



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 24, 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

Ash Wednesday 2021, COVID Vaccinations, a Helpful Website

Ash Wednesday falls on February 17 this year. This is 4 weeks away—then Lent. It's unlikely we will be open for in-person worship by Ash Wednesday. (We learned this morning that our Episcopal Church, St. Paul's in Mt Lebanon, decided they would remain closed for in-person worship throughout Lent—and focus their considerations for opening to “at the earliest, Easter Sunday.”) We are reassembling our Reopening Work Group to study our reopening—as we might be getting closer to that as vaccinations are arriving and we may be nearing the end of the “spikes.”

As far as Ash Wednesday goes, this Tuesday evening the Worship Committee discussed how important the distribution of ashes is for so many Brendanites. Despite being still under the safety protocols of the pandemic, we want to make it possible for all who want to be marked on their foreheads with blessed ashes to fulfill this desire. So, with the blessing of the bishop, we invite all parishioners and friends to request or acquire their ashes before Ash Wednesday. One option to get your ashes is for you to contact Katie and request that ashes for you and your family be sent in the mail. Option two is to drive up to the church and pick up blessed ashes to take home. Instructions for how to distribute them to yourself and/or members of your family will be available or sent to you.

Keep the ashes in a safe place until Ash Wednesday. We will have a zoom service at 7:30am Ash Wednesday morning where we will celebrate a liturgical prayer service at which you will be invited to distribute your ashes at home. We will have an evening live-streamed liturgy at 7:00pm with music and sermon, and during it you will be invited to distribute your at home ashes to yourself and/or household members.

More information and reminders will come your way. You can immediately start contacting Katie about how you'd like to obtain your blessed ashes. The sooner we get the information, the more attentive we can be to supplying you with your requested ashes.

COVID 19 Vaccine Availability in PA

Check this map of PA out showing where distribution sites will be throughout PA. Scroll though the website until you get to the map of Pennsylvania. Here it is: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

As you might know, vaccinations will be distributed thru a prioritizing phase-system. We are currently on Phase A1. Here are those considered A1 and hence currently able to present for a vaccination. **THOSE AGE 65 AND OLDER NOW QUALIFY FOR PHASE 1A.** So, Phase 1A is the first vaccine distribution step. The vaccine is currently being distributed to:

Long-term care facility residents
 Health care personnel including, but not limited to:

- Emergency medical service personnel
- Nurses
- Nursing assistants
- Physicians
- Dentists
- Dental hygienists
- Chiropractors
- Therapists
- Phlebotomists
- Pharmacists
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Technicians
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant or from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Persons not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious material that can transmit disease among or from health care personnel and patients
- Clinical personnel in school settings or correctional facilities
- Contractual HCP not directly employed by the health care facility
- Pharmacy technicians
- Health professions students and trainees
- Direct support professionals
- Persons ages 65 and older
- Persons ages 16-64 with high-risk conditions:
 - Cancer
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - COPD
 - Down Syndrome
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
 - Severe Obesity (BMI \geq 40 kg/m²)
 - Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²)

Take good care of yourselves; stay safe; we are almost home safe. Don't let your guards down now!

Regis+

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held THIS Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

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 prior to the meeting. In the meantime, here is the link to the meeting if you'd like to bookmark it.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82607163423?pwd=K21MSUxmUnJkc1I2eWZGNXVNSGZEQT09>

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 Sunday 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 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.

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Brother's Brother Foundation. The mission of Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF) is to promote international health and education through the efficient and effective distribution and provision of donated medical, educational, and other resources. All BBF programs are designed to fulfill its mission by connecting people's resources with people's needs.

Children's Corner

Saying No to God?!?!?

Imagine a time when your parents say, OK sweetie, it's time to . . . take a bath, or take out the garbage, or clean your room or whatever chores your parents have you do, and you say. . . NO. Now sometimes we might whine and say, can't it wait until – my game is over or the sun goes down or someone else does it. But all of those are ways to say no. Not me. Not now. I will do it when I want to, in the way I want to do it.

And can you imagine saying no to God? I mean, what if God actually tells you do something and you say no. Can you imagine saying, no God, I will not do it!

Because this week, we are reading about a man named Jonah who said no to God. Jonah is what we call a reluctant prophet. He is a prophet because he talked to God and God talked to him. Reluctant because he did not always want to do what God wanted him to do. You will have to listen to the story when it comes out on Saturday night to know what happens in Jonah's adventure with God, a big fish, and doing God's work.

I think you can probably imagine a time when you wanted to do something, but only on your terms. For example, I wanted to play little league baseball when I was young, but only if I could be the pitcher. When the coach wanted me to be the catcher or play short stop, I sulked and pouted, and soon stopped playing a game I loved because I was not the pitcher and I was asked to do something I Did NOT want to do. It was not what I wanted. I thought I knew better than the coach and I only wanted to do what I wanted to do.

Jonah did the same thing. He wanted to be a prophet, but he only wanted to do the easy work or the works he wanted to do – the fun jobs. Jonah did not want to do the hard work or go to cities where they may not want to hear God's message.

But when God asks us to do something for God, we need to remember, we are God's hands and feet here on earth. And just like Jonah, when it comes to doing what God wants us to do, we might run, but we cannot hide from God!

If you listen at church sometimes at the end of prayers Fr. Regis or I will say – Lord you know what is in our hearts before it is on our lips – meaning you know what we care about and you know us better than we know ourselves. We cannot hide from God. God knows what we do and what we think. God gives us the strength and courage to do all the things that God want us to do. Even the hard things.

**Peace,
Julie+**

Senior Warden's Corner

Two recent developments have caused me to think about how little attention I used to pay to the role of the diocese in my life or the life of my parish. Of course, long-term members of St. Brendan's recall all too vividly the painful divisiveness that resulted from a previous bishop's decision to lead some Pittsburgh-area Episcopalians out of the Episcopal Church USA and affiliate instead with the more conservative Anglican Church in America. But such moments of crisis are rare—thank Heaven—and on a day-to-day basis, even the most regular churchgoer's interaction with the diocese is limited to the annual Bishop's Visitation.

It is worth reporting, therefore, that the diocesan Board of Trustees voted this week to match the payments that St. Brendan's will be making on our mortgage in 2021—to the tune of almost \$9,500! This extends the role they have played for some time in assisting us to pay down the balance on the loan for our handsome building. Like a wise parent, they keep us focused on the part we ourselves must play by making their contributions contingent on ours. But the financial report that you will hear during our upcoming Annual Meeting (Sunday at 1:00, don't forget!) makes no reference to what actually represents a quiet act of great generosity—as well as reflecting the reputation that St. Brendan's enjoys as a lively and growing parish.

The second development involves our representation in governance at the diocesan level. Each year, the Vestry selects "deputies" to attend the Annual Diocesan Convention. At present, we are entitled to three deputies and that team of three duly joined the Zoom-mediated convention held last fall. Now one of the three has asked to step aside, which means that we need to name a successor—in particular because deputies will be playing an important role in the upcoming search for a new bishop. (You will be hearing more about this "coming attraction" in the months ahead as the candidates are invited to attend virtual town hall meetings with members of the diocese.) At this point, anyway, I am eager to hear from anyone who might be interested in being considered as a deputy representing St. Brendan's. Please simply send me a message (a question, a nomination, an expression of interest) at austover@gmail.com or call me at 508-688-9554. Thanks!

Tim Austin



We celebrate the **February Birthdays** of:

4	Tamara Spoonhoward	10	Adam Konley	11	Larry Greer	11	Bill O'Toole
12	Larry Toler	13	Debbie Wunsche	15	Saundy Waseleski	17	Eric Helmsen
18	Melissa Aretz	19	Connie Weichel	26	James Roche	27	Ruth Haider



We celebrate the **February Wedding Anniversaries** of:

14 Arlena and Bill Pugliese 21 Debbie and Mark Jennings



The Haitian project. The project to send two school buses loaded to Haiti is still being worked on. As you are sorting through your items and deciding what to donate, we have some more specific requests. The Haitian people tend to be smaller than typical Americans. However, men's t shirts are welcome - even an extra large size. Haitian people use the shirts for younger girls to wear as a dress. Often underwear is not donated but they are needed in Haiti. They not only appreciate receiving shoes, but even if you have boots, they are needed. They will wear winter boots rather than go barefoot. Thank you for all of your continuing donations.



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 at 9:30, 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.



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.

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 Episcopal Church Annual Meeting 1:00 p.m. Sunday

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82607163423?pwd=K21MSUxmUnJkc1I2eWZGNXVNSGZEQT09>

Meeting ID: 826 0716 3423

Passcode: 343421

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,82607163423#,,,,*343421# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,82607163423#,,,,*343421# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

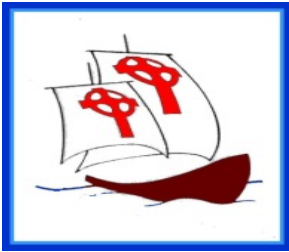
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82607163423?pwd=K21MSUxmUnJkc1I2eWZGNXVNSGZEQT09>



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