



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Praise
Liz Valente

October 8, 2023

11:00am

Access 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 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: Anne Nichols & Tom Vogel
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Martha Newsome

Next Sunday, Oct. 15:
Lay Leaders: Dinah Anderson & Kelly Wellman
Communion Stewards: Kathy Yeager & Grace Jackson
Greeters: Lanette & Rick 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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Access Sunday

In the UCC calendar, the second Sunday in October is designated as Access Sunday, an annual celebration of the gifts persons with disabilities bring to the church, and the joys of being in an accessible community. It is also a time to remember and repent of the harm done to disabled people in religious spaces, and to call upon the whole church to recommit itself to access as a justice issue. Let us honor and celebrate disability wisdom, creativity, and brilliance. Let us expand our notions of God and theology and call one another into greater access for all.

QUOTES FOR MEDITATION

“You are loved by the waters, you who swims through the depths without aid, your own power propelling you forward. The trees are in awe of you, you who grows tall and proud, who bends but never breaks beneath the weight of a body that refuses to conform.”

-Chelsea Pinson

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tom Vogel

One: Accessible, inclusive, multi-sensory God, in celebration of you and your Creation today, we give thanks for all.

All: We give thanks for people of all experiences, disabilities, and abilities.

One: God, you invite us to learn more, to connect more, to offer helpful accommodations: so people of all abilities and disabilities, minds and bodies, can thrive.

All: God, all minds and bodies echo Your reflection.

One: God, you are accessible to all. Opening our awareness to you on this Access Sunday, together may your creation be joyful and reflective. There is work to celebrate and work to continue in making your world fully accessible.

All: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 476** My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep from Singing)
Tune: Endless Song

*INVOCATION

Tom Vogel

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Ambrus

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 (oh let it shine)!**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR MICHAEL SHABEK

Welcome and Introduction

Address

Questions of the Candidate

Congregational Assent

One: Jesus Christ calls us to follow him and, in our shared walk of discipleship, to offer one another the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as they lives and grows in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

*Act of Praise: Song of Praise (Gloria) no. 759

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Prayer for the Baptized

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
Many: And also with you!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:26-27, 31 The Inclusive Bible

Tom Vogel

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.” Humankind was created as God’s reflection: in the divine image God created them; God looked at all of this creation and proclaimed that this was good—very good.

HANDBELL ANTHEM: Highland Cathedral - Korb/Roever, arranged by Julie Turner and Kevin McChesney

RESPONSORIAL PSALM NO. 630 Psalm 19

Hayley Coltharp (Cantor)

Response

Unison G D/F# E7 Am D7 G

Antiphon: Jean Slaters Hawk, 1994

O God, you are my rock and my re-deem - er.

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 19: 1-14, NRSV

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

THE MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Tom Vogel

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends

Text to give: Text **Friends** to 979-500-2523

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)**

Dan De Leon

Holy one, you are the source of all that we are and all that we have. While you are more desired than gold, and sweeter than honey, we bring you these gifts that they may be used to meet the needs of your beloved. Bless these gifts and this community of faith that we may be instruments of Your peace so that all those we meet may know that you are accessible and present for them. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER FOR ACCESS SUNDAY

Dan De Leon

**Our God who is disabled, holy are your differences.
May your work of inclusion be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Grant us access in all the ways we need. And forgive us for excluding others,
as we forgive those who exclude us.
Keep us away from the temptation of believing we're not enough,
and deliver us from the evils of ableism.
God, in you we find community, welcome, and belonging; now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH

Brooke Dooley, Dan De Leon

***CLOSING HYMN No. 473** Blessed Assurance

Tune: Assurance

***BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLI #20046014

Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Be the Center - Michael Frye, arranged by Garrett Parker

Offertory: Prayer for Peace - Colin Curtis

Postlude: The Joyous Spirit - Paul Davis

Scripture for Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 15, 2023: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

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.

GREETERS & COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED: Several of our regular volunteers for greeting and for setting up and serving communion in the 9am worship services are not available this scheduling cycle. If you can help with a 9am Sunday service or two in their absence, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@friends-ucc.org.

COFFEE & KITCHEN HELP NEEDED: Volunteers are needed to prepare coffee before and to clean up the kitchen after Sunday services. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the kitchen along with a description of duties. For more information contact fellowship@friends-ucc.org.

TRANSPORTATION HELP: We are putting together a Transportation Team to help church members who need assistance getting to church on Sunday. With enough help, this will be a once/quarter commitment. To join the team, send an email to Nurture@friends-ucc.org.

TREATS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN AT CROCKETT ELEMENTARY: Crockett Elementary, our adopted school, is having a Trunk or Treat event for their children on October 30. In their front parking lot and need our help in providing treats. They suggest individual size bags of snacks, trinkets and of course candy! A container for donations will be in the hallway across from the double classroom. Please have donations at the church by noon on Sunday, October 29. Any help you can give will be very much appreciated.

MORNING MANNA IN OCTOBER: In our continued study of the book of Genesis, we will use video clips and a book from renowned journalist Bill Moyers' PBS special, "Genesis: A Living Conversation" to guide our discussions. Moyers brings together writers, theologians, artists, and thinkers from across faith traditions to engage in lively conversations about these stories' ultimate message: what it means to be human. The Morning Manna class meets at 10am on Sundays in the room at the end of the kitchen-side hallway. For more information, contact Pastor Dan: pastor@friends-ucc.org.

ADULT MISSION TRIP TO THE TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER: January 7 - 10, 2024
Are you interested in learning more? Courts & Ports is a 2-day immersion experience designed to build understanding of the many challenges facing migrants and public servants at the Texas-Mexico border. Plan to accompany Pastor Brooke on this adult mission trip to the Rio Grande Valley in January to bear witness and then come home prepared to share how our congregation can advocate for and support the work for just immigration policies. To indicate your interest and hear more about the experience first-hand from Tim and Holly Scott either Wednesday evening, Oct. 11 or Sunday, Oct. 15 after worship, please review information in TW@F and sign up using the link provided there. Or visit the Friends Church website at <https://www.friends-ucc.org>.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT ATTENDING THE 9AM WORSHIP SERVICE? For the earlier risers out there, Friends Church offers a 9am service on Sundays that functions more like a prayer service than the more traditional 11am service. While many aspects are similar to the 11am (children's message, sermon, singing), the 9am offers a more intimate space for contemplative worship, with the lighting of candles for intercessory prayers that we share together and time for silent meditation. We invite you consider attending this earlier service at 9am on a Sunday soon at Friends.

THEOLOGY ON TAP, 10/19: At 6pm on October 19th, Theology on Tap (T.o.T.) returns to KinderHill Brew Lab, 800 S. Bryan Ave. T.o.T.'s informal discussions bring our lives more in tune with God's will and way as we get to know each other better beyond church walls. The venue has an assortment of great beers on tap. You don't need to be fond of beer to join us, nor do you have to be 21 or older. Non-alcoholic beverages are available, and minors are welcome, as are four-leggeds. Cheers, and amen!

A JOYFUL NOISE RETURNS! A Joyful Noise, Friends Church's children's choir, is officially back! Designed for kids in Kindergarten through fifth grade, Joyful Noise will be singing for Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 15, during the 11am service. Rehearsals of their song "Clap Your Hands" will be on Sundays, October 8 and 15, starting promptly at 10am (during Sunday School time), and lasting only 20 minutes. If you have any questions, please contact Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman: choir@friends-ucc.org. We hope to have your child be part of this fun musical opportunity.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? We need one substitute teacher for Grades 3-5, two teachers for Grades 6-8, and one teacher for Grades 9-12. Right now, we have classes with at least one teacher for Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 at 10am at Friends Church. We hope to start a class for our Pre K children, but we need volunteers to make this happen. One of our current Sunday School teachers would like to start the PreK class, but needs someone(s) to replace them in their current role. Contact Pastor Dan for more information: pastor@friends-ucc.org.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH WOMEN will gather on October 11 (5-7 PM) at the home of Marisa Winking. Food will be provided, as well as sangria, sparkling water and sodas. BYOB if you want anything else to drink! All are welcome at this informal, come-and-go activity where we enjoy getting to know one another in a relaxed, social environment.

PAGEANT DATE POLL OF PARENTS: As we plan our annual children- and youth-led Christmas pageant, we need you, parents of our children and youth, to choose the date for this cherished event. Your input is important to us, and we want to make sure as many families as possible can participate. Scan the QR code or go to <http://tinyurl.com/friendspageant> and complete a short survey to help us decide between two dates for the pageant: Dec. 10 or 17. The pageant will be offered in the 11am service.



HELP OUR NEIGHBORS: Looking for a way to engage face to face with our neighbors who are short of food? Come for an hour or more on Friday afternoon to Peace Lutheran Church parking lot any time between 2:30 and 6:00. We will be sorting and distributing produce and other food provided by Brazos Valley Food Bank. Contact Anne Wehrly with questions awehrly@suddenlink.net or just show up and join our team and make some new friends.

NURTURE UPDATES: Parents of Teens and Tweens will next meet on Sunday, October 22, 5:30 p.m. at the Church. Watch for more details.

We are all Fabulous at Any Age! Let's celebrate that "fabulousness" with an afternoon of games and potluck lunch on Sunday, October 29, after 11 a.m. Worship Service. Bring a dish to pass and (if you'd like) a fun game.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE YOUTH GROUP: The Youth Group, grades 6-12, will be getting together throughout the fall for lessons and discussion, service projects, and social gatherings. We're looking for folks who might be interested in co-facilitating lessons and chaperoning when they are off-site. We're also looking for meal providers for one of the Youth's gatherings. Reach out to Pastor Brooke with questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org. Sign up to volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer> and to provide meals at <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthmeals>.

CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed in the childcare room when one of our paid workers is unavailable. Having two adults in the room is required for liability and safety reasons. Volunteers must have a background check, provided by and done through the church office. Volunteers will not be called upon frequently, nor will they be in charge; one of our highly skilled, paid workers will be the point person. Contact Jackie Womack at moderator@friends-ucc.org for more info.

PERIOD CARE PRODUCT DRIVE & AND MENSTRUAL JUSTICE: Friends' Period Care Product Drive for Brazos Church Pantry continues through the next couple of weeks. Drop your donations in the bins found in the Narthex, and next door to the Office. NO TIME TO SHOP??? Use the QR Code found on the donation bins to link to the Wish List from which you can order. Thank you!!! Thank you!!! For more information, contact Becky Burks, beckyburks4@gmail.com.



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