



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**
 Zoom website <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4796201105>
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>
- Friday 7:30 p.m. Suspended-Game Night, via zoom**
 Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/4575423762>

Sunday, September 13, 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

How Many Times Forgive?

I bet you don't know the name Kim Phuc! However, if you saw a picture that was everywhere about 35 years ago—you would instantly be able to tell the story. Do you remember the famous photo of a Vietnam War napalm-bombing attack near Saigon? It showed a road with panicked children running toward the photo taker and beyond. In the center of the picture was a little Vietnamese girl, naked and seemingly crying, with the most scared and painful expression on her face and in her body language. That little girl is Kim Phuc.

She now lives in Toronto with her husband and two children. She runs an organization called Kim Foundation International that aids children who are war victims.

This Sunday the Gospel is from Matthew, Chapter 18. It starts with Peter posing a question to Jesus and answering it himself before Jesus has a chance to reply. "Lord, how often do I need to forgive my brother?" Looking at Jesus, he then says, "Around 7 times?" Then comes the answer we all know so well, followed by a story about an unforgiving servant.

So have we forgiven the people who we need to — how about the person(s) who messed with our BLM banner? "What does it mean to forgive? Is it a one-shot deal? Does forgive and forget really apply?" This is what Sunday's sermon will explore. But to prime the pump a bit, I want to share Kim Phuc's story with you as she gave it on the radio program, "Yes, I Believe," on NPR. Here it is:

On June 8, 1972, I ran out from Cao Dai temple in my village, Trang Bang, South Vietnam; I saw an airplane getting lower and then four bombs falling down. I saw fire everywhere around me. Then I saw the fire over my body, especially on my left arm. My clothes had been burned off by fire.

I was 9 years old but I still remember my thoughts at that moment: I would be ugly and people would treat me in a different way. My picture was taken in that moment on Road No. 1 from Saigon to Phnom Penh. After a soldier gave me some drink and poured water over my body, I lost my consciousness.

Several days after, I realized that I was in the hospital, where I spent 14 months and had 17 operations.

It was a very difficult time for me when I went home from the hospital. Our house was destroyed; we lost everything and we just survived day by day.

Although I suffered from pain, itching and headaches all the time, the long hospital stay made me dream to become a doctor. But my studies were cut short by the local government. They wanted me as a symbol of the state. I could not go to school anymore.

The anger inside me was like a hatred as high as a mountain. I hated my life. I hated all people who were normal because I was not normal. I really wanted to die many times.

I spent my daytime in the library to read a lot of religious books to find a purpose for my life. One of the books that I read was the Holy Bible.

In Christmas 1982, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior. It was an amazing turning point in my life. God helped me to learn to forgive — the most difficult of all lessons. It didn't happen in a day and it wasn't easy. But I finally got it.

Forgiveness made me free from hatred. I still have many scars on my body and severe pain most days but my heart is cleansed.

Napalm is very powerful but faith, forgiveness and love are much more powerful. We would not have war at all if everyone could learn how to live with true love, hope and forgiveness.

If that little girl in the picture can do it, ask yourself: Can you?

This essay was produced by Anne Penman for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. NPR's *This I Believe* is independently produced by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman with John Gregory and Viki Merrick.

Looking forward to Live Streaming with you on Sunday and celebrating forgiveness.

Regis+

Whenever visitors ask **how to capture the spirit of St. Brendan's** – that sense of caring, openness, spirituality and involvement – we can give them a 30-minute explanation. Or we can introduce them to Rob and George Latta. Rob and George have exemplified who we are and what we do as Brendanites. That's why we're sad to see the Lattas packing up for their move next week to North Carolina. We're happy for them, though, because they'll be near daughter Kelly, her husband and the Lattas' grandson.

Rob and George have been members of St. Brendan's since 1987, the year the parish was launched. In that time their cheerful service to the church has known no bounds. Both of them served on vestry; Rob was a senior warden and George was a junior warden. Together they delivered our parish-made meals to Miryam's Kitchen in Pittsburgh and were regulars on the Adopt-a-Highway crew.

Rob and George put in long hours at our annual yard sales, with Rob running the books department some years while George sold goods outside. At various times, Rob was also church secretary, a member of the parish profile committee and our rental chair. She painted most of the rooms at St. Brendan's and in recent years organized the staging of the church prior to our annual holiday craft shows. George was a regular volunteer with the Green Thumb Gang and led (with daughter Stacy) a Journey to Adulthood teen group on a pilgrimage to the West. In short, there was no job too large or too small for George or Rob to take on.

As they set out on their next chapter in life, we are grateful to George and Rob for bringing so much to our story. Please join Regis in thanking the Lattas for their decades of devotion to St. Brendan's and in wishing them a future rich in God's grace.

Friends will continue to be able to reach George and Rob at the phone number and email addresses listed in the parish directory. They will remain Brendanites through live streaming and regular participation in long-distance worship/activities and for that we are grateful!



We are offering 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.

COMING SOON - Youth Program Coming soon – a survey for youth group – primarily what day to hold our meetings. Youth group is for all young people in grades 6+ who seek to deepen their relationship with Jesus through the study of scripture, through discussions of modern life lived with faith, and by exploring one's call to service.

To do this, we will be exploring questions about the Bible, Faith, the Episcopal Church, and our calls to service by reading, discussing and serving our church. In addition, some young people are about to be confirmed and we will work to prepare you for confirmation in the Episcopal Church.

Our leaders for this year will be Cameron, Allison, and Julie.

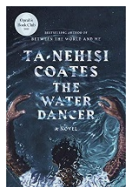
If you are interested in joining us please contact Julie at jlspone1@gmail.com.



The ESL team needs volunteers to translate our ESL flyer, which advertises our classes to people in the community. If you know someone who could translate our flyer into Spanish, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, or one of the Indian languages, please let Joyce Donadee know at jdjdonadee@gmail.com.

CRIS Advocacy. (Christian Response In Emergency Situations). This week we are supporting the work of Technoserve, a non-profit organization working in many countries to help hard-working people jumpstart their businesses and be more productive. <https://www.technoserve.org/>

Collection for Haiti: We have resumed our collection of items to be sent to Haiti. Summer clothing, shoes and any medical supplies (walkers, wheelchairs, etc.) are especially needed. If you have items to donate, you can drop them off in the large blue bin on the front porch of St. Brendan's. Thank you for any help you can give!



Our book discussion group continues to meet on Tuesdays at 4:30 via zoom. We are reading – *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. We read a chapter or two at a time - not the whole book - so our discussions can go a bit deeper. Our first discussion on this book will be September 8, at 4:30 via zoom.

If you would like to join us or if you need assistance getting the book, please Contact Julie jlsphone1@gmail.com.

Feel free to join us on zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484853481> Meeting ID: 814 8485 3481, if needed.



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.



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.

Children's Corner

Buoyed by Faith How much is enough?

When I was little, I used to "borrow" my sister's toys and my sister and I would break my brothers' things. Why? Because they made me mad, or they had what I wanted and didn't have, or just because.

And when they found out what I had done, my mother would make me apologize and ask for their forgiveness. In some ways it was a circle, they had something I wanted, I took it, they got mad, mom would have me apologize, and they would forgive me. Then it started again.

One day, my older sister, after I had borrowed her shirt and got a stain on it, asked my mother how many times she would have to forgive me? My mother said, every time. She didn't give a number, just that every time I asked to be forgiven, my sister should forgive me.

Now, that can be a bit dangerous to someone like me. If I'm forgiven all the time, why should I be good? EVER?

But instead of being bad, I realized, I don't want my things taken without permission so I should treat other people the way I want to be treated. Then I don't have to apologize and I don't feel bad about myself, and my sister and I can start to get along more and fight less.

WOW!!! Now, my sister is one of my best friends, we share a lot of things and trade clothes – it's like going shopping without having to pay. Because our mother said we needed to forgive each other, each time.

In this week's lesson, when Peter asked Jesus. "If someone at my church hurts my feelings, how often do I have to forgive him? Is seven times enough?" Jesus laughed at Peter, "Seven times? You've got to be kidding! More like seventy-seven times!" but what Jesus is trying to tell Peter, is we need to forgive people every time. There is no limit on forgiveness, just like there is no limit on love. We love one another, so we forgive one another. Every time.

That may be one of the hardest lessons for us to learn – that by forgiving others, it helps us love them. By loving others, we do what Jesus wants us to do. And by loving others, we show our love for Jesus.

Jesus loves and I love you,

Julie+

Volunteer Opportunity! We are looking for several Brendanites who would be interested in volunteering at the Trinity Walk-in Cathedral in downtown Pittsburgh. The Trinity Cathedral Ministry helps feed and clothe many people in desperate need. Our involvement is to help sort and distribute those items to those who need them. This would involve a commitment of 4-5 hours every five weeks at most, usually from 10am am til 2 pm. You'll find this volunteer work to be very worthwhile and fulfilling. If you are interested in helping, please contact Katie at StBrendansKatie@gmail.com.

Please consider applying for an absentee ballot. We want you to stay safe.

Registered voters can sign up today at votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot.



5 things you can do in less than 5 minutes:

-  Make your bed
-  Feed your dog
-  Prepare a bowl of cereal
-  Reply to your parent's text
-  Sign up to vote by mail in the November 3 general election

votesPA.com

You Can Make a Difference. No matter your political preference, we all agree that voting is one of the most important civic responsibilities we have. And perhaps the most consequential election of our live time is coming up in November.

We need to do all we can to make sure that as many citizens as possible are registered to vote. Unfortunately, it is very difficult for some people to register. They work shifts, they lack transportation and many other obstacles stand in their way. You can help! We have voter registration forms with instructions available outside and in front of the building. We are urging each member of the parish to take 3 of the preaddressed applications and put a stamp on each. When you are out and about be aware of folks you meet who may not be registered and offer them an application. The cashier at the market, the Amazon delivery driver, the pizza delivery man, all these folks might welcome at chance to get registered to vote. Applications must be received by October 19, so we have lots of time. If everyone in the parish got 3 new voters, we could add almost 500 voters! Please do your part.

Dear Friends of St. Brendan's,

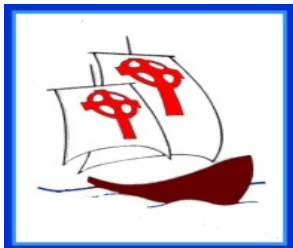
St. Brendan's Episcopal Church would like to thank, and request your prayers for, the following parishioners and friends or family of parishioners. Each is a medical professional or an emergency first responder who is helping people cope with the Coronavirus outbreak. They are using their skills and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

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY LEADERS

Audit: Kevin Boyd
Book Club: Pat Carl
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

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: Sylvia Affleck
Libby Juel
Scheduler: Kelli Cerra
Ushers: Eric Helmsen

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>
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 ~ stbrendans@comcast.net
Music Director, Daniel May ~ bluesub@verizon.net
Nursery Director, Meghan Thompson ~ meghanthompson328@gmail.com

OUTREACH MINISTRY LEADERS

Adopt-A-Highway: Tom Waseleski
CRIES Advocacy: Ellen Groves
English as a Second Language: Tim Austin
Joyce Donadee
Linda Schneider
Garden of Hope: Tim Michael
Justice Ministry: Donna Aiello
Miryam's: Julia Wick
Rob & George Latta
North Hills Food Banks: Ruth Horton & Donna Aiello