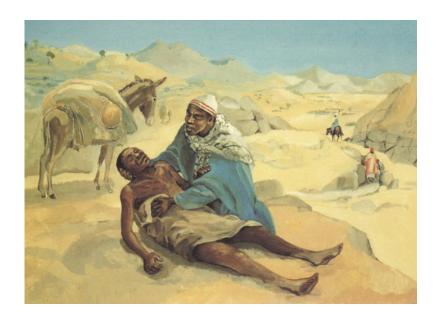


An Open & Affirming Congregation



The Good Samaritan JESUS MAFA, 1973

July 13, 2025 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: Becky Burks

Greeters: Becky Bordovsky & Carol Wilson

Next Sunday, July 20: Lay Leader: Kelly Wellman Communion Steward: ???

Greeters: ???

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**.

**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.

# Fifth 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:** Psalm 25:1-10, CEB

I offer my life to you, Lord. My God, I trust you. Please don't let me be put to shame Don't let my enemies rejoice over me! For that matter, don't let anyone who hopes in you be put to shame; instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be put to shame. Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long. Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love—they are forever! But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing. Remember me only according to your faithful love for the sake of your goodness, Lord. The Lord is good and does the right thing; he teaches sinners which way they should go. God guides the weak to justice, teaching them his way. All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful for those who keep his covenant and laws.

# **QUOTES FOR MEDITATION:**

"The thing we would all do well to remember is that conservative Christian theology was used to enslave Black people. We can use our theology to oppress people or to liberate them. That's our choice." —Brittney Cooper, *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* 

"The call of Jesus is the call to prophesy, to speak a word of God to a world that prefers religious rituals and spiritual comfort to the demands of moral maturity. It is to be a prophet's witness in a prophetless place." —Joan Chittister, *The Time Is Now: A Call to Courage* 

### CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

#### PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

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

# \*CALL TO WORSHIP Becky Burks

One: Who is my neighbor?

All: The righteous and the unrighteous, the just and the wicked.

One: Who else is my neighbor?

All: The poor and the rich, the weak and the strong.

One: Is anyone else my neighbor?

All: The great and the small, the arrogant and the humble.

One: They are no different than we are!

All: We must love our neighbor as ourselves!

\*Opening Hymn - No. 590 Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor Justice and Peace

\*Invocation Becky Burks

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Ambrus

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.

# **Invitation to Prayer for Transformation and New Life** Brooke Dooley

# PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (UNISON)

**Brooke Dooley** 

God of the oppressed, we confess that it's sometimes easier to ignore those in need than it is to help them.

We confess that we sometimes ask ourselves, "what will it cost us?" "what will others think?"—rather than remembering your call to care for our neighbors, whether we think they "deserve it" or not.

Forgive us. Help us repent of our embarrassment at those in need, and turn instead toward empathy and compassion.

We pray this in the name of the One who teaches us how to love all of our neighbors. Amen.

Words of Grace Brooke Dooley

#### \*Passing of the Peace

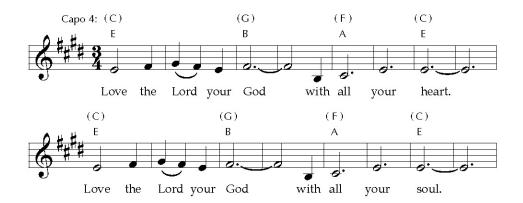
Brooke Dooley

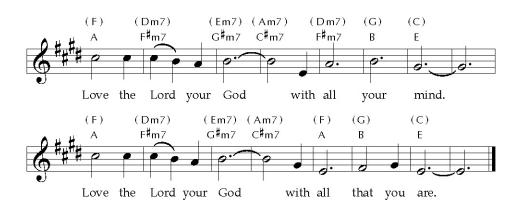
One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE - Love the Lord Your God

**Great Commandment** 





And the Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

**CHORAL ANTHEM:** My Lord, What a Morning - American Folk Spiritual, arranged by Jay Althouse (Tom Vogel, baritone)

GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:25-37, CEB

Dan De Leon

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?"

He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way.

A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.' What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"

Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

One: The Word of God for the people of God. All: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!

**THE MESSAGE** "The Change We Fear" Dan De Leon

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION** 

**INVITATION TO SHARE** 

**Becky Burks** 

#### 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 uplifits, Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

# \*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Brooke Dooley** 

Align our actions with our ethics, Steadfast One, that our lives might be living prayers of liberation.

Bless our offerings towards the ordinary work of Love—feeding each other, keeping each other safe, and caring for the land.

Forgive us when we are too rigid to trust the grace of reciprocity.

Turn us toward the hope found in mutuality. 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.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Brooke Dooley



\*BENEDICTION Dan De Leon

\*SUNG RESPONSE - No. 181 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (Verse 2 only)

Bring Forth

#### **POSTLUDE**

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLl #20046014 Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Come, Christians, Join to Sing - Traditional Spanish Melody

Offertory: Fairest Lord Jesus - Music from Schlesische Volkslieder, arranged by Richard Storrs Willis

Postlude: The Church's One Foundation - Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Scriptures for The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 20, 2025: Amos 8:1-12; Luke 10:38-42

### **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

**GATHERING GROUNDS PRE-SERVICE FELLOWHIP, JULY 13:** Join us every Sunday in July from 10:00–10:45 AM for a time of fellowship before our 11:00 AM service. We warmly welcome new members, first-time guests, and everyone in between. Come early, make connections, and be part of our community.

**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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUMMER MEAL KIT PROGRAM, JULY 15:** Would you like to help feed hungry children in our community? 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. Now until 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.

**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. IIAM Service **bit.ly/IIooworship** 

UPDATE ON FLOODS AND HOW TO HELP: On July 8th, we received an update from South Central Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator John Etter on the flooding in the Texas Hill Country, John and the National United Church of Christ's Disaster Minister Katie Howe are monitoring and involved in the disaster response. They participated in conference calls Tuesday morning with Texas state government emergency services and the San Antonio Area Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) organization. From John: "State and local government response is focused on search and rescue, damage assessment, immediate needs of the people in the affected area, and stabilizing damaged roads and buildings. There are more than 2,000 government people working around the clock. Kerrville area churches and local organizations are already providing food, shelter, clothing and spiritual care, including several shelters and reunification centers." The Kerville area has been overwhelmed by the multitude of organizations and people who want to help, and people who want to send food, clothing or other donations. John says, "Roadblocks are in place to deter 'disaster tourists.' Please stay where you are and do not go to Kerrville or send donations until we get directions on who and what is needed. Funds can be donated via UCC Global H.O.P.E. Disaster Response, with the designation 'Severe Storms,'": https://support.ucc.org/global-HOPE

# 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 (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.

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. Sunday School Teachers Needed: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? Contact Pastor Dan for more information: 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 or email Marisa at 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) Get Involved Volunteer or email office@friends-ucc.org for more information or to volunteer.

# Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

#### 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

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

Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman (he, him) choir@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