



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



The Holy Trinity

Mary Jane Miller (Mexico, 2008)

May 26, 2024

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 Leaders: Susan Fontaine & Becky Burks
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Peggy Vitek

Next Sunday, June 2

Lay Leaders: Dinah Anderson & Linda Fitzwater
Communion Stewards: Susan Fontaine & Doris Machinski
Greeters: Sydney Zentell & Lanette Schulte

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.

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday is the First Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian Church, and celebrates the interrelational, triune nature of God articulated in the Christian doctrine of the Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

You Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God,
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

“Bring Many Names,” Brian Wren (New Century Hymnal #11)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Becky Burks

One: In mystery and grandeur,

All: We see the face of God.

One: In earthiness and the ordinary,

All: We know the love of Christ.

One: In heights and depths, and life and death,

All: The Spirit of God is moving among us. Let us praise God!

***OPENING HYMN - #275** Come Now, Almighty God

Tune: Italian Hymn

***INVOCATION**

Becky Burks

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tami Dudo

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front, and children watching online are invited to get closer to their screen. 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)

Brooke Dooley

**God of mercy and grace, you come to us with loving compassion.
You know our shortcomings and our willfulness.
Make us new as we seek to become the people you have called us to be.
Help us live according to the spirit
and in union with you and community with our neighbors.
Give us a burden to be instruments and witnesses
of your loving kindness in the world.
Hold us accountable as your empowered people.
Let repentance and hope for new life overcome any sense of shame
that may paralyze us in our past mistakes and misdeeds,
as we turn toward you with wonder and expectation
that you will lead us into life abundantly for all. 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 - #278** Creator God, Creating Still

Tune: St. Anne

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:12-17, NRSV

Becky Burks

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Holy, Holy, Holy - John B. Dykes, Choral Setting by Joel Raney

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art, and evermore shalt be, which art, and evermore shalt be!

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee, though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect and power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea; Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
Amen!

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17, NRSV

Trent Williams

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

Becky Burks

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**

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 & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH

Trent Williams

RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

***CLOSING HYMN - #473** Blessed Assurance

Tune: Assurance

***BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Come, Thou Almighty King - Felice de Giardini
Offertory: All Glory Be to God On High (Allein Gott in der Höh) - Nikolas Decius
Postlude: O God, Our Help in Ages Past - William Croft, arranged by Lloyd Larson

Scriptures for the Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 2, 2024: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Mark 2:23-3:6

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

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, MAY 30: For May, the book club will be reading Sue Monk Kidd’s *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm.

BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY, JUNE 1: First Saturday of each month (June 1). Volunteer at <https://bit.ly/3yx9BIG>. Contact Becky Burks for more info.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 2: The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the 11:00 service on June 2.

GRILLA PRIDE PALOOZA 2024, JUNE 2: Grilla Pride Palooza returns!!! Mark your calendars for the evening of June 2 and come enjoy burgers and hotdogs grilled by Eli, and Friends’ own unique celebration to kick off Pride month! Plan to bring a side or dessert to share, your lawn chairs, outdoor games and rainbow paraphernalia. Volunteer here <https://bit.ly/3QXoZo2> to set up or clear away. Family friendly event!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK BAY HYGIENE KIT FINAL WORD: A team of about 20 Friends including our youth who stepped up to pack up the 102 hygiene kits after worship last Sunday. We finished the job in under 30 minutes breaking our record from last year! Anne Wehrly will deliver the hygiene kits this weekend to the home of a Back Bay board member who lives in Houston who plans to take them to Biloxi to the mission on June 3rd. Soon they will be in the hands of folks who can use them for survival. The Justice & Mission Ministry of Friends sends a huge thank you to all who participated in sharing your love.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ENDS FOR SUMMER BREAK, May 26: Sunday School will end for summer break beginning May 26th & return on August 18th.

EARLY WORSHIP END FOR SUMMER, JUNE 30: The last 9am worship service for the summer is on June 30. The 9am service will resume on August 18.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

SUPPORT OUR PODCAST: The “Friends Congregational Church Sermons” podcast is getting downloads across the country and even overseas! Each episode, featuring a sermon and introduced by a different church member, is an evangelism and outreach tool for all of us at Friends. Support the podcast by sharing it widely. So far the record number of downloads for an episode is 69. With your help we can hit at least 100 every week! You can also support the podcast by lending your voice to it. Contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo to record the intro for an episode: av@friends-ucc.org.

Be a Greeter and Communion Steward: To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: 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 year, including the June Mission Trip. Contact Pastor Brooke at pastor-brooke@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: Do you enjoy having coffee/hot beverages available at Sunday morning services? Signup via sheet on counter in kitchen, or Sign-up Genius (link provided in Friday church email) or by contacting [Fellowship@ friends-ucc.org](mailto:Fellowship@friends-ucc.org). Training available by request.

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-ty@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

FIRST FRIDAY BOOTH CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH, JUNE 7: Help set up, staff or take down the Friends Church table celebrating Pride Month at Downtown Bryan's First Friday event on June 7th. It's a great opportunity to share the love and spread the word about Friends Church! Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/44H9je4>.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, JUNE 8: 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.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, JUNE 9: June 9 is our next New Member Sunday, when we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends on that Sunday, please contact Executive Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org).

"42" PROGRESSIVE DOMINO PARTY AND DESSERT POTLUCK, JUNE 9: Come one, come all to the 2024 Friend's Congregation "42" Progressive Domino* Night complete with Dessert Potluck on Sunday, June 9. Play will begin at 6:00 and end at 8:00. Never played 42? Come at 5:30 for a lesson. Bring your favorite dessert to share. Beverages will be provided.*Progressive Dominoes involves place assignments and moving after 3 hands in a tournament-like configuration.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, JUNE 12: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will meet on Wednesday, June 12th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Anthem Kitchen + Bar @ BigShots Golf at 400 W. Villa Maria Rd, Bryan, TX 77801. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon if you need more information at 512.289.5290.

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*)
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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.