

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 14, 2025  
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## **SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION:** Psalm 51:1-10, NRSV

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

## **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:**

“Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies—or else?”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

## **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Kyle Riley

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

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

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Cathy Hansen

One: Come alive, people of God! Let your hearts burn with passion.

All: **Shake off what dulls the spirit**

**Welcome grief and anger**

**Welcome sorrow and joy**

One: Love animates our ability to be present:

All: **To each other, near and far**

**To the movement of the Spirit**

**To the labors of love to which we are called**

One: Beloved children of God, listen!

All: **The world is groaning for liberation.**

## **\*OPENING HYMN - No. 1 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

*St. Denio*

## **\*INVOCATION**

Cathy Hansen

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

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Tami Dudo

*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.**

## **EPISTLE READING**

1 Timothy 1:12-17, CEB

Dan De Leon

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength because he considered me faithful. So he appointed me to ministry even though I used to speak against him, attack his people, and I was proud. But I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and without faith. Our Lord's favor poured all over me along with the faithfulness and love that are in Christ Jesus. This saying is reliable and deserves full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I'm the biggest sinner of all. But this is why I was shown mercy, so that Christ Jesus could show his endless patience to me first of all. So I'm an example for those who are going to believe in him for eternal life. Now to the king of the ages, to the immortal, invisible, and only God, may honor and glory be given to him forever and always! Amen.

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

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

## **THE MESSAGE**

"Critiquing Cruelty"

Dan De Leon

## **SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION**

*One chime calls us into silence, and two chimes call us out of silence.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS**

Kyle Riley

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Cathy Hansen

## **OFFERTORY**

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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)**

Kyle Riley

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for these gifts and ask that they be used to help those in need in our community and throughout the world. As we offer you these gifts, we offer ourselves as well, that together we might transform the world through your grace, mercy, and love. Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Kyle Riley

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**

Kyle Riley

**\*CLOSING HYMN** - No. 403 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

*Solid Rock*

## **\*BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

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

*Bring Forth*

## POSTLUDE

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*Instrumental Music:*

Prelude: A Shelter in the Time of Storm - Ira D. Sankey, arranged by Melody Bober  
Offertory: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee - John Bacchus Dykes, arranged by Randall Hartsell  
Postlude: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise - Traditional Welsh Melody,  
arranged by Larry Shackley

*Scriptures for The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 21, 2025: Scriptures for The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 21, 2025: Philippians 2:1-5; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 4:16-26*

## 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

**FAMILIES OF ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE, SEPT 14:** A support group for parents with adopted or foster care children. This group meets every second Sunday of the month in the Double Classroom, after the 11:am worship service. For the remainder of this year, we will keep an eye on our own children while we visit. If possible, bring a dish to share with the group. Food can be stored in the kitchen during the service. For details, contact Ann Rome: [ann.rome@yahoo.com](mailto:ann.rome@yahoo.com).

**YOUTH GROUP LUNCH AT BLUE BAKER, SEPT 14:** Now that we’ve officially welcomed our new 6th graders, the Friends Youth Group will be meeting for lunch at **Blue Baker on Mills Park Cir** after the 11am service on 9/14. This is a chance for the new members of the youth to learn more and connect with the older members of the group. For more information, reach out to Pastor Brooke: [pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org).

**HEART OF TEXAS FALL MEETING, SEPT 20:** The Heart of Texas Association Fall Meeting will be Saturday, September 20th at Trinity Church of Austin, 4001 Speedway, Austin, TX 78751. Check in begins at 9:30 am, and the meeting will be from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm with lunch provided. RSVP using: <https://tinyurl.com/2025FallHOTA>.

**20TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY, SEPT. 20:** To celebrate 20 years of Pastor Dan serving Friends Congregational Church, we are having a party! Join us Saturday evening, September 20th, 6-8pm, at Friends Church for hors d’oeuvres, live music from local artist Joey McGee, and a good time with great friends.

## 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. We're starting with a small bed so they can learn basic gardening practices, and sustainability measures such as rainwater collection, composting, and use of recycled materials. Here is where we need your help. Do you have knowledge of compost maintenance, water collection, or gardening? Are there materials you have at your home such as gloves, spades, and sheers that you'd like to donate? 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. However, our stellar teachers for the Grades 3-5 Class, need some help to assure we have consistent support for them and the children in their care. 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).

## 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](https://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

**FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK, SEPT 28:** Family Promise of Bryan-College Station a ministry of Friends Church since 2008, has as its mission “to help homeless children and their families achieve sustainable independence.” Friends Church will be hosting three families at the Family Promise Center for a week starting Sunday, September 28. You can be a part of this vital ministry. Options for helping include preparing a meal or providing food from a grocery list. Learn more about Family Promise and sign up on Sunday morning in the fellowship area after worship starting September 21. Direct questions or offers to volunteer to Mary Howell mhowell61@gmail.com or Sally Manthei manthei\_sally@aol.com.

**FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, OCT 3:** 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.

### 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.