



**Friends Church**  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Pilgrim bound by staff and faith, rest thy bones*  
Anonymous

July 21, 2024  
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 Leader: Linda Fitzwater  
Communion Steward: Carolyn Young  
Greeter: Peggy Vitek

Next Sunday, July 28  
Youth Led Worship Service

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](mailto: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.

## *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

The season after Pentecost is also considered Ordinary Time. It indicates the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of the church calendar. Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. It may be referred to as the "green season," as green is the liturgical color for this period of time in the church year.

### **PSALM FOR MEDITATION:** Psalm 91:1-4, CEB

Living in the Most High's shelter, camping in the Almighty's shade, I say to the Lord, "You are my refuge, my stronghold! You are my God—the one I trust!" God will save you from the hunter's trap and from deadly sickness. God will protect you with his pinions; you'll find refuge under his wings. His faithfulness is a protective shield.

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Brooke Dooley

### **PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Linda Fitzwater

One: Holy One is with us. God's hand remains with us.

Many: **God's love is steadfast. God's strength is enough. We can rest in God's presence.**

One: Holy Love keeps their covenant from generation to generation and establishes our future.

Many: **God's love is steadfast. God's strength is enough. We can rest in God's presence.**

One: Let us worship God together and praise the Holy Name!

Many: **God's love is steadfast. God's strength is enough. We can rest in God's presence.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN - #1** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Tune: St. Denio

### **\*INVOCATION**

Linda Fitzwater

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Trent Williams

*Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front, and children watching online are invited to get closer to their screen. 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

Trent Williams

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Trent Williams

**Have mercy us on, O God, according to your steadfast love.  
For we know our sins which are always in front of our eyes.  
We have not loved you as deeply as our own heartbeat.  
We have failed to care for your body and for the whole of creation. Forgive us.  
Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit.  
Free us to know joy and gladness and to live our days in praise.  
Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Trent Williams

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Trent Williams

**One: The peace of Christ be with you all.  
Many: And also with you!**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE - #438** When Peace, Like a River (It is Well with My Soul)  
Tune: Ville Du Havre

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:31-34, CEB

Linda Fitzwater

At that time, some Pharisees approached Jesus and said, "Go! Get away from here, because Herod wants to kill you."

Jesus said to them, “Go, tell that fox, ‘Look, I’m throwing out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will complete my work. However, it’s necessary for me to travel today, tomorrow, and the next day because it’s impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn’t want that.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** - How Beautiful - Twila Paris, arranged by Lloyd Larson  
(Ericalynn Cannon, soprano)

**EPISTLE READING** 1 Peter 5:5b-10, NRSV Dan De Leon

And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

**THE MESSAGE** Dan De Leon

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**INVITATION TO SHARE** Linda Fitzwater

**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

Brooke Dooley

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brooke Dooley, Trent Williams

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dan De Leon

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 - #18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Tune: CWM Rhondda

## \*BENEDICTION

Dan De Leon

## POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Simple Gifts - arr. J. Yeager  
Offertory: Deep River - arr. S. Eithun  
Communion: Here I Am, Lord - Schutte/Carter  
Postlude: English Dance #1 - Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf

Scriptures for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, July 28, 2024: Isaiah 58: 6-11; Acts 4:32-35

## 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

**FAITHFUL FRIENDS GATHERING GROUNDS, JULY:** Join folks in the sanctuary for fellowship, coffee, pastries, and nibbles before the 11 am services in July between 10:15am-10:45am.

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, JULY 25:** For July, the book club will be reading Carolina De Robertis’ *Radical Hope: Letters of Love and Dissent in Dangerous Times*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EARLY WORSHIP RETURNS, AUGUST 18:** The 9am worship service will resume on August 18.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

**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](mailto: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](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:** 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](mailto: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 [Proper@Friends-ucc.org](mailto:Proper@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

**GREETER TRAINING, AUGUST 11:** The friendly faces we see on Sunday mornings welcoming us to worship help to make Friends Church such a wonderful place, and we are so grateful for all that serve as greeters. If you currently serve in this role or would like to know more about this ministry, you are invited to join us for a Greeter Training on August 11 following the worship service. We will provide lunch and go over best practices for welcoming and connecting folks, as well as review safety and security protocols to ensure a safe environment for all. Sign up to let us know you'll be attending: <https://bit.ly/3Sb2GvE>.

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### 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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979-693-7021 • [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org)  
[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.