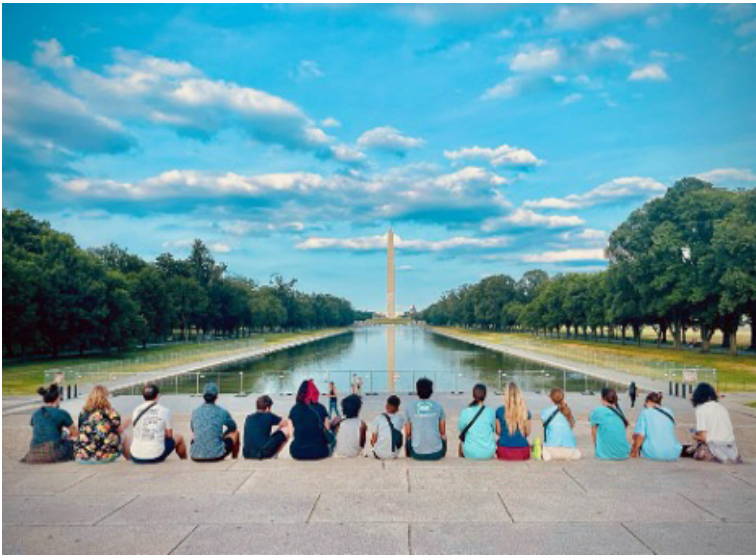




Friends Church
An Open & Affirming Congregation



July 28, 2024
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 Leader: Friends Youth
Greeter: Friends Youth

Next Sunday, Aug 4
Lay Leader: Tami Dudo
Communion Steward: Holly Scott
Greeter: Sydney Zentell

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.

Tenth 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.

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE:

Last month, the Friends Church Youth Group traveled to Washington, D.C., where they learned about justice and advocacy work. They volunteered at food distribution centers, talked with a local representative aid, learned about the national budget, and visited some of D.C.'s best museums. Today they will share how this trip has enriched their life's journey.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."

Desmond Tutu

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Chloe Gutierrez

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kat Fouch, Santiago Gomez

One: Today let us partner with God and our neighbors to help make this world a place where all of God's beloved creation can thrive.

All: Let's be that kind of neighbor.

One: Let's be the neighbors who work for a world

All: where hunger and homelessness are history.

One: Let's be the neighbors who work for a world

All: where refugees and immigrants are welcomed with open arms.

One: Let's be the neighbor who works for a world

All: where no one is oppressed or discriminated against based on skin color, or where they are born, or what language they speak, or how they identify, or who they love.

One: Let's be the neighbor who works for a world

All: where rivers flow with clean water, the air is breathable for all and God's good creation is cared for fully.

One: The world God dreams of where love and life speak loudest and last for all creation.

All: That world is possible.

***OPENING HYMN - #478** I've Got Peace Like a River

Tune: Peace like a River

***INVOCATION**

Henry Ballweg

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kai Harvey, El Abbott, Ruthie 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.**

A SUMMARY OF THE 2024 SUMMER MISSION TRIP

Ariana Hinojosa, Chloe Gutierrez, Gavin Gutierrez, Henry Ballweg

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Oliver Beer

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Isaiah 58: 6-II, NRSV

El Abbott

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

SPECIAL MUSIC - Nocturne - Luigi Bassi

(Ruthie De Leon (piano), Oliver Beer (Clarinet))

EPISTLE READING

Acts 4:32-35 , NRSV

Santiago Gomez

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

THE MESSAGE: Q&A with the Youth Group Missioners

SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATION FROM 2024 MISSION TRIP

INVITATION TO SHARE

Gavin Gutierrez

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)**

Ariana Hinojosa

God is at work in the world to bring justice to the oppressed, to share food with the hungry, to provide shelter for the homeless, to set all people free. We come this morning to remember the people of the early church who shared all of what they had. God was at work among them and for all who had need. May it be so for us as well. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ariana Hinojosa

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

Kat Fouch

RECOGNITION OF ADULT CHAPERONES

Brooke Dooley

***CLOSING HYMN** - Somebody's Hurting My Brother - Yara Allen

***BENEDICTION**

Declyn Leopold

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Ian Beer, piano, "Menuet in G Major," BWV Anh. 114 - Johann Sebastian Bach
Offertory: Ian Beer, piano, "Amazing Grace," arr. by Willard A. Palmer, M. Manus, & A. Vick,
by Lethco
Postlude: Ruthie De Leon, piano, "Hymns of Praise," - arr. by Phillip Keveren

Scriptures for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 4, 2024: John 21:15-17; John 15:9-17

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

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, AUGUST 2: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EARLY WORSHIP RETURNS, AUGUST 18: The 9am worship service will resume on August 18.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

SUPPORT OUR PODCAST: The “Friends Congregational Church Sermons” podcast is getting downloads across the country and even overseas! Each episode, featuring a sermon and introduced by a different church member, is an evangelism and outreach tool for all of us at Friends. Support the podcast by sharing it widely. So far the record number of downloads for an episode is 69. With your help we can hit at least 100 every week! You can also support the podcast by lending your voice to it. Contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo to record the intro for an episode: av@friends-ucc.org.

Be a Greeter and Communion Steward: To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: 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 year, including the June Mission Trip. Contact Pastor Brooke at pastor-brooke@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: Do you enjoy having coffee/hot beverages available at Sunday morning services? Signup via sheet on counter in kitchen, or Sign-up Genius (link provided in Friday church email) or by contacting [Fellowship@ friends-ucc.org](mailto:Fellowship@friends-ucc.org). Training available by request.

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

GUYZ BREAKFAST, AUGUST 10: 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.

GREETER TRAINING, AUGUST 11: The friendly faces we see on Sunday mornings welcoming us to worship help to make Friends Church such a wonderful place, and we are so grateful for all that serve as greeters. If you currently serve in this role or would like to know more about this ministry, you are invited to join us for a Greeter Training on August 11 following the worship service. We will provide lunch and go over best practices for welcoming and connecting folks, as well as review safety and security protocols to ensure a safe environment for all. Sign up to let us know you'll be attending: <https://bit.ly/3Sb2GvE>.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BREAKFAST, AUGUST 11: Join us on Sunday, August 11th in the sanctuary at 9:30am for breakfast & refreshments. Let's kick off the school year together!

ICE CREAM FLOATS AND PASTORAL WORDS, AUGUST 25: Please join us at 6:00 PM on August 25 to hear from Pastor Dan. He will be sharing stories and highlights from his recent sabbatical. You will have the opportunity to enjoy ice cream floats and fellowship starting at 6:00 with his presentation starting at 6:15. We look forward to hearing from Dan and spending some time together in the sanctuary.

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*)
pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org

Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)
office@friends-ucc.org

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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.