

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Christ with the Apostles 1977

October 5, 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: Dinah Anderson & Kennedy Mayer

Communion Steward: Susan Fontaine & Anne Nichols Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Becky Bordovsky and Carol Wilson

Next Sunday, October 12:

Lay Leaders: Diane Simpson & Tom Vogel Greeters: Carolyn Young & Adrian Capetillo

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.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with followers of Jesus throughout the world. World Communion Sunday, observed by several Christian denominations, promotes unity and ecumenical collaboration by focusing on an observance of the eucharist.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.

-Mary Oliver, *Praying*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

Prelude & Lighting of the Altar Candles

*CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 137)

Kennedy Mayer

One: Come, all who sit by rivers of sorrow,

who have hung up their hope and wondered if God still sings.

All: We come carrying exile in our bones,

dislocation in our hearts, and longing in our prayers.

One: This is the table where memory is honored,

where story is sacred, where strangers become siblings.

All: We come to taste and see that the Lord is good, to feast on grace, to believe again in belonging.

One: Around the world, across languages and landscapes, a holy table is set.

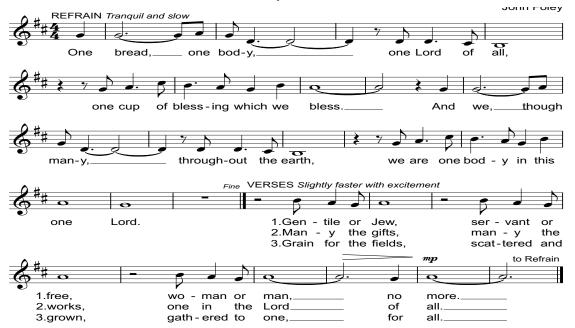
All: We come not because we must, but because Christ calls us in love.

One: Come, let us worship the One who welcomes.

All: Let us praise the One who remembers, the One who feeds the whole world with hope.

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

*OPENING HYMN - One Bread, One Body



*Invocation

Kennedy Mayer

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.'

Invitation to Confession

Brooke Dooley

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Brooke Dooley

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. We look at a world undone by strife, torn by violence, separated by hatred.

Yet you call us to walk the way of peace.

Forgive us, O Lord, for refusing to follow you on this path because the cost is too high, the direction too confusing, the conditions too harsh.

Forgive us our complacency.

Grant us clarity of vision to see the light, and the strength to walk behind you. In the power of your Spirit we pray, Amen.

Words of Grace Brooke Dooley

*Passing of the Peace

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

***HYMN OF RESPONSE:** No. 347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Linstead

FIRST READING

Lamentations 3:19-26, CEB

Kennedy Mayer

The memory of my suffering and homelessness is bitterness and poison. I can't help but remember and am depressed. I call all this to mind—therefore, I will wait. Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through! They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness. I think: The Lord is my portion! Therefore, I'll wait for him. The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the person who seeks him. It's good to wait in silence for the Lord's deliverance.

CHORAL ANTHEM - Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves (from Nabucco) - Giuseppe Verdi (Text based on Psalm 137:1-6)

Go, thought, on wings of gold; go settle upon the slopes and the hills, where, soft and mild, the sweet airs of our native land smell fragrant! Greet the banks of the Jordan and Zion's toppled towers...Oh, my country, so beautiful and lost! Oh, remembrance, so dear and so fatal! Golden harp of the prophetic seers, why dost thou hang mute upon the willow? Rekindle our memories, and speak to us of times gone by! Oh, you akin to the fate of Jerusalem, give forth a sound of crude lamentation, oh may the Lord inspire you a harmony of voices which may instill virtue to suffering.

SECOND READING

Luke 17: 3-10, CEB

Amy Klinkovsky

Watch yourselves! If your brother or sister sins, warn them to stop. If they change their hearts and lives, forgive them. Even if someone sins against you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times and says, 'I am changing my ways,' you must forgive that person."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Would any of you say to your servant, who had just come in from the field after plowing or tending sheep, 'Come! Sit down for dinner'? Wouldn't you say instead, 'Fix my dinner.

Put on the clothes of a table servant and wait on me while I eat and drink. After that, you can eat and drink? You won't thank the servant because the servant did what you asked, will you? In the same way, when you have done everything required of you, you should say, 'We servants deserve no special praise. We have only done our duty."

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

THE MESSAGE Amy Klinkovsky

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Kennedy Mayer

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

Generous God, You set a table that stretches from College Station to Kinshasa, from Bogotá to Seoul. You feed us with grace and invite us into your holy community of justice and joy. May our gifts, of money, time, and lives, be used to extend your welcome, to build tables in places long denied a feast, and to nourish hope in hearts still waiting for home. Bless and multiply these gifts for your glory and your people. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Trent Williams

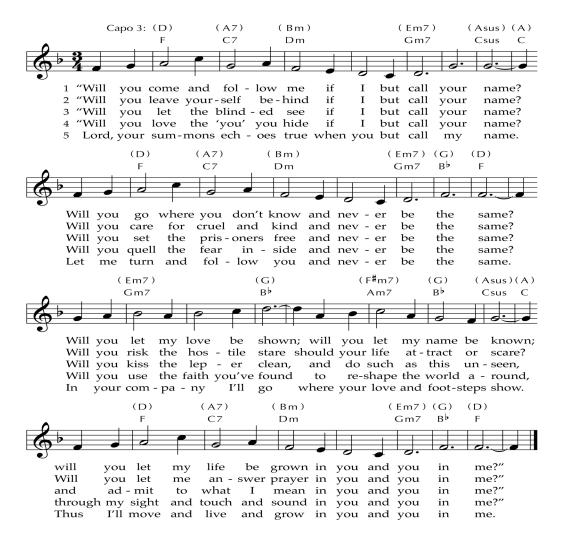
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brooke Dooley

*CLOSING HYMN - Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)

Kelvingrove



*BENEDICTION Amy Klinkovsky

***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, CCLI #20046014 Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Bist du bei mir (Be thou with me) - Johann Sebastian Bach

Offertory: Ave Verum Corpus - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Communion: Menuet (from Sonatine) - Maurice Ravel

Postlude: I Sing the Mighty Power of God - Music from *Gesangbuch der Herzogl*,

arranged by Phillip Keveren

Scriptures for Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 12, 2025: Scriptures for Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 12, 2025: I John 4:7-8; Genesis 4:2a-7; Mark 3:1-5; Mark 10:13-16

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

HELPS THE FRIENDS CHOIR GET TO ITALY, OCT 5: The Friends Choir has been invited to perform in a series of concerts throughout Italy In June 2026. To help offset travel costs, the Choir is putting on a Fundraiser Concert tonight, at 7:30 pm. They will be singing famous choruses from the operatic and musical theatre worlds - something for everybody. Refreshments will be provided, and a silent auction will also be available. We hope you can come out and support these amazing singers, as they prepare for a very memorable and meaningful trip.

JUSTICE & MISSION FAIR AND SOCIAL HOUR, OCT 5: Immediately after the II am worship service at Friends, you will be able to visit exhibits from many of the Justice & Mission ministries that will be set up around the sanctuary. This is a chance to talk and ask questions directly with folks who lead these efforts e.g. Brazos Church Pantry, Family Promise, Creation Justice Church Initiative and many more! There will be fun snacks available to share as you peruse the exhibits. Do not miss out.

"TEXAS BELONGS TO ALL OF US": TRANS TEXAS FALL TOUR, OCT 5: Feeling anxious for LGBTQIA+ neighbors and want to know what to do? Join the Trans Texas Tour at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley, 2-5:30pm, October 5th. Discussion about knowing our rights will be followed by an opportunity to vent and peer support. For more information contact info@pridecc.org.

YOUTH GROUP BIRTHDAY LUNCH @ FREEBIRDS, OCT 5: The Friends Youth Group will meet at Freebirds on Longmire this Sunday, 10/5. The Youth Group will be checking out the Justice & Mission Fair after the Ham worship service, which will feature information about our community garden project, and then head to Freebirds afterward to celebrate our September & October Youth Group birthdays. For more information, reach out to Pastor Brooke: pastor-brooke@friends-ucc.org.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, OCT 8: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will meet on Oct 8 at 5pm at The Owl Pub & Grill at 315 S. Main St., Bryan. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon (stacybdeleon@gmail.com) for more information.

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. 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)

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/1000worship

11am Service 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. 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.

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.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING: This World Communion Sunday, we will receive the Neighbors in Need offering, one of the quarterly special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. Gifts to Neighbors in Need support UCC justice ministries, with one third of the offering designated for the work of the Council for American Indian Ministries. You can give by check, indicating Neighbors in Need in the memo line, or online by selecting Neighbors in Need in the Fund drop down menu. Thank you for your generous support of these vital ministries!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO TV: We catch glimpses of the Gospel message in a play or a Broadway show. Movies tend to have lessons about religion and spirituality. What about a TV series? The shows we consume can teach us something about the faith we practice. Starting October 12th, our pastors explore this with a six-seek sermon series. Each Sunday, "The Gospel According to TV" will look at a different show and hold its prominent themes up to scripture to craft the sermon. We'll look at anything from what King of the Hill has to say about loving your neighbor, to what The Good Place tells us about grace and growth, to what The Incredible Hulk teaches us about anger. So, tune in and don't miss an episode in this special sermon series at Friends Church!

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.

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. 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

GUYZ BREAKFAST, OCT II: 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.

FAMILIES OF ADOPTED & FOSTER CARE CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP, OCT 12: A support group for families with adopted or foster care children meets every second Sunday of the month in the Double Classroom, following the IIam 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.

"NO KINGS IN BRYAN" PROTEST, OCTOBER 18: Join your friends from Friends at this protest in downtown Bryan. Bring all the signs--issues you care about, large and small. To carpool with us from the church, sign up at https://bit.ly/NoKingsCarpool.

PRIDE COMMUNITY CENTER'S 2ND ANNUAL OUTOBERFEST (PLUS VOLUNTEER CALL), OCT 18: Saturday, Oct 18 from 1pm - 6pm at Unitarian Universalist Church in Bryan. Food trucks, live perfromances, and fun for all ages. If you want to volunteer to help, sign up at https://bit.ly/FriendsAtOutoberfest, contact Megan Alvear at megan.e.alvear@gmail.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