



FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Binding the Strong Man. 5th Century. Stained Glass.

New Member Sunday

June 6, 2021

9:00am & 11:00am

Friends Congregational Church

WELCOME

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.

Kingdomtide

The Season after Pentecost, also called Kingdomtide, Dominiontide, or Ordinary Time, begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the First Sunday of Advent. Regardless of the name given to this season, its basic color is green, symbolizing growth in Christ. In most churches, the general theme of the Bible readings and sermons concerns Jesus' ministry the church's mission in the world.

Words in **BOLD** are yours to speak out loud

**You are invited to stand

Quote for Meditation:

"We cultivate love when we allow our most vulnerable and powerful selves to be deeply seen and known, and when we honor the spiritual connection that grows from that offering with trust, respect, kindness and affection." –Brené Brown

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Fontaine (9:00)

Charity Stokes (11:00)

One: The One who birthed all life into being created us for relationship:

***Many: With each other. With the land and all its creatures.
With the Spirit, present all around us.***

One: The One who rights all wrongs and lifts up the suffering:

***Many: Reveals the evils that threaten our connections.
Ushers us all toward redemption.***

One: The One who makes healing possible:

Many: Calls us home to our purpose and potential.

OPENING SONG— City of God

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Susan Fontaine (9:00)

Charity Stokes (11:00)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Trent Williams

Please remain in your seat for safety measures but pay special attention as a messaged is offered just for you.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

***I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise
I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.***

Refrain

***When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.***

Refrain

***The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
You will make good your purpose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.***

Refrain

SPECIAL MUSIC — Eye hath not seen (from “The Holy City”) - Alfred Robert Gaul

Tom Vogel, *baritone*

SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 3:20-35 (NRSV)

Rev. Trent Williams

and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

THE MESSAGE

Rev. Trent Williams

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE & JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Susan Fontaine (9:00)
Charity Stokes (11:00)

OFFERTORY

*Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends
GivePlus Text to 833-421-0009
Venmo to 979-446-5746 or @friendsucc*

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Brooke Dooley

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Trent Williams

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Rev. 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.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00)

Rev. Trent Williams

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jacque Halverson

Will Boyles

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

COMMUNITY LIFE THIS WEEK

Rev. Trent Williams

SONG OF SENDING — In the Midst of New Dimensions (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Trent Williams

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Prelude in A-flat Major (from “The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I”) - Johann Sebastian Bach

Offertory: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us - William B. Bradbury, arranged by Dale Wood

Communion: Communion Thoughts - Bonnie Barrett

Postlude: God of Grace and Glory (Quoting “God of Grace and God of Glory” and “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”) - Eugene Butler

FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS? If you are visiting us today, please let us know. 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.

CELEBRATE CHRIS HOFFMAN’S 15th ANNIVERSARY! On June 7, 2021, Chris Hoffman will have served for FIFTEEN years as Friend’s Music Director. We want to celebrate this incredible milestone in typical Friends’ fashion--with a Friends reception, of course! Mark your calendar for **JUNE 20, 2021**. Following the second worship that day (AT NOON), we will celebrate all things Chris. In anticipation of this event, we will be putting together a book of remembrances of what he has meant to each of us. **If you have a story to tell or want to describe what Chris’s leading our music program has meant to you, please consider sharing** that with Maggie Gartner who is putting together a book of memories for Chris. Please submit your story soon! **Deadline for submission is fast approaching.** Stories may be shared by email or snail mail, whichever is easiest for you. Maggie’s contact information is maggiegartner68@gmail.com (electronic) or 703 Willow Loop, College Station, TX 77845 (hard copy).

COMMEMORATE OUR 25th ONA ANNIVERSARY! A CALL FOR VIDEO SUBMISSIONS: Friends Church is excited to celebrate our 25th anniversary of being a designated ONA, “Open and Affirming”, congregation in the United Church of Christ. As we look back to celebrate the momentous decision of faith our church took on June 16, 1996, we want to hear from you.

If you were a part of Friends Church then, please share your experience of becoming a truly welcoming church -- how did it impact you? What was significant at the time? What do you remember about the decision making process?

If you have joined us since then, share your experience of joining an ONA church -- what does it mean to you? How has it been significant to your faith journey?

Make a short video (less than 1 minute) with your thoughts and submit it to the link [here](#). The deadline is **Monday, June 7th**. Having problems with the link? Email Kathleen for help at witte.kathleen@gmail.com.

We look forward to celebrating with you at a special PRIDE cookout and dance on **Saturday, June 26th** and our ONA Anniversary Celebration on **Sunday, June 27th**!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, 1pm Sunday, June 13: Be sure to tune-in Sunday, June 13th at 1:00 for the Friends Church Annual meeting on Zoom, [here](#) (Meeting ID: 892 8548 5139, Passcode: AllFriends). We will be electing leadership for the upcoming year. Be sure to check the website for the Annual Report and Agenda for this meeting under the Resources→Church Council Documents tab.. This is your chance to engage with the future of Friends Church!

REJUVENATE THE PLAYGROUND – VOLUNTEER TODAY: We are seeking a few volunteers to form a committee to consider and plan a rejuvenation of the children's playground. The work would include planning any needed upgrades or changes in equipment and surface and establishing a budget. The budget would be included in our budget submission to the congregation for next year and if approved, next year would be the implementation phase. If you are interested in working on this committee, please email Susan Fontaine at svfontaine@gmail.com.

SHARE FOOD WITH OUR COMMUNITY ON FRIDAYS , 3 pm: Friends Church and our neighbor church Peace Lutheran are working together to feed hungry folks from our community every Friday. Volunteer to lend a helping hand by sharing an hour or more of your time between 3:00 and 6:30 pm and let Anne Wehrly at awehrly@suddenlink.net know when you're available to chip-in your time. Come to the Peace Lutheran parking lot where the distribution is happening, wear your mask, and prepare to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we are serving. Hope to see you there!

PROVIDE FOOD FOR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS ON SATURDAYS: How it works: Each week, we pack a selection of groceries and pick up donations at the food pantry at Peace Lutheran Church, then deliver them on Saturday. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to go with us to deliver! The more people who go, the more comfortable our friends will be. How you can help: Food can be donated/delivered either to Charity Stokes or to Marisa Winking. Contact Charity at charityk.martin@gmail.com or 832-557-0085 for details. Please remember that our friends have limited fridge and room space to store food (mini-fridge) and only a microwave to heat food.

JOIN SOUL FRIENDS SMALL GROUPS: New small groups have begun, and there is still time to join one. Our small groups offer an opportunity for connection, building relationships, and deepening your spiritual growth. We currently have four groups available:

- Women's Group (for all women-identified persons)
- Men's Group (for all men-identified persons)
- Parent's Group
- LGBTQ+ Group

Contact Pastor Trent (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org) for more information. You can also indicate your interest here: bit.ly/soulfriendsgroups.

EXPERIENCE MORE OF REV. DR. CHRISTINE TATA'S MINISTRY WORK ON HER YOUTUBE CHANNEL:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIkt1JpNStdYO3HmCkYDMA>.

FRIENDS COVID DECISION METER, YELLOW: With a consistent trajectory of lower positivity rates, less hospitalizations, etc. locally, the church's Decision Meter, which determines our safety measures and protocols related to the pandemic, has gone down to yellow, which allows for us to have group gatherings onsite outdoors at Friends Church. Click [here](#) for more information on how yellow and the other color levels affect personal safety protocols, drop-in visitors, staff, etc.

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL SERVICES AT FRIENDS CHURCH: As we remain vigilant—loving one another and our neighbors by adhering to safety protocols—the worship services at Friends Church will be offered in two formats from week to week: in-person and livestream. **In-person services will be offered in the sanctuary at 9am & 11am, and the 11am service also will be livestreamed on the [Friends Church website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).** Due to safety protocols, *space is limited*. In-person services are offered on a first come first served basis and depend on the [Friends Church Decision Meter](#) being on “yellow” or better.

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Our Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online at 11:00am

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, *Senior Pastor*
pastor@friends-ucc.org

The Rev. Trent Williams, *Associate Pastor*
pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Chris Hoffman, *Director of Music Ministries*
choir@friends-ucc.org

Kathy Robbins, *Pianist*
pianist@friends-ucc.org

Kate Rabe, *Administrative Assistant*
office@friends-ucc.org

2200 Southwood Drive
College Station, Texas 77845
979-693-7021

Office Hours: 9:00am—1:00pm, M—F
office@friends-ucc.org
www.friends-ucc.org

