

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Second Sunday after Pentecost  
June 22, 2025  
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalms 42 & 43)

Kathy Yeager

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so we long for you, O God.  
As the plants turn toward the sun, so we turn to you, O God.  
As the tide ebbs and flows, so we move with you, O God.

**All: Hope in God! Again, we worship the Holy One, our help and our God.**

One: When tears are our constant companion, when our souls become weary,  
when we feel forgotten or alone, we may ask the question, "Where is God?"

**All: Trust in God! Again, we honor the Present One, our strength and our God.**

One: Deep calls to deep. The steadfast love of God surrounds us.  
The Spirit of Truth leads us to everlasting joy.

**All: Rejoice in God! Again, we praise the Living One, our source and our God.**

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

**\*OPENING HYMN** - No. 407 How Firm a Foundation

*Foundation*

**\*INVOCATION**

Kathy Yeager

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Dan De Leon

**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.**

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 8:26-39, NIV

Dan De Leon

They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

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.*

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

Dan De Leon

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Kathy Yeager

## **OFFERTORY**

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriendsucc](https://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 (UNISON)**

Trent Williams

Generous God, through our giving, we acknowledge the role you have delegated to us in meeting our collective needs and allocating our resources of time, talent, and treasure for the good of all. May these offerings nurture ministry, further community engagement, and bring glory to your name. Amen.

## **\*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. 395 In Christ There Is No East or West

*St. Peter*

**\*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: Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen - Plantation Spiritual, arranged by John Thompson

Offertory: Angels' Voices - Johann Friedrich Burgmuller

Postlude: Allegretto - Franz Joseph Haydn, arranged by Lani Smith

*Scriptures for The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 29, 2025:*

## **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**

**JUNE YOUTH GROUP BIRTHDAY LUNCH, JUNE 22:** The Friends Church Youth Group will be meeting at Freddy's Frozen Custard in south College Station at 12:00pm to celebrate our June birthdays. Families are welcome to join. Contact Pastor Brooke for more information: [pastor-brooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor-brooke@friends-ucc.org).

**RHAG PLANNING MEETING, JUNE 22:** Please join us for a meeting of the Reproductive Health Access Group (RHAG) on Sunday afternoon, June 22 in the double-classroom. We'll be discussing our new website and making plans for promoting the distribution of free three-month supplies of the Opill to those in need. If reproductive freedom is an issue which moves you, come learn what we're all about and how you can help! All are welcome.

**PRIDE PALOOZA PICNIC, JUNE 27:** A church-wide picnic on the front lawn Friends Congregational Church on June 27 from 6:00 - 8:00pm. Bring a chair. Bring a cup. Bring a drink. Bring a friend. Bring a snack to share. Choose a color from the rainbow and bring a snack to match. We will provide brisket sliders, water, tea, and lemonade.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 29:** Save the Date! Congregational Meeting coming up -- June 29th, after the 11:00 service. Please join us as we present the budget for fiscal year 25-26 and nominations for new leaders.

**ICE RAID RAPID RESPONSE TRAINING, JUNE 29:** Learn the purpose, process and various roles associated with rapid response to workplace and public space raids in progress from Migrant Justice Network of Brazos Valley. We need to be prepared to respond, observe, bear witness and report! Join us Sunday, June 29 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm in the double classroom. Be sure to bring your phone--you'll need to download the app Signal, if you don't already have it. Please RSVP to [migrantjusticenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:migrantjusticenetwork@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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)

**SUMMER SABBATH FOR 9AM SERVICE AFTER JUNE 29:** Starting the first Sunday in July, the 9am service will take a six-week break. Many of our 9am attendees are out of town for various Sundays in the summer, making it difficult to secure volunteer lay leaders, greeters, and communion stewards each week. Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman will be on his annual one-month sabbatical starting July 1. Taking these challenges into consideration, as well as the need to provide our pastors and A/V team some respite, the 9am service will not be offered Sundays, July 6 through August 10. After June 29, the 9am service will resume on August 17. Rest well, and we'll see you at 11am on Sundays in the sanctuary or online.

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING, JUNE 29:** On Sunday, June 29, we will collect the Strengthen the Church offering, one of the four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. Your gifts to Strengthen the Church support planting new UCC congregations and supporting renewing and revitalizing churches. New congregations like UCC of the Rio Grande Valley in Brownsville are engaging new people with the good news that you are welcome, no matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey. Donations can be made by check or online by selecting SCC Strengthen the Church in the fund drop down menu. Thank you!

**FAMILY PROMISE, JUNE 29:** Our turn to assist unhomed families residing in the Family Promise Center begins Sunday, June 29 – July 4, 2025. Currently, there are NO families in the Center so NO volunteers are needed at this time. However, that may change before June 29th so please stay tuned! Questions? Contact Anne Wehrly, [awehrly@suddenlink.net](mailto:awehrly@suddenlink.net) or Mary Howell, 979-219-8007.

**ON-CALL ASSISTANCE WHILE PASTORS ARE AWAY:** July 7-12, none of our pastors will be available (Brooke and Dan are with our youth on the Denver mission trip, and Trent is serving as a delegate at Synod in Kansas City, the UCC's bi-annual national meeting). During that time, Rev. Kyle Riley will be available for pastoral assistance. However, Kyle resides in Houston. Should you have an immediate need that requires in-person assistance, our friends Rev. Amy Klinkovsky (United Campus Ministry pastor) and Rev. Michael Townsend (First Christian Church, Bryan) will also be available.

On-call ministers' availability and contact info:

Rev. Kyle Riley, July 7-12: [kylebriley1799@gmail.com](mailto:kylebriley1799@gmail.com)

Rev. Amy Klinkovsky, July 7 & 8: [campusminister@aggieucm.org](mailto:campusminister@aggieucm.org)

Rev. Michael Townsend, July 9-12: [nucmike@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nucmike@sbcglobal.net)

## 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).

**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](http://bit.ly/friendschurchcoffee) or email Jan 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](http://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

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED, JULY 4:** The church office will be closed on Friday, July 4 for Independence Day. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, July 7.

**FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, JULY 11:** 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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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.