

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 31, 2025  
9:00am

*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“This is what God’s kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes. And there’s always room for more.”

–Rachel Held Evans

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Yeager

One: Come, all that are weary, all that are carrying burdens so heavy,

**All: Jesus will give us rest.**

One: Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace;

**All: Christ will give us peace.**

One: Come, find rest, and learn from Jesus,

**All: For our Savior will give us rest in our souls.**

One: Come, let us worship our God;

**All: Let us follow our Savior, who leads us into life.**

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

**\*OPENING HYMN** - No. 332 As We Gather at Your Table

*Beach Spring*

**\*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**

Trent Williams

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Brooke Dooley

*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 14:1, 7-14, NRSV

Trent Williams

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in

case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

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

## **THE MESSAGE**

Trent Williams

## **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**

Brooke Dooley

## **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)**

Brooke Dooley

Great God, you have offered us a place at the table and you have called us to share without expectation of being repaid. You have called us to make a place for the poor, the outcast and the oppressed. So we ask that you bless these resources so that they might support ministries of compassion and justice until all of your children have a place at the table. Amen.

## \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Brooke Dooley

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 - No. 314 Community of Christ

*Leoni*

## \*BENEDICTION

Trent Williams

## \*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: Let All Things Now Living - Traditional Welsh Melody, arranged by Lloyd Larson  
Offertory: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing - Carl G. Gläser  
Postlude: I Will Sing of My Redeemer - Rowland H. Prichard, arranged by John F. Wilson

*Scriptures for The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 7, 2025: Genesis 1:26-28; Isaiah 58:6-9a*

## 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

**OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY, SEPT 1:** The church office will be closed on Monday, Sept 1 for Labor Day. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday (Sept 2).

**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 11:00am 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 11am 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 Jodie Robinson at [spirit\\_devlop@friends-ucc.org](mailto: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.

**JOYFUL NOISE, SEPT 12:** A Joyful Noise – Friends Children's Choir (ages 5–12) will sing during the 11:00 a.m. service on Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 19th. We're asking families to commit to three rehearsals before that date. Use this link, <https://bit.ly/JoyfullNoiseRehearsals>, to choose the option that works best for you and your child(ren). Please respond by September 12th.

## 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. We're starting with a small bed so they can learn basic gardening practices, and sustainability measures such as rainwater collection, composting, and use of recycled materials. Here is where we need your help. Do you have knowledge of compost maintenance, water collection, or gardening? Are there materials you have at your home such as gloves, spades, and sheers that you'd like to donate? 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](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)).

**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. However, our stellar teachers for the Grades 3-5 Class, need some help to assure we have consistent support for them and the children in their care. 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](mailto:christian_ed@friends-ucc.org).

**RHAG'S NEW WEBSITE:** The Reproductive Health Access Group (RHAG) is proud to present our new website (<https://www.friends-ucc.org/rhag>) and Introduce our first major project--providing FREE three-month supply of birth control (Opill)--contactless with no strings attached--available to those who for any reason are not able to purchase over-the-counter contraceptives. The "RHAG Bags" are located in the new brown cabinet in the all-gender restroom. Each Bag contains the Opill supply, a few condoms, two pregnancy tests and an info sheet explaining how to continue to receive free birth control after the first three months.

**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](mailto: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/0900worship](https://bit.ly/0900worship) 11am Service [bit.ly/1100worship](https://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](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).

**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](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](https://bit.ly/friendschurchcoffee) or email Marisa 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

**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](https://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

**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](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org)), Executive Pastor Trent Williams ([pastortrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastortrent@friends-ucc.org)), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley ([pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)).

**FAMILIES OF ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE, SEPT 14:** A support group for parents with adopted or foster care children. This group meets every second Sunday of the month in the Double Classroom, following the 11:am worship service. For the remainder of this year, we will keep an eye on our own children while we visit. If possible, bring a dish to share with the group. Food can be stored in the kitchen during the service. For details, contact Ann Rome: [ann.rome@yahoo.com](mailto:ann.rome@yahoo.com).

**HEART OF TEXAS FALL MEETING, SEPT 20:** The Heart of Texas Association Fall Meeting will be Saturday, September 20th at Trinity Church of Austin, 4001 Speedway, Austin, TX 78751. Check in begins at 9:30 am, and the meeting will be from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm with lunch provided. RSVP using: <https://tinyurl.com/2025FallHOTA>.

**20TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY, SEPT. 20:** To celebrate 20 years of Pastor Dan serving Friends Congregational Church, we are having a party! Join us Saturday evening, September 20th, 6-8pm, at Friends Church for hors d'oeuvres, live music from local artist Joey McGee, and a good time with great friends.

### Friends Church Staff

#### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)  
[pastor@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org)

#### Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)  
[choir@friends-ucc.org](mailto:choir@friends-ucc.org)

#### Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)  
[pastortrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastortrent@friends-ucc.org)

#### Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

The Rev. Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)  
[pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

#### Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)  
[office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org)

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[www.friends-ucc.org](http://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.