

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 29, 2025
9:00am

*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP GUIDE: Portions of today's liturgy are provided by the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ on the occasion of Open & Affirming Sunday, recognized on the last Sunday of Pride Month in the UCC.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 139:14, The Inclusive Bible

For all these mysteries I thank you—for the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works—my soul knows it well.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Fontaine

One: Come, you who are weary and wounded, you who are radiant and rising—

All: We come as we are, beloved and becoming.

One: Come, you who have been told you're too much or not enough—

All: We come with our stories, our scars, and our strength.

One: Come, for you are sacred. You are seen. You are called.

All: We come to worship the One who made us in love and calls us to live in joy.

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

*OPENING HYMN - Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives

1. Im - par - tial, com - pass - ion - ate God of all lives,
2. Un - ho - ly, un - just - i - fied we fear we in - cite,
3. Cre - a - tor of beau - ty, we stand not in pride,
4. Our hope is your free - dom for both great and small,
5. All hon - or - we give you, O help us to see,

in Christ you have shown us your love ac - tual - ized,
when we shun our neigh - bors yet cling to our rights.
we do not as - sume you will stay on our side.
to strive for per - fec - tion and know all means all.
your chil - dren are wor - thy to claim vic - to - ry.

in - car - nate and weak in the arms of the poor,
Your chil - dren still wan - der the streets left in pain,
For yours is the sa - cred, un - tar - nished by sin,
We chal - lenge and the quest - ion each law with - out grace,
And so let our ac - tions flow out of our praise,

de - stroy - ing all sys - tems that keep closed the door.
we pass laws a - gainst them to prove our dis - dain.
a re - fuge for out - casts that all may come in.
af - firm - ing the im - age of Christ on each face.
to seek trans - for - ma - tion, your Kin - dom to raise.

*INVOCATION

Susan Fontaine

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Kyle Riley

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

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.**

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 2:15, The Inclusive Bible

Kyle Riley

Prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach, in the midst of a twisted and depraved generation—among which you shine like stars in the sky.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

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

Kyle Riley

READING OF THE OPEN & AFFIRMING COVENANT (UNISON)

Dan De Leon

We, as a diverse body of believers seeking to live in the light and image of God in Christ affirm:

that every person has worth as a special and unique creation made in God's image;
that, in the Spirit of love and openness, we welcome into this community of faith persons of every sexual orientation, race, nationality, ability, age and gender to participate in all aspects of our church's life and ministry;
that as agents of reconciliation and wholeness we will continue our efforts toward inclusiveness, embrace all who are disenfranchised from the religious community, and stand against all forms of discrimination;
that in light of the Gospel we will empower ourselves, our children, and one another to be fully present in the world, living in Christ's image.

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at 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

May every immigrant and native person live with dignity, ease, and peace on the land that holds them. May every orchestrator of misery fall to their knees in repentance. May the collection of our shared resources and shared efforts flow forth the Love of God in this heartbreaking, beautiful world. Amen.

***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

Dan De Leon

*CLOSING HYMN - We Are the Church Alive

We are the Church A - live, Christ's pres - ence on this earth; We
 We are the Church A - live, Our faith has set us free; No
 We are the Church A - live, The bo - dy must be healed; Where
 We are the Church A - live, All praise to God on high. Cre -

give God's Spi - rit bo - dy in the act of our new birth. As
 more en - slaved by guilt and shame, we live our li - ber - ty! We
 strife has bruised and bat - tered us, God's whole-ness is re - vealed. Our
 a - tor, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er! We laud and mag - ni - fy Your

yield - ed o - pen chan - nels for God's de - scend - ing dove, We
 fol - low Christ's ex - am - ple and free - dom now pro - claim, De -
 mis - sion is an ur - gent one; In strength and health let's stand, So
 name, Al - might - y God of love; Pray, give us life that we May

shout and sing, with joy we bring God's all in - clu - sive love.
 stroy - ing myths of doubt and fear in Je - sus' might - y name.
 that our wit - ness to God's light will shine a - cross the land.
 be your Church, the Church A - live, For all e - ter - ni - ty.

*BENEDICTION

Kyle Riley

*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: Allemande (from *Suite in B-Flat Major*, G. 30) - George Frideric Handel

Offertory: Morning Prayer - Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Postlude: Make Our Garden Grow (from *Candide*) - Leonard Bernstein

Scriptures for The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, July 6, 2025: Galatians 6:1-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 29: The Congregational Meeting starts today 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 if you plan to attend.

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 or Mary Howell, 979-219-8007.

YOUTH GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT, JUNE 29: In preparation for their upcoming mission trip to Denver, the Youth Group is invited to Pastor Brooke's house this Sunday, 6/29 at 5:30pm to watch Youth V Gov, a documentary about a group of youth who filed a lawsuit against the United States, claiming their willfully negligent actions contributed to a climate crisis that will affect their future. Bring your favorite movie snack. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Contact Pastor Brooke for more details: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.
11am Service bit.ly/11ooworship

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!

SUMMER MEAL KIT PROGRAM, JULY 15: Would you like to help feed hungry children in our community? Brazos Hunger Solutions (of which Friends Church is a member) has identified two weeks during the summer months when children will be at home and schools will not have summer breakfast/lunch programs running. Brazos Hunger Solutions has initiated a program to feed 150 children from Bryan and College Station on July 31st. Food will be distributed at housing authority community buildings on that date. We need to raise \$5,000 to make that happen. St Andrew's Episcopal and Good Will have already pledged funds for this initiative. Starting today and through July 15th funds will be accepted at Friends Church. You may go to the Giving tab on the Friends website, select Temporarily Restricted Funds in the fund menu, and then select Summer Meal Kit Program in the memo section. Alternatively you may write a check with Summer Meal Kit Program on the memo line. Time is short, but the need is great. Direct Questions to Anne Wehrly awehrly@suddenlink.net.

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

Rev. Amy Klinkovsky, July 7 & 8: campusminister@aggieucm.org

Rev. Michael Townsend, July 9-12: nucmike@sbcglobal.net

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

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) ► **Get Involved** ► **Volunteer** or email office@friends-ucc.org for more information or to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH WOMEN, JULY 9: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will meet on July 9 at 5pm at The Owl Pub & Grill at 315 S. Main St., Bryan. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon (stacybdeleon@gmail.com) for more information.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, JULY 11: First Friday with Friends is held in conjunction with Downtown Bryan's First Friday activities. This July, it'll happen on the second Friday, July 11. We have a meet up at Blackwater Draw and always have a few people there for the 5:30-7:30 time-frame. Some folks stay at Blackwater all evening and others stop by on their way to or from dining and playing in downtown Bryan.

FAMILIES OF ADOPTED & FOSTER CARE CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP, JULY 13: A support group for families with adopted or foster care children meets every second Sunday of the month. For the summer, we will meet at Lupe Tortilla at 813 Texas Ave, College Station, 77840 at 12:30pm. For details, contact Ann Rome: ann.rome@yahoo.com.

Friends Church Staff

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)
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The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)
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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.