



# Friends Church

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



October 15, 2023  
11:00am  
Children's Sabbath

## 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: Dinah Anderson, Kelly Wellman, Bentley Walker, Declyn Leopold, Xander Hodson, Noah Verdegaal

Communion Stewards: Kathy Yeager & Grace Jackson

Greeters: Jodie Robinson & Lanette and Rick Schulte

Next Sunday, Oct. 22:

Lay Leaders: David Manuel & Jackie Womack

Greeters: Megan Yeager

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).

## *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Children's Sabbath Day*

The national multi-faith observance of Children's Sabbath engages places of worship across the country in focusing prayers, worship, education programs, and action on learning more about the urgent problems facing our nation's children. Some of the liturgy for today's service is provided by the Children's Defense Fund for Children's Sabbath Day.

### **PSALM FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, NRSV**

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise? Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them; that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage. Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly. They made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image. They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. Therefore he said he would destroy them— had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

### **QUOTES FOR MEDITATION**

“Our children cannot dream unless they love, they cannot live unless they are nourished, and who else will feed them the real food without which their dreams will be no different from ours? ‘If you want us to change the world someday, we at least have to live long enough to grow up!’ shouts the child.”

—Audre Lorde

“If you make the world better for kids, you make it better for everybody.”

—Robby Novak (AKA Kid President)

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Brooke Dooley

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

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Bentley Walker

One: This we believe...

**All: You are a God who is able to make all things right and just.**

One: This we believe...

**All: You are a God who loves us from cradle to grave and beyond.**

One: This we believe...

**All: You are a God who is calling us to be agents of change in this world.**

One: This we believe...

**All: You are a God who will be with us as we advocate for the most vulnerable.**

One: This we believe...

**All: You call us to pray with our hands, our mouths, and our feet.**

One: This we believe...

**All: You are calling us to create a just world for all of your children.**

One: This we believe...

**All: You have given us all that we need to fight for a better,  
safer tomorrow for children and families of all races,  
religions, and socio-economic status.**

One: Let us worship a God who creates and cares and loves.

**All: Let us worship on this Children's Sabbath Day.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 327** Jesus Loves Me

Tune: Jesus Loves Me

**\*INVOCATION**

Kelly Wellman

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Lanette Schulte

*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)!**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Brooke Dooley

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison), from the National Council of Churches' Vigil  
Against Violence** Brooke Dooley

O God of all children, we confess that we love too few and too little.  
We fail to glimpse your image in each and every child.  
We cherish our "own" children but don't value others'.  
We keep silent when children's needs cry out for help.  
O God, in your tender mercy,  
Open our eyes to see every child as a reflection of you.  
Open our hearts to cherish each child as we would love our own.  
Open our mouths to speak your word of justice to protect children in harm's way.  
These things we pray as your imperfect and precious children,  
in the name of your beloved Child, Jesus. Amen.

**SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE** Brooke Dooley

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** Declyn Leopold

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

**EPISTLE READING** Philippians 4:1-9, NRSV Xander Hodson

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR ANTHEM:** Clap Your Hands - Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami  
(A Joyful Noise; led by Ericalynn Cannon and Tami Dudo)

Clap your hands! Clap your hands! Sing a new song in celebration! Clap your hands! Clap your hands! Sing a new song in celebration! Clap your hands! Clap your hands!

God is great, we praise our God with song! God is great, we praise our God with song!  
God is great, we praise our God with dance! God is great, we praise our God with dance!  
God is great, we praise our God with noise! God is great, we praise our God with noise!

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 22:1-14, CEB

Dan De Leon

Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn’t want to come. Again he sent other servants and said to them, “Tell those who have been invited, “Look, the meal is all prepared. I’ve butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything’s ready. Come to the wedding party!” But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them.

“The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. Then he said to his servants, “The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren’t worthy. Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.’

“Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn’t wearing wedding clothes. He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ But he was speechless. Then the king said to his servants, ‘Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.’

“Many people are invited, but few people are chosen.”

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

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

**THE MESSAGE**

“You Can’t Wear That”

Dan De Leon

## **MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Noah Verdegaal

## **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**

Brooke Dooley

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Brooke Dooley, 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 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 & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH**

Brooke Dooley, Dan De Leon

## \*CLOSING HYMN #117 He's Got the Whole World

1 He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the  
2 He's got the wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the  
3 He's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in His hands, He's got the  
4 He's got you and me, broth - er in His hands, He's got

whole - wide world in His hands, He's got the whole world  
sun and the moon in His hands, He's got the wind and the rain  
ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in His hands, He's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by  
you and me, sis - ter, in His hands, He's got you and me, broth - er,

in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.  
in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.  
in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.  
in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.

## \*BENEDICTION

Dan De Leon

## POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: Jesus Loves Me - William B. Bradbury, arranged by Martha Mier  
Offertory: 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus - William J. Kirkpatrick, arranged by Carol Tornquist  
Communion: What a Friend We Have in Jesus - Charles C. Converse, arranged by Jack Schrader  
Postlude: God Will Take Care of You - W. Stillman Martin, arranged by Melody Bober

Scripture for Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, October 22, 2023: Psalm 99; Matthew 22:15-22



## 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).

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

**ADULT MISSION TRIP TO THE TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER, JAN 7-10, 2024:** 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 and support the work for just immigration policies. Join us and hear more about the experience first-hand from Tim and Holly Scott, today after 11am worship.

**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](mailto:pastor@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.

**ALL SAINTS DAY:** 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 the purple form in your worship guide and leave it in the offering plate or email your submissions to [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org) to be sure that your Saint is included on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 5). You can also fill out this form at <https://tinyurl.com/nkj7znua>. 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.

**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!

**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).

**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).

**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.



**NURTURE UPDATES:** Parents of Teens and Tweens (POTT) meets next Sunday, Oct. 22, 5:30pm at the church for snacks and games. Younger siblings are included. Fabulous at Any Age (FAA) gathers for a potluck and fun on Sunday, Oct. 29, after 11am worship.

**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.

**2023 CROP HUNGER WALK:** The Friends Church Youth Group is organizing a team for this year's CROP Hunger Walk, an annual nationwide movement to raise funds for our food insecure neighbors, and to walk three miles in solidarity with those who do so daily to access clean water. The youth group continues their tradition of walking together on Nov. 5, 3pm, at Veterans Park. Funds from the walk benefit Church World Services and the Brazos Church Pantry. To join our team or contribute towards our \$1500 goal, check out our team page: <https://tinyurl.com/2023FCCYouthCROPWalkTeam>

**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](mailto:moderator@friends-ucc.org) for more info.

**PERIOD CARE PRODUCT DRIVE & AND MENSTRUAL JUSTICE:** Friends' quarterly Period Care Product Drive for Brazos Church Pantry begins this week. Please consider donating some products. No time to shop? Use the QR Code below or on the donation bins to access the Wish List from which you can order. Bins are available in the narthex and by the office to bring donations to the church. Thank you! For more information, contact Becky Burks, [beckyburks4@gmail.com](mailto:beckyburks4@gmail.com).



# 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