

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 10, 2024
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: John 13:34-35, NRSV

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in this broken world.”

—Mary Oliver

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 146 (RESPONSIVE)**

David Manuel

One: I will praise God as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

All: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

All: The Holy Liberator sets the prisoners free;

**God opens the eyes of the blind and lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

One: God watches over the strangers; upholding the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

***OPENING HYMN** - No. 22 Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Lobe den Herren

***INVOCATION**

David Manuel

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Trent Williams

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.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:25-34, NRSV

Dan De Leon

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

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

FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT

“Soul Care”

Trent Williams

INVITATION TO SHARE

David Manuel

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**

Trent Williams

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

Trent Williams

***CLOSING HYMN** - No. 570 We Shall Overcome

We Shall Overcome

***BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Clouds - Felix Mendelssohn
Offertory: Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 1 - Frédéric Chopin
Postlude: "Hymns of Praise," - arr. by Phillip Keveren

Scriptures for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, November 17, 2024: Psalm 16: 9-11; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; I Samuel 1:4-20

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

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES BALDWIN, NOV 10: At 10am on Sundays, Nov. 10 and 17, in the double classroom, Pastor Dan is teaching a class on James Baldwin, the civil rights activist and writer whose novels, plays, and essays, according to the Poetry Foundation, "explored the psychological implications of racism for both the oppressed and the oppressor." The class is inspired by a recent book by Greg Garrett, *The Gospel According to James Baldwin: What America's Great Prophet Can Teach Us about Life, Love, and Identity*, and will draw from it and other sources by and about Baldwin to guide the presentations and our discussions. No prep or RSVP needed to attend. All are welcome.

PREPARING WITH PURPOSE: AN ESTATE AND END OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP, NOV 10: Join us on November 10th following the 11:00 worship service, where we will be joined by Carol Bertsch, a practicing elder law attorney, who will lead us through preparation of wills and other estate planning. Pastor Dan will also offer guidance in funeral planning and communicating final wishes. All are welcome, and lunch will be provided. Sign up here to let us know you're coming: bit.ly/preparingwithpurpose.

LGBTQ+ YOUTH FALL HAMBURGER POTLUCK, NOV 10: Pride Community Center, The UU Church of the Brazos Valley, and Friends Church are hosting a hamburger potluck for LGBTQ+ Youth, families, and friends TODAY, 5:00-7:00pm at the UU Church (1719 E 29th St). Hamburgers and plant-based options will be provided, bring your favorite hamburger fixings and a side. Contact Pastor Brooke for questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, NOV 13: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will meet on Wednesday, November 13, at Hotel McCoy at 3702 Texas 6 Frontage Rd, College Station, TX 77845. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon if you need more information.

HELP OUR NEIGHBORS, NOV: In this season of Thanksgiving, please consider coming for an hour or more on Friday afternoon to Peace Lutheran Church parking lot any time between 2:30 and 6:00. Friends will be there Friday Nov. 8, 15, & 22. We will be sorting and distributing produce and other food provided by the Brazos Valley Food Bank. Contact Anne Wehrly with questions awehrly@suddenlink.net or just show up and join our team and make some new friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRIENDS YOUTH CROP WALK UPDATE: The Friends Youth CROP Walk Team would like to extend a huge thank you to all who supported our team by donating or walking with us. We greatly surpassed our original goal, raising a total of \$1907 to provide food security resources to Church World Services and the Brazos Church Pantry. Thank you for being part of this team and helping to create a world where all of our neighbors are fed!

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. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Worship Committee chair Charity Stokes at worship@friends-ucc.org.

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, know if we can add you to our list.

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. 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 podcast@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/coffeeatfriends or email Jan 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

ASSEMBLING THANKFULNESS BAGS FOR CROCKETT, NOV 17: Help is needed to assemble Thankfulness Treat Bags for the staff at Crockett Elementary School. Come to the double classroom across from the church office following the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, November 17 to assist in putting these bags together. It will only take a short time!

FRIENDSGIVING, NOV 24: Please sign up to volunteer for various pre-event tasks as well as day-of duties and to indicate what type of food you are contributing to dinner. Signup sheets are on the buffet in the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGNUP, NOV 24: The Christmas Pageant is Coming, 12/15/2024 in the 11:00 am Service! 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://ti-nyurl.com/2024Pageant>.



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.

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*)
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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.