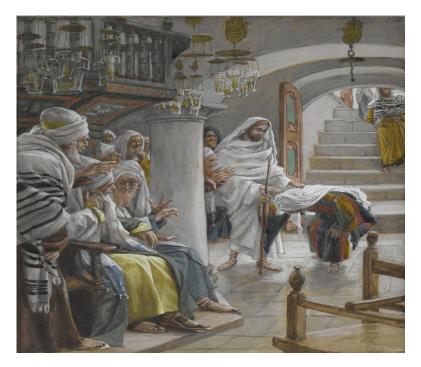


An Open & Affirming Congregation



Woman with an Infirmity of Eighteen Years James Tissot, 1886-1896

August 24, 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: David Manuel & Larry Dooley

Greeters: Loretta Mendez & Becky Bordovsky and Carol Wilson

Next Sunday, August 31:

Lay Leaders: Kathy Yeager & Katy Stewart

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**.

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.

Eleventh 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.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 103:1-8, The Inclusive Bible

Bless YHWH, my soul! All that is in me, bless God's holy Name! Bless YHWH, my soul, and remember all God's kindnesses! The One who forgives all your sins is the One who heals all your diseases; the One who ransoms your life from the Pit is the One who crowns you with love and tenderness. The One who fills your years with prosperity also give you an eagle's youthful energy. How you love justice, YHWH! You are always on the side of the oppressed. You revealed your intentions to Moses, your deeds to Israel. You are tender and compassionate, YHWH—slow to anger, and always loving.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

Prelude & Lighting of the Altar Candles

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Larry Dooley

One: With great rejoicing we come to the house of God today!

All: God is our refuge and our stronghold.

One: The power and love of God flow through this gathering.

All: We place our whole trust in God's mighty compassion and care. One: Come, let us worship our Steadfast Help in times of trouble!

All: Let us celebrate the presence of God here in this place and in all our lives.

*Opening Hymn - No. 329 Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts

Hesperus

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

*Invocation Larry Dooley

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.

Invitation to Prayer for Transformation and New Life Trent Williams

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (unison)

Trent Williams

Holy One, we confess that we have trampled the sabbath.

We claim your name and not your way.

We cling to excuses to avoid discomfort or sacrifice in service of our neighbor.

We have turned from human suffering, kept silent in the face of wickedness.

Transform us, O God, that we would be delivered from evil and from the lures of indifference and inaction.

Rebuild us with righteousness and hope and redeem us for your kin-dom. Amen.

Words of Grace Trent Williams

*Passing of the Peace

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

Neumark

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:9b-14, NRSV

Larry Dooley

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.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

CHORAL ANTHEM - You Will He Found (from Dear Evan Hansen) - Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, arranged by Mac Huff (Tyler Baker-Wilkinson, baritone; Hallie Gammon, soprano

Have you ever felt like nobody was there? Have you ever felt forgotten in the middle of nowhere? Have you ever felt like you could disappear? Like you could fall, and no one would hear.

So let that lonely feeling wash away, 'cause maybe there's a reason to believe you'll be okay. 'Cause when you don't feel strong. Enough to stand, you can reach, reach out your hand.

And oh, someone will come runnin.' And I know they'll take you home. Even when the dark comes crashin' through, when you need a friend to carry you. And when you're broken on the ground, you will be found. So let the sun come streaming' in, 'cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again. Lift your head and look around, you will be found.

There's a place where we don't have to feel unknown, and every time that you call out you're a little less alone. If you only say the word, from across the silence your voice is heard. Oh, someone will come running. Oh, to take you home.

Even when the dark comes crashin' through, when you need a friend to carry you. When you're broken on the ground, you will be found. So let the sun come streaming' in, 'cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again. If you only look around, you will be found.

Out of the shadows the morning is breaking and all is new. It's fillin' up the empty and suddenly I see that all is new.

You are not alone.

Even when the dark comes crashin' through, when you need someone to carry you. When you're broken on the ground, you will be found. So let the sun come streaming' in, 'cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again. If you only look around, you will be found.

You will be found!

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:10-17, CEB

Dan De Leon

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. A woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and couldn't stand up straight. When he saw her, Jesus called her to him and said, "Woman, you are set free from your sickness." He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and praised God.

The synagogue leader, incensed that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded, "There are six days during which work is permitted. Come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord replied, "Hypocrites! Don't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to get a drink? Then isn't it necessary that this woman, a daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for eighteen long years, be set free from her bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said these things, all his opponents were put to shame, but all those in the crowd rejoiced at all the extraordinary things he was doing.

One: The Word of God for the people of God. All: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Invitation to Share

Larry Dooley

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 uplifits, Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

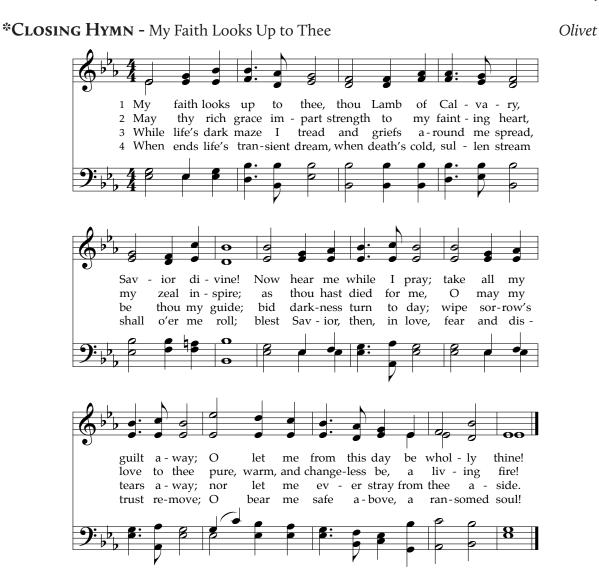
Brooke Dooley

Gracious God, we give thanks for encounters with neighbors and strangers and kin that change us. We know we cannot grow in isolation. We depend on each other for healing, for accountability, for evolving our world views. In gratitude for the stories and lives that awaken us further, may we be faithful companions in the everyday, ordinary work of justice and liberation. Amen.

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

Brooke Dooley



*Benediction Dan De Leon

*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, CCLl #20046014 Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - Rowland H. Prichard, arranged by Joel Raney
Offertory: Living Hope - Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson, arranged by Phillip Keveren
Postlude: Great Is Thy Faithfulness - William M. Runyan, arranged by Larry Shackley

Scriptures for The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 31, 2025: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

MENTAL HEALTH WALK, AUG 26: Hey, friends. So, how are you?Anxious, worried, uncertain? Would you like an excuse to go outside each week and take in some nature, maybe vent a little bit, or have some company? Join Pastor Brooke on Tuesdays, 4:30pm at Wolf Pen Creek Park to walk the trails, breathe some fresh air, chat or take in the silence. However you choose to be, you are welcome. Contact Pastor Brooke for more information: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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/100worship**11am Service **bit.ly/1100worship**

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 (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.

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. 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: "All I need is coffee; all we need are volunteers to make it!" Sign up via sheet on kitchen counter, at bit.ly/friendschurchcoffee or email Marisa at 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

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

JANE'S DUE PROCESS (JDP) VOLUNTEER DRIVER! TRAINING, SEPT 4: Volunteer to be a JDP delivery driver. The Training is on Sept 4. Sign up here: https://bit.ly/JDPVolunteerDriver, and we will have a brief screening before the meeting so you can ask questions and learn more about the program.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, SEPT 5: 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.

YOUTH-LED WORSHIP SERVICE, SEPT 7: Join the Friends Church Youth Group at II:00am on Sunday, Sept. 7, as they lead the worship service through liturgy, song, and stories about their summer Mission Trip to Denver. Come support the Youth as they share their experiences and reflections on environmental justice work and how they hope to bring what they've learned back home.

INQUIRE + CONNECT, SEPT 7: After the Ham service on Sept 7th, join us at the Inquire Class you will learn about Friends—our history, our community, our opportunities for engagement—from church members and one of our pastors. The Inquire Class concludes with an invitation to participate in an optional follow-up Connect Class offered in the home of a church member. In the Connect Class you will learn more about the vision and mission of Friends Church, and how you can "connect" with our various opportunities for nurturing your spirituality, seeking social justice, and getting more involved in the life of our community of faith. For more information and to sign up for Inquire + Connect, contact Becky Burks at spirit_devlop@friends-ucc.org.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, SEPT 13: 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.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, SEPT 14: On Sept 14, we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Senior Pastor Dan De Leon (pastor@friends-ucc.org), Executive Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org).

FAMILIES OF ADOPTED & FOSTER CARE CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP, SEPT 14: A support group for families with adopted or foster care children meets every second Sunday of the month in the Double Classroom, following the II:am worship service. Childcare is available in the double classroom. Also, feel free to bring a dish to share with the group. For details, contact Ann Rome: ann.rome@yahoo.com.

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

Executive Pastor
The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)
pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman (he, him) choir@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