



FRIENDS
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Unity through Diversity and Community, Morgan Harper Nichols

October 2, 2022
9:00am & 11:00am

WELCOME

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.

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.

Words in **BOLD** are yours to speak out loud

**You are invited to stand

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“I once went to a church that gave everyone a whole slice of bread and they actually buttered it. It felt wrong, but they had something so right. I love that we don’t just bow to the bread, we eat it—the body of God entering our bodies. And I think God’s supposed to taste good.”

– Cole Arthur Riley

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Amy Klinkovsky

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Holly Bentley (9:00am)
Jill Cetina/Weihsueh Chiu (11:00am)

One: We will sit down where feet tire from the journey.

All: We will sit down where grief bends the back.

One: We will sit down, making friends out of strangers.

All: We will sit down, our cup filled with new wine.

One: We will sit down and let love flow like language.

All: We will sit down where speech needs no words.

One: We will sit together at the table with no edges.

All: We will sit to share one loaf, in Christ’s name, in one world.

**OPENING HYMN – NCH #335 – Come, Gather in This Special Place (Tune: Gather)

**INVOCATION

Holly Bentley (9:00am)
Jill Cetina/Weihsueh Chiu (11:00am)

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front, and children watching online are invited to get closer to their screen for the children's message. All are invited to sing a verse of "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 (oh let it shine)!**

****PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Amy Klinkovsky

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you!

****HYMN OF RESPONSE: NCH #793 – Santo, Santo, Santo - First time: Spanish, Second time: English**

EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (Inclusive Bible)

Holly Bentley (9:00am)

Jill Cetina/Weihsueh Chiu (11:00am)

Let us remind you, sisters and brothers, of our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the Good News of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, that our treatment of you since you have become believers has been just, upright and impeccable. You likewise know how we treat every one of you, as parents do their children—encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into glory and the kingdom.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Siyahamba - South African Folksong, arranged by Ruth Morris Gray (Percussion: Holly Bentley and Mac De Leon)

Translation: We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 10:13-16 (Inclusive Bible)

Brooke Dooley

People were bringing their children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples scolded them for this. When Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them. It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. The truth is, whoever doesn't welcome the kingdom of God as a little child won't enter it." And Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

WHERE I SAW GOD THIS WEEK & INVITATION TO SHARE

Holly Bentley (9:00am)
Jill Cetina/Weihsueh Chiu (11:00am)

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends

Text to give: Text **Friends** to 979-500-2523

Venmo to 979-446-5746 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

Amy Klinkovsky, Brooke Dooley

THE LORD'S PRAYER (**UNISON**)

Amy Klinkovsky

Our God of all creation, your name is soil, and water, and sun.

Your ways of justice come, the work of healing be done, so that we may know heaven.

May all your people be fed, and forgive us when others go hungry

As we forgive those who do not share the earth's gifts.

Guide us from the narrative of scarcity, and the sin of greed.

For thine is the harvest, and the table, and the communion of peace.

Forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH

Brooke Dooley

****CLOSING HYMN: Glory to God Hymnal #134 Joy to the World - Tune: Antioch**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

****BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Prelude in F – Ludwig van Beethoven

Offertory: Bread of Heaven – Marc Jordan

Communion: Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread – Garrett Parker (Based on "st. Flavian," adapted from John Day's "English Psalter, 1562")

Postlude: The Celebration of Life – Gary Davidson

Scriptures for Oct 9: Psalm 111; Luke 17:11-19

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 bring to the baptismal font 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

NEW NAME TAGS ARE HERE!: The first batch of our new name tags are available in the narthex to be picked up; you can still fill out this form: bit.ly/friendsnametags to share with us how you'd like your name to appear, and we'll get those made as we receive them. You are also welcome to take your old one if you'd like to hang on to it.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS - Sundays 10am: The Social Justice class currently meets in one side of the double classroom between the two services. This room is located across from the office. Currently we are listening to/discussing a podcast about how the Bible defines justice. You can check it out here. <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/justice-series/> We hope you consider joining us!

FRIENDS CHURCH FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Our youth got us pondering in their youth led worship service in August "Who is my neighbor?" You have the opportunity to meet and serve your neighbor every Friday afternoon as a team of Friends-folk hand out produce from the Brazos Valley Food Bank. If you would like to be a part of this outreach effort, join us for an hour or two in the parking lot at Peace Lutheran Church this Friday (and every Friday) between 2:30 and 6:00 pm to assist in the distribution. Become part of our very enthusiastic "food team" and make some new friends. Send questions on how to get involved to Anne at awehrly@suddenlink.net.

FRIENDS CHURCH BOOK CLUB: The Linda Coats Book Club meets on the last Thursday of every month. This first year, we will be reading banned books. Our October gathering will be Thursday, October 27th, at 6:30 pm. We will read "The Witches" by Roald Dahl. After October, the book club will not meet in November or December due to holiday schedules. Be on the LOOKOUT for when we resume in the new year!!! For questions or information, contact the Spiritual Life Committee at spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE MEALS: Food is both comfort and need. On a regular basis, members of the Nurture Committee provide nourishment by way of a meal to Friends in need of comfort and food. If you are called to help with this ministry, email nurture@friends-ucc.org . You will be notified when meals are needed and likely provide meals two or three times a year.

FAMILY PROMISE : October 2nd, this Sunday, begins our turn at Family Promise. Thank you so much for donating to purchase credit cards which can still be done on the Friends UCC website. Our nights are covered so thank you to everyone. Comments or questions? Mary at mhowell61@gmail.com

THE LOST ART OF SCRIPTURE: MORNING MANNA FOR FALL 2022: Join Pastor Trent this Sunday in the Morning Manna room at the end of the hall on the kitchen side of the sanctuary at 10:00am as we resume our bible study class. This semester, we're going to be looking at "The Lost Art of Scripture," a book by religion scholar Karen Armstrong, as the basis for discovering what these ancient writings might have to say to us today. This is a journey through the scriptures not only of the Jewish and Christian traditions, but of Islam, China, and India as well. If you're curious about what other scriptures say, what our own offer us that is similar and different, and how to be a good citizen in a global world, this is the discussion for you. All are welcome.

CHILDCARE STAFF UPDATE: Friends Church is seeking an additional individual to work with our outstanding staff of childcare workers. For further information, please contact Wayne Hamman: personnel@friends-ucc.org or Trent Williams: pastortrent@friends-ucc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CO-TEACHERS NEEDED FOR GRADES 3-5 & 6-8: We've got an awesome class at 10am on Sunday mornings for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders that is currently being taught by Amanda and Drew Bowen. While Amanda and Drew are loving teaching those little ones, they need at least one co-teacher for the class. Additionally, Darrell Nichols and Ana-Luisa Ortiz-Martinez also need an additional teacher to help guide our 6-8 graders through the exciting spiritual growth of the intermediate-middle school years. All of our other classes for children and youth have co-teachers so that no one person (or couple) has to lead their class every single Sunday without a break. To be good stewards of our time and volunteerism, the Christian Education Committee is seeking at least one co-teacher to come alongside the teachers for each of these awesome classes. Interested? Is God nudging you toward this opportunity to serve? Contact Christian Ed. Chair Robin Miller at christian_ed@friends-ucc.org.

ANNOUNCING OCTOBER 9TH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please make plans to stay following the October 9th 11:00 am worship service for an important Congregational Meeting. We will have snacks to tide us over until lunch! The agenda includes voting on a proposal related to modifying our fiscal year, reviewing the spending plan for 2023, voting on a new pastoral position, and meeting representatives of our local financial services company. We will also introduce the new church office management system, Realm™, and hear from the newly formed Safety and Security Team. Please join us!

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: October 30 is New Member Sunday, when 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), Executive Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Pastoral Intern Brooke Dooley (pastoralintern@friends-ucc.org).

OCTOBER THEOLOGY ON TAP: For October, Theology on Tap will gather on the second Thursday of the month as usual at KinderHill Brew Lab, 800 S. Bryan Ave in Bryan, next to Polite Coffee. We call it “Theology on Tap” because the informal discussions revolve around faith and spirituality, bringing our lives more in tune with God’s will and way, and the venue has an assortment of great beers on tap. You don’t need to be fond of beer to join us, nor do you have to be 21 or older. There are non-alcoholic beverages, minors are welcome, as are four-leggeds, and there is a food truck onsite. What’s more, our friends from Treehouse Lutherans campus ministry will be joining us and bringing our discussion topic! As a gesture of hospitality, “sponsors” are needed to buy dinner for students. Please let Pastor Dan know if you’d like to help with this: pastor@friends-ucc.org. And to accommodate Treehouse’s schedule, we’re pushing our meeting time back a half-hour. **So, at 6pm on October 13**, let’s welcome Treehouse Lutherans, support local business and gather for Theology on Tap!

GREETERS NEEDED FOR 9AM SERVICE: At Friends Church, we have a vision of being a radically inclusive community of faith that extends God’s extravagant welcome to all. That’s why having volunteers to greet folks when they walk in the church door is so important. Greeters are responsible for handing out worship guides, making a count of worship attendees, and helping take up the offering. Where greeters are most needed right now is in the 9am worship service. If you haven’t worshiped at the earlier service on a Sunday morning, this would be a great opportunity to give it a try. To volunteer and get more information, contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@friends-ucc.org.

FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY: Friends UCC is one of 28+ member churches of the Brazos Church Pantry, a local non-profit organization providing food and other items (as available) to those in need in the Brazos Valley. The pantry, which is fully volunteer staffed and operated, is open 2 hours a day, six days a week. In conjunction with Justice & Mission’s focus on reproductive rights this month, Friends UCC will be collecting

feminine hygiene products (pads, liners, and tampons) for distribution at the pantry. Beginning Sunday, October 9th, you can drop your new donation items in the labeled box which will be in the narthex. **Smaller packages of pads, liners and tampons** for individual distribution are preferred (as bulk cannot be divided). Collection will continue through Sunday, October 23rd. Thank you for helping to meet an often overlooked need!

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Our Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00am In-Person – 11:00am In-Person & Online

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon *he/him/his*, *Senior Pastor*
pastor@friends-ucc.org

The Rev. Trent Williams *he/him/his*, *Executive Pastor*
pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Chris Hoffman *he/him/his*, *Director of Music Ministries*
choir@friends-ucc.org

Brooke Dooley *she/her/they/them*, *Pastoral Intern*
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