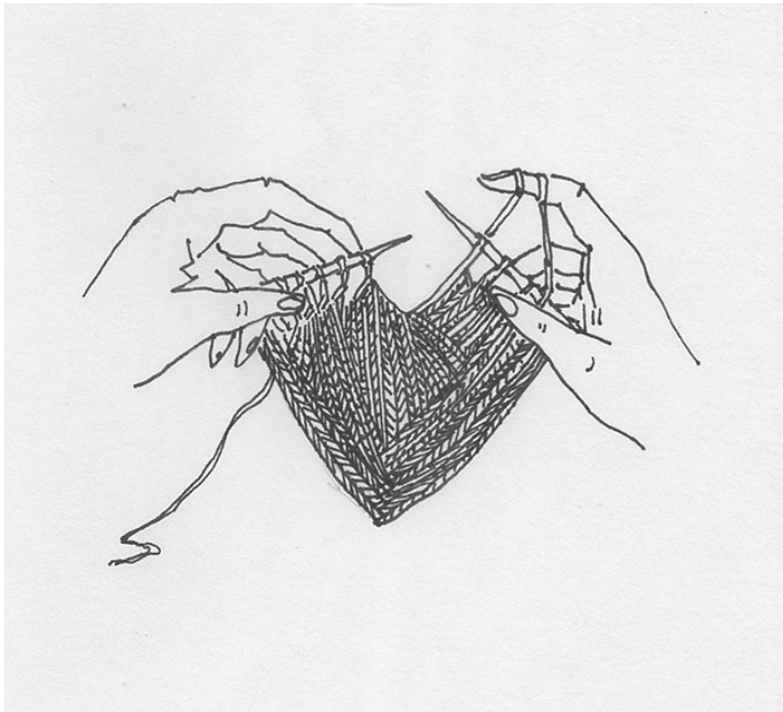




**Friends Church**  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Sewing*  
Liz Valente (2021)

October 26, 2025  
11:00am

## 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: Rick Smitherman & Becky Burks  
Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Martha Newsome

Next Sunday, November 2:  
Lay Leaders: David Manuel & Holly Scott  
Communion Stewards: Carolyn Young & Charity Stokes  
Greeters: ??? & ????

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.

## *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

The season after Pentecost is also considered Ordinary Time. It indicates the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of the church calendar. Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. It may be referred to as the "green season," as green is the liturgical color for this period of time in the church year.

### QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"The good news is hell is just the product of a morbid human imagination. The bad news is whatever humans can imagine, they can usually create."

—Severance

### CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

### PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Becky Burks

One: Bless God who is moved by our suffering.

**All: Bless God who hears us when we call out.**

One: Bless God who can handle our harshest words

**All: Who knows grief need not be well-mannered and lament need not be civil.**

One: Bless God who does not ask us to move on before we are ready;

**All: God offers no hollow words nor easy answers.**

One: God waits with us soulfully in our sorrow.

**All: Bless God who blesses us.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** - No. 476 My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep from Singing)  
*Endless Song*

### \*INVOCATION

Becky Burks

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

## 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.'**

## INTRODUCTION TO A PRAYER FOR THE DAYS WHERE THERE IS ONLY SADNESS

by M Jade Kaiser

Trent Williams

## A PRAYER FOR THE DAYS WHERE THERE IS ONLY SADNESS

Trent Williams

One: Gentle Presence, Patient Listener, Holy Holder of it all, my prayer is this:

**All: I am so sad. It's not an ask. It's not a confession. It's an offering. The only one I have today.**

One: I'm praying it with hope. I know grief is a lifeline—tethering me to the world that should Be. The one worth fighting for.

**All: As a practice of faith, I will not deaden these feelings that let me know all is not well.**

One: I will not adjust to cruelty or disregard for life, detaching myself from humanity—mine or others.

**All: I will not allow once unimaginable scenarios to be turned into everyday losses that no longer pierce my soul.**

One: And so here are my tears, and here is my tired body, and here is my foggy, distracted mind bearing witness to the place within that aches for the ones I love.

**All: For friends and strangers, for everyone being pushed into impossible situations.**

One: My sadness is a testimony. It is not my only one.

**All: Tomorrow, hope or fight or curiosity will bear their truth, and pull me back into the labors I love, in the company of others.**

One: But today the only riot in me is this sorrow, refusing to quiet your cry from within:

**All: "We are made for so much better than this."**

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE:** No. 554 Out of the Depths, O God, We Call

*Fennville*

## **EPISTLE READING**

Romans 8:35-39 CEB

Becky Burks

Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

As it is written, We are being put to death all day long for your sake. We are treated like sheep for slaughter.

But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** - Variations on "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" - Tom Vogel  
(Tom Vogel, recorder)

## **HEBREW BIBLE READING**

Job 30:24-31 NRSV

Brooke Dooley

"Surely one does not turn against the needy, when in disaster they cry for help. Did I not weep for those whose day was hard? Was not my soul grieved for the poor? But when I looked for good, evil came, and when I waited for light, darkness came. My inward parts are in turmoil and are never still; days of affliction come to meet me. I go about in sunless gloom; I stand up in the assembly and cry for help. I am a brother of jackals and a companion of ostriches. My skin turns black and falls from me, and my bones burn with heat. My lyre is turned to mourning and my pipe to the voice of those who weep."

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

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

## **THE MESSAGE**

Brooke Dooley

## **MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Becky Burks

## **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 (UNISON)**

Dan De Leon

Spirit of the Living God, may our offerings connect with the wide network of communities doing what they can with the resources at hand to bring about your kin-dom. That all may have enough and live without fear, bless our offerings and accompany us in our efforts. Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Dan De Leon

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. 478 I've Got Peace Like a River

*Peace Like a River*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

**\*SUNG RESPONSE** - No. 181 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (Verse 2 only)

*Bring Forth*

## POSTLUDE

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

Prelude: The Power of Your Love - Geoff Bullock, arranged by Jane Holstein  
Offertory: The Love of the Lord - Michael Joncas, arranged by Jeanne Cotter  
Postlude: To God Be the Glory - William H. Diane, arranged by Stan Perhel

*Scriptures for All Saint's Sunday, November 2, 2025: Hebrews 12:1-3; Ruth 1:1-18*

## 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).

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE, OCT 26:** Meet at St. Mary's Catholic Center at 12:30 p.m. for a pilgrimage to the Texas A&M Gardens in celebration of the Jubilee Year and Creation Sunday. All ages are welcome. If you would like to carpool to St. Mary's, meet by the fountain in front of Friends Church after the 11 a.m. service.

**PUMPKIN DECORATING PARTY, OCT 26:** Join us for a fun, family-friendly evening of pumpkin decorating, fellowship, and fall treats on Sunday, Oct 26 from 5-7pm! Bring your pumpkin! We'll have carving and decorating supplies (or bring your own). Enjoy our Popcorn & Nacho Bar, and bring a sweet treat to share! All ages welcome—come for the fun, music, and maybe a little Monster Mash!

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, OCT 30:** Linda Coats Book Club will meet on Thursday, Oct 30 at 6:30pm. Our book will be *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Contact Jodie Robinson for more details.

**BIIN TRUNK OR TREAT, OCT 30:** BIIN will be hosting another Trunk or Treat again this year! Trunk or Treat will take place Thursday Oct. 30 from 6-8PM at the Grace Bible Church Midtown Parking Lot.

**BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY, NOV 1:** First Saturday of each month (Nov. 1). Volunteer here: <https://bit.ly/BrazosPantry>. Contact Becky Burks at [BeckyBurks4@gmail.com](mailto:BeckyBurks4@gmail.com) for more info.

**20/30 SOMETHINGS POTLUCK & GAME NIGHT, NOV 1:** The Friends 20/30 Somethings are getting together for a potluck & game night on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 6pm. We'll also be celebrating the birthday of one of our members! Reach out to Pastor Brooke for more details: [pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org).

**ALL SAINTS DAY, NOV 2:** 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 our Google form to ensure that your Saint is included on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 2). Fill out the form here: <https://forms.gle/rLevTQMA3diBmUh5A>. 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. The deadline to submit a name is **OCT 30**.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUPPORT THE FRIENDS YOUTH GROUP GARDEN PROJECT:** Following their environmental justice trip to Denver, the Friends Youth Group decided they wanted to bring what they learned back home and create a community garden. Be part of this great opportunity to help out the Youth Group by signing up at <https://bit.ly/FriendsYouthGarden>, or reaching out directly to Pastor Brooke ([pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org))

**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](https://bit.ly/0900worship)

11am Service [bit.ly/1100worship](https://bit.ly/1100worship)

**TEACHING SUPPORT NEEDED FOR GRADES 3-5 CLASS:** The 2025-26 Sunday School year is off to a great start with classes for Grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-12, co-led by two teachers for each class. Our Grades 3-5 Class teachers having several Sundays coming up where one of them will need to be absent, so having an additional co-teacher is a must, and a few substitutes as needed will be very helpful. Feeling called to co-teach Sunday School? Please contact Christian Education Committee Chair Loretta Mendez: [christian\\_ed@friends-ucc.org](mailto:christian_ed@friends-ucc.org).

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE: SIGN CHANGERS:** Our church sign is prime real estate for spreading love, hope, and maybe even a holy chuckle. If you've got a creative spark (or a pun or two), help us reimagine our message to the world. Let's make passersby know that we are united by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly. Interested? Sign up to help change the sign—literally! Connect with Megan Alvear at [evangelism@friends-ucc.org](mailto:evangelism@friends-ucc.org).

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO TV:** We catch glimpses of the Gospel message in a play or a Broadway show. Movies tend to have lessons about religion and spirituality. What about a TV series? The shows we consume can teach us something about the faith we practice. Starting October 12th, our pastors explore this with a six-week sermon series. Each Sunday, "The Gospel According to TV" will look at a different show and hold its prominent themes up to scripture to craft the sermon. We'll look at anything from what King of the Hill has to say about loving your neighbor, to what The Good Place tells us about grace and growth, to what The Incredible Hulk teaches us about anger. So, tune in and don't miss an episode in this special sermon series at Friends Church!

## 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](mailto: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 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Charity Stokes: [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org).

**Be an Acolyte:** All children aged 8 and up are welcome to join us in assisting in church services, bringing light and spirit to our worship. Children younger than 8 can participate with an adult partner. Sign up via the sheet in the narthex, <https://bit.ly/FriendsAcolytes>

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://bit.ly/friendschurchcoffee) or email Marisa at [Fellowship@friends-ucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://Friends-ucc.org)) ▶ Get **Involved** ▶ **Volunteer** or email [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org) for more information or to volunteer.

## SAVE THE DATE

**SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP'S CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM, NOV 2:** Over the past few years, the Friends Youth have led the charge for our local CROP Hunger Walk, an effort that raises funds for our food insecure neighbors around the world. This year is especially important as we have seen large-scale reductions in funds to food aid programs. Over the past three years, the Friends Youth have raised over \$5,000, and this year they've decided to make that their goal! This year's CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, November 2, 3pm, at Veterans Park. You can support us by joining our team or contributing here: [tinyurl.com/FriendsYouth-CROP](http://tinyurl.com/FriendsYouth-CROP).

**FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, NOV 7:** 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.

**GUYZ BREAKFAST, NOV 8:** 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.

**20/30 SOMETHINGS BOOK CLUB, NOV 10:** The Friends 20/30 Somethings Book Club will be meeting on Monday, Nov. 10, at 6pm to discuss Philip Gulley's book *If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus*. You do not need to have read the book, just bring a snack and enjoy the conversation. Contact Pastor Brooke for details and address: [pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING, NOV 15:** Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use challenge or experiencing a crisis and connect them to resources that can help. This course is being presented in-person and offers a 3-year certification. The training is Sat., Nov 15 from 8:30am - 5:00pm at Friends. Register here: <http://bit.ly/46l8sg5>.

# 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

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2200 Southwood Drive College Station, Texas 77845  
979-693-7021 • office@friends-ucc.org  
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.