



# Friends Church

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Breakfast on the Beach*  
Peter Koenig

August 4, 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: Tami Dudo  
Communion Steward: Holly Scott  
Greeter: Sydney Zentell

Next Sunday, Aug 11  
Lay Leader: Anne Wehrly  
Greeter: Clarissa Kennedy

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.

## *Eleventh 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.

### **SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION:** John 16:22, NRSV

So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

### **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:**

"Friendship requires not agreement but devotion to an ideal—the *good*—which lures us on together."

David B. Burrell, *Friendship and Ways to Truth*

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Trent Williams

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

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

Tami Dudo

One: Jesus commanded: Love one another.

**All: We come to worship the God who is love  
that we may learn to love one another**

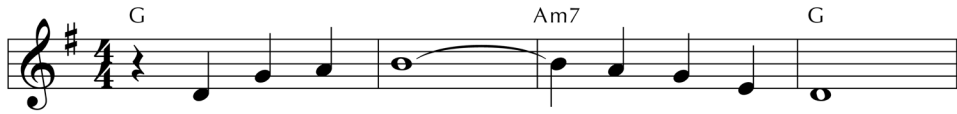
One: Jesus said: No longer do I call you servants;  
now I call you my friends.

**All: We come to worship the God whose friends  
we are through Christ.**

One: Let us sing praise to God and live in love and friendship  
toward the human family; through Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN - Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)**



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,  
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,  
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,  
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,  
 our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,  
 but not be given by love with - in,  
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

**\*INVOCATION**

Tami Dudo

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Lanette Schulte

*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 TO CONFESSION**

Trent Williams

**Redeemer, forgive us. We confess our complicity with the systems of this world that hurt and harm your children and your creation. We confess our complacency with the status quo, incrementalism when urgency is required, and the claim that nothing ever changes. We confess our comfort holds more influence over us than your command that we love our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us and release us from the bonds of guilt and shame so that we can be free to change and grow, free to receive your power and new life, and free to be your agents of transformation in the world. 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!**

**\*RESPONSIVE SONG** from Singing the Journey (A Supplement to Singing the Living Tradition), #1021 - Lean on Me

**Sometimes in our lives we all have pain, we all have sorrow.  
But if we are wise we know that there's always tomorrow.**

**Lean on me when you're not strong and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on,  
for it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.**

**Please swallow your pride if I have things you need to borrow,  
for no one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show.**

**Lean on me when you're not strong and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on,  
for it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.**

**If there is a load you have to bear that you can't carry,  
I'm right up the road, I'll share your load if you just call me.**

**Lean on me when you're not strong and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on,  
for it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.**

**Just call on me brother when you need a hand.  
We all need somebody to lean on.  
I just might have a problem that you'd understand.  
We all need somebody to lean on.**

**FIRST GOSPEL READING**

John 21:15-17, NRSV

Tami Dudo

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** - Just As I Am - William Bradbury, arranged by Stephen DeCesare  
(Charity Stokes, contralto)

**SECOND GOSPEL READING**

John 15:9-17, NRSV

Dan De Leon

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**THE MESSAGE:**

"We're Friends"

Dan De Leon

**SILENT REFLECTION & MEDITATION**

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

**INVITATION TO SHARE**

Tami Dudo

**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)**

Dan De Leon

**Generous God, thank you for these gifts and the privilege of giving. Increase our collective resources that we might serve your kingdom and bring honor to your name. Amen.**

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Dan De Leon

## **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 - #506 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

## **POSTLUDE**

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Adoration - John Leavitt  
Offertory: What a Friend We Have in Jesus - Charles C. Converse, arranged by Dale Wood  
Communion: Hymns of Peace - arranged by Phillip Keveren  
Postlude: Like a River Glorious - James Mountain, arranged by Larry Shackley

Scriptures for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 11, 2024: I Kings 19:1-15; John 6:35, 41-51



## 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

**FEAST OF CARING, AUGUST 7:** The Feast of Caring is set for Wednesday August 7th 11am-1pm at the Brazos Center. Join some Friends folk for a delicious meal of rice, beans, sausage, salad, bread and cake/ice cream will be served buffet style. It is come and go so you can be there any time between 11 and 1. This fundraiser celebrates the work of the Brazos Food Bank. Friends financial contribution will be recognized. There will be celebrity servers and lots of fun! Come find us at the Friends table.

**GUYZ BREAKFAST, AUGUST 10:** 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.

**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/Greeter2024>.

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL BREAKFAST, AUGUST 11:** Join us on Sunday, August 11th in the sanctuary at 9:30am for breakfast & refreshments. Let's kick off the school year together!

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, AUG. 11:** Our church family is excited and hopeful for our children and youth starting their 2023-24 school year. Friends Church will have our Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 11 in the 11am worship service. Children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to church, and to bring those backpacks with them to the front during the children's message for a special blessing. The “blessing of the backpacks” gives us the chance to pray over our kids, their well-being, and the schoolwork ahead of them.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:** We need 2 Sunday school teachers for this new school year for Grades 3-5! Please contact Abby Burley or anyone on the Christian Education Committee if you are interested. [Christian\\_ed@friends-ucc.org](mailto:Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org)

## 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 year, including the June Mission Trip. Contact Pastor Brooke at [pastor-brooke@friend-ucc.org](mailto: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](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 Realm ([bit.ly/coffeatfriends](https://bit.ly/coffeatfriends)) 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 [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

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, AUGUST 14:** Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will meet 5-7 PM on Wednesday, August 14th. Location TBD.

**PRIDE MASQUERADE GALA, AUGUST 24:** This fundraising event is coming up on August 24th at the Ice House on Main. Are you interested in helping Friends sponsor a table? For \$1,500, we can sponsor a table and offer any extra seats to congregants who would like to attend. Contact Jackie Womack for more information. Register here: <https://bit.ly/PrideGala2024>

**ICE CREAM FLOATS AND SABBATICAL STORIES, AUGUST 25:** Since our senior pastor returned recently from three months of sabbatical leave, we've been wondering how it went and what he did. On Sunday, August 25, at 6pm, Pastor Dan will give an informal presentation about his time away and answer our curious questions. Join us for ice cream floats and sabbatical stories in the sanctuary.

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, AUGUST 29:** For August, the book club will be reading Barbara A. Holmes' Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm

# Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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## 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

### 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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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.