



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Tribute Money
Masaccio (1424-1428)

October 22, 2023

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: David Manuel & Jackie Womack
Greeters: Megan Yeager & Fran Duane

Next Sunday, Oct. 29:
Lay Leaders: Kathy Yeager & Tami Dudo
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Alex Cannon

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.

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-First 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.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

Our whole existence is transformed as we begin to seek God in all that we do and in all that we are. Our lives are no longer compartmentalized into times for prayer and times for other things.

-Daniel Wolpert, *Creating a Life with God*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jackie Womack

One: We gather in devotion to the One who is Justice, Mercy, and Compassion

All: We turn our hearts toward the One who delivers us from evil

One: Attuned to imbalances of power, God draws near to those in struggle

All: Empowering the people, God's love is manifest in action

One: Challenging our complicity, championing our capability

All: May the Spirit come and align our lives with God

*OPENING HYMN NO. 427 God Made from One Blood

Tune: St. Denio

***INVOCATION**

Jackie Womack

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

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

Dan De Leon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dan De Leon

**Gracious and loving God,
open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives,
that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.
We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.
We love with condition.
We judge and condemn.
We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.
Forgive us, we pray, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service.
Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Dan De Leon

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 99, NRSV

Jackie Womack

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

CHORAL ANTHEM: And Peace Shall Guard You - Michael John Trotta

Peace shall guard you. In all things, with thanksgiving, make your need known and peace shall guard you. It shall guard you, it shall guard your hearts and guard your minds. For nothing be anxious, but in all things, and with thanksgiving, make your needs known.
And peace shall guard you.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:15-22, The Message

Kyle Riley

That's when the Pharisees plotted a way to trap him into saying something damaging. They sent their disciples, with a few of Herod's followers mixed in, to ask, "Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don't pander to your students. So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, "Why are you playing these games with me? Why are you trying to trap me? Do you have a coin? Let me see it." They handed him a silver piece.

"This engraving—who does it look like? And whose name is on it?"

They said, "Caesar."

"Then give Caesar what is his, and give God what is his."

The Pharisees were speechless. They went off shaking their heads.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Jackie Womack

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 & 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 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

Dan De Leon

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 180** Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Tune: Annika's Dance

***BENEDICTION**

Kyle Riley

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Allemande (from *French Suite No. 5*) - Johann Sebastian Bach
Offertory: His Eye Is on the Sparrow - Charles H. Gabriel, arranged by Melody Bober
Postlude: To God Be the Glory - William H. Doane, arranged by Larry Shackley

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.

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.

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.

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.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE NURTURE COMMITTEE: Parents of Teens and Tweens (POTT) meets tonight, 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 next Sunday, Oct. 29, after 11am worship.

CARPET & CHAIR CLEANING: On October 22nd, immediately following church, we will be cleaning the chairs and the carpets throughout the church. We have rented a large extractor and two upholstery cleaners. There will also be stations for pre-treating chairs and removing Christmas candle wax. If you are able to help with this task, please use the sign up genius link here: <https://bit.ly/ChairCleanUp>.

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>

VOLUNTEER WITH THE YOUTH GROUP: The Youth Group, grades 6-12, gets together for lessons and discussion, service projects, and social gatherings. We're looking for folks who might be interested in co-facilitating lessons and chaperoning when they are offsite. We're also seeking meal providers. Reach out to Pastor Brooke with questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org. Sign up to volunteer at [https:// tinyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer](https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer) and to provide meals at <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthmeals>.

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 for more info.

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).

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 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/nkj7znya>. 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.

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.

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.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Join us on Sunday evening, October 29, 5-7pm, for our third annual Trunk or Treat. A section of the parking lot will be reserved for you to park your car, set up a blanket or chairs, whatever works for you. The community is invited to come to Friends to Trunk or Treat from car to car. The last two years' events were a great time with lots of children and youth from the wider community at the event. Wear a costume, decorate your car or space, the sky's the limit! Also, there will be tables for pumpkin carving under the trees at the peace pole. Bring your pumpkins, paints and brushes, and carving tools. All are welcome. We hope to see you there.

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/friend-spagement> 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.



Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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*)
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