



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Jesus Heals
Anonymous

June 30, 2024
II: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 Leaders: Diane Simpson & Larry Dooley
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Sydney Zentell

Next Sunday, July 7
Lay Leader: Tom Vogel
Communion Steward: Charity Stokes
Greeter: Adrian Capetillo

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.

Sixth 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.

A WORD ABOUT OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) SUNDAY:

ONA is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Celebrated on the last Sunday of June, ONA Sunday invites UCC congregations to renew their commitment to support LGBTQ+ neighbors and their families.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Galatians 3:28

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Larry Dooley

One: The steadfast love of God never ceases.

All: God's mercies never come to an end;

One: they are new every morning.

All: Great is your faithfulness, O God.

One: Weeping may linger for the night,

**All: but joy comes with the morning,
for you hear us when we cry.**

One: So we will praise you and will not be silent.

**All: Sing praises, O you faithful ones,
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

*OPENING HYMN - For Everyone Born

E *Leader or All* A2

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

E A2 B sus B

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

F#m7 E/G# A2 B sus

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

E B sus E B sus

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain

B *All* E E/G# A2 B sus B

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

E E/G# A2 B sus B

joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,

C#m C#m/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

B sus B (E) *Fine* A2 E B sus B

jus - tice and joy!

***INVOCATION**

Larry Dooley

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.**

READING OF THE OPEN & AFFIRMING COVENANT (UNISON)

Trent Williams

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.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

***HYMN OF RESPONSE - #402** De colores (Sing of Colors)

Tune: De colores

First verse in Spanish, then Verses 1-2 in English

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Lamentations 3:22-33, NRSV

Larry Dooley

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one’s mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), to give one’s cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

CHORAL ANTHEM: The Music of Living - Dan Forrest

Giver of life, Creator of all that is lovely, teach me to sing the words to Your song.

I want to feel the music of living; and not fear the sad songs, but from them make new songs composed of both laughter and tears.

Giver of life, Creator of all that is lovely, teach me to dance to the sounds of Your world.

I want to move in rhythm with Your plan. Help me to follow Your leading, to risk even falling, to rise and keep trying, for You are leading the dance.

Giver of life, Creator of all that is lovely, teach me to sing the words to Your song.

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death.

Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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

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

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Larry Dooley

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**

Trent Williams

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 - #423** Great Is Your Faithfulness

Tune: Faithfulness

***BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Fanfare for the Common Man - Aaron Copland
Offertory: Aria (*from* Suite in G Major) - George Frideric Handel
Postlude: Great Is Thy Faithfulness - William M. Runyan, arranged by Melody Bober

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

VBS REGISTRATION, JUNE 30: Please fill out registration by JUNE 30 if you intend for your K-5th grade child(ren) to attend VBS July 15-19th! Copy the link here: <https://forms.gle/WnLZ-1V7e4qVcRab8A>.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EARLY WORSHIP END FOR SUMMER, JUNE 30: The last 9am worship service for the summer is on June 30. The 9am service will resume on August 18.

FAMILY PROMISE MEALS: Friends Church is hosting two families at the Family Promise center this coming week (June 30-July 6) . Thanks to all of you who have responded with offers to provide food for breakfast/lunch and snacks, spend the night with our families, and to provide evening meals. We now have everything covered to create a welcoming environment for these families.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED JULY 4: The church office will be closed on Thursday, July 4 for the 4th of July. Normal business hours resume on Friday, July 5.

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.

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.

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.

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: 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 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.

SAVE THE DATE

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.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, JULY 13: 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.

VBS VOLUNTEER SIGN UP, JULY 15-19: Volunteers for VBS (July 15-19th) are desperately needed! If you are able, please use the SignUpGenius link to volunteer here: <https://bit.ly/4c4xCFV>. There is a variety of volunteer needs & time commitments each day. Thank you!

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

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

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*)
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Michael Rangel (*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.