Churches That Judge
- Ideologically Driven Versus Gospel-Driven

One of our priests sent an article around after the clergy meeting yesterday. I am basing a lot of the above on the insights of that thought-provoking article. It helped me better frame a vision forward that might result in interactive dialogue as we move and St. Brendan's moves into discernment about its future.

All good,
Regis



Brendan's Family & Friends (BFF) Chris and Roger Botti are donating to the BFF:

- In honor of the birth of their granddaughter, **Addison Christine Hartnett**, born April 29, 2021.
- In honor of Darrell Johnson for his ordination to deacon.
- In recognition and thanksgiving for the 34th anniversary of St. Brendan's first service and our continued legacy of faith in action and love.

Please come to our first virtual writing campaign:

The Justice Ministry is holding its first Zoom writing campaign on **Sunday, May 16, at 11:30 am**, shortly after the Sunday service. The topic is gun violence prevention, specifically banning ghost guns. Ghost guns are homemade firearms which are unregulated and untraceable, and have become a real problem in Pennsylvania.



At the Zoom meeting, you will be provided with a template for a short letter and contact information for sending letters to our state officials. We will also have someone speaking briefly about ghost guns and the issues with them. Please consider joining us with your pen and writing paper -- besides learning about ghost guns and making a difference by writing letters to ban them, you will be able to chat with some other parishioners from our church. The Zoom link for this meeting on May 16 at 11:30 am is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83095024539?pwd=RjNaeDY3SIU3aE9keElBa1plcXc3QT09>

Meeting ID: 830 9502 453, Passcode: 607363 (You must use this passcode) Hope to see you there!

CRIS Advocacy (Christian Response In Emergency Situations), donates 10% of our pledged income. This week we are supporting the work of Girl's Hope, a residential home in Baden, PA. They help academically capable and motivated girls-in-need meet their potential to become well educated and career ready.

Please notify Katie StBrendansKatie@gmail.com if you would like to attend the 10:00 service on Sunday.

**community
food bank**



WE'RE ALMOST AT OUR GOAL!!

St. Brendan's Justice Ministry has now raised \$4,645 for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank! That's 93% of our \$5,000 goal! We just need \$355 more and we will be there! Thank you so much to all who 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!



Vestry Meeting. On Monday, May 10, the Vestry held its regular monthly meeting. Our focus, excitingly, was on ways to continue the recent progress towards reopening the church. The following were among the specific topics we discussed: (1) an update on our efforts to assemble a representative group to lead the parish in its discernment process—progress has occurred but a couple of calls remain to be made; (2) our policy with respect to those who wish to use spaces in our building as vaccination numbers climb and infections fall (12-step programs, our regular and one-time renters, and various parish ministries); (3) activities to reintroduce our youngest Brendanites to the church during the summer so that Sunday School can resume "as normal" in the fall; (4) the selection of two new deputies to represent St. Brendan's at diocesan conventions in coming years; and (5) ways in which to further involve Darrell Johnson in parish life as a part of his ministry as a newly ordained deacon. (As always, the full Vestry Minutes are available for those who would like a more detailed account.)



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 sponsor the 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 our 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.



St. Brendan's Men's Breakfast is back. The group meets at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month for food and fellowship at the Eat'n Park, 2650 Brandt School Rd in Wexford. If you would like to join us and are not currently on the e-mail list contact either Steve Horton stephenshorton@aim.com or Bill Spoonhoward, tspoonhoward@yahoo.com. Upcoming dates: June 14th, July 12th, and August 9th.

Senior Warden's Corner

A few years ago, Megan and I looked after two of our grandchildren for a weekend while their parents escaped the house and celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary in a nice hotel. As context, you need to understand that we have nine grandchildren in all but they are all at least five hours away by car—and two live just outside Tampa! So for us, going back to living with an eight-year-old and a five-year-old was ... a learning experience. Graham and Russ are great kids and behaved beautifully. Nevertheless, their energy and their appetites were truly impressive, so when our daughter and son-in-law returned, we were very happy to drive back to Gibsonsia and collapse!

As St. Brendan's moves steadily down the path to resuming all the activities that kept us busy before COVID hit, we may need to remind ourselves that keeping any faith community alive to its mission demands the active participation of all (or at least most) of its members. In the past fifteen months, we have been blessed to have a Stream Team that made participating in liturgies amazingly stress-free (*thank you for that, Streamers!*) but this also made it easy to forget that for services before the lockdown began, many of us helped as ushers, stewards, greeters, or lectors, by paying for altar flowers or helping to arrange them, or by assisting on Altar Guild.

Now we will need to rebuild that same broad base of support—not just for liturgy but for all of the many ministries that we engage in at St. Brendan's. In the coming weeks, you will probably be invited to take on (or reprise!) a role of some kind around the church. I hope you will find it in your heart to say "Yes" to those invitations if you can. And if nobody has contacted you in a week or two, please call me or Regis—we will most certainly find a match between the gifts you bring to St. Brendan's and the needs that we have as a growing church.

Tim Austin



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 Thursday delivery 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 this Saturday, we will not be meeting.



The Haitian project update. The school bus is filled to the brim with clothing, bikes, sewing machines, solar cells, medical equipment and more. For right now we do not need any more donations. Thank you for all of your support for this project.

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 lwvpgh.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 Pleas Video Gallery" at lwvpgh.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

Upcoming Events from our Neighbors

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.

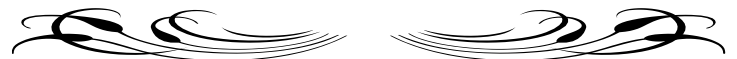
In the May 18 primary, Allegheny County residents will have the opportunity to do this by voting to restrict its use at the Allegheny County Jail, where inmates are now sometimes confined to a small bathroom-sized space 20 hours day (without books, TV or the internet), often as punishment for behavior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



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 cpcba.org.

Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

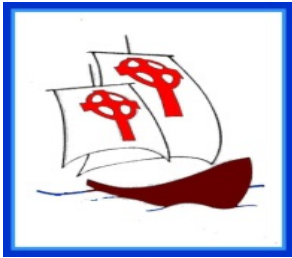
St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following parishioners and friends or family of parishioners. Each is a medical professional or an emergency first responder who is helping people cope with the Coronavirus outbreak. They are using their skills and 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
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 8:00-3:00

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 ~ jlspone1@gmail.com

Parish Administrator, Katie Cervone ~ StBrendansKatie@gmail.com

Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net

Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ meghanthompson328@gmail.com