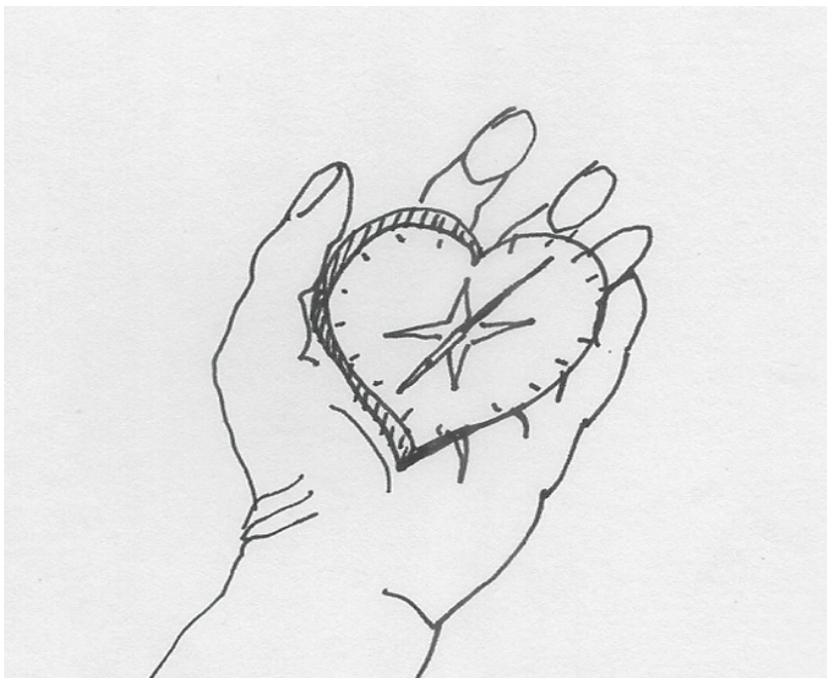




Rest in God
Liz Valente (2021)

October 19, 2025
11:00am
Children's Sabbath Sunday

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

LEADING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Lay Leaders: Jodie Robinson & Rayleigh Svatek, Alex Brunstedt, Mason Mendez-Ramirez,
George Verdegaal, Charlie Shields
Communion Steward: Kathy Yeager & Holly Scott
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Alex Cannon and Dwight Roblyer

Next Sunday, October 26:
Lay Leaders: Rick Smitherman & Becky Burks
Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Martha Newsome

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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Children's Sabbath Sunday

The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths is a sacred weekend that unites places of worship across the nation in shared concern and action for our children. It is a multi-faith call to bear witness, to celebrate, and to act on behalf of children's lives, well-being, and futures. Across traditions, communities gather in prayer, worship, education, and justice-seeking advocacy—honoring children as divine gifts and committing to dismantle the systems that harm them.

—Children's Defense Fund (CDF)

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest, to be completely present to the moment, to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand."

—Henri Nouwen

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*,
by Kaitlin B. Curtice)

Rayleigh Svatek

One: All of our children belong to all of us because that's what kinship does.
It's a reminder of that dust we came from
and of that dust we will return to.

**All: It's a reminder that while we are here,
we make room for the next generation to spring up from the soil
and create a new landscape.**

One: So our Native children lead us.

**All: Our children of color lead us. Our daughters lead us.
Our queer and nonbinary children lead us.
Our disabled children lead us.**

One: The ones that are forgotten lead us.

The ones that are told to be quiet at the dinner table lead us,
and if we are smart, we will let them lead.

**All: And if we are smart, we will see that we all return to Mystery,
and we are simply to learn what we can along the way,
to embody humility, to stand up to bullies and show them
the way to love and peace. Amen.**

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

***OPENING HYMN** - No. 454 Lord, I Want To Be a Christian *I Want To Be a Christian*

***INVOCATION** (From *The Book of Common Worship*, Presbyterian Church (USA))

Alex Brunstedt

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

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

Brooke Dooley

God of all and not just some,
We confess that when some have too much and others too little,
we have not proclaimed your justice.
When some have been surrounded by love and others excluded,
we have not reached out with your radical inclusion.
When some have been set on easy paths forward and others left to stumble over obstacles, we have not cleared the way as Jesus admonished.
When some are nurtured and others abandoned,
we have not embraced them with your love.
When some are encouraged and others disheartened,
we have not spoken your word of hope.
Forgive us, we pray, for the ways we have not lived up to
the scope of your vision,
the depth of your love,
the wideness of your embrace.
God of all and not just some,
help us to embody your love and speak your justice
until every child may live into the fullness of the promise
for which you created them.
We pray these things in the name of Jesus who came for all and not just some. Amen.

WORDS 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: Find Us Faithful

O may all who come be-hind us find us faith-ful;
may the fire of our de-vo-tion light their way.
May the foot-prints that we leave lead them to be-lieve,
and the lives we live in-spire them to o-bey.
O may all who come be-hind us find us faith-ful.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 31:27-34, NRSV

Mason Mendez-Ramirez

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of the one who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

CHORAL ANTHEM - Seek Ye First - Karen Lafferty and Johann Pachelbel, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner (A Joyful Noise Children’s Choir and the Chancel Choir)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you; Alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Alleluia!

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia!
Alleluia!

EPISTLE READING

II Peter 1:3-9 (The Message)

Trent Williams

Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received! We were also given absolutely terrific promises to pass on to you—your tickets to participation in the life of God after you turned your back on a world corrupted by lust.

So don’t lose a minute in building on what you’ve been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus. Without these qualities you can’t see what’s right before you, oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books.

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

George Verdegaal

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 uplifts,
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Kyle Riley

All: God our strength, you give us so very much, and your blessings grow and multiply in our lives. You call us to share your gifts with others, and so we obey. We thank you for the opportunity to give, and we dedicate these offerings to your work in the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Kyle Riley, Dan De Leon

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. 448 Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Vienna

***BENEDICTION** (“Guide My Feet,” by CDF Founder and President Emerita Marian Wright Edelman) (unison) Charlie Shields

O God, help us to recover our hope for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our courage for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our discipline for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our ability to work together for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our values for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover a spirit of sacrifice for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our faith in You for our children’s sake. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE** - No. 181 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (Verse 2 only) *Bring Forth*

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Rejoice in the Lord Always - Arranged by Nancy & Randall Faber
(Galia A. Ortiz, piano)
Offertory: Simple Gifts - Traditional Shaker Song, arranged by Nancy & Randall Faber
(Aiden Gonzales, piano)
Communion: Jesus Loves Me - William B. Bradbury, arranged by Joel Raney
Postlude: The Dragon Hunt - Nancy & Randall Faber (Alex Brunstedt, piano)

Scriptures for Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 26, 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

GREETER TRAINING, OCT 19: The friendly faces we see on Sunday mornings welcoming us to worship help to make Friends Church such a wonderful place, and we are so grateful for all that serve as greeters. If you currently serve in this role or would like to know more about this ministry, you are invited to join us for a Greeter Training on October 19 following the 11:00 worship service. We will provide lunch and go over best practices for welcoming and connecting folks, as well as review updated safety and security protocols to ensure a safe environment for all. Register here to let us know you’re coming: bit.ly/greetertraining2025.

CARING FOR CREATION: HOW TEXAS PROP 4 IMPACTS OUR WATER & OUR NEIGHBORS, OCT 19: Caring for Creation: How Texas Prop 4 Impacts Our Water & Our Neighbors, October 19 at 4 p.m. in the double classroom. Aging infrastructure and climate change result in billions of gallons of water lost each year, while groundwater sources are depleted and demand grows. According to the Texas Water Board, clean water supply already outpaces demand. Learn more about the Prop 4 ballot initiative and how to advocate for clean water for future generations by attending this Green Team-sponsored presentation by Sierra Club Water Specialist Evgenia Spears.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH WOMEN COORDINATOR NEEDED: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women is looking for a coordinator to lead our once a month gathering. Please contact Clarissa Kennedy at nurture@friends-ucc.org or Stacy De Leon at stacybdeleon@gmail.com for details.

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS YOUTH GROUP GARDEN PROJECT: Following their environmental justice trip to Denver, the Friends Youth Group decided they wanted to bring what they learned back home and create a community garden. Be part of this great opportunity to help out the Youth Group by signing up at <https://bit.ly/FriendsYouthGarden>, or reaching out directly to Pastor Brooke (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

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.
9am Service bit.ly/0900worship 11am Service bit.ly/1100worship

TEACHING SUPPORT NEEDED FOR GRADES 3-5 CLASS: The 2025-26 Sunday School year is off to a great start with classes for Grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-12, co-led by two teachers for each class. Our Grades 3-5 Class teachers having several Sundays coming up where one of them will need to be absent, so having an additional co-teacher is a must, and a few substitutes as needed will be very helpful. Feeling called to co-teach Sunday School? Please contact Christian Education Committee Chair Loretta Mendez: christian_ed@friends-ucc.org.

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS - WHAT DO WE DO WITH OUR ANGER?: Join the Social Justice Class for a 2-week class on anger, Oct. 12 & 19. Recent SJC discussions have revealed that we struggle with being angry in these turbulent times. What is a faithful response to that honest self-assessment? Pastor Dan leads this class where we take a theological look at human anger. Join us on the left side of the double classroom at 10am on Sundays.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO TV: We catch glimpses of the Gospel message in a play or a Broadway show. Movies tend to have lessons about religion and spirituality. What about a TV series? The shows we consume can teach us something about the faith we practice. Starting October 12th, our pastors explore this with a six-week sermon series. Each Sunday, “The Gospel According to TV” will look at a different show and hold its prominent themes up to scripture to craft the sermon. We’ll look at anything from what King of the Hill has to say about loving your neighbor, to what The Good Place tells us about grace and growth, to what The Incredible Hulk teaches us about anger. So, tune in and don’t miss an episode in this special sermon series at Friends Church!

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 gsm and nam services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Charity Stokes: worship@friends-ucc.org.

Be an Acolyte: All children aged 8 and up are welcome to join us in assisting in church services, bringing light and spirit to our worship. Children younger than 8 can participate with an adult partner. Sign up via the sheet in the narthex, <https://bit.ly/FriendsAcolytes>

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 Proper@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

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE, OCT 26: Join a pilgrimage for all people of faith to pray for grace and encounter God in Creation and renew our relationships with God, the Earth and one another hosted by the Laudato Si' Movement of Texas on Sunday, October 26th in St. Mary's Catholic Center Lobby at 12:30. We will then begin the Pilgrimage to the Texas A&M Gardens concluding by 3 pm. Sign up via SignUp Genius, <https://bit.ly/PilgrimageCarpool>, if you would like to carpool. A bag lunch will be provided after.

PUMPKIN DECORATING PARTY, OCT 26: Join us for a fun, family-friendly evening of pumpkin decorating, fellowship, and fall treats on Sunday, Oct 26 from 5-7pm! Bring your pumpkin! We'll have carving and decorating supplies (or bring your own). Enjoy our Popcorn & Nacho Bar, and bring a sweet treat to share! All ages welcome—come for the fun, music, and maybe a little Monster Mash!

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, OCT 30: Linda Coats Book Club will meet on Thursday, Oct 30 at 6:30pm. Our book will be *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Contact Jodie Robinson for more details.

ALL SAINTS DAY, NOV 2: Let us honor the Saints who have gone on before us. Friends Church celebrates All Saints Day by recognizing our deceased loved one. Please fill out our Google form to ensure that your Saint is included on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 2). Fill out the form here: <https://forms.gle/rLevTQMA3diBmUh5A>. The names of those who have passed in the last year will be read aloud during the 9am and 11am service, and all names will be listed in the worship guides. The deadline to submit a name is **OCT 30**.

SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP'S CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM, NOV 2: Over the past few years, the Friends Youth have led the charge for our local CROP Hunger Walk, an effort that raises funds for our food insecure neighbors around the world. This year is especially important as we have seen large-scale reductions in funds to food aid programs. Over the past three years, the Friends Youth have raised over \$5,000, and this year they've decided to make that their goal! This year's CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, November 2, 3pm, at Veterans Park. You can support us by joining our team or contributing here: tinyurl.com/FriendsYouth-CROP.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING, NOV 15: Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use challenge or experiencing a crisis and connect them to resources that can help. This course is being presented in-person and offers a 3-year certification. The training is Sat., Nov 15 from 8:30am - 5:00pm at Friends. Register here: <http://bit.ly/46l8sg5>.

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

Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)
choir@friends-ucc.org

Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)
pastortrent@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

2200 Southwood Drive College Station, Texas 77845

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www.friends-ucc.org • Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00–3:00

Pastor Dan's weekday off is Friday. Pastor Trent's weekday off is Monday.