

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 12, 2024
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“You can be in community or not be in community. But your membership should be freely chosen, not forced or at the whim of your changing intellectual assents about doctrine, science, or theology. I’m a pastor and I don’t care what you believe, I don’t think God does either.”

Lillian Daniel

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kyle Riley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Diane Simpson

One: Those who love Jesus keep his words;

All: Those who love Christ will make their home with God.

One: Those who know Jesus will know his peace;

All: Those who know Jesus will be taught in the ways of peace.

One: Come, follow and love Jesus our Lord, who has come to be among us.

All: Come, worship God, who lives among us, loves us, and calls us home. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN - #376 God, We Thank You for Our People

Tune: Holy Manna

*INVOCATION

Diane Simpson

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Kyle Riley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Ann Wild

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Brooke Dooley

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

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.**

READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 16:6-15, NRSV

Brooke Dooley

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Kyle Riley

INVITATION TO SHARE

Diane Simpson

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends
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**

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.**

*CLOSING HYMN - In I Love to Tell the Story

Tune: Hankey

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry
to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

The image shows a musical score for the refrain of the hymn 'I Love to Tell the Story'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system covers the first two lines of the refrain, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

***BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLI #20046014

Instrumental Music:

Prelude: The Love of the Lord - Michael Joncas, arranged by Jeanne Cotter

Offertory: I Love to Tell the Story - William G. Fischer, arranged by Mary McDonald

Postlude: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms - Anthony J. Showalter, arranged by Melody Bober

Scriptures for Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024: Esther 4:12-17; Acts 16:16-34

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

BACK BAY MISSION HYGIENE KIT COLLECTION, APRIL 21-MAY 18: Friends Church is collecting items for hygiene kits to be delivered to Back Bay Mission, a ministry of the United Church of Christ serving individuals and families facing homelessness and poverty. Follow the link <https://amzn.to/4boqwBk> and decide what you would like to purchase to get us to our goal of 102 hygiene kits. Items will be shipped directly to the church. If you would rather just write a check, make the check out to Friends Church and put Hygiene kits in memo line. Funds will be used to purchase needed supplies. All items need to be received at the church by May 18. Please direct any questions to Anne at awehrly@suddenlink.net.

HYPERBOLE BOOK STORE BOOK SALE FOR CROCKETT BOOK FAIR, MAY 12: Our school book fair for the children of Crockett Elementary ends on May 22nd. As always, you can donate books by placing them in the box outside the office. In addition, to provide a final push for the drive, Hyperbole Bookstore will be at the church on Sunday, May 12, to sell appropriately-aged kids' books (in both English and Spanish) that can be donated on the spot. Hyperbole will donate a portion of sale proceeds to our Christian Education program. If you have questions, you can contact Kathy Miller (katherinemiller59@gmail.com).

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE "TEXAS BLOOMING", MAY 15: Enjoy another beautiful spring day in Texas with a trip to the Antique Rose Emporium and then lunch at Martha's Bloomers. We'll leave the church at 10:00 and return by 3:00. Let us know if you can come! Send an email to Nurture@friends-ucc.org For transportation to the church and lunch sponsor, contact Nurture@friends-ucc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY: On May 19th in both worship services, we will dedicate our pledges for the upcoming fiscal year and wrap up our spring stewardship campaign. We hope that the testimonies in worship have been meaningful and have helped you to see all the ways that your support is making a difference in changing lives and transforming the world around us. You can find all the materials, including a letter, narrative budget, line item budget, and online pledge card, on our website at www.friends-ucc.org/stewardship. We also have some hard copies of the packet if you didn't receive one, available in the narthex. We hope that you will consider making a pledge for this upcoming year, and will join us on May 19th to celebrate the amazing generosity of this community.



SUNDAY SCHOOL ENDS FOR SUMMER BREAK, May 26: Sunday School will end for summer break beginning May 26th & return on August 18th.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

SIGN UP TO HELP WITH CROCKETT BOOK FAIR MAY 22: We have a date for the Crockett Book Fair! On Wednesday, May 22, we will be helping students pick out their books to take home. We could use lots of help. The fair is scheduled from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Helpers can take two hour shifts (and sign up for as many shifts as you like!). **SIGN UP HERE: <https://bit.ly/3UzXPpB>** We will continue to collect books until Sunday, May 19. Please place them in the bin outside of the office door. Thank you for all of your generous support of these children.

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. 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

INQUIRE & CONNECT, MAY 19: After the 11pm service, 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 beckyburks4@gmail.com.

HYGIENE KITS PACKING, MAY 19: Help us assemble the hygiene kits to be delivered to Back Bay Mission after the 11pm service. Please direct any questions to Anne at awehrly@suddenlink.net.

SORT & BOX BOOKS FOR BOOK FAIR, MAY 21: On May 21, at 9:00 am, we will be sorting and boxing books in the double classroom at Friends to take to Crockett Elementary School for the No Cost Book Fair that Friends Church is sponsoring (to be held May 22). We estimate we'll need ten volunteers to do the sorting and boxing. Please email Jodie Robinson to let her know that you will be able to help!

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, MAY 30: For May, the book club will be reading Sue Monk Kidd's *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm.

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

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.