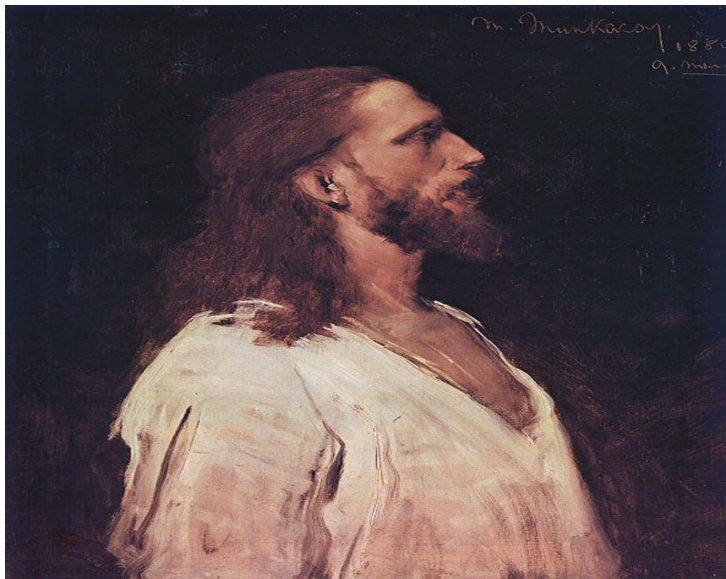




**Friends Church**  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Christ before Pilate, study*  
Mihály Munkácsy (1882)

November 24, 2024  
II: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: Susan Fontaine & Kelly Wellman  
Greeters: Carolyn Young, & Lanette and Rick Schulte

Next Sunday, Dec 1:

Lay Leaders: Becky Burks & Linda Fitzwater  
Communion Stewards: Mary Johnson & Holly Scott  
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Doris Machinski

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.

## *Reign of Christ Sunday*

Reign of Christ (also known as Christ the King Sunday) focuses on Jesus as the sovereign of creation. But just as importantly, the focus is on what that sovereignty means: to serve, rather than to be served.

### **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:**

Yes, Jesus' kingdom is not like the kingdoms of this world. It doesn't originate the same way or behave like the kingdoms of this world. But Jesus' kingdom is still for this world, for the benefit and blessing of this world, for the redemption and rescue of this world. If Jesus were an earthly king of this age, then there would be soldiers killing to bring about his kingdom, just as they do for every other earthly kingdom: victory through violence. Yet that's not how Jesus' kingdom will come. The kingdom will come rather through the imperial violence done to him on the cross and through the anti-imperial, death-reversing, justice-loving power of resurrection. Then the kingdom spreads, not through conquest, but through the spirit's life-giving and liberating power being experienced by more and more people and through their life-giving contributions to the world. This is conquest, but by love. This is power, but in weakness. This is kingship, but in self-giving suffering for others. This kingdom is not one that arises from within the world. But as it advances, as it spreads, it dispels and displaces the dark forces in the world."

–Bishop N.T. Wright, "Jesus and the Powers: Christian Political Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies"

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

#### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Dan De Leon

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

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Kelly Wellman

One: We have chosen to be here, where God remembers us.

**All: God comes to us, the One who was, and is, and is to come.**

One: Like leaves skipping over the carpet of grass:

**All: God comes to us, the One who was, and is, and is to come.**

One: Like the first glimpses of the sun peeking over the horizon:

**All: God comes to us, the One who was, and is, and is to come.**

One: Like the moon lighting our way on a cloudless, autumn night:

**All: God comes to us, the One who was, and is, and is to come.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** - No. 300 Jesus Shall Reign

*Duke Street*

**\*INVOCATION**

Kelly Wellman

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Brooke Dooley

*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.**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Brooke Dooley

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)**

Brooke Dooley

One: Holy God, Maker of all

**All: Have mercy on us.**

One: Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

**All: Have mercy on us.**

One: Holy Spirit, Breath of life

**All: Have mercy on us.**

*silent prayer and meditation*

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE (RESPONSIVE)**

Brooke Dooley

One: With the whole church

**All: We affirm that we are made in God's image,  
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

One: With people everywhere

**All: We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

One: With all creation

**All: We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;  
the unfolding purposes of God,  
forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**Many: And also with you!**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE: You Are My Strength When I Am Weak (You Are My All In All)** *Jernigan*

Capo 5: (C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (C)  
 F C Dm7 Am F

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the trea- sure that I

(Dm7) (C) (G7) (C) (G7) (C) (G)  
 Gm7 F C7 F C7 F C

seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me

(Am7) (Em) (C) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)  
 Dm7 Am F Gm7 F C7 B<sup>b</sup> F

up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G) (C) (G7)  
 F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C F C7

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)  
 F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C7 B<sup>b</sup> F

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

**EPISTLE READING**

Colossians 1:11-20, NRSV

Kelly Wellman

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of

his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

### **CHORAL ANTHEM - Ain'-a That Good News - William L. Dawson**

I got a crown up in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! (Ain'-a that good news!) I got a crown up in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! (Ain'-a that good news!) I'm a-goin' to lay down this world, goin'-a shoulder up-uh my cross, goin'-a take it home-a to my Jesus, ain'-a that good news, good news!

I got a robe up in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! (Ain'-a that good news!) I got a robe up in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! (Ain'-a that good news!) I'm a-goin' to lay down this world, goin'-a shoulder up-uh my cross, goin'-a take it home-a to my Jesus, ain'-a that good news, good news!

I got a Saviour in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! (Ain'-a that-a good news!) I got a Saviour in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! (Ain'-a that-a good news!) I'm a-goin' to lay down this world, goin'-a shoulder up-uh my cross, goin'-a take it home-a to my Jesus, ain'-a that good news, good news, good news, good news, good news! A-ain'-a that good news, Lawd! (Good news, my Lawd! A-ain'-a that good news!)

### **EPISTLE READING**

2 Corinthians 12:2-10, NRSV

Trent Williams

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my

weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

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

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

## **THE MESSAGE**

Trent Williams

## **MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

## **FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT**

Festival of Giving & Angel Tree

Dana Bearce

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Kelly Wellman

## **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 & 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.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN - In Christ Alone

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)  
 Eb Ab Eb Ab Bb Eb

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my  
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh— full - ness of  
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the  
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

(G) (Em7) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (G)  
 Ab Fm7 Bb7 Eb Ab Eb Ab

light, my strength, my song— this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id  
 God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right - eous -  
 world by cruel - ty slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious  
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal

(A) (D) (G) (Em7) (A7) (D)  
 Bb Eb Ab Fm7 Bb7 Eb

ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.  
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save,  
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!  
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



( G/B ) ( D/F# ) ( A ) ( D )  
 Ab/C Eb/G Bb Eb

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are  
 till on the cross as Je - sus died, the love of  
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has  
 No pow'r of hell, no hu - man plan, can ev - er

( G ) ( D/F# ) ( A ) ( G ) ( D ) ( G )  
 Ab Eb/G Bb Ab Eb Ab

stilled, when striv - ings cease. My com - fort - er, my all in  
 God was mag - ni - fied. My ev - 'ry sin on him was  
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is  
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me

( A ) ( D ) ( G ) ( Em7 ) ( A7 ) ( D )  
 Bb Eb Ab Fm7 Bb7 Eb

all, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.  
 mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

**\*BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

**POSTLUDE**

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 Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: Crown Him with Many Crowns - Lloyd Larson
- Offertory: In Christ Alone - Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, arranged by Larry Shackley
- Postlude: Soon and Very Soon - Andraé Crouch, arranged by Jack Schrader

Scriptures for the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024: Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

## 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

**FRIENDS ANGEL TREE, NOV 24:** Sign up to sponsor a child for the Angel Tree. See Anne Wehrly after the service, or contact her at [awehrly@suddenlink.net](mailto:awehrly@suddenlink.net) with questions. Sign up online on the Friends Church homepage on Monday, Nov 25.

**FRIENDSGIVING, NOV 24:** Friendsgiving Dinner will begin at 5:30pm in the sanctuary. Please join us!

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGNUP, NOV 24:** December is just around the corner and we’ve already started planning the Friends’ Christmas Pageant. Please let us know we can count on your child/youth for the Friends Church Christmas Pageant by completing this survey by 11/24/2024 using the link: <https://tinyurl.com/2024Pageant>.

**ADVENT MEDITATION, NOV 26:** On Tuesdays during Advent, you are invited to the Friends Church sanctuary to start your morning with centering meditation. At 7:30am on Tuesdays, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, & 17, we gather for a brief introduction, followed by silent meditation, and follow-up conversation as time permits. Start to finish, this lasts between 35 and 45 minutes, hopefully allowing for those of us with work, school, and other obligations to get where we need to be on time. We are excited about this series of morning meditations that will bring us together in self- and community-preparation for the coming of Emanuel, God-With-Us, on Christmas. All are welcome.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FRIENDS GREETERS NEEDED:** Join our Friends Church greeter team! We are in need of additional folks to help welcome people on Sunday mornings and make our worship services flow smoothly. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Worship Committee chair Charity Stokes at [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org). You can also sign up online here: [bit.ly/FriendsGreeter](https://bit.ly/FriendsGreeter).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:** We have all the Sunday school classes covered but are still looking for volunteers who could be called when teachers are out of town to be substitutes. Please let Pastor Dan or Abby Burley, [Christian\\_ed@friends-ucc.org](mailto:Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org), know if we can add you to our list.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS ARE HERE:** Advent begins Sunday 12/3! Copies of the UCC’s Daily Devotionals booklet for Advent, THE MESS IN THE MESSIAH, are available for pickup in the narthex; one per household, please. The electronic version (pdf) may be purchased individually at [thepilgrimpress.com](http://thepilgrimpress.com).

## SAVE THE DATE

**HELP PREP THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS, NOV 30:** It's almost time to hang the greens, put up the purple, and deck the halls! On Saturday November 30, at 10am, the Worship Committee invites you to help set up and decorate the sanctuary and narthex for Advent and Christmas. We are changing the banners, hanging wreaths, setting up the angel trees, and putting out the Advent candles. Chris Hoffman will crank out carols on the piano to put us in the spirit as we work and enjoy holiday treats. RSVP to help by emailing [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org).

**FAA-LA-LA, DEC 4:** FAA-LA-LA at the Advent Recital on Wednesday, December 4. Our Fabulous at Any Age group (which includes EVERYONE) is having a Christmas Singalong! Singing begins at noon. Let's meet at 11:30 for BYO lunch.

**MIDWEEK ADVENT RECITALS ARE BACK, DEC 4:** Needing time to pause and surround yourself by the sounds of the season? If so, join us each Wednesday in December (4th, 11th, and 18th) for a brown-bag lunch followed by a short musical program. Gather for food and fellowship at 11:30, and then stay for a 30-minute Recital of holiday music at noon, featuring the musical talents of our Friends Church musicians. We hope you can join us!

**FAA - BRAZOS GLASSWORK CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY, DEC 5:** Fabulous at Any Age (that's EVERYONE!) will be making glass ornaments at Brazos Glasswork on Thursday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m. No special art talent is needed! Please sign-up by November 27 so that we can arrange for supplies. Link: <https://bit.ly/BrazosGlassworks>. Contact Kristen Harper at [kristinsharper@outlook.com](mailto:kristinsharper@outlook.com).

**FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE, DEC 7 & 8:** Get a jump on your Christmas shopping Saturday and Sunday (Dec. 7 & 8). Visit our annual Guatemalan Craft Sale held in the blue tent in the parking lot at Friends Church. UPAVIM (United for a Better Life) exports beautiful Fair Trade handmade gifts and crafts all around the world. Your purchases support educational and medical programs in the impoverished community of La Esperanza in Guatemala City. Come on Saturday Dec 7th from 10-2 or before or after church on Sunday Dec. 8th. In the event of inclement weather, the craft sale will move inside the church building.

**ANGEL TREE GIFT DEADLINE, DEC 8:** Please drop off your gifts for the Angel Tree by Monday, Dec 8 by 7:00pm. We will continue to collect gift cards and you can leave them in the gift card box under the tree or with Michael in the church office.

# 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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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.