

An Open & Affirming Congregation



*Grain Fields*Edwin Evans, 1890

August 3, 2025 11:00am

WELCOME TO FRIENDS CHURCH!

We are honored that you have chosen to spend your Sunday morning with us. Friends Congregational Church is an **Open & Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all people into the full life and ministry of our church—people of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS? If you are a guest with us today, please let us know. Welcome cards are located in the chair backs to fill out and leave in the offering plate during today's offertory. If you are joining us online for today's service, you will find an Online Visitor Card at https://www.friends-ucc.org/your-first-visit. We are so glad you are here, so please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

CHILDCARE: We invite children to participate fully in our community and worship life. Children of all ages are welcome in worship or you may choose childcare, offered for ages 1-5 in the nursery down the hall through the piano side double doors. We currently have Covid Protocols in place, which you can find posted outside the nursery door.

WiFi: To access church WiFi, please use this login information:

WiFi – The Promised LAN Password: stillspeaking

RESTROOMS are located through the double doors on the piano side of the sanctuary. Gender assigned restrooms are straight down at the end of the hall, and a gender neutral restroom is to the immediate right.

LEADING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Lay Leader: Kathy Miller

Communion Steward: Megan Alvear

Greeters: Doris Machinski

Next Sunday, August 10: Lay Leader: Holly Scott Greeters: Alex Cannon

We give God thanks for our volunteers sharing their gifts. To volunteer for a Sunday as a lay leader, communion steward, or greeter, email **worship@friends-ucc.org**.

COMMUNION ON REQUEST: While the sacrament of communion is observed in worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at Friends, communion is available any Sunday on request. If you would like to receive communion on a 2nd, 4th, or 5th Sunday, please find one of our pastors to serve you at the conclusion of the worship service.

Eight Sunday after Pentecost

The season after Pentecost is also considered Ordinary Time. It indicates the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of the church calendar. Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. It may be referred to as the "green season," as green is the liturgical color for this period of time in the church year.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"This brief lifetime is my opportunity to receive love, deepen love, grow in love, and give love."

-Henri Nouwen

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

Prelude & Lighting of the Altar Candles

*CALL TO WORSHIP (INSPIRED BY PSALM 107)

Kathy Miller

One: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

Many: For the Holy One redeemed us and sustained us through the time of trouble.

One: Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good!

Many: For the Compassionate One heard our cry and sustained us through the time of trouble.

One: Give thanks to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Many: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

An asterisk* indicates that the congregation is invited to stand in body or spirit.

*OPENING HYMN - No. 565 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Austrian Hymn

*Invocation

Kathy Miller

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front. All are invited to sing a verse of NCH #524 "This Little Light of Mine" to begin the children's message.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Invitation to Confession

Brooke Dooley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Holy God, too often we seem determined to turn away from you. Yet you continually call us to repentance—to turn—back to you and your way. We pray for fortitude to remain on the path set by Jesus and embody the ministry of Christ in the world. Deliver us from the insignificant concerns that distract us and empower us to do the work you have called us to do. Most of all, grant us grace to be the people you have made us to be. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Brooke Dooley

*Passing of the Peace

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

*Hymn of Response - Seek Ye First



So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:13-21, NRSV

Trent Williams

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."

But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

One: The Word of God for the people of God. All: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!

The Message Trent Williams

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Kathy Miller

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at bit.ly/givetofriendsucc Venmo to 979-307-8860 or @friendsucc

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below: alleluia, alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts, Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifits, Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Trent Williams

Holy One, bless these offerings, prosper the work of our hands, and the gifts we bring. We dedicate them to your kindom forever and ever. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dan De Leon, Brooke Dooley

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Brooke Dooley

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dan De Leon

*CLOSING HYMN - No. 423 Great Is Your Faithfulness

Faithfulness

*BENEDICTION Trent Williams

*Sung Response - No. 181 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (Verse 2 only)

Bring Forth

POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLl #20046014 Instrumental Music:

Prelude:

Offertory:

Communion:

Postlude:

Scriptures for The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 10, 2025:

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

GET CONNECTED! On Fridays we email out a newsletter called "This Week at Friends" that shares important information and all of the activities and events going on at Friends. Subscribe by contacting **office@friends-ucc.org**.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

FRIENDS CHURCH SPONSORING "FEAST OF CARING", AUG 6: The Brazos Valley Food Bank's 32nd Annual Feast of Caring, a community-wide lunch event benefiting the BVFB, will be held at the Brazos Center in Bryan on Wednesday, August 6, 11am to 1pm. A modest meal of bread, beans, rice, and sausage will be offered, symbolizing the uniting principle that no child, individual, family or senior should ever go hungry. Right now, the BVFB is facing one of the most critical moments in its 40-year history: soaring food costs, plummeting donations, and empty shelves are putting our community's food supply at risk—just as more families than ever are turning to the BVFB for help. Thanks to generous giving in our congregation, Friends Church is able to be a "Box" sponsor of the Feast of Caring by contributing \$250 in support of the event. All are welcome to attend this hopeful cause in support of the most vulnerable in our community. Over 1,500 people are expected to attend.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, AUG. 9: Guyz Breakfast brings together fellowship, fun and great food. Join us at the church on the second Saturday of the month 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Bring your favorite breakfast food or drink to share. Pancakes and coffee are provided.

BACK TO SCHOOL KICK OFF, AUG: Back to School events are starting in Aug. Mark these dates on your calendar so you don't miss out!

Back to School Breakfast - 8/10 From 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Sunday School Begins - 8/17 at 10AM

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, AUG. 10: Our church family is excited and hopeful for our children and youth starting their 2025-26 school year. Friends Church will have our Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 10, in the 11am worship service. Children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to church, and to bring those backpacks with them to the front during the children's message for a special blessing. The "blessing of the backpacks" gives us the chance to pray over our kids, their well-being, and the schoolwork ahead of them.

FAMILIES OF ADOPTED & FOSTER CARE CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP, AUG 10: A support group for families with adopted or foster care children meets every second Sunday of the month. For the summer, we will meet at Lupe Tortilla at 813 Texas Ave, College Station, 77840. For details, contact Ann Rome: ann.rome@yahoo.com

RHAG MEETING, AUG 10: RHAG meets Aug 20 at 2:00pm. We'll be finalizing the RHAG website, making plans for our RHAG Bag stuffing party (prepping bags to deliver free over-the-counter birth control) and assessing the fall-out from the Texas Legislature's special session attempts to limit access to the abortion pill.

Announcements

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE: SIGN CHANGERS: Our church sign is prime real estate for spreading love, hope, and maybe even a holy chuckle. If you've got a creative spark (or a pun or two), help us reimagine our message to the world. Let's make passersby know that we are united by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly. Interested? Sign up to help change the sign—literally! Connect with Megan Alvear at evangelism@friends-ucc.org.

CHILDCARE HELP NEEDED, AUG 31: We are in need of volunteers to help with our nursey on Aug. 31. Please contact Pastor Trent (**pastortrent@friends-ucc.org**) or Morgan Leopold (**mrleop-old@verizon.net**) if you are available so we can conduct a background check.

FRIENDS WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Join our Friends Church worship team! We are in need of additional folks to help on Sunday mornings to serve as greeters, lay leaders and communion stewards to make our worship services flow smoothly. Sign up with these links. IIam Service **bit.ly/IIooworship**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

SUPPORT OUR PODCAST: Help us spread the good word! Share this week's sermon with those you love with our "Friends Congregational Church Sermons" podcast, available wherever you can find podcasts! Easily access and publicize our mission to follow the model of Jesus: to live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly. With over 100 episodes published (since Advent of last year) we've expanded (since Eastertide this year) our efforts to include the wider library of sermons offered before this podcast kicked off. We would love to have your support by either showing this podcast to friends and loved ones, and/or contributing your voice to introduce an episode. Volunteers can reach out to av@friends-ucc.org (Jeremy) if interested, or you might get approached after service. Recording takes less than 10 minutes and is almost entirely scripted.

Be a Greeter and Communion Steward: To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Charity Stokes: worship@friends-ucc.org.

Youth Group Looking for Extra Help: We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Youth Group events for the new school year. Contact Pastor Brooke at pastorbrooke@friend-ucc.org. Sunday School Teachers Needed: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? Contact Pastor Dan for more information: pastor@friends-ucc.org.

Coffee Crew/Kitchen Angel: "All I need is coffee; all we need are volunteers to make it!" Sign up via sheet on kitchen counter, at bit.ly/friendschurchcoffee or email Marisa at Fellowship@ friends-ucc.org.

Be a Curbside Steward: Recycling occurs once every two weeks early on Fridays and trash pick-up is weekly, early on Mondays. Bins need to be placed at the curb the afternoon or evening before the scheduled pick up day and returned to the side of the church after pick-up. Contact Property@Friends-ucc.org

Serve the Community: Help out at the Brazos Church Food Pantry, the Friday food distribution at Peace Lutheran, or Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network (BIIN) as an English or citizenship class tutor. And more! Visit the Friends Church website (Friends-ucc.org) Get Involved Volunteer or email office@friends-ucc.org for more information or to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

9AM WORSHIP SERVICE RESUMES, AUG 17: The 9am worship service will resume on Aug. 17! Come join us.

Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

Friends Church Staff

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (he, him)
pastor@friends-ucc.org

Executive Pastor
The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)
pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman (he, him) choir@friends-ucc.org

Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults The Rev. Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*) pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org

Administrative Assistant Michael Rangel (he, him) office@friends-ucc.org