

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seventh Sunday of Easter
June 1, 2025
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“You know what I think the most important thing in life is? It’s love. I don’t think it matters what you love as long as you love it totally, completely, and without judgment.”
—Norm Peterson

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Becky Burks

One: Holy Compassion—

All: Make our thoughts like Your thoughts.

One: Holy Wisdom—

All: Align our actions with Your actions.

One: Holy Love—

All: Breathe Your Breath through our lungs.

One: Holy Rest—

All: Flow Your peace through our bodies.

One: Holy Justice—

All: Animate Your dreams with our lives.

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

***OPENING HYMN** - No. 307 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

Austrian Hymn

***INVOCATION**

Becky Burks

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Trent Williams

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lanette Schulte

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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, CEB

Dan De Leon

"Look! I'm coming soon. My reward is with me, to repay all people as their actions deserve. I am the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Favored are those who wash their robes so that they may have the right of access to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to bear witness to all of you about these things for the churches. I'm the root and descendant of David, the bright morning star. The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' Let the one who hears say, 'Come!' And let the one who is thirsty come! Let the one who wishes receive life-giving water as a gift."

The one who bears witness to these things says, "Yes, I'm coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: **God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!**

THE MESSAGE

“Where Everybody Knows Your Name”

Dan De Leon

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

One chime calls us into silence, and two chimes call us out of silence.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Trent Williams

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 (UNISON)**

Trent Williams

Living God, we are in community to change each other, to be transformed by the experience of our lives intertwined. We are not an island. We are part of the ebb and flow of reciprocity. We are worth inconveniencing others, and others are worth our inconvenience, our organizing, our devotion. Bless our offerings to the bonds between us. Amen.

OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dan De Leon

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trent Williams

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

Trent Williams

*CLOSING HYMN - No. 543 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Germany (Gardiner)

*BENEDICTION

Dan De Leon

*SUNG RESPONSE - No. 181 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (Verse 1 only)

Bring Forth

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude:	Near to the Heart of God - Cleland B. McAfee, arranged by Melody Bober
Offertory:	The Church's One Foundation - Samuel Sebastian Wesley
Communion:	Fairest Lord Jesus - <i>Schleische Volkslieder</i> , 1842; arranged by Becki Slagle Mayo
Postlude:	Amen - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Jack Schrader

Scriptures for Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025: John 14:8-17, 25-27; Acts 2:1-21

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

CHILDCARE HELP NEEDED: Our childcare worker, Morgan, will be out of town on June 8th and 15th. We will need volunteers to fill in for her. Please let Morgan or Pastor Trent know ASAP. We will need to run background checks on volunteers, which takes a couple of days to complete.

BRAZOS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY, JUNE 2: Between June 2022 and December 2024, Friends was a faithful supporter of the Brazos Mobile Food Pantry. After this pantry at the Boys and Girls Club ended, we became an Agency Partner of the Brazos Valley Food Bank. Several members of Friends serve on the Board of our non-profit, A Hopeful Harvest. **We're requesting your help from June 2nd-June 6th.** A trailer from Goodwill will be parked at St. Francis Episcopal Church at 1101 Rock Prairie Road. Please clean out your attic or garage and take the items to St. Francis. A Hopeful Harvest will receive 20 cents per pound of goods collected. Thank you!

OFFERING OF LETTERS DEADLINE, JUNE 5: Fight against funding cuts to hunger relief programs by writing letters to our local US Congressional Representative, Michael McCaul. Together with our friends at First Christian Church, Bryan, Friends Church is participating in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters campaign. This Christian organization advocates for policies and programs aimed at ending global hunger. Letter-writing materials, sample letters, and guidelines will be provided before and after the 9 am and 11 am services on May 25th and June 1st so that you can write a letter at church or take materials with you to write a letter at home and bring it back to Friends by 3 pm on June 5th. See bread.org for examples and videos that explain how to write an effective letter and why letters can be a powerful force for change. Letters from our churches will be combined with those from other local churches to be delivered to Rep. McCaul's College Station office.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Teachers, helpers, and dinner providers are needed for VBS, June 9 -13, 2025! There are a variety of needs & time commitments each day for Youth and Adult volunteers. If you are able, use the SignUpGenius link to share your gifts: <https://tinyurl.com/2025FriendsVBSVolunteer>. You can also sign up in person to help with VBS meals--cooking, serving, and cleanup, with Mary Howell in the fellowship area after today's 11:00 service. Thanks ahead of time!

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, JUNE 6: First Friday with Friends is held in conjunction with Downtown Bryan's First Friday activities. We have a meet up at Blackwater Draw and always have a few people there for the 5:30-7:30 timeframe. Some folks stay at Blackwater all evening and others stop by on their way to or from dining and playing in downtown Bryan.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, JUNE 8: Join us in the 11am service on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, as we confirm our confirmands. They have spent the last few months learning about theology, church history, and spiritual practices, as well as visiting other faith communities in B/CS. Through the guidance of their teachers and mentors, they have been tasked with writing their own statements of faith, and to put into words what it is they are saying “yes” to on their faith journey. We hope to see you on Confirmation Sunday!

LGBTQ+ YOUTH & ALLIES GAME SOCIAL, JUNE 8: The Pride Community Center is hosting a game social for LGBTQ+ youth and allies on Sunday, June 8, 3-5pm at Friends Church. Youth are invited to gather for snacks, board games, and video games. For more information, contact queeryouth@pridecc.org.

FAMILIES OF ADOPTED & FOSTER CARE CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP, JUNE 8: A support group for families with adopted or foster care children meets every second Sunday of the month in the Music Room, following the 11:am worship service. Childcare is available in the double classroom. For details, contact Ann Rome: ann.rome@yahoo.com

GUYZ BREAKFAST, JUNE 14: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER SABBATH FOR 9AM SERVICE AFTER JUNE 29: Starting the first Sunday in July, the 9am service will take a six-week break. Many of our 9am attendees are out of town for various Sundays in the summer, making it difficult to secure volunteer lay leaders, greeters, and communion stewards each week. Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman will be on his annual one-month sabbatical starting July 1. Taking these challenges into consideration, as well as the need to provide our pastors and A/V team some respite, the 9am service will not be offered Sundays, July 6 through August 10. After June 29, the 9am service will resume on August 17. Rest well, and we'll see you at 11am on Sundays in the sanctuary or online.

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

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 gam and nam services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Charity Stokes: 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 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 Jan 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 Property@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

PRIDE PALOOZA PICNIC, JUNE 27: A church-wide picnic on the front lawn Friends Congregational Church on June 27 from 6:00 - 8:00pm. Bring a chair. Bring a cup. Bring a drink. Bring a friend. Bring a snack to share. Choose a color from the rainbow and bring a snack to match. We will provide brisket sliders, water, tea, and lemonade.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 29: Save the Date! Congregational Meeting coming up -- June 29th, after the 11:00 service. Please join us as we present the budget for fiscal year 25-26 and nominations for new leaders.

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.