



# Friends Church

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*The Ten Young Women*  
JESUS MAFA (1973)

November 12, 2023  
II:00am  
New Member 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 & Tyler Baker-Willkinson  
Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Lanette and Rick Schulte

Next Sunday, Nov. 19:  
Lay Leaders: Dinah Anderson & Holly Scott  
Communion Steward: Mo Bertrand  
Greeters: 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](mailto: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.

## *Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

Pentecost, celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot. Pentecost Sunday is also called the birthday of the Church, when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading the message of Jesus.

### **PSALM FOR MEDITATION:** Psalm 70, NRSV

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me! Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me. Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame. Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!

### **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:**

"Wouldn't it transform our relationships, our churches, our families, our nation, the world if we could see the potential in each person as a gift of God who has a role in the unfolding of God's promises and plan in our midst?"

-Rev. Kate Huey

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Brooke Dooley

### **PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tyler Baker-Willkinson

One: We know not the day or the hour,

**All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.**

One: We know not when our own time will come,

**All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.**

One: The prophets have taught us to do justice,  
practice kindness, and walk humbly with God,

**All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.**

One: Wisdom continues to teach us to listen, and learn, and live,

**All: We know Christ is at work in our world and in us.**

One: We join together to praise and worship our God,

**All: For Christ is at work in our world and in us.**

\*OPENING HYMN - Soon and Very Soon

Tune: Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

**\*INVOCATION**

Tyler Baker-Willkinson

**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)!**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

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

**EPISTLE READING**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, NRSV

Tyler Baker-Willkinson

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**HANDBELL ANTHEM:** Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing - from John Wyeth's *A Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813; arranged by Cathy Moglebust

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13, NRSV

Dan De Leon

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!**

## THE MESSAGE

“Do You See What I See?”

Dan De Leon

## MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

## INVITATION TO SHARE

Tyler Baker-Willkinson

## OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriendsucc](https://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 & 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 our 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**

Brooke Dooley

## **SERVICE FOR THE RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS**

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Eric Field; Evan Ballweg; Mary and Rob Johnson; Kathryn Boyles and Doug Grogan

### **QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES**

### **FRIENDS CHURCH COVENANT (UNISON)**

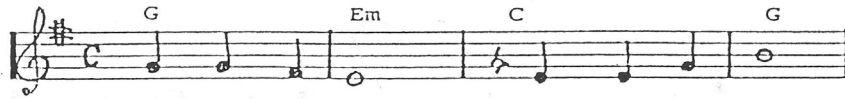
**We recognize that we were strangers, that we came from diverse backgrounds, that we share a longing for acceptance and a need for mutual support — we need to celebrate our love of God with joy, enthusiasm, and faith. In faith we gather as Friends Congregational Church to experience community, to celebrate old traditions, and to affirm our new creations. Looking outward, we recognize the need to embrace the world and to invite others to share mutual gifts. Our spiritual journey is sustained by the God of Biblical history as expressed by Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and most clearly by Jesus of Nazareth. We celebrate the continuity of our faith and live in its mystery.**

### **\*\*WELCOME & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (UNISON)**

**We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. we promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus the Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen savior.**

### **\*\*SIGNING OF THE MEMBERSHIP BOOK**

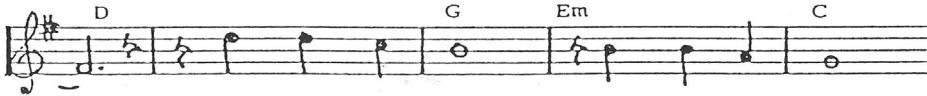
**\*CLOSING HYMN - No Longer Strangers**



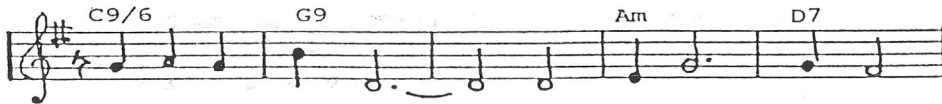
1. He turned to say: "Come fol-low me."
2. I walked a-lone. I heard your cry.
3. My world was small, my neigh-bors few,
4. No for-eign kind, no 'al--ien race,



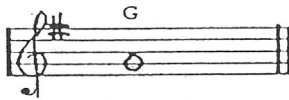
1. I joined his band to trav-el land and sea.
2. I came to you in--stead of pass--ing by.
3. But now God's love gives me a larg--er view:
4. In Christ we all have found a wel--come place.



1. And so we go to whom he sends,
2. We gave, we took; our sto-ry ends:
3. Be--fore the cross my world ex--tends...
4. The Spi--rit binds, our voic-es blend.



No long-er strang-ers, we're sis-ters, broth-ers,



friends.



## \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

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

- Prelude: I Need Thee Every Hour - Robert Lowry, arranged by Janet Vogt  
Offertory: Fantasy on “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” - William H. Doane, arranged by  
Gilbert M. Martin  
Postlude: O God, Our Help in Ages Past - Attributed to William Croft, arranged by Lloyd Larson

## 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](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org).

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

**HELP OUR NEIGHBORS:** In this season of Thanksgiving, please consider coming 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 the Brazos Valley Food Bank. Contact Anne Wehrly with questions [awehrly@suddenlink.net](mailto:awehrly@suddenlink.net) or just show up and join our team and make some new friends.

**THEOLOGY ON TAP, 11/16:** At 6pm on November 16th, Theology on Tap (T.o.T.) is held at 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!

**FRIENDSGIVING 2023:** Our Annual Friendsgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 19 in the church sanctuary beginning with worship at 5:30 p.m. This year's dinner is a potluck and we need folks to sign up to bring turkey, ham, and all the side dishes. Please sign up using the sheets located on the serving buffets in the sanctuary starting November 5. There is also a need for volunteers to assist with clean-up following the dinner.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING INFORMATIONAL TODAY:** We are putting together a team to discuss plans for a community garden on the Friends property. Whether you have experience with gardening, from raised bed to rain barrels, or have always wanted to learn, we'd love for you to join us in the double classroom today, after the 11am service for an informal gathering where we can share questions and ideas for this exciting ministry!

**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](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org).

**TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL:** Pride Community Center invites all to remember the lives of those lost to anti-transgender violence and hate from this past year. The Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil will be held on November 20th, 2023 at Sue Haswell park, pavilion A at 6pm. Name readers and other volunteers are welcome. Sign up at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/KAJXL>

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DEC. 10:** It's official! With 24 families participating in our poll for the most inclusive date, it has been determined that this year's children- & youth-led Christmas pageant will be on Dec. 10, the Second Sunday of Advent, in the 11am worship service. Parents, stay tuned for information on casting, scripts, and rehearsals.

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED RECAP:** Thank you to all who contributed last month to the Neighbors in Need mission offering. We raised over \$625 which will go to supporting the Council for American Indian Ministry ([caimucc.com](http://caimucc.com)) and projects focusing on environmental justice. Be on the lookout in December for The Christmas Fund, another opportunity to support the global ministry of the United Church of Christ.

**FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** The Fellowship Committee is seeking volunteers. Folks can choose a variety of ways to participate: help plan Fellowship events, volunteer day of events to set-up, serve, and clean-up, and to prepare/contribute food items. Sign up for one or multiple roles. Jan Paterson will be available in the narthex November 5 following 11 am worship to answer questions and sign-up volunteers for upcoming events (Friendsgiving Dinner, Christmas Cantata reception, and refreshments for Advent decorating workday). Volunteers can also contact [fellowship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:fellowship@friends-ucc.org) to volunteer.

**CROCKETT ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR:** Last year we had a free Book Fair at Crockett Elementary School in Bryan, a school Friends Church is partners with. Each child received three books to keep. Even the teachers were able to pick two books for themselves. We are doing it again this spring, so it's time to collect books! You can donate books by placing them in the box outside the office, or you can donate gift cards or money, and we will buy books with your donations. If you have questions, please contact Jodie Robinson ([jocelinbrune@gmail.com](mailto:jocelinbrune@gmail.com)) or Pam Engler ([pen-glertx@gmail.com](mailto:pen-glertx@gmail.com)). Thank you!

**FRIENDS CHURCH PODCAST:** "Friends Congregational Church Sermons" has launched! Our weekly podcast featuring the messages from Sunday worship services is introduced by Friends Church members giving a brief testimony of what Friends Church means to them. To volunteer to introduce an episode, contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo at [av@friends-ucc.org](mailto:av@friends-ucc.org). Look for it on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music/Audible, iHeartRadio, PlayerFM, Listen Notes, Samsung, Podchaser, or Boomplay; and spread the word!

# Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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## 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